



Crossroads

Proud of Our Past. Pride in Our Progress.

West Whiteland Township Police Department Celebrates 50 Years

Happy 50th birthday to the West Whiteland Township Police Department!

In 1973, a full-time police department was established under Chief Robert Bitter, primarily in response to the opening of Exton Square Mall that same year. The history and growth of the WWPd has been closely tied to the escalation of retail establishments in this region ever since. The department now has 29 sworn officers and two civilian employees, serving the community's needs in crime prevention, traffic patrol, criminal investigation, and special operations.

According to current Chief Lee Benson, "The men and women of the West Whiteland Township Police Department are honored and privileged to serve and protect this great community. As your police department, our goal is to gain your trust and create partnerships that make the entire community safe and enjoyable."

West Whiteland Township Police Department remains committed to the philosophy of community-oriented policing, knowing that the **trust** of the community members is essential to perform their duties effectively and improve the quality of life for you, the citizens.

To this end, the department strives to engage with the community in events and partnership opportunities throughout the year. From "Coffee with a Cop"

gatherings, to toy donations, to school presentations, the West Whiteland Township officers are out and about and eager to hear your ideas and concerns. This summer, they are assisting the Boy Scouts with their "CSI Investigation" day camp. Make sure to stop by the police department tent at Community Day on July 15 to challenge an officer to a round of corn hole!



Commemorative badge being worn this year by West Whiteland Township Police Officers to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Police Department.



Some of the founding officers of the West Whiteland Police Department circa 1973. From left to right: Tom Wilkinson, Steve Mills, Mike Carroll, Claude Frisbie, Chief Robert Bitter.

Stay connected with the West Whiteland Township Police Department!

Like their **Facebook** page @West Whiteland Township Police Department for posts that are often entertaining, and always relevant.

Join **Crimewatch** at <https://chester.crimewatchpa.com/westwhitelandpd>

Permitting for Safety

When we think about safety, it is natural for our thoughts to turn to our police department and fire company, and we as a Township are exceedingly grateful for the exhaustive services provided by these entities. What might not be top of mind are the regulations that keep the space in and around every building you enter – including your own home – safe. The Township's Codes Department manages the permitting process to ensure that all building projects, from new construction to the addition of a fence, are executed according to building code and Township ordinances. This is not red tape. **This is for your safety.**

The Township's ordinances and permitting requirements are available on our website at www.westwhiteland.org. Following are highlights of recent initiatives and frequently asked questions.

E-Safety

The growing number of electric vehicles (EVs) is leading to more people having charging stations in their homes. **You must obtain an electrical permit when installing an EV charging station**, whether you're doing it yourself or hiring a professional (recommended).

Along these same lines, please be aware that the rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in many devices, including cell phones, laptops, tablets, electric cars, scooters, and e-bikes can be dangerous if not handled correctly. These batteries store a large amount of energy and can overheat, catch fire, and even explode.

Installing an EV charging station? You'll need a permit for that.



Please follow these safety precautions:

- Be sure that your device has the Underwriters Laboratories mark. The UL mark shows that the product has been safety tested.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging and storage.
- Do not charge any device near combustibles.
- Always use the manufacturer's cord and power adapter made specifically for the device.
- Keep batteries/devices at room temperature.
- If a battery overheats or you notice an odor, change in shape/color, leaking, or odd noises from the device discontinue use immediately. If safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire and call 911.

Additionally, **do not throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash!** Dispose of these batteries at household hazardous waste drop-off events (more information at www.chestercountyswa.org)

Rental Inspections

The Township conducts safety inspections of rental properties, including apartments, townhomes, and single-family homes, for the safety of the tenants. **Owners of rental properties are required to register their rental property and pass a rental inspection whenever a change in tenancy occurs.** Landlords must submit a rental inspection application to the Codes/Permits Department office ten days prior to re-occupancy by a new tenant. The rental unit must pass inspection, and the Codes office must issue a certificate of occupancy before a new tenant may move in.

Additionally, owners of multi-unit residential properties (more than four rental units) are required to schedule an annual inspection of at least 25% of the rental units on that property. What's the reason for this requirement? An unsafe condition in a multi-unit residential property can affect the other adjoining units. Your SAFETY is important!

Applications are available on the Township website and include a checklist of items that will be inspected.

Sprinklers

It has come to the attention of the Township that some occupants are disabling the sprinklers in their homes and businesses. These

Safety First! Sprinklers save lives.



sprinklers have been installed for your safety as well as the safety of neighbors and **may not be disconnected**. The West Whiteland Township Building Code currently requires all single-family and two-family dwellings (i.e., twins and duplexes) to be constructed and equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Township Codes Department at 610-363-9525.

Property Maintenance Code

Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors adopted the International Property Maintenance Code 2018 version into the Township ordinances. The property maintenance code (PMC) addresses minimum standards for continued use and maintenance of existing building elements and structures. The goal of the PMC is not to place additional maintenance burden on the property owner, as many components of the code already existed in Township ordinances. Rather, the PMC offers the following benefits:

- Ensure existing structures maintain a standard of compliance and safety
- Provide objective clarity for neighbor disputes
- Maintain property values and community pride
- Support the Township's mission to prioritize safety and quality of life

The Township's primary concern is to resolve conditions that

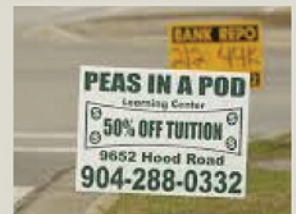
impact people's **health, safety, welfare, and quality of life**. Having adopted standards, such as the property maintenance code, provides the Township identifiable measures to ensure the implementation of safety and sanitary maintenance requirements.

Sign Permits

In most cases, you must obtain a sign permit before installing a sign in the Township. Article 17 of the Zoning Ordinance (§325 of the Township Ordinances) outlines permitted sign uses in the Township, including the exemptions where a permit is not required. For example, in residential areas, you may place temporary yard signs, such as for a garage sale, upcoming election, or contractor currently working on your home, without a permit (provided they do not exceed a certain size and are removed in a timely manner, as outlined in the ordinance).

In commercial districts, bandit signs, flag-type signs, or other promotional signs for businesses are **not allowed and are subject to removal** by the Township. If you have any questions about sign permits, please reach out to John Weller, Zoning Officer, by emailing jweller@westwhiteland.org. We always prefer to partner with you upfront by having you complete a sign permit and/or remove the illegal signage yourself.

Unpermitted signs are subject to removal by the Township.



Township Ordinances outline permitted sign uses.

Public Outreach...Getting YOU Involved in Community Conversations

The goal of the Township’s public information strategy is to educate our residents and businesses about Township initiatives, and to hear from you prior to decisions being made. The Township website is updated almost daily to provide background information and inform you about upcoming projects.

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, and other groups such as the Planning Commission and Public Services Commission also hold regular public meetings. The board and commission meeting agendas are posted on the website prior to the meetings, and the commission meetings are often where new initiatives are introduced and discussed before going to the BOS.

Businesses

West Whiteland Township continues to reach out to local businesses to improve communication and collect feedback. On March 29, about 40 business owners

and managers attended a brunch to discuss the Township’s streetscape (bike/pedestrian improvements and road beautification) plan, as well as the possibility of a plastic bag ordinance.

Business owners and managers...we want to connect with YOU! If you did not receive a postcard or email for the March 29 event, that means we do not have your contact information. Please email us at socialmedia@westwhiteland.org and let us know a primary contact person, email, and mailing address so we can keep in touch with you about future events and happenings.

Residents

The Township holds open houses for residents throughout the year, as well. Initial discussions with the businesses about a plastic bag ordinance (similar to those in neighboring townships) raised enough discussion that our next step will be to gauge our residents’ reactions to the idea of limiting the use of single use plastics. This and other initiatives will be publicized throughout the year in order to collect public feedback to guide the decision-making process. Keep an eye on Facebook and Next Door.

The best way to keep up with Township initiatives? Make sure you are signed up for eNews! Scan the QR code to register for regular email updates.



ATTENTION:
West Whiteland Township PAYT Customers!

Blue is the New Black

Coming soon, the color of the WWT trash bags will change from black to royal blue.

Starting in early June, the trash bags you buy for curbside collection will be blue instead of black. This is in response to public response about trash not being collected, and requests for bags that are more easily recognized by the hauler as Township trash bags. So, you may be wondering...

Can I use the black bags I've already bought? Yes, both blue and black trash bags will be collected by the hauler until the supply of black bags has been depleted.

Will the new bags cost more? No, bags will still cost \$2.50 each. The new blue bags will be the same size and design as the black bags and will be sold at the same retailers. For a complete list of retailers, see our website.

Note: Some residents also voiced a preference for bags with handle ties. The Township investigated this option and found that such bags would increase the cost of the bags by 25%. Given that many respondents were against a cost increase, this option was not pursued at this time. The PAYT program will be re-evaluated at the end of our current hauler contract in 2025.

Have All Bags at the Curb by 6 a.m.

AJ Blosenski, the Township's trash and recycling hauler, makes every effort to collect your trash and recycling in a timely manner each week. They, like many other industries, are struggling to hire and maintain a full workforce in the current environment. Please remember that they start their collection routes at 6 a.m. **We strongly recommend placing your materials curbside the night before.** Blosenski tracks their routes, and if they collect from your street before you have placed your materials out, they will not be able to return until the following week.

If you have questions about your trash and recycling collection, please email solidwaste@westwhiteland.org and include your street address.

Leaf and Branch Curbside Pick-Up Dates for 2023

- ▶ Saturday, May 27
- ▶ Saturday, June 24
- ▶ Saturday, August 26
- ▶ Saturday, September 30
- ▶ Saturday, October 28
- ▶ Saturday, November 11
- ▶ Saturday, November 25

Place leaves in biodegradable brown paper bags. All other materials and debris, or leaves in other types of bags or containers, will not be collected.

Branches must be bundled together and tied with string, not wire, in small bundles that can be easily handled. Collection is limited to branches that are a maximum of 4-feet long and 4 inches in diameter. Small twigs should be placed in a rigid container.

A NOTE ABOUT RECYCLING COLLECTION

You may place your recycling in **any** rigid-walled container. If you purchase a blue bin designated for recycling at a hardware store, this bin may be any size and may even resemble the large lidded wheeled totes often used for trash. We recommend that you clearly mark the container as "Recycling"; you may pick up a recycling logo sticker in the Township building in the vestibule that faces Commerce Drive.



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

West Whiteland Township's Friends of the Parks

Miller Park on Sunday evenings at 6 PM

It's time for the WWT Friends of the Parks Annual Summer Concert Series! Join us for live music, food, and drinks! Concerts will feature Brothers Kershner Brewing Co. and Foster Ave. Carvery Food Truck. Grab a blanket and lawn chair and come hungry!

- ▶ June 11 – Slippery Band
Food truck TBA
▶ June 25 – Basic Cable
▶ July 15 – The Dirty Dance Band
6:30 PM at Exton Park Community Day
▶ July 30 – Fil Rhythm
▶ August 13 – The Jess Zimmerman Band
▶ August 20 – Chico's Vibe

Exton Park Community Day

Saturday, July 15 • 4-10 PM

Exton Park, 132 Church Farm Lane, Exton (Rain date Sunday, July 16)

Celebrate Exton and all the essential services, organizations, and people that make it the best place to live! Community Day is our largest event of the year and has something for everyone!

- Petting zoo
• Kids activities, including inflatables, rock wall, and pony rides
• Zip lines
• Archery
• Corn hole with the West Whiteland Township Police Department
• Kids tunes with Marchwood Music
• Dunk tank fundraiser at the Friends of the Parks tent
• Teddy Bear Hospital with Uwchlan Ambulance
• Craft vendors
• Food and drink vendors

And featuring...

The Dirty Dance Band at 6:30 PM

Fireworks after the concert!

Parking at Church Farm School, 1001 E. Lincoln Hwy., and Valley Creek Corporate Center, corner of Swedesford Rd. and Valley Creek Blvd.



Sponsored by West Whiteland Township, WWT Friends of the Parks, Chester County Parks and Preservation, WWT Police Department, Uwchlan Ambulance, and Chester County Library.

SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Sponsor: _____ Website: _____
Address: _____
Contact Name: _____ Title: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail completed form and tax deductible donation to: West Whiteland Township's Friends of the Parks, Attention: Sponsorships, P.O. Box 988, Exton, PA 19341
501(c) 3 non-profit organization (EIN number will be provided with receipt of donation)
If not donating online via PayPal, please make checks payable to West Whiteland Township's Friends of the Parks (WWTFOPT).

Pickleball, Anyone?

Pickleball has become a national phenomenon, and plans are in the works to bring it to Exton Park! The Township has added eight pickleball courts and two tennis courts to the plans for the Swedesford Recreation Area, based on community feedback. Staff has applied for grant money from Chester County and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in order to fund the project. If the grants are awarded, it is expected that construction of the courts will begin in 2024.

Parks Updates

Meadowbrook Manor and Swedesford Recreation Area

For the past forty-five years, the Township has leased half of Meadowbrook Manor Park (situated between Exton Square Mall and Swedesford Road) from the Meadowbrook Manor Civic Association and has maintained a playground and tennis courts for public use. Exton Little League (ELL) has leased the other half of the park property for their ballfields and concession stand. The Township has opted not to continue to lease the land at the park, allowing ELL to expand and add a field for practices.

The Township will be dismantling the playground equipment and removing the existing tennis courts. The tennis courts will be relocated to the Swedesford Recreation Area at Exton Park, and plans are in the works to add eight pickleball courts to the Area, as well.



Volunteer for Make a Difference Day September 23 at Exton Park

Are you ready to make a difference in your community? It's easier than you think! Join us for Make a Difference Day! You'll have the opportunity to meet local environmental organizations, learn about recreational groups, complete a service project, remove invasive plants from the park, and more! Check out our website and Facebook page for more information as the event gets closer.



Email parks@westwhiteland.org to volunteer for Make a Difference Day!

Neat Streets

The Township is just beginning the process of developing a “Streetscape Plan” for the Town Center (Crossroads) area with the following objectives:

- Create a more unified “look and feel”
- Enhance aesthetics
- Improve walkability and bikeability
- Increase safety at intersections

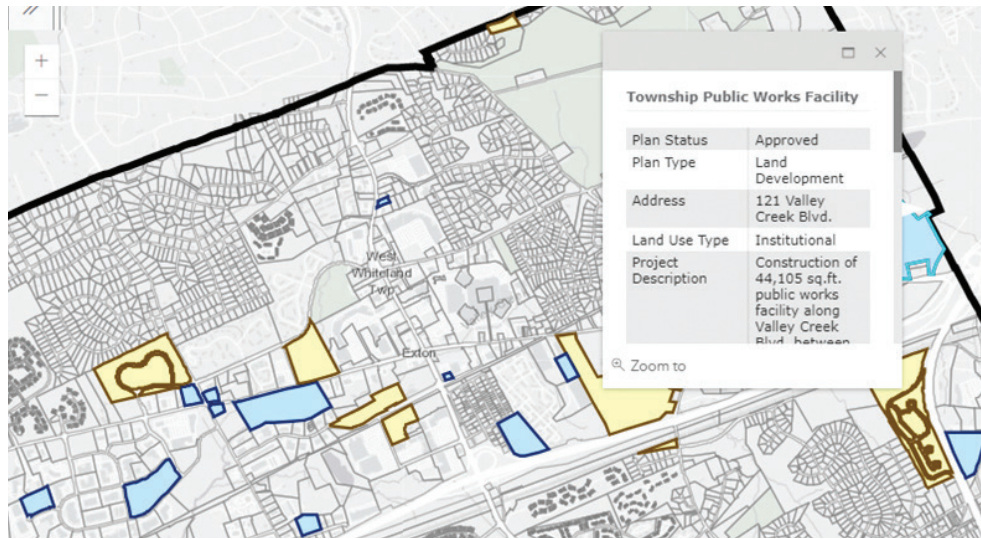
Streetscape amenities like the ones shown in this rendering were presented at the Conversations with Businesses event and to the Public Services Commission in



Rendering from *Village of Toughkenamon: Streetscape and Transportation Improvement Plan*.

the spring. We will be keeping residents apprised of the progress through the newsletter, eNews (see page 4 to sign up),

and social media. If you have questions, please contact Justin Smiley at jsmiley@westwhiteland.org.



Check out all the details of current, recent, and proposed building projects on our website.

New Public Works Garage

The Public Works Department will be getting a new home base, with construction beginning later in 2023. The new 39,000 sq. ft. facility on Valley Creek Blvd. will consolidate and replace the Township’s three existing, outdated buildings, allowing for increased operational efficiency, teamwork, collaboration, and shared equipment usage. One major advantage of the new facility is the proposed covered space to store vehicles and outdoor equipment, extending their lifespan and thus reducing repair and equipment costs. Covered storage for construction materials such as stone and mulch will allow for bulk purchasing and increased inventory for emergency repairs. Challenges at the three existing buildings include space constraints, looming capital repair needs, and inadequate under-roof storage availability. Plans for the complex were approved by the Planning Commission in March, and the project was sent out for bid in May.

What Are They Building Now?

New construction has noticeably slowed down in the past year or so, but you still may see some dirt moving here or there (for the latest on Ship Rd. Couplet, visit our website). New plans are still being submitted, and the Township’s Planning Department and Planning Commission have rigorous procedures in place for approving any development (see

Development By Design on our website). One of the most popular features of the newsletter is the Approved and Proposed Development map that runs as our “centerfold” each fall. Can’t wait till the fall? Check out “What Are They Building Now” under the Community tab on our website.

Historic Preservation Awards

West Whiteland Township's Historical Commission held their Historic Preservation Award ceremony at VK Brewing in Exton on March 29, where they publicly recognized the outstanding efforts of the architects, developers, contractors, and property owners to protect and preserve four valuable historic resources.

SITE 181: Davis Dairy Farm Barn

The core of the dwelling on the property likely dated to c. 1820-1860. The property was originally used as a dairy farm that started with only two milk cows. The property was developed with a main house, a barn, and a springhouse, which was awarded the Historic Preservation Award in 2015 for the immense restoration work undertaken to restore the structure.

Mr. and Mrs. Porco purchased Davis Dairy Farm Barn in 1986, when a friend of theirs, who owned the larger Davis tract, subdivided the lot to have the barn on a separate parcel. The structure and the roof were in great shape, with 30" thick walls in the basement, and 18" thick walls in the upper portion. What began as a typical barn is now a three bedroom, two and a half bath home. All of the restoration work has been a labor of love that is over 30 years in the making.



Davis Dairy Farm Barn

SITE 328: Kates Gatehouse

Clarence Sears Kates was a wealthy Philadelphian who came to West Whiteland



Kates Gatehouse

because of the healthy environment and his desire to involve himself with modern agriculture. Kates lived permanently in his mansion on Old Valley Hill Road and had the gate house built in 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Rouse purchased Kates Gatehouse in 2019 and were able to restore the home themselves with help from other family members. The work included floors, ceilings, insulation, windows, plumbing, HVAC, electric, stonework, and interior/exterior trim. Kates Gatehouse is now a pristine single family home that has become a brilliant representation of historic preservation in West Whiteland.

SITES 341 & 339: Lochiel Farm Manor and Tenant Houses

Lochiel Farm dates back to the 1700s when Welsh Quaker families were settling in West Whiteland. Richard Thomas Lewis Jr. and Samuel Lewis were the original owners of the farm, which at that time totaled more than 2,000 acres. Over the years, the Lewis family developed the



Theresa Santalucia, Supervisor, third from the right, honors the recipients of the Historic Preservation Awards.

farm into an agricultural complex, and it was eventually purchased by Church Farm School in the mid-20th century. Church Farm School continued its use as an agricultural property even into the late 1990s. The Manor and Tenant Houses were used as staff residences and student dormitories throughout the duration of Church Farm School ownership.

Church Farm School sold the tract in 2001, but it wasn't until 2017-2018 that the full plan for the properties came together with the development of Lochiel Farm community. The tenant house was moved to join the manor house at the rear of the tract. Both homes needed massive renovations to bring them up to current building codes and desirable living standards. The work included window replacements, roof repairs and replacements, repointing of the Manor House, a new foundation and rear addition for the Tenant House, and complete interior fit outs for both.



Lochiel Farm Manor

Pick up a copy of the "History of West Whiteland and the Historic Treasures of West Whiteland Township" while supplies last!

Stormwater 101

Stormwater is the water from precipitation (rain or snow) that is not soaked into the ground; it's the water that runs off over the ground, into storm drains, and directly into our lakes, rivers, and streams.

West Whiteland Township Stormwater Management

West Whiteland Township collects and conveys stormwater via an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System). This means that the stormwater handling is separate from the sewer system and is therefore not run through the sewage treatment plant. Any water not infiltrated into the ground runs into the stormwater system, along with any chemicals, dirt, and sediment it may have collected, then into a nearby water source. West Whiteland Township is one of approximately 1,000 jurisdictions in Pennsylvania that are considered small MS4s, requiring a permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) in order to discharge stormwater into waterways.

Stormwater Inventory

One requirement of the permit is the Township must map the location and condition of our storm sewer system as part of the effort to monitor for and eliminate any illicit discharges. Township staff are in the process of performing the mapping and condition assessments.

Please be aware you may encounter personnel surveying and inspecting manholes, ditches, culverts, detention basins, and other storm sewer system features throughout the Township, including those within an easement on private property. If you have any questions email engineering@westwhiteland.org.



Keeping it Clean

Another MS4 regulation from PADEP requires the Township to investigate potentially illicit discharges into our streams. Such violations include the following:

- Sediment leaving a construction site during precipitation events
- Observed pollution event or pollutants in streams
- Clogged or leaking storm sewer lines
- Water main breaks
- Dumping, spills, or other-directed discharges (other than rainwater) into storm sewers or streams
- Dry weather flows – flows from outfall pipes after a 48-hour period without rain
- Fish kills

MS4 Hotline

You can help report violations or problems you notice in local streams before they cause more damage and pollution. You may be the first person to recognize these illicit discharges – typically any flows other than rainwater – being directed into storm sewers or out of pipes into streams.

DEP 24-hour Water Quality Hotline: 484-250-5900

DEP Water Quality Complaints: 484-250-5991 Weekdays 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Offsite discharge of sediment, erosion, and other improper controls during construction: Chester County Conservation District, 610-925-4920

Clogged or leaking sanitary sewer lines, sewage smell in creek, illegal discharges into streams or storm drains: West Whiteland Township, engineering@westwhiteland.org Weekdays 8 AM – 5 PM, After Hours: 911

Fish kills: PA Fish and Boat Commission, 717-626-0228

Dry weather outfalls: West Whiteland Township, 610-363-9525 Weekdays 8 AM – 5 PM

Broken water mains: Aqua Pennsylvania, 610-252-1402 24 hours

Township Continues Sustainability Initiatives.... Earth Day Recap

Thank you to our seventy volunteers who came out to Miller Park on Earth Day! Over the course of two hours, the group planted over thirty native species of trees and shrubs along the stream in the park, planted flowers around the gazebo, and picked up debris around the park! SEWA International hosted a BYO picnic with entertainment from a live band. A huge thank you to all who participated!

You don't have to wait until April 22nd to celebrate Earth Day – you can honor the Earth everyday by practicing a sustainable lifestyle. A good start is by following Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. These four actions are in order for a reason!

- 1 REFUSE** – Say no to things you do not need! Politely decline anything that isn't truly essential in your life, including promotional items, extra plastic ware, or an unnecessary plastic bag. This is the first step to cutting down on our waste.
- 2 REDUCE** – Limit your usage of single use plastics like plastic bags, cutlery, or take-out boxes. A simple way to avoid these is to bring your own reusable items from home.
- 3 REUSE** – Don't beat yourself up over buying something in plastic! Reuse it! Put leftovers in a plastic container, start growing a seed in it (we did this at Earth Day!), store your pet's treats in it – the possibilities are endless! Reusing also includes donating gently used items or contacting Retrievr to pick up your donations.
- 4 RECYCLE** – If you cannot find a way to reuse a recyclable item, be sure to fully clean it out and prepare it to be recycled. For the latest recycling guidelines in West Whiteland Township, visit <https://www.westwhiteland.org/188/Recycling-Guidelines>.



Supervisors Brian Dunn and Raj Kumbhardare rolled up their sleeves and “dug in” on Earth Day.



SEWA International, local businesses, and community members pitched in to plant trees and flowers at Miller Park.

Visit retrievr.com/wwhitelandpa to see what clothing and electronics items Retrievr can pick up and recycle for you!

(There is a small fee.)

retrievr 

West Whiteland Township

101 Commerce Drive
Exton, PA 19341
610-363-9525
www.westwhiteland.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ Sunday, June 11 – Slippery Band Concert (Miller Park)
- ▶ Sunday, June 25 – Basic Cable Concert (Miller Park)
- ▶ Saturday, July 15 – Exton Park Community Day with Concert and Fireworks
- ▶ Sunday, July 30 – Fil Rhythm Concert (Miller Park)
- ▶ Sunday, August 13 – The Jess Zimmerman Band Concert (Miller Park)
- ▶ Sunday, August 20 – Chico’s Vibe Concert (Miller Park)
- ▶ Saturday, September 23 – Volunteer for Make a Difference Day (Exton Park)