



Crossroads

Proud of Our Past. Pride in Our Progress.

Township 101

Hello West Whiteland Township residents and businesses! Whether you've been here six months or sixty years, we are committed to providing you the following services, prioritizing safety, sustainability and quality of life:

- **Maintenance of local streets and public sewer system**
- **Trash and recycling collection (residential)**
- **Park maintenance, events and facility rentals**
- **Police services**
- **Code enforcement/building permits**
- **Planning and zoning**

The Township is your most local governing body, followed by West Chester Area School District, then Chester County and Pennsylvania state government. Therefore, the rules (aka "Ordinances") and decisions made at the Township level will generally have the most impact on your day-to-day life. The governing body for West Whiteland Township is a three-person Board of Supervisors (BOS), elected at-large by Township residents. A full Supervisor term is six years, and terms are staggered so that elections occur every two years.

WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP GOALS

- ▶ **Strengthen community resilience and connections**
- ▶ **Foster a sense of place around Exton Crossroads**
- ▶ **Maintain a state of readiness for public safety**
- ▶ **Deliver reliable administrative services**



SEWA International members visited the Township building to educate staff about Diwali and share some treats. Sewa International began as a movement in 1993 to engage the Indian Diaspora worldwide. Their goal is to serve the humanity in distress, especially in times of disaster. Thank you, SEWA!

How Can I Be Involved?

Come to a meeting. All meetings are scheduled at the beginning of the calendar year and are posted on our website.

- The BOS meets twice per month for public meetings. There is always time allotted for comments from residents.
- Five different boards and commissions, each focusing on a different Township function, also hold public meetings at least once per month (with the exception of the pension advisory board, which meets four times per year).

Volunteer. Complete the volunteer application on our website to apply if you are interested in serving.

Email your Supervisors. Our Township is fortunate to have three very responsive and involved Supervisors. Email addresses are on our website, and they *will* respond to you.

Knowledge is Powerful. There is an incredible amount of detailed information available on our website, including deep dives into the services we provide and much, much more. We update the website on just about a daily basis. If you'd like information to come to you, sign up for our eNews, join NextDoor, or like us on Facebook.

Ask Us! If you still have questions, Township office staff is available to assist you Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or you can email us any time. All contact information is available on our website.

Roads Reminders

Reporting Road Issues – Who to Call

There are three different types of roads within the Township – state roads, township roads and private roads.

When reporting a road problem, it is important to know who is responsible for maintaining that roadway. Most of the larger roads are state roads and therefore maintained by PennDOT. For problems on these roads (e.g., potholes, plowing issues), the most effective solution is to **call PennDOT at 484-340-3200.**

For problems on state roads, please call PennDOT at 484-340-3200.

- Boot Rd.
- Copeland Rd.
- Grove Rd.
- King Rd.
- Lincoln Hwy.
- Phoenixville Pk.
- Pottstown Pk.
- Route 30
- Route 202
- Ship Rd.
- Whitford Rd.

While the Township will relay reported problems on state roads to PennDOT, it has been our experience that PennDOT resolves these issues more expediently when they are also reported by citizens.

Additionally, there are a number of private roads throughout the Township, including various courts and terraces in many townhouse developments. West Whiteland Township does not maintain or plow privately-owned roads.

All roads that are not state or privately-owned are maintained by the Township.

When the Snow Starts Falling...

For our residents that will be out this winter clearing snow, we understand the frustration of clearing your driveway, only to have the snowplow come through and stack an icy pile in front it. Plow drivers do their best to avoid pushing snow into the driveways, but there really is only one place for the snow to go as they move down the road, and that is the side of the road.

The diagram below gives a couple of ideas to minimize snow getting onto your driveway from the plow.



What is the Township guidance around clearing snow?

- Property owners are responsible for clearing the snow from the sidewalk adjacent to each property, as well as any snow around a fire hydrant that is on each property.
- Do not park on the streets during a snowstorm. This makes it impossible for the plow to clear the full width of the road.
- Deposit snow on your own property. You may not pile snow in the gutter, on the stormwater inlet or into the street. Make sure your snow piles do not block the sight distance to any roads.

How to Repair, Reuse, and Recycle Old Electronics [Avoid Holiday E-Waste]



Why Wasn't My Trash/Recycling Picked Up?

For residents on the Pay-As-You-Throw trash and recycling curbside pick-up program, there are a number of reasons why your trash and/or recycling might not be collected. Please review the following to help the program run smoothly.

- All trash must be placed in WWT trash bags. The haulers will not collect trash in other bags or containers. Purchase bags at CVS, Giant and Wawa in the Township.
- The bags should be visible on the curb and not placed in another bin. On most routes, separate trucks collect trash versus recycling. The trash collectors look specifically for the WWT bags. If the bags are concealed in a tote or other container, the driver may assume the container holds recycling and skip your house.
- Any harmful materials **MUST** be securely wrapped and contained. Bags with sharp edges and points like syringes or broken glass protruding will not be collected.
- Bulk items must weigh less than 40 pounds and be movable by one person.
- Please have your items at the curb by 6 a.m. Ideally, set them out the night before. Routes start early and the truck will not return to your street.
- Recycling must be placed in a rigid-sided container. Recycling placed in plastic bags will not be collected. You can pick up a free recycling bin in the vestibule (facing Commerce Drive) of the Township building.
- Due to the labor shortage, many solid waste collectors are short-staffed right now. AJ Blosenski has been actively hiring and training new employees. If your entire street is missed, it is likely the truck has not made it to you yet.

If you believe you have followed the tips above and your trash or recycling was not collected, please email solidwaste@westwhiteland.org. This email goes to both Township staff and the hauler. Every effort is made to remedy the problem as quickly as possible.

For disposing of electronics and more, check out Recycle Coach on our website.

Sewer Blockage

Sewer pipes are meant to be a one-way street. But when the pipes get blocked, the sewer matter gets backed up, and is forced to go back the way it came from. And that can be into your home. Ewwwww.

If you think you may have a sewer issue (slow drains or gurgling water) or a blockage (water coming back up through drains or the vent stack in the yard) contact a plumber who can investigate the issue to determine if the blockage is due to a problem at your home or with the public system.



Tips:

- It is absolutely worthwhile to have blockages investigated, as they often worsen over time and become an issue during the most inconvenient of times.
- The Township is responsible for damages associated with the back-up of the public sewer into a private home only if we have prior knowledge of the problem and an opportunity to correct it.
- Talk with your homeowner's insurance agent. Damage from a sewage back-up often is not automatically covered. A policy rider might be available – you just need to ask for it. It certainly will be less expensive than the clean-up cost.

If you have a sewer back-up, please call the Township at 484-875-6020.

Police Services

In addition to crime prevention, patrol, criminal investigation and traffic safety, the Police Department also provides a number of other services to contribute to the day-to-day safety and security of our residents.

More details about each of these services are available online if you are interested.

CrimeWatch site: westwhitelandpd.org

Township site: westwhiteland.org/162/Police-Department

Vacation Checks

An Officer will check the exterior of your home every day during the time that you are away, keeping an eye out for signs of disturbance. Complete a short form online to request this service.

Car Seat Checks

A certified Child Safety Seat Technician will inspect your child safety seats to ensure that they are installed properly. To schedule an appointment, please email carseats@westwhiteland.org or call 610-363-0200, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please allow about one hour for the comprehensive inspection.

Security Camera Registration

Registering your private security camera lets the Police Department know its location in case a crime occurs in the area where your camera may have recorded important footage. Complete a short form online to register your camera and agree to the terms and conditions.

Alarm Permit Registration

All residences and/or businesses with an alarm system which sends a signal to the Police or Fire Department when activated must be registered with the West Whiteland Township Police Department.

Introducing... Catov Park!

On October 21, a perfect fall day, West Whiteland Township dedicated their newest park to retired Police Chief Joseph Catov Jr. Roughly thirty retired and current Police Department and Township employees, active and previous Township supervisors, family and friends gathered to honor Joe and admire the brand-new baseball and softball fields, playground and pavilion.

Upon Boot Road Park North officially being renamed to Joseph Catov Jr. Park, Catov took the podium. "This is a great honor, which I did not expect. Thank you to my family, without whose support I could not have had the career I did. Thank you to Bud Turner and Steve Soles



From left to right, following the ribbon cutting to christen Joseph Catov Junior Park. Supervisor Theresa Santalucia, Captain Matt Herkner, Jonathan Catov, Jager, Joe Catov, Township Manager Mimi Gleason, Patti Catov, Supervisor Raj Kumbhardare, Lindsey Catov, Camilla and Supervisor Joshua Anderson.

who had faith in me and appointed me Chief." Turner and Soles were on the Board of Supervisors in 2013 and were in attendance at the dedication.

Current Township Supervisors Rajesh Kumbhardare, Theresa Santalucia and

Joshua Anderson were pleased to open this new park to the community, and to honor Chief Catov. They emphasized the Township's commitment to permanently preserved green space, which makes up over 20% of Township land.

Building Trust and Transparency

From solving crimes to keeping the streets safe to participating in community events, the West Whiteland Township Police Department has a long history of excellence. In 2018, our police department achieved accreditation from the Chiefs of Police Association. No small task, this process involves an assessment to measure current policies against the Accreditation Program's 139 standards. The department must then institute policy changes so that existing operations can be adapted to meet the objectives of the program. Following another thorough review in 2021 our Police Department has just achieved reaccreditation across those 139 standards.

The West Whiteland Township Police Department has always emphasized the importance of training and requires its officers to train and be proficient in the following areas: Use of Force, De-escalation, Duty to Intervene and Biased Policing for all members. In this time of increased national focus on police accountability, the West Whiteland community can rest assured that those responsible for public safety are committed to defending it fairly, compassionately and professionally.



As the department replaces aging marked cars, they will be transitioning to the new silver color seen here. All new vehicles will be hybrids, as the Township strives to be energy efficient and cost effective.



Chief Lee Benson accepted the department's re-accreditation certification on October 26, 2021 from Retired Chief Scott Bohn, PA Chiefs Executive Director (center) and Chief Thomas Rudzinski, PLEAC Chairman (right).

Other Key Township Services

Making Payments

Keystone Collections handles the Township's tax collection and is your best source for billing questions. You can call Keystone at 1-866-539-1100.

The Township sends property owners bills for **trash/recycling and sewer service**. There are a number of different payment options (including credit card and ACH). If you choose to pay by check, you'll notice that you are mailing your payment to a P.O. Box in Lancaster. This is the address for the bank that processes the payments on the Township's behalf. The bank's "lock box" ensures optimum security so please mail your payments instead of dropping them off at the Township building.

Reserving Park Facilities and Fields

Need a space to hold a gathering? Check the page for park and room reservations on our website to see the pavilions and gazebos the Township rents out to

groups. You can also reserve a field (baseball, softball, cricket and multi-use), basketball court or tennis court. Questions? Email parks@westwhiteland.org.

Permits and Code Enforcement

If you plan to add to your property (ex., addition, fence, pool, shed and others) or renovate your home or business, please visit our website to find out what permits are needed, as well as other helpful information about the building process. Staff is also here to take property complaints and follow up as necessary. Email permits@westwhiteland.org.

Planning and Zoning

If you are unsure how a property is zoned, you may access the interactive zoning map from the Planning & Zoning page on our website. For a full explanation of our planning initiatives, please refer to our Development newsletter that was mailed in September and is available on our website.

Historic Awards 2021

West Whiteland Township was proud to recognize these winners of the 2021 Historic Preservation Awards at a ceremony held at Ashbridge Mansion on November 8.



Arrandale – This magnificent house, from the late Federal period, is located within the Oaklands Corporate Center. Arrandale was built in 1810 by Hunt Downing, a direct descendent of Thomas Downing, for whom Downingtown was named. Arrandale is representative of the kind of large farm complex for which Chester County was noted throughout the 19th century.



Evan Lewis House – The Evan Lewis House, constructed circa 1717, is located along Ship Road (just north of the Chester Valley Trail) and holds the distinction of being one of the Township's last surviving structures from West Whiteland's first period of settlement. The Lewis Family continued to occupy the site for six generations.

David Ashbridge Log House – This modest log house, located on the north side of King Road, has maintained a high level of architectural integrity and is one of three known habitable log dwellings which still survive in a township where log houses were once very common.



Community Partners

West Whiteland Township is proud to partner with two outstanding organizations here in our Township – the Chester County Library and the Exton Region Chamber of Commerce.



Free Museum Passes

DID YOU KNOW... The Chester County Library's Museum Pass Program offers **free admission** to 23 cultural institutions in the SEPA region, including museums, gardens and a zoo. The program has been generously funded by grants from the Friends of the Library, the Library Trust and businesses including Wegmans, West Pharmaceuticals and TD Bank.



Free museum passes have helped thousands of Chester County residents visit cultural institutions at no cost. The links to reserve museum passes can be found at: <https://chescolibraries.org/using-library/museum-passes>.

You can also call the Chester County Library Reference Desk at 610-344-5957 for more information.

Supporting and Promoting Businesses in Our Community

Exton Region Chamber of Commerce is led by business people with a passion for making our community better today and in the future. The Chamber has physical space in the Exton mall, or you can visit them online at extonregionchamber.com. If your business is new to the area, we strongly recommend checking them out. From their extensive community guide to support for small businesses, you are bound to learn something new.

DID YOU KNOW
we are celebrating our
50th anniversary
in 2022?

Since 1972, the Exton Region Chamber has strived to advance the economic success of the membership and community by providing relationship building, marketing, education, advocacy and community outreach opportunities. Our vision is to support and promote an improved business climate to grow member businesses.

Won't You Help Us Celebrate?

Send your stories or photos about your business, organization or community over the past 50 years and be considered for a feature in 2022!

Email them to Laurie at lryan@ercc.net or mail to
Exton Region Chamber of Commerce
310 Exton Square Parkway, Exton PA 19341

FOTP News

West Whiteland Township FOTP are ready for a full event line-up in 2022! We will kick off our event season with the Egg Hunt at Boot Road Park on April 9 at 10 a.m. Please visit our website at westwhiteland.org/fotp for more information about the year's events.

All our programs are provided free of charge. The Friends of the Parks, which is a not-for profit corporation, relies on financial support from area businesses, individuals and grants. Contributions made to the Friends of the Parks are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

Thank you to our 2021 sponsors. If you are interested in getting involved or becoming a sponsor, please e-mail friendsoftheparks@westwhiteland.org. Check out our website for sponsorship benefits.

FOTP THANKS OUR 2021 SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS!

PLATINUM \$2,500+

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

GOLD \$1,000

First Resource Bank
Church Farm School
Experience Christian Church
Exton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Hankin Apartments

SILVER \$500+

Chester County Library and District Center
Spotts, Stevens and McCoy (SSM) Group, Inc.
Theurkauf Design & Planning

West Whiteland Township

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www.westwhiteland.org

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A SEASON OF JOY

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP

May your days be bright and merry!