

West Vincent Township Newsletter

SPRING & SUMMER 2025

Fellowship Trail Update

Many residents have noticed construction happening both in and around Andrew Evans Park lately. West Vincent Township is thrilled to acknowledge the continued construction of the Fellowship Trail!



This segment of the trail will connect Andrew Evans Park with the trail that had ended on Fellowship Road just outside of Weatherstone. Construction is steadily happening with substantial completion scheduled for July 2025. We hope the extension of the Fellowship Trail will see more residents from Weatherstone able to hike or bike to our park in the future.

“No Knock” Registry Available

In February, our supervisors signed an ordinance amending the solicitation laws in West Vincent Township. Ordinance No. 212-2025 authorized the creation of an online registry where residents could add their addresses to a list of locations where solicitors were NOT allowed to visit. The “No Knock” registry is maintained by our West Vincent Police Department, and it is currently accepting submissions from Township residents.

Barring political and religious groups, all other for-profit solicitors within our Township are required to get permits from our administrative office. Once they complete the process, they are given a permit, badges for each authorized employee/solicitor, plus the list of address of homes that they are NOT allowed to visit. If you have signed this list and receive a for-profit solicitation, please let the police and our office know. Likewise, if a solicitor cannot produce a Township-generated permit and badge, please let us know. The company and solicitor can be fined up to \$1,000 by the police.

While the “No Knock” registry will stop stop for-profit peddlers from knocking on your door, it legally cannot stop political canvassing or religious groups sharing their faith which are considered forms of non-commercial free speech. However, adding a “No Trespassing” sign to your property or asking uninvited visitors to leave could then be considered trespassing if ignored. Since this is not considered soliciting, a “no solicitors” sign will not suffice.

Visit the front page of our Township website (westvincenttwp.org) to have your address added to the “No Knock” registry. No information from this list will be shared with anyone other than the address of where NOT to solicit.

“Ordinance No. 212-2025: No Knock” and the solicitation permit can also be found on our website for companies looking to register for solicitation.

Directory

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chair..... Dana Alan
Vice Chair..... Bernie Couris
Member..... Jim Wendelgass

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors..... 1st & 3rd Mon
Historic Resources..... 1st Tue
Parks & Recreation..... 1st Wed
Environmental Advisory Council.. 1st Thu
Historical Commission..... 2nd Wed
Trail Committee..... 2nd Mon
Traffic Safety..... 2nd Thu, bi-monthly
Sustainability..... 3rd Wed
Planning Commission..... 3rd Thu
Open Space Advisory Board..... 4th Tue
Zoning Hearing Board..... as needed
Human Relations..... as needed

All meetings start at 7pm. and are held at the Township Building located at 729 Saint Matthews Road.



TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

Township Office

(610) 458-1601
Monday to Friday:
8:30am to 4:30pm

Police Department

(610) 458-3205 (Non-emergency)
911 (Emergency response)

MORE CONTACTS

Ludwigs Corner Fire Company

ludwigscornerfire.com
1325 N. Pottstown Pk, Glenmoore
(610) 458-8479 (Non-emergency)

Ridge Fire Company

ridgefirecompany.com
480 Ridge Road, Spring City

Kimberton Fire Company

kimbertonfire.org
61 Firehouse Lane, Kimberton
(610) 935-3956 (Non-emergency)

Pollinator Power

A pollinator is anything that helps carry pollen from one flower to another, allowing plants to become fertilized and produce fruits, seeds, and young plants. Although some plants are self-pollinating, almost 90% of all plant species need the help of insects and animals to transfer pollen. Pollinators in Pennsylvania are bees, butterflies, beetles, moths, flies, wasps, hummingbirds and small mammals.

Pollinator decline in recent years is a big, complicated problem, but it is by no means unsolvable. Since a large part of the decline of pollinators is being caused by human actions — pesticide use, drought, habitat destruction and more — it can be reversed by humans, too.

Bees in particular need hollow-stemmed plants for nesting, and they also need pollen and nectar-rich flowers for food. Native plants are always the best choices for pollinator gardens because of their abundance of nectar and pollen in addition to being low maintenance, generally pest free, drought tolerant, and ability to control erosion. While many people consider them naturally beautiful, they are also over 4 times more attractive to bees than non-native plants.

8 Native Plants for Bees

- Wild Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma* or *Monarda fistulosa*)
- Asters (*Aster spp.*)
- Coneflowers (*Echinacea spp.* or *Ratibida spp.*)
- Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium spp.*)
- Purple Giant Hyssop (*Agastache scrophulariifolia*)
- Blueberries (*Vaccinium spp.*)
- Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)
- Milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*)

Another way to help is to decrease the use of pesticides on your lawn and garden. Pesticides used to prevent grubs and bugs can also kill pollinators. And maybe as a special treat to both the pollinators and yourself, consider reduced mowing and allow flowering vegetation such as clover and dandelions to be present in your grass. Let's BEE proactive and help our pollinators!

Yoga in the Park

Join Trinity Willows Yoga & Wellness at Opalanie Park for all-levels yoga classes on select Saturdays from 5/10 through 9/27. There is nothing more grounding than being in the sun while practicing a sun salutation and focusing on breathwork in the fresh air!

The classes are free, but pre-registration is requested by visiting:

WVTYoga.eventbrite.com.

Classes are the following Saturdays and attendance at all classes is not necessary: 5/10, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 9/13, and 9/27. All classes are from 10am to 11am.

Celebrating Sheeder-Hall Bridge

The Historical Commissions of East Vincent Township and West Vincent Township are pleased to invite residents to a special celebration commemorating the 175th birthday of the SHEEDER-HALL BRIDGE, the oldest covered-bridge in Chester County. This historic landmark was placed on the National Register in 1973 and has stood as a testament to our region's rich heritage. Crossing over French Creek, the Sheeder-Hall Bridge connects the townships of East and West Vincent. An important feature of the design of this bridge is the Burr arch truss.

Event Details:

Date: Sunday, May 18, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Speakers to begin at 2:00)

Location: Sheeder-Hall Bridge on Hollow Road

Refreshments: Cupcakes and lemonade will be served



Your presence would be greatly appreciated as we honor this iconic structure and its significance to our community and county history. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Explore our Chester Springs Parks!

With the weather getting nicer, why not visit one of our beautiful parks?



OPALANIE PARK

1422 Saint Matthews Road

- Trails for pedestrians, bicycles and equestrians
- No tables, but the landscape lends itself to using a picnic blanket, enjoying a meal, and bird watching.
- Construction to begin soon for additional amenities including a gazebo and sensory garden.

ANDREW EVANS PARK

2420 Conestoga Road

- Tot-lot play area
- 0.45 mile paved walking trail
- Soccer and baseball fields
- Gazebo
- Picnic tables
- Fishing pond

COOKS GLEN PARK

135 Cooks Glen Road

- Fishing in French Creek
- Trails for pedestrians and equestrians
- No tables, but the landscape lends itself to using a picnic blanket, enjoying a meal, and bird watching.

WILSON'S CORNER PARK

192 S. French Creek

- Fishing in French Creek
- No tables, but the landscape lends itself to using a picnic blanket, enjoying a meal, and bird watching.

ENCANTO in the Park

Movie in the Park resumes this year on Friday, May 23, 2025. Disney's animated musical, *Encanto*, tells the story of the Madrigal family. Everyone except Mirabel has magical gifts which they use to help their fellow villagers of Encanto. When Mirabel learns that the family is losing their magic, she sets out to find out why and save the family's house.

The movie will be shown near the gazebo in Andrew Evans Park. However – in the event of rain – the movie will be moved to inside the large meeting room of the Township Building. So bring some blankets, chairs and snacks, and join us for this enchanting movie!



Residents at 'Movie in the Park'

The final Movie Night of 2025 will be Friday, August 29. The selection has yet to be made, but it promises to be a great selection for the teens and adults of the Township.



Township Red Cross Blood Drive: 6/17

In our Township of 6,600 residents, it is estimated that 2,500 are qualified to donate blood. **Last summer, only 18 residents signed up to donate blood** at our township's Red Cross Blood Drive. This is 0.72% of eligible donors. The generosity of our residents is normally unparalleled... except for blood donation. **PLEASE HELP US DO BETTER ON JUNE 17th.**



Please use the QR code to register for our blood drive.

The Bloody Facts:

- Red Cross supplies 40% of the nation's blood.
- Only 38% of the nation's population is qualified to donate.
- Nearly 5,000 units of platelets and 6,500 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.
- Donated red blood cells have a shelf life of 42 days, while platelets can only be stored for 5 days, and plasma can be frozen for up to a year.
- Blood transfusions are crucial for patients undergoing surgeries, battling cancer, recovering from traumatic injuries, and managing chronic illnesses.
- Blood cannot be manufactured and relies entirely on the generosity of donors.



Upcoming Chester County Household Hazardous Waste Events

We regularly receive phone calls asking what residents should do with items such as old gas or oil, cleaning chemicals, and spray paint, to name a few. **THANK YOU** for taking an interest in how to properly dispose of waste! Most trash haulers, as well as the Lanchester Landfill, do not accept items classified as "hazardous waste". Hazardous waste takes many forms:

PAINT PRODUCTS	OUTDOOR PRODUCTS	AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	HOUSEHOLD OTHER
Turpentine	Swimming Pool Chemicals	Grease & Rust Solvents	Kerosene	Acids, Caustics, Solvents
Paint Thinners	Weed Killers	Fuel Additives	Rug Cleaners, Drain Openers	Flammables
Strippers & Removers	Septic Tank Degreasers	Carburetor Cleaners	Wood & Metal Cleaners	Oxidizers & Reactives
Oil-Based Paints	Asphalt Sealers	Transmission/Brake Fluid	Mothballs/Flakes	Aerosols
Stains, Varnish, Shellac	Roof Cements	Antifreeze	Adhesives/Solvents	Lead
Spray Paint	MINI Propane Tanks (No BBQ Tanks)	Car (lead-acid), Truck, Motorcycle & Marine Batteries	Rechargeable Batteries, Lithium, Ni-Cad, Button, Lead Acid	Mercury (Thermostats & Thermometers)
Solvent-Based Paint Products	Pesticide	Gas, Oil, Gas/Oil Mixture	Spot Removers, Dry Cleaning Fluid	Fluorescent Tubes & CFLs
Wallpaper Cement	Chemical Fertilizer	Road Flares (No Marine Flares)	Fire Extinguishers	Ballast (must be removed from light fixture)

In order to properly dispose of these types of items, West Vincent residents need to register to drop off items at scheduled household hazardous waste ("HHW") events in Chester County. There are four events each year. The remaining three events for 2025 are as follows:

- **Fri, June 20:** Coatesville Learning Center (1635 E. Lincoln Hwy)
- **Sat, August 23:** Oxford School District Administrative Building (125 Bell Tower Ln)
- **Sun, October 5:** Downingtown Middle School (115 Rock Raymond Rd)

Registration is required for each event and will be available online a few weeks before each event at chestercountyswa.org.

The maximum amount of accepted waste at each event is 25 gallons or 220 lbs. (no metal drums). Please note that the events do NOT accept the following items:

Explosives, Ammunition, Marine Flares	Electronics	Asbestos	Appliances/White Goods
Infectious or Medical Waste	Prescription Drugs	Radioactive Waste	Refrigerants, Freon Appliances
Tires	20 Lb. BBQ Propane Tanks/ Helium Tanks	Unidentified Waste	25- or 50- Gallon Drums
Latex Paint* (Water-Based)	Gas Cylinders	Alkaline Batteries (Trash)	Smoke Detectors

Thank you for being concerned about waste generation and disposal, and we hope to see you at a future event!

Local Food Pantry: A Lifeline When Needed

The main lobby of the Township building is a drop off location for the Coventry Food Pantry. The pantry relies heavily on donations from the community to supplement state-funded programs. About half the food and supplies that clients receive come directly from residents like you through food and monetary donations.

After speaking with the pantry recently, their shelves have been very bare, and they are asking for donations of the following:

- Jelly (*plastic container preferred*)
- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Canned Meats (*Spam, chicken, meatballs, vienna sausage*)
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal and Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Pasta
- Rice and Side Dishes
- Cleaning Supplies
- Paper Products
- Personal Supplies (*soap, toothpaste, laundry detergent*)
- Diapers and Wipes

If you spot a great deal at the grocery store, please consider purchasing a little extra for the pantry.



Our community is often seen as a more well-off community in OJR. If this resonates with your household, please consider supporting the pantry regularly with an item or two every so often. And for those families in our midst that may need a little help (and YES, we have those families in our community, too), please know that the pantry is there if needed. They are discreet and empathetic to everyone they meet. And THANK YOU for any support you can give!

AARP Smart Driver™ Course Coming to WVT

With families feeling the pinch from an uncertain economy, it would be nice to be able to save some money from unexpected places. One of those places can be your car insurance bill. West Vincent is hosting an AARP Smart Driver Course on May 29 and June 5 from 8:45am to 1pm.

Registration is required with no age restrictions. Participants will learn:

- Evidence-based safe driving strategies
- New traffic laws and rules of the road
- How to deal with aggressive drivers

Upon completion of the course, you may be eligible to receive an auto insurance discount (consult your agent for details). The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members which covers both days. If you would like to reserve a seat, please call Greg, at 484-252-6483 and leave your name, number and email, or register online at [AARP.org/Driving36](https://www.aarp.org/Driving36). Refresh your driving skills AND save money!

Litter Lifters: Strength in Numbers

The Litter Lifters of West Vincent have been busy in 2025!

Between January 18th and April 9th, crews ranging in size from 2 to 30 volunteers collected 205 bags of trash and 5 tires from roads in West Vincent and northern Chester County.

Please consider picking up litter along the frontage of your property, especially if you live along higher-trafficked roads such as Saint Matthews Road and Horseshoe Trail. Litter Lifter events are posted to our website, so please check the website if you are interested in helping.



Keep Our Lands Litter-Free

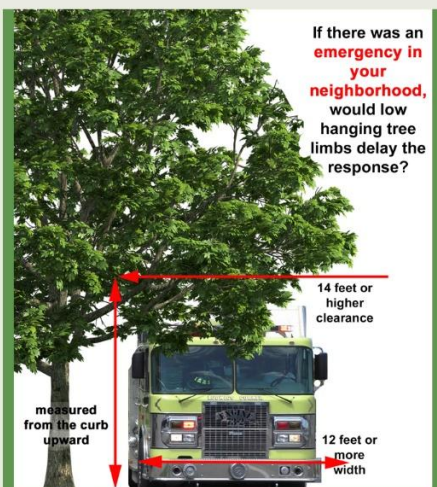
- Don't litter
- Pick up trash when walking, running or doing errands
- Teach our children not to litter
- Use re-usable drinkware for water and coffee
- Carry re-usable cutlery when getting take-out food
- Use re-usable bags when shopping
- Secure your trash at the curb
- Purchase additional recycle bins if needed
- Volunteer for a clean-up event
- Secure loads if you have an open-bed truck
- Secure items in cars when driving with windows open

Will a Fire Truck Fit Down Your Driveway?

In the event of an emergency, firefighters may need to access your home. If access to your home is not clear and they need to find alternate access, those seconds begin to really count.

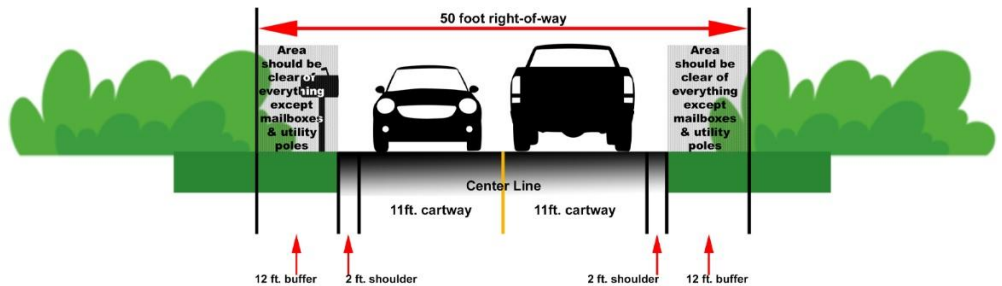
It is important to establish a safe route with adequate access for emergency vehicles. Here are steps you can take to prepare your driveway to speed access and reduce property damage:

- Position your address sign to be visible from the road from either direction.
- Clear branches or brush from your driveway so it is at least 12' wide with 14' of clearance for fire trucks.
- Be sure your driveway's surface is firmly packed and can support the weight of emergency vehicles even in the spring when the ground is soft.
- Check that your driveway is free of gates, fence posts or other objects that could restrict access.
- Create a space at the end of your driveway with adequate width and clearance for firetrucks.



Planting Positivity in the Right-of-Ways

A right-of-way ("ROW") is a type of easement granted over the land for transportation purposes (all the roadways in our township have ROWs). It can include shoulders, berms, and additional areas needed for highway purposes such as drainage, slopes, etc. The size of a ROW varies between road segments and may extend beyond the paved road and shoulders. For example, **Route 100 has an 80' ROW** (40' from center line), while **St. Matthews, Conestoga, Kimberton, Birchrun, Pughtown and Hollow Roads have 60' ROWs** (30' from center line). "Newer" township roads (starting in the 80's) have 50' ROWs, and many extend well behind the curbs and sidewalks.



Township code requires property owners to keep the ROWs free from plantings, trees, rocks, signs and other items. There are really no exceptions. These codes were enacted for the safety of drivers and pedestrians, safety of utility lines, and to extend the life of roads.

What does this mean for property owners? Simply put, if property owners do not maintain their ROWs, **the Township is allowed to remove items in the ROWs with the owner incurring the expense for removal.** Per the code, if the owner fails to pay or reimburse the Township within 30 days of notice of the expenses, the Township may record a lien against the property for the balance due or take any other appropriate legal action. Please keep in mind that this is for safety reasons, and we are hoping to plant positivity around maintaining ROWs

YOUTH TROUT RODEO

The Coventryville Trout Club, and East and West Vincent Police associations are happy to announce this year's Youth Trout Fishing Rodeo taking place on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at Warwick County Park!

Registration is at 8:15, fishing begins at 9:00, and the raffle drawing is at noon. Youth ages 3 to 11 will fish from 9 to 11:30am, and youth ages 12 to 15 will fish from 12:30 to 2:30pm. The event is **FREE** and open to **KIDS ONLY!** Adults are not invited to fish at the park on this day.



KEEPIN' IT REEL

ID Theft: News from our WVPD

Our community has seen an uptick recently in identity theft and scams using stolen personal information. This can include opening new accounts, making purchases, or even accessing existing accounts in the victim's name. Scammers are using various tactics to steal information, including online, through phone calls or social media, and even in person. "Phishing" has become a more common term as scammers are using emails, texts or phone calls as bait to see how much information victims are willing to share.

Keep Your Identity Safe

- Do not answer phone calls, texts, social media messages, or email from numbers or people you do not know.
- Do not share personal information like your bank account info, Social Security number, or date of birth.
- Collect your mail every day, and place a hold on your mail when you will be on vacation or away from your home.
- Review credit card and bank account statements. Watch for and report unauthorized or suspicious transactions.
- Store personal information, including your Social Security card, in a safe place. Do not carry it in your wallet.

the debt to each of the companies where accounts were opened or used in your name. The Federal Trade Commission developed an *Identity Theft Affidavit* to make it easier for fraud victims to report information. This form can be found on our website. While many companies accept this affidavit, others require that you submit more or different forms. Before you complete the affidavit, contact each company to find out if they accept it.

Please fill out this affidavit which is located on our website and return it to West Vincent Township Police Department in person, by fax to 610-458-3206, or email to admin@wvpolice.org in order for an officer to generate a police report.

Steps to Take If You Become a Victim

To make certain that you do not become responsible for any debts incurred by an identity thief, you must prove that you didn't create

You can also file a complaint online with the the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center for suspected internet-facilitated criminal activity at ic3.gov.

Newest Addition to Public Works



Public Works is very excited to have finally taken possession of their new 2024 Ford F-550 Super Duty XLT truck! This truck will be replacing the 2001 Ford F-550, affectionately known by the crew as Scooby. The new truck will pick up caring for our roadways where Scooby left off. Welcome to the fleet, Scooby Deux!

Did You Know...? *Reflecting on Safety*

They mysteriously began showing up on utility poles throughout Pennsylvania, starting around 2017 – those yellow, reflective waffle grids you were probably seeing without fully realizing it. Now they are ubiquitous, affixed to over half of PECO's 400,000+ poles here in the Commonwealth.



These obvious standouts are a sensible safety measure to garner the attention of passing motorists and cyclists, helping those commuting on roadways to better notice the pole it is secured onto, especially during nighttime travel and just as critically, to quickly put poles into the line of sight of distracted drivers.

So, if you've been spotting these interestingly shaped objects but didn't know what they were for, then PECO's mission is working! Regardless of what you think they are, you're espying the grid and its companion utility pole, which in turn is, hopefully, keeping you safely away from them both!



**West Vincent
Township Building**
729 Saint Matthews Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425
(610) 458-1601

OFFICE HOURS
Monday to Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm

westvincenttp.org



Save the Dates: May through August

May 10: Youth Trout Fishing Rodeo
May 10: Yoga in the Park
May 10: EAC Plant Swap
May 18: 175th Birthday Party for
Sheeder-Hall Bridge
May 20: Primary Elections
May 21: The Spice Club @ Henrietta
Hankin Library
May 23: Encanto in the Park
May 26: Office Closed
May 29 & June 5: Smart Driver
Course

June 8: French Creek Iron Tour
June 17: Township Blood Drive
June 20: Chester County Household
Hazardous Waste Event
June 28: Yoga in the Park

July 4: Office Closed
July 8-12: Ludwig's Corner Carnival
July 12: Yoga in the Park
July 14: 2021 International Building
Codes take effect

August 9: Yoga in the Park
August 29: Movie in the Park

The Spice Club on May 13th

The Spice Club at Henrietta Hankin Library explores herbs, spices and extracts. It is a potluck focusing on small bites from appetizers to mains and desserts. The featured spice should be used in your recipe, and you will want to bring a few copies of your recipe to trade with others. The Spice Club runs from 6pm to 7:30pm and is held every other month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Registration is required through the library website.



Doggie Doo is a Doggie Don't

It's a lovely time of year to enjoy the many trails and parks of West Vincent. But what is NOT so lovely is passing pet poop on those walks, or worse, STEPPING in pet poop!

This is a friendly reminder that residents and visitors are expected to pick up after their pets. While many of our parks are equipped with pick-up bags at various locations, not all of the parks have receptacles to leave the bags, and some people seem confused by what to do with these pungent presents. The short answer is: take it with you when you leave.



Our trails and parks follow "leave no trace" principles. To minimize the impact to these locations, make sure that all trash is either in a garbage can or walking out with you. You wouldn't leave diapers on the trails, so don't leave your furry-baby's waste either.