

Litter Lifters of West Vincent

2023 Year-end Report

The Litter Lifters of West Vincent Township submit this year-end report for 2023:

On June 19, 2023, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 14-2023 establishing the Litter Lifters of West Vincent (LLWV) as an Ad-hoc Committee of the Township.

The LLWV has been in existence since May of 2020.

Members of LLWV in 2023 included Beth Intoccia, Ann Dyer, Carys Egan, Dorothy Lynn, Ken Alan, Elisabeta Sheehan, Lia Provini, Gary Wescott, Traci Frederick, George Cooney, and Donna Delany.

Events:

In 2023, LLWV participated in 15 litter clean-up events, including 5 organized by LLWV within West Vincent Township. LLWV participates in PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program and has adopted Rt. 100 between Black Horse Road and Horseshoe Trail. One of the in-township events was fulfilling our PennDOT contract, which requires each group to do at least 2 clean ups in a calendar year.

In 2023, LLWV partnered with various groups throughout Chester County at different events. These partners include: PA State Senator Carolyn Comitta/Earth Day; Uwchlan Township EAC; West Pikeland Township; Green Valleys Watershed Association; E. Nantmeal Township; Young Ambassador with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful; Kimberton Camphill Village; Owen J. Roberts High School clubs: Environmental, LEO, Equality Alliance, and Anchor clubs; Better Days Ahead- a nonprofit to help the homeless; Save the Schuylkill- a new non profit to protect the river; East Pikeland Township Open Space Committee; West Brandywine Police Department.

State Senator Katie Muth and her staff have participated in and promoted some of our events. PA State Senator Carolyn Comitta invited LLWVT to an Earth Day event at the Upper Main Line YMCA; Keep Chester County Beautiful, part of the Chester County Planning Commission, promotes our events.

Summary of Events in 2023:

	# of events	# of volunteers	# of volunteer hours	# of bags picked up	Other items in pick up	# of tons picked up	value in \$\$
Total	15	359	1,200	348	8.4 tons, 103 tires	12.1	\$42,650
WVT*	5	112	175	123	3 tires	0.95	\$10,605

*WVT amounts are included in the total.

LLWV utilizes the Clean Something for Nothing App to track all of our events. LLWV is the top user in the US for September 2023 - January 2024 with 85.8 liters of trash collected in that time period. (See screenshot below.)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/clean-something-for-nothing/id1609921120>



Additionally, some members use the app to track individual clean ups that they do on their own. All clean-up events on state and local roads are tracked through the PennDOT portal and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Kmqkl11VVatcmFtGnd8hHOkoFxdloy8K/view?usp=drivesdk>

PennDOT provides all of the trash bags, some safety vests and picks up the bags of litter and tires from state roads. A.J. Blosenski donated a large box of work gloves, safety vests and two roll-off dumpsters and hauled away the litter and 80 tires- project valued at \$4,000 for the Save the Schuylkill river clean up in August.

History:

When LLWV was formed in 2020, our primary focus was picking up litter in West Vincent Township. While LLWV has continued to improve our community, we have also helped other Townships and organizations with preparation for and participation in their events.

The progression of LLWV events, litter removed and value added is illustrated in the chart below.

	# of events	# of volunteers	# of volunteer hours	# of bags picked up	Other items in pick up	# of tons picked up	value in volunteer hours \$
2020 Total = WVT*	4	33	148	130	n/a	0.975	\$4,440
2021 Total	7	134	639	396	6 tons 83 tires	9.9	\$19,170
2021 WVT*	3	45	220	191	n/a	1.4	\$6,600
2022 Total	12	172	660	678	2 tons 9 tires 1 loveseat	7.3	\$19,800
2022 WVT*	5	97	343	380	1 tire 1 loveseat	2.96	\$10,290
2023 Total	15	359	1,200	348	8.4 tons, 103 tires	12.1	\$42,650
2023 WVT*	5	112	175	123	3 tires	0.95	\$10,605

*WVT amounts are included in the total.

The impact of our mission has grown due to the commitment of volunteers stepping up to help litter management in the Township. Through social media, word-of-mouth and promotion by the Township, the number of volunteers have increased significantly since our inception.

Outreach/Education:

In 2022, Beth was instrumental in bringing an affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to Chester County, as she saw the need to address the litter issue and support volunteers. As one of the wealthiest counties in PA, it was long overdue. The county commissioners added a new position of Sustainability Director in the Planning Commission to oversee environmental activities. This led to the creation of a Chester County web page entirely devoted to litter management.

As part of LLWV educational activities, Beth has created documents to help townships and groups outside of WVT to get started, and created display materials for libraries and schools: guide to plan safe, effective clean ups; steps to start a litter task force: guide to address safety, gather supplies needed for volunteer, share key contacts at PennDOT; connected with an artist who created a dog made entirely out of litter- created display boards for 2 libraries and West Vincent Elementary school. Beth did an educational presentation at the Longwood Rotary. Education about our county township and county litter issue is being addressed, and groups are being formed to clean up their own township roads.

Conferences/Workshops:

When LLWV was starting out, Beth Intoccia reached out to different organizations, such as PennDOT, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, CRC Watershed, Green Valleys Watershed, as well as individuals who had previously organized litter events in their communities. This allowed her to gather data and make many contacts within the environmental community.

As LLWV has evolved, Beth has continued to make contacts at different conferences and workshops.

In 2022, Beth attended the Litter Summit, and 2 day event in Lancaster held by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

In 2023, Beth attended:

1. Watershed Congress by Delaware Riverkeeper Network, March 2023 -1 day -Pottstown At Montgomery County Community College- Green Valleys Watershed sponsored Beth <https://sites.google.com/view/watershedcongress/>
2. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful affiliate roundtable for Keep Chester County Beautiful October 2023- 1 day- Camphill, PA (filled in for Rachael Griffith)
3. POWR -Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers -Nov 2023, 2 day- Altoona Pa. Green Valleys Watershed sponsored Beth. <https://pawatersheds.org/watershed/attend-event/conference/>

Recognition:

As the driving force behind LLWV, Beth and her team of volunteers has been recognized by different organizations for their passion and activities related to litter clean up and environmental issues.

- Award by Ocean Conservancy/ International Coastal Clean Up- for 3 straight years 2020-2023 presented to the entire group

<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/>

- Volunteer of the Year from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful - 5 volunteers chosen in the State of PA for 2022 presented by the county commissioners to Beth

<https://www.keppabeautiful.org/grants-awards/awards/volunteers-of-the-year/>

[Beth Intoccia Named Volunteer of the Year](#)

- Green Valleys Watershed Ralph Heister Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Vicky Laubach, Executive Director at GVA to Beth

<https://westvincenttp.org/2022/05/beth-intoccia-receives-lifetime-achievement-award/>

In summary, the LLWV will continue planning and executing litter clean ups in the township as needed, doing outreach, and empowering residents to think about litter management.