



WEST VINCENT

Doing What's Right to Protect What's Left

- EST. 1832 -

WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING & SUMMER 2026

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The Township Building is now open from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. That's an hour more each day... *about 27 more days each year...* for the convenience of our residents. Stop in and say "hello!"

TWO GRANTS AWARDED

The Commonwealth Financing Authority has awarded two grants to West Vincent Township. The Township will receive \$64,400 for the purchase of a police cruiser, which will replace a cruiser that has reached the end of its effective life. The Township will also receive \$120,000 for the purchase a track loader that comes equipped with a variety of useful attachments.

Grant applications are prepared by Township staff. Aggressively seeking grant dollars is one of the ways West Vincent Township works to keep taxes low, while maintaining the higher quality services our residents enjoy.

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78-Acre Farm Preserved

West Vincent Township, in partnership with the French & Pickering Conservation Trust, has preserved a 78-acre farm at Pughtown Road. A conservation easement will limit to one the number of homes permitted on the property, and most of the acres will continue to be farmed. The property was long viewed by homebuilders as a prime location for new development.



The property is bounded by preserved lands, and represents one of the last major areas to be preserved along a continuous greenway that spans Saint Matthews Road and Pughtown Road. Funding was provided by the West Vincent Township Open Space Fund, and by a grant from Chester County.

Preserving the property would not have been possible without the support of the property's owners, who chose to not sell the land for development, but to forever protect their farm. And for this, our community is forever thankful.

Earth Day in Opalanie Park

Love Mother Nature? Then join the West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council on **Saturday, April 25, at 10am, to celebrate Earth Day in Opalanie Park!**



Help improve the woodlands (both new and old), while learning about birds, butterflies, and native plants. Participants will care for young trees in protective tree tubes, and remove non-native invasive plants that harm native insects and birds.

Be sure to wear a long-sleeve shirt, long pants, socks, closed-toed shoes, and garden gloves. If you have a favorite shovel, lopper, or pair of pruners, bring these too. To RSVP please email eac@westvincttp.org. Rain Date is Sunday, April 26.

WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dana Alan, *Chair*
Bernie Couris, *Vice Chair*
Sean Clark, *Member*

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors

Work Session, 6pm 3rd Mon
Business Meeting 3rd Mon

Parks & Recreation Commission

1st Wed

Environmental Advisory Council

1st Thu

Historical Commission

2nd Wed

Traffic Safety Committee

2nd Thu

Open Space Review Board

4th Tue

Planning Commission

4th Thu

Litter Lifters

as needed

Board of Auditors

as needed

Human Relations Commission

as needed

Zoning Hearing Board

as needed

Unless otherwise noted or advertised, all meetings start at 7pm, and are held at the Township Building.

TOWNSHIP OFFICES

(610) 458-1601

POLICE DEPARTMENT

(610) 458-3205 (non-emergency)
Emergency Response: 911

Township Offices and the Police Department are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

729 Saint Matthews Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425

2026 Budget Adopted

No New Taxes & No Tax Increases

The 2026 Budget, adopted by the Board of Supervisors last December, includes no new taxes and no tax increases, and maintains the higher-quality services and programs our community enjoys today.

The current Township real estate tax, at 2.09 mills, is among lowest municipal millage rates in Chester County. This means the owner of a property valued at \$785,000 (an approximate \$250,00 assessment) pays about \$525 in property taxes to the Township each year.

2026 Budget highlights include...

- Increased funding for the five volunteer EMS providers (three fire companies & two ambulance companies) that serve our community. The Budget increases EMS funding to \$433,000 from \$146,000 in 2025.
- Increased funding for the 2026 Road Program. The Budget increases this funding to \$500,000 from \$300,000 in 2025.
- Elimination of third-party (contracted) zoning services, saving an estimated \$65,000 per year. This work has been assumed by current Township staff.
- Funding for a part-time receptionist position in lieu of a full-time Township Secretary position, saving an estimated \$105,000 per year.
- An increased annual contribution to our community library.
- More than \$1,000,000 for open space preservation, including the purchase of a conservation easement to protect a 78-acre property at Pughtown Road.
- Replacement of a tractor and a police car that have reached the end of their useful lives.

The 2026 Budget document includes an easy-to-understand budget overview and useful exhibits, so residents can better understand how their tax dollars are collected and spent. Check it out at westvincenttwp.org!

Welcome Officer Fields!

Police Officer Fields joined the West Vincent Township Police Department in February. Officer Fields was born and raised on his family's farm in East Vincent Township, and graduated from the West-Mont Christian Academy. After graduating from the US Army Leadership Training Course in Fort Knox, he earned a degree in Criminal Justice from the Montgomery County Community College.

Prior to his appointment in West Vincent, Officer Fields served in municipal law enforcement for six years.

When he's not patrolling our roadways and keeping our community safe, Officer Fields and fiancée Jennifer are planning their wedding, scheduled for next year.

Congratulations and welcome, Officer Fields!

“Who gets the taxes I pay?”

It’s a question we often receive at the Township Building, because the collection of real estate taxes can be a little confusing. Here’s the skinny...

Real estate taxes are assessed by three entities... the school district, the county, and the municipality. Each entity has its own tax rate, so each entity receives a share of the total real estate taxes paid each year.

So, who gets the real estate taxes that are paid by property owners in West Vincent Township? For taxes paid in 2025...

83.4% goes to the **Owen J. Roberts School District**. School districts usually have the highest tax rate.

11.8% goes to **Chester County**. Real estate taxes accounted for one-third of the County’s operating revenues in 2025.

4.8% goes to **West Vincent Township**. Yes, our property tax rate is the lowest!

Welcome Chief Getz

Earlier this year Bradley Getz was appointed West Vincent Township Chief of Police. Chief Getz served with the Pennsylvania State Police for 25 years, retiring in March of 2024. During his tenure with the State Police Chief Getz held numerous leadership positions, including Troop Commander, Station Commander, Crime Section Commander, and Patrol Section Commander. Most of his roles were held in stations throughout southeastern Pennsylvania.

For the last two years Chief Getz served as the Chief of Police for Lancaster Township (pop. 18,600), Lancaster County. In this position, he worked to create a municipal police department after Lancaster Township decided to end its contract for police services with a neighboring municipality. Chief Getz led the effort to build a police building, hire officers, establish policies, purchase and outfit vehicles, and do everything else needed to start a new police department... in less than one year!

Chief Getz has resided in southwestern Montgomery County his entire life. He graduated from The Hill School and from Ursinus College, where he earned a Bachelor’s degree in Politics & American Government and played on the men’s soccer team.

Chief Getz replaces Chief Michael Swinger, who served our community for 30 years. We thank Chief Swinger for his service!

Days Gone By

The first post office in West Vincent Township was established in Ludwig’s Corner on February 13, 1821. Peter Miller served as Postmaster.

First called the East Nantmeal Post Office, the name was changed to the West Vincent Township Post Office, then reverted back to the East Nantmeal Post Office for a little while, before a final name change, to the West Vincent Post Office, in 1846.

Source: *A History of West Vincent Township*



An atlas shows the Post Office location.



PARK & TRAIL NEWS...

Fellowship Trail

- As of March 1, the Fellowship Trail is approximately 90% completed. All work is expected to be completed before Memorial Day, just in time for summer strolling.

Opalanie Park

- As of March 1, improvements at Opalanie Park are about 80% completed and, absent invasive weed treatments scheduled for this Fall, all work is expected to be completed in June. An overview of these improvements will be featured in our very next newsletter.

Q'S AND A'S

When the telephone rings at the Township Building, and the caller asks a question, it’s likely a question we’ve been asked before. Here’s one of the more common inquiries we receive...

QUESTION: “Do I need a permit to re-shingle a roof?”

ANSWER: “If the work includes only re-shingling, no permit is needed. But if, during the work, damage is discovered that requires fixes to a chimney, dormer, truss, or other structural part of the roof, a building permit is needed. And it’s always important to obtain required permits, as an insurance company can deny a claim for damage if work was completed without a proper permit.”



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Looking for a safe and responsible way to discard used motor oil, a bottle of weed killer, or a Dallas Cowboys jersey? The good folks at the Chester County Solid Waste Authority make it easy to dispose of the bad stuff in your home through its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. And the service is free for Chester County residents!

Collection events will be held in...

- Phoenixville, on Saturday, April 18;
- Coatesville, on Friday, June 26;
- Oxford, on Saturday, August 29; and,
- Downingtown, on Sunday, October 4.

Registration is required, and business or industrial materials are not accepted. To register, and for more information, visit chestercountyswa.org.

RECYCLING IDEAS

Junk Mail

How many times have you thrown away a glossy catalog that arrives in your mailbox without leafing through the pages? If you receive mail that's neither wanted nor needed, visit catalogchoice.org and stop the clutter at the source. The website provides folks with all the information needed to unsubscribe from various mailing house databases. How convenient!

Now if someone could only find a way to stop those pesky bills...

Recycling Electronics

In 2010 the Commonwealth enacted the Covered Device Recycling Act, a law that prohibited the disposal of electronic devices in landfills. The businesses and organizations that accepted electronic devices for recycling were soon overwhelmed with the volume of devices being delivered to their doorsteps, prompting many to curb, or to end, their recycling programs. If you recall seeing television sets dumped along the roadsides around this time... that was the Covered Device Recycling Act.

Fortunately, electronic recycling opportunities have improved in recent years, and today there are organizations close to West Vincent Township that will gladly accept your donation. One, Goodwill Keystone Area, accepts televisions, computers, monitors, mobile devices and much more, at no cost. Goodwill Keystone Area has several locations in our region. Visit yourgoodwill.org for more information.

Ludwigs Corner Fire Company

In 2025, the Ludwigs Corner Fire Company's all-volunteer team responded to almost **700 incidents** in West Vincent, Upper Uwchlan, and East Nantmeal Townships. This team of unpaid professionals takes pride in delivering the highest quality care and service to the residents and businesses in our communities.

In recent years the Fire Company has seen a significant increase in the cost of the everyday goods and services needed to maintain its operations. In addition, upcoming fire truck replacements and station repairs will cost millions of dollars more.

Please consider making a contribution to help the volunteers who stand ready to answer the call for help, day or night.

Contributions can be sent to...

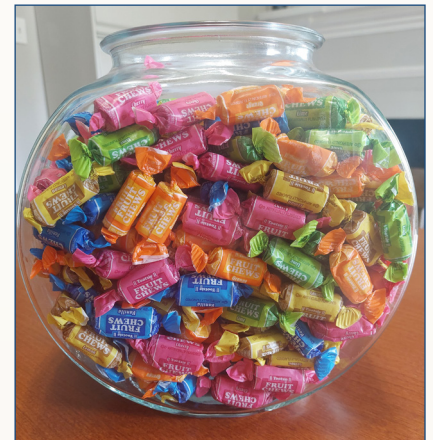
Ludwigs Corner Fire Company
1325 Pottstown Pike
Glenmoore, PA 19343

How Much Candy in the Fishbowl?

There is a fish bowl in the lobby of the Township Building. And in this fish bowl there is candy... Fruit Chews to be exact. And lots of them.

How many Fruit Chews are in the fish bowl is your guess, and if your guess is the closest without going over the actual number you'll win the candy, and sweet bragging rights.

Submit your guess at the Township Building, or by e-mail to Lynn at receptionist@westvincentwp.org, before noon on July 31. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.



The candy is kindly contributed by the employees of West Vincent Township, who are not eligible to submit a guess (*sorry folks!*).

The Psychology of Speeding

Speeding on local roads is among the more common complaints reported to West Vincent Township each year. And it's not just a problem on "major" roads, like Saint Matthews Road, Conestoga Road, or Pottstown Pike. Speedsters have also been reported on rural roads and cul-de-sacs—streets mostly traveled by the folks who live in these neighborhoods.

So, if drivers know the dangers of speeding, why do some drivers speed when they're so close to home, placing their neighbors in harm's way?

Interestingly, psychology partly explains this behavior. By traveling the same roads, time and time again, drivers "master" roadway conditions, learning every twist, turn and dip along the route. And when drivers feel this comfortable with their surroundings, they are more likely to feel safe driving at a higher speed. This also explains why most drivers travel at a slower speed when navigating through a city or town for the first time.

When traveling local roads, please stay mindful of your speed... even if it feels safe to travel a bit faster. After all, local roads are where the people we care about most live!



Making Cents

Saving taxpayer money, it's one of the things West Vincent Township does best! Here's another example of a step we're taking today to keep our financial position secure tomorrow.

what we do...

Utilize on-line auctions to sell used equipment and other items no longer needed by the Township.

the background...

State Law requires Pennsylvania municipalities to sell certain items by public auction. Townships and boroughs must publish a legal ad in a local newspaper (*the ads no one reads*) that establishes a process for the submission and opening of bids.

the step taken...

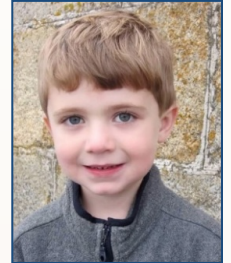
While not required to do so, West Vincent posts its used items to a popular on-line auction site, thereby maximizing exposure among potential purchasers. The increase in bidders typically yields higher bids, and higher bids increase the percent of the item's original purchase price recovered by the Township.



BOOK REVIEW

***If You Give A Mouse A Cookie* by Laura Numeroff**

Reviewed by Addy "Ice" McIntyre (Age 5)



The Story...

A mouse asks for a cookie, then he asks for lots of other things.

My Favorite Part...

The end because the mouse asks for another cookie and that made me laugh. The mouse should have just asked for two cookies first. The pictures are funny too.

My Recommendation...

Read this book if you like to laugh.

Thank you, Addy, for an amazing book review!

Would you like to review a book? Simply visit the Henrietta Hankin Library, find and read a great book, and ask a parent to send your review to Karen Clickener-Ousey at kclickenerousey@ccls.org. And send a photo too!

HELLO MOLLY

Pennsylvania law requires dog owners to control their animals at all times. When a dog is safely confined to its owner's property, leashing isn't needed. But while the dog is on another's property a leash is the best way to control the dog... and in West Vincent Township parks, the use of a leash is required at all times.



Thank you for considering our neighbors' safety when walking Molly the Wonder Mutt.

WATERSHED PROTECTION TIP

Building a new patio or walkway? Consider using flagstones, brick pavers or gravel, as these materials allow stormwater to infiltrate into the local aquifer with minimal run-off. And these patios and walkways are often less costly to construct and maintain. That's a win for our environment and a win for your wallet!



This Watershed Protection Tip is part of West Vincent Township's ongoing efforts to provide public education on stormwater management and to protect our environment.

REMEMBER THE FLUSHABLE FOUR

Grinder Pump Man says...

If your property has a grinder pump, only four kinds of materials are permitted to be discharged into the sanitary sewer system...



1. human waste & toilet paper;
2. food wastes processed through a garbage disposal unit (*but not grease*);
3. water from sinks, tubs & dishwashers; and,
4. water from washing machines.

Any other material can damage your grinder pump, and this includes all varieties of adult and baby wipes... even the ones advertised as "safe for septic systems".

Grinder pumps are owned by homeowners, and major repairs can be expensive. So avoid costly fixes, and remember the "Flushable Four"!

When Someone Puts A Sign On Your Property...

Has someone planted a sign on your property? Here's some helpful information when addressing these pesky postings:



- It's a violation of Township Code to place a sign on any property without the property owner's permission.
- Signs are only permitted on the property where the activity is taking place. For example, "for sale" signs are allowed to be posted only at the property being sold.
- In addition to being a nuisance, roadside signs can create a hazardous condition if they distract motorists or block sight lines.

You may remove any sign placed on your property without your permission. You may also contact the sign owner to request that a sign posted on your property be removed. If the owner will not remove the sign, please contact the Township Building at (610) 458-1601 to request enforcement action.

About Stormwater

"Stormwater from my neighbor's property is flooding my property. What can I do?"
It's a question commonly asked by property owners. Here's the answer...

Pennsylvania courts have adopted the "common enemy" doctrine relating to stormwater runoff. Under this doctrine stormwater is deemed to be a common enemy to every landowner. A landowner has the right to have stormwater flow onto and over his or her property, and discharged through its natural course onto a neighboring property. Generally, any damage to the property below caused by surface water as a result of this natural flow is not actionable. In other words... a property owner can't require a neighbor to "stop the water" at the property line.

However, there is an exception to this general rule. A property owner can't divert water from its natural course, or unreasonably concentrate the rate of flow, in a way that damages another property. If you believe a neighbor is violating the common enemy doctrine you should contact an attorney with experience in these matters. If your neighbor is not willing to fix the problem you may be required to file suit in the Court of Common Pleas. Because the stormwater is flowing from private property the Township is not a party to the dispute.

Lastly, it's important to note that most properties subdivided or developed in the last twenty years were likely approved conditioned upon the owner meeting certain stormwater management standards. If your neighbor's land is one of these properties, contact the Township Building and ask about any approved stormwater management plans on file.

Unfunded Mandate Spotlight

Unfunded mandates are a big problem for Pennsylvania's townships and boroughs. The folks in Harrisburg and Washington increasingly impose new laws and programs that impact local government, and they don't provide the funding that's needed to comply with the laws and to implement the programs. They just give the bill to local government - which means you, the taxpayers.



Here's another example of how an unfunded mandate impacts West Vincent Township:

<u>unfunded mandate:</u>	prevailing wage
<u>created by:</u>	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
<u>what it is:</u>	State Law requires contractors to pay their employees higher wages when doing work for municipal governments. These higher wages must be paid when the cost of a non-road project exceeds \$25,000, or \$100,000 for road projects.
<u>impact to residents:</u>	The higher wages add about 30% to the total project cost. This means the Township pays about 30% more for the very same work done for a private company. Looked at from a different perspective, this means the Township gets 30% less for the money it pays.
<u>solution:</u>	Eliminate prevailing wage, and allow contractors to bid on municipal projects using market-based labor rates, and not government-inflated labor rates.

Subdivision & Land Development Update

If it's under review or under construction, it's listed below!

The following projects are now under review:

- **Toll-Mid Atlantic** - A subdivision at South Chester Springs Road and Conestoga Road that includes 46 single-family homes.
- **Pulte Promenade** - A subdivision at Pottstown Pike and Birchrun Road that includes 28 single-family homes and 46 townhomes.

The following subdivision and land development projects are among those receiving approval in the recent years, and construction has not yet begun:

- None

The following approved subdivision and land development projects are now under construction:

- None

VOLUNTEER THIS or THAT

We asked West Vincent Township volunteer **Donna Delaney, Chair of our Environmental Advisory Council**, to tell us which one of these seven pairs she likes the most... and here's what Donna said...

- ✓ **coffee** or tea
- sunrise or ✓ **sunset**
- ✓ **gardening** or cooking
- ✓ **window seat** or aisle seat
- dancing or ✓ **singing**
- ✓ **sweet snacks** or salty snacks
- morning person or ✓ **night owl**

Want to serve as a volunteer? Great! We're always looking for folks who want to lend a hand! Simply visit westvincentwp.org, and complete and submit a volunteer form.

2026 ROAD PROGRAM

At the time this newsletter went to print (in mid-March), the 2026 Road Program was posted for public bidding. The Township has budgeted \$500,000 for this year's repair and resurfacing projects, with the work tentatively scheduled to begin in June, and be completed by mid-August.

The list of roads included in the bid includes all or portions of...

- Crescent Drive;
- Eagle Farms Road;
- Kennard Way;
- Lobella Court;
- Marigold Court;
- Powell Road;
- Sweet Birch Lane;
- Thorndale Road;
- Trillium Way; and,
- Veronica Drive.

When the bids are opened and awarded, the Township will post the complete list of roads to be treated at westvincentwp.org.



WEST VINCENT

Doing What's Right to Protect What's Left

West Vincent Township Administration Building

729 Saint Matthews Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: (610) 458-1601
Fax: (610) 458-1603

Monday to Friday:
8:00am to 5:00pm

westvincenttp.org

Presorted
Standard Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 50
West Chester, PA



MAKING HISTORY

The Board of Supervisors recently created the Office of the Township Historian, and appointed Cindy Clark and Isabelle Travaglini to the positions of Township Historian and Township Historian Emeritus, respectively. The Township Historian will lead efforts to collect, catalog, and preserve West Vincent historical records, and participate in research and various educational projects.

Town Historian positions are common throughout the New England states, but not in Pennsylvania. Last year the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors searched for another municipality possessing this position but came up empty. So West Vincent might be the first Township in the Commonwealth to have a formally-appointed Historian.

PEEK AT THE WEEK

Every Friday afternoon, at 4pm, the Township distributes the "Peek at the Week" - a list of Township meetings and community events scheduled for the upcoming seven days, plus other useful information. The Peek is emailed to almost 400 folks. To get your Peek simply join our e-mail list at westvincenttp.org.

YOGA IN THE PARK

Join Ally Antonini of Trinity Willows Studio for rejuvenating yoga sessions at Opananie Park, under the maple tree!

Bring your favorite mat, and blanket to place underneath, as these sessions are held on a beautiful grassy meadow. Invite a friend, too.

Free for West Vincent Township residents.

Sessions are from 10:00am-11:00am on the following Saturdays:

- April 25
- May 9
- June 6
- June 27
- July 11
- July 25

