



Crossroads

Proud of Our Past. Pride in Our Progress.



Students at SS Philip and James gathered treats for Township first responders during the pandemic.

24/7 Service

As always, the police are available around the clock. The rest of the staff mostly works during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday. But you don't have to wait for the next morning to get the information you need. While you are welcome to call, make an appointment or stop by when we reopen in the near future, **sometimes the quickest route to a response is online.**

We are always trying to answer as many questions as possible on our website. It can be very helpful to check there first for detailed information.

Additionally, we have provided many opportunities to submit questions or fulfill your requests online. These tools are accessible 24/7 and include the following:

- Report a concern. Using the "Contact Us" button on our home page, you can ask a general question, submit a change of address form, report damaged park

(continued on page 2)

A Look at Our Community Identity

Welcome, Summer 2021!

Most of us have had a lot of time over the past 12-15 months to take stock. A LOT of time. As our world shut down, our homes became our offices, our neighbors became our families and our trash collectors and package deliverers sometimes were our only connection to the outside world. Maybe you cleaned out your closets or started a new hobby

or got to know the people around you a little better. More than likely, you thought of some goals for yourself – some things you might want to do or become when the world opened back up.

Here at West Whiteland Township, we have been taking stock of the changes happening within our community. We reached out to residents in focus groups. We contracted with development experts to understand our community's assets (p. 7). Of course, we continued to supply essential services to our residents. We had conversations about just what it is that defines West Whiteland Township. And we brainstormed ways we could be more connected with the public.

We want to keep hearing from you!

Check out the details on the following pages of the latest news and services. Then don't miss the back page for opportunities to connect and share your views!



Even our youngest residents enjoyed the virtual egg hunt!

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Stormwater Inflow and Infiltration Investigation

POP QUIZ!

Which of these is meant to collect water from a rainstorm?



Answers (Choose one)

- 1) A 2) B 3) Both A & B

Did you say "A"? Then you're right! You have probably seen the sewer vents (option B) in your yard. They are there to allow gases to escape from your sewer system and to regulate the air pressure in your system. They are NOT meant to have anything go into them.

However, when the vent caps are cracked, broken or missing, (clean) rainwater enters the (dirty) sanitary sewer system, causing spikes in flow and increasing the volume in the sewer system, and therefore the cost to treat all of it at the end. Through information gathered in an extensive study by the Township, we know the flow has been increasing during, and immediately after, large rain events. That means that **stormwater is sneaking into the sanitary system and increasing our flow and treatment costs.**

What can you do?

The Township is **asking for your help** as we attempt to track down all the sources of stormwater inflow and infiltration. If you see any instances where stormwater can get into the sewer lines, please let us know! This could be in the form of:

- Sump pumps connected to the sewer
- Broken or uncapped sewer vents or cleanouts in the yard
- Leaking or broken manholes

The Township is offering to help repair or reroute any issue that someone discovers and reports. There will be no penalty assessed to the homeowner.

To alert us to any of the above conditions, please use the "Contact Us" feature on the homepage of our website and choose "sanitary and storm sewer". Or email publicworks@westwhiteland.org or call 610-363-9525, x2155

24/7 Service *(continued from page 1)*

- equipment or storm drains and more.
- Request a reservation for a field or park space.
 - Make a payment.
 - Complete a permit application.
 - Complete a job application.
 - Look up trash, bulk item, yard waste, recycling and hazardous waste pick-up dates using our Recycle Coach tool. (see p. 3)
 - Sign up for eNews to receive the latest news straight to your mailbox. eNews updates are sent 3-4 times per month, and as needed for time-sensitive information.
 - Email staff directly. Addresses are on the website under each service.

Online Construction Permits

We heard from our residents, contractors, and business owners! West Whiteland Township is transitioning to an online permit application. You will be able to complete and submit the application, upload your site plan and insurance documents and make your payments without printing out a paper form. The easy online application will walk you through the process and provide the information you need to submit for your permit.

Online permitting will roll out this summer, starting with a few permits and expanding from there.

Do I need a permit? If you are asking yourself that question, you probably do. If you are doing any structural work, addition, renovation or adding anything outside such as shed or patio, you will need to apply for a permit. This is to ensure ALL projects (yours, your neighbor's, as well as the places you visit, shop and dine) adhere to the set standards in place to **keep you safe.**

Recycle Coach

West Whiteland Township's **one-stop shop** for all questions trash and recycling related.

- **What Goes Where?** (Does an item belong in the trash or can it be recycled?)
- **Collection Dates** (see more details in FAQs below about which dates you can view)
- **Report Missed Collection** (PAYT customers)

Access Recycle Coach by clicking on the square button on our homepage, or download the app from iTunes or the GooglePlay app store.

For "Choose Your Area", select "West Whiteland Township" to receive Township-specific information.

Who can use Recycle Coach?

- Any resident! Recycle Coach will help you find out if you are on the Township's Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program, which means you place all trash in Township trash bags. Even if you are not on the PAYT program, this is your source for what can and cannot be recycled.
- Any business owner!
- Anyone in Chester County who has a question about recycling!

When in doubt, check Recycle Coach, and then place the waste in the proper place!

Tips and FAQs

Am I on the Pay As You Throw program?

Type in your address. If you are a part of the PAYT program, your collection dates for trash, recycling, bulk items, etc., will



populate in the calendar. If you are not part of the PAYT program (i.e., if you live in an apartment building), only community-wide collections (such as hazardous waste, electronics and shredding events) will populate on your calendar. **You can still use Recycle Coach to determine what items can be recycled, regardless of who your hauler is.**

Why wasn't my trash/recycling collected?

There could be any number of reasons for this. Here are the most common:

- Items were not placed at the curb early enough. Please have all trash and recycling **at the curb by 6 a.m.**
- For PAYT participants, all trash **MUST** be placed in a **West Whiteland Township trash bag**. Trash in plastic bags or bins **WILL NOT** be collected.
- For bulk item pick-up, please remember **ONE bulk item** will be collected per week. Additional bulk items will be left at the curb. information about what outlets will accept items such as televisions and other electronics.

We have updated our website AND Recycle Coach with detailed information! If you still have questions, please email solidwaste@westwhiteland.org or call 610-363-9525, x3215

LEAF & BRANCH CURBSIDE PICK-UP (PAYT Customers)

On the following Wednesdays:

June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 & December 8

We have expanded the number of yard waste pick-up dates, so that your yard waste can be collected curbside. If your items exceed the limit of what the haulers will accept, please split it between multiple collection dates or contact a private service. All yard waste must be in a brown yard waste bag. Leaves and branches in trash or recycling containers will not be collected.

SHREDDING EVENT (All Township Residents)

June 23 from 8-10 AM

Township Building Parking Lot

For weekly pick-up, the haulers will collect shredded paper placed in PAPER bags at the curb.

Parks and Open Space

Swedesford Recreation Area at Exton Park

We are pleased to announce that Phase 1 of the Swedesford Recreation Area in Exton Park kicked off this spring.

For a while, this is going to look like a lot of dirt moving near the intersection of Ship and Swedesford Roads, as we establish the infrastructure of the park. **When Phase 1 is done, you will have a new dog park, natural playground, sledding hill, disc golf course and parking lot.** Phase 2 will include a multi-purpose cricket/soccer field, restrooms and a trail connection to the Chester Valley Trail. We are excited to be adding these enhancements that were the most requested by the community, while also honoring the wishes that most of the park be kept as passive recreation to protect the natural area and views.

Chester County Commissioners joined the Township Supervisors at an official groundbreaking ceremony on May 19. West Whiteland Township Friends of the Parks, who have also donated money towards the new disc golf course, sponsored the event. Chester County Commissioners' Chair Marian Moskowitz stated, *"Exton Park is unique in its joint 'ownership' between West Whiteland Township and the County, and it serves as a great model of how we work together in Chester County to preserve open space and provide great outdoor recreation options for everyone who lives here, works here and visits us."*

The community response to the start of the project has been extremely enthusiastic.



Pictured left to right, Mimi Gleason, Township Manager, Drew Gilchrist, DCNR Regional Advisor, Joshua Anderson, WWT Supervisor, Chester County Commissioners – Josh Maxwell, Marian Moskowitz, and Michelle Kichline, Rajesh Kumbhardare, Chair of the WWT Board of Supervisors, and Theresa Santalucia, Vice-Chair of the WWT Board of Supervisors.

West Whiteland Supervisor, Rajesh Kumbhardare, said, *"When the new Swedesford Recreation Area opens, more people will find the treasure we have here. We're looking forward to welcoming them to discover the joys of Exton Park."*

In the meantime, come and enjoy the rest of Exton Park's 700 acres, including a new story walk from Chester County Library, near the playground and Chester Valley trailhead.

Joseph Catov, Jr. Park

Also referred to as "Boot Road Park North", Catov Park is named for Police Chief Joseph Catov, Jr, who recently retired after 40 years of service to the Township. Last year, the Township partnered with Exton Little League (ELL) to find a location for two temporary fields for their baseball and softball teams while Meadowbrook Manor Park was disrupted by pipeline

construction. After striking out (bad joke), Township officials looked to Township-owned land where more permanent facilities could be built to benefit ELL in the short run and the community in the long run. The fields were built and funded entirely by Energy Transfer.

The park is currently open for use, with a new playground unit, pavilion and restroom facilities.



An ELL softball team enjoying the new field at Catov Park.

Cleaner Energy for a Cleaner Community

Introducing Clean Energy Future (CEF)—the first step towards clean, reliable and affordable energy for the West Chester area! wcacog.org/clean-energy-future

Visit the website to watch recordings of past webinars and learn practical tip to REDUCE the amount of energy you use (and your energy bills).



West Whiteland has taken preliminary steps—such as the installation of EV charging stations and joining with neighboring municipalities to explore a renewable energy group purchase. This hub is part of another commitment to educate area residents and businesses in topics regarding clean energy and sustainability.

Egg Hunt Recap

In 2021, Friends of the Parks organized a creative, socially distanced way to participate in the Township's annual Egg Hunt. Colorful egg signs were posted around four of the Township's parks. Kids of all ages had two weeks to find the eggs, track their progress and submit their entries.

Winners were chosen in three age groups and among kids of all ages with special needs, and a friendly bunny distributed the prizes on April 3 at Boot Road Park.

We had over 120 participants, and kids and adults alike raved about the event.



She had so much fun with this activity! Thank you for not only creating the experience but recognizing the unique needs of those with disabilities.

Thank you so much! We had so much fun with this event and discovered new parks to go to! We usually favor Boot Road but were so pleased with the other parks!

We also realized that West Whiteland is the perfect town for a scavenger hunt... periodic table art, nature trail, climbing rock, etc. We had so much fun discovering some new things.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLER PARK

Craft Fair at Miller Park

Saturday, July 17 – 8 AM to 12 PM

Summer Concert Series

Chico's Vibe

Sunday, August 8 – 6:30 PM

Slippery Band

Sunday, August 22 – 6:30 PM

Exton Park Community Day

Saturday, September 25 – 3 PM

Rain Date: Sunday, September 26

Fireworks at Dusk



GET YOUR WWT PARKS PASSPORT!

Many of you told us how much you enjoyed visiting different parks during our Egg Hunt. We've expanded the fun and encourage you to visit even more parks with our Park Passport summer activity!

Print your passport and see all of the details on our website!



West Whiteland Township Friends of the Parks (FOTP) Thanks Our 2020 Sponsors and Corporate Volunteers!

PLATINUM \$2,500+

Chester County Library
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance
H.A. Thomson Co.
West Whiteland Township

GOLD \$1,000

1st Resource Bank
Experience Christian Church
Exton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Hankin Apartments
Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

SILVER \$500+

Kumon Math & Reading

BRONZE \$250+

Rhombus Consulting
Theurkauf Design & Planning

FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS \$50+

Ed Auble

IN-KIND

Volunteers

Recognizing Our Many Historical Resources

The West Whiteland Historical Commission is proud to announce an updated inventory of Township properties that have been designated as historic resources will be released later this summer. Accompanying the new list will be an interactive map as well as revisions to the publication *A History of West Whiteland*.

In addition to the 200 sites, structures, and districts featured in the original 1982 historical resources survey, the updated list will include outbuildings such as spring houses, root cellars, and barns that were not identified in 1982. Also new to the list – resources that are now at least fifty years old that were not previously eligible.

Congratulations to Our 2020 Historic Preservation Award Winners!

The West Whiteland Historical Commission and the Board of Supervisors recognize the following properties for their owners' efforts to preserve, maintain, restore and rebuild these attractive and vital assets to the community. The awards ceremony (postponed due to Covid-19) will take place later this year.



Present-day Buckman's with new addition.

Buckman's Ski and Snowboard Shop (403 N. Pottstown Pk.) is being recognized for exceptional stewardship and rehabilitation efforts. The two-story stone colonial revival building was constructed by John McClenahan in 1928 as a home for him and his wife, Alida. The property changed hands five times over the next

thirty years and was used as a Pennsylvania State Police headquarters in the late 1960s before becoming a ski and snowboard supply shop in 1971. Buckman's acquired the property in 2017, and in 2019 they received approval for a two-story, 8,000 sq.ft. addition notable for its sensitivity to the character of the original structure.



Present-day Chase Bank with new addition.

Chase Bank (109 N. Pottstown Pk.), the former Malvern Federal Savings Bank building, started out like many other historic buildings as a house and evolved into a six-bay structure with various additions. The building is prominently located in the Exton Crossroads area and stands out with its blue metal-seam roof. Built in 1810 as a farmhouse, the structure later served as a doctor's office, the corporate offices of the West Whiteland Silica Co., and – since 1964 – a bank. In 2020 Chase Bank completed rehabilitation of the historic structure and construction of a one-story 2,455 sq.ft. addition.



Williams Deluxe Cabins (513 E. Lincoln Hwy.), like many of the Township’s historic resources, were directly associated with developments in transportation along the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, now known as Lincoln Highway. First appearing in the 1920s, “auto camps” were

an economical and convenient alternative to hotels, especially in sparsely populated and scenic areas like Exton. In 1937, Leon H. Williams purchased an acre of land along Lincoln Highway and constructed a motor court, complete with a house, service station, office and cabins all in

Tudor Revival style. In 2014, Dr. Leonard Giunta presented a plan to re-develop the property for residential and retail use. Completed in 2020, the project retains the Tudor Revival style of the original 1937 buildings and is an excellent example of early 20th century motor culture.

The Crossroads: Developing a Unique Town Center Identity

As we begin our next planning cycle for development, the Township engaged Urban Land Institute (ULI) Philadelphia to identify strategies for **managing growth** and creating a **sense of community** at Exton Crossroads. We gave ULI the following goal: **leverage our existing assets to promote a dynamic, coherent and distinctly suburban town center with a sense of place that is more than the sum of its parts.** The result was a study, “The Crossroads: Developing a Unique Town Center Identity”, which is available in full on our website.

On October 21-23, 2020, ULI’s committee, comprised of planners, developers, lenders, architects and related

It is important to note that the study area ONLY included the Town Center District – the commercial areas surrounding the intersection of Lincoln Highway and Pottstown Pike. Our residential areas offer their own unique assets, convenient to the Town Center offerings, while maintaining their neighborhood character outside the development area.

professionals, toured the study area with Township officials and interviewed a broad range of stakeholders in online group meetings. They identified the following community assets:

- Location – For nearly 350 years, this intersection known as the “Crossroads” has been a nexus of transportation and commerce.
- Rich historical assets
- Chester Valley Trail (CVT) – recreational resource for pedestrians and cyclists
- Parks and green spaces
- Train and bus transportation options
- Convenient retail concentration, with seven shopping centers
- New consumer interest in diverse housing types and retail experiences
- Apartments – As consumer preferences evolve, these new residential units can support existing stores and new retail experiences.
- High standard of living



ULI study experts met outside at the Township building.

- Good mix of public and private schools
- Chester County Library

With the study as a baseline, the next step is to **engage the public in discussions about the future of the Exton Crossroads.** To help us make those upcoming discussions truly engaging, the Township created a ULI Brainstorming Committee, comprised of volunteers from the Historic, Planning and Public Services Commissions. This committee met April – June to identify communication strategies and ideas. See the back page for ways to be included in the development conversations.

The start of a planning cycle is the point when public input makes the most difference. **Stay tuned!**

West Whiteland Township

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610-363-9525
www.westwhiteland.org

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We Listened!

Following a number of focus group sessions with businesses, volunteers, and new and established residents, we heard that you would like more information on Township planning initiatives.

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES — How to Know What's Going On and Get to Have a Say

eNews: To receive news and events in your inbox text WESTWHITELAND to 22828.

Recycle Coach: Become a better recycler and receive notifications for collection dates. (see p. 3)

NEW! Township Roadshow: *Meet with Township staff in small conversational groups!*
Email administration@westwhiteland.org with "Township Roadshow" in the subject line.

Development-focused Newsletter and Video: Watch for these informative marketing materials coming out this summer.

Volunteer: We can always use your help. Complete our volunteer sign up form on our website!

