

Litter Lifters of West Vincent

2024 Year-end Report

The Litter Lifters of West Vincent Township submit this year-end report for 2024:

Members of the LLWV Committee in 2024 included Beth Intoccia, Carys Egan, Traci Frederick, Dorothy Lynn, Lia Provini, Pattie Richards and Jim Scaperotto.

Events:

In 2024, LLWV participated in 20 litter clean-up events, including 6 organized by LLWV within West Vincent Township. LLWV has participated for 4 ½ years with 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. There were two additional "mini" clean-ups on that stretch of Rt. 100.

In 2024, LLWV partnered with various groups throughout Chester County at different events. These partners include: PA State Senator Carolyn Comitta/Earth Day; West Pikeland Township; Green Valleys Watershed Association; East Nantmeal Township; Young Ambassador with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful; Kimberton Camphill Village; Owen J. Roberts High School clubs: Environmental, LEO, Equality Alliance, and Anchor clubs; East Whiteland Township and East Whiteland Fire Dept; Huntingdon County Conservation District; Friends of Raystown Lake and Army Corps of Engineers; Spearhead Project Earth (Bucks County); Helping Hands of Chester County (Kathleen Malloy); Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance, Coatesville City Council & Police Department; Keep Chester County Beautiful; and Fellowship Farms (Upper Uwchlan).

Summary of Events in 2024

	# of events	# of volunteers	# of volunteer hours	# of bags picked up	Other pick up	# of tons picked up	value in \$\$
Total	20	454	1,644	1,033	6.1 tons 47 tires	14.33	\$49,230
WVT*	6	124	401	260	2 tires	1.98	\$10,245

*WVT amounts are included in the total.

PennDOT provides all of the trash bags, some safety vests and incurs the cost of disposal by picking up the bags of litter and tires collected on state roads by volunteers. A.J. Blosenski/Waste Connections donated a large box of work gloves and safety vests.

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
2024 Total	20	454	1,644	1,033	6.1 tons 47 tires	14.33	\$49,230
2024 WVT*	6	124	401	260	2 tires	1.98	\$10,245

Cumul ative Total	58	1,152	4,291	2,585	22.5 tons 242 tires 1 loveseat	44.605	\$135,290
Cumul ative WVT	23	411	1,287	1,084	5 tires 1 loveseat	8.265	\$42,180

*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 has increased significantly since our inception. There are currently over 170 recipients on our email distribution list, which includes volunteers, supporters, businesses and government officials.

Outreach/Education:

Beth Intoccia is the driving force behind LLWV and engaging residents in Chester County. She is a member of Keep Chester County Beautiful Steering Committee and attends quarterly meetings.

Beth has attended various conferences as a panel/guest speaker to talk about “litter clean up best practices” including the Chester County Conservation District and Chester County Water Resource Authority 2024 Watershed Roundtable event and Green Valleys Watershed Association for Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Organization. Presentations were made at West Bradford and Westtown townships. Beth is working with county government officials to reduce the number of political yard signs left behind after elections.

At the May 22 West Vincent Elementary School Earth Day event, LLWV volunteers Traci Frederick, her daughter Blair, Ann Dyer and Beth Intoccia presented education outreach “Open Your Eyes to Litter” to 560 students who received content on protection of our environment. We covered the three R’s: Reduce Reuse Recycle, had a teacher wear a litter bug mascot costume provided by PRC- Pennsylvania Resources Council- and explained the harm that balloons, aluminum cans, and fishing line do to our horses, cows, and wildlife.

LLWV were featured in an article in the Daily Local after a reporter reached out following WVT plastic bag ban. The article can be found at this link.

<https://www.dailylocal.com/2024/08/14/litter-lifters-stoop-to-pick-up-trash-all-over-chester-county/>

As a result of the article, other Townships have reached out to LLWV Committee members for help in planning events and setting up groups to clean their own municipalities, including East Whiteland, Coatesville, Westtown and West Bradford townships.

Coatesville: Between September and November, LLWV helped organize and execute 3 litter clean-ups in Coatesville in partnership with 2nd Century Alliance. World Cleanup Day was September 21 - we offered our expertise in litter management to a community that needed our guidance. Over 50 volunteers helped clean up Rt 82 and Lincoln Highway, and removed 447 bags of litter and 38 tires. This effort made an impact on the environment and built community. A cleaner Coatesville is a cleaner Chester County. Because of our leadership and guidance, 2nd Century Alliance is now an affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, and adopted Lincoln Highway- the heart of Coatesville-with PennDOT.

Conferences/Workshops:

In 2024, Beth attended: Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Litter Summit for Community Stewardship

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- 4 straight years 2020-2024 presented to the entire group

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

Beth highlighted as a volunteer with Humans for Earth

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C8FX9uaqnWa/?igsh=NzZwaG4yc3N0OTdj>

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. In addition, LLWV will help support other townships in Chester County to start litter clean-up groups and hold events.