

**WEST VINCENT
TOWNSHIP**

729 St. Matthews Rd.
Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: 610-458-1601

Fax: 610-458-1603

E-mail:

office@westvincentwp.org

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

John Jacobs, Chairman
David Brown, III, Vice Chairman
Mike Schneider Member

www.westvincentwp.org

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
POTTSTOWN
PA
PERMIT # 84
19464



COMMUNITY DAY IS MAY 7, 2016 10 AM—3:00 PM

Saturday May 7th, is West Vincent Township's 14th Annual Community Day! Starting at 10 AM, the Township Park will be the setting for a day of music, food, and entertainment for the whole family. The schedule is packed with entertainment including balloon animals, a magician, and music for all. Children can enjoy bounce rides, and a mini train ride along the park trail. As always, township residents, organizations, and businesses will showcase their services and talents through displays.



Don't forget the Plant Swap, bring a plant, take a plant!

Rounding out the fun, the West Vincent Police and the Ludwig's Corner Fire Department, Kimberton Fire Department and the Ridge Fire Department will be on hand. Bring a healthy appetite, as many local treats will be available too!

⇒ MICROCHIPPING AVAILABLE



Ludwigs Corner Veterinary Hospital and Phoenix Animal Rescue, in conjunction with West Vincent Township Police, encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity!! A Veterinarian from LCVH will micro-chip your pet. This procedure takes just a few seconds and is worth every penny if Fido ever wanders from home. You will also receive paperwork for the microchip so that you can obtain a lifetime dog license through Chester County. West Vin-

cent Police and LCVH have scanners that can be invaluable for reuniting pets with their owners. **REMEMBER:** Registrations must be sent in and contact info kept current. All proceeds will go to the Phoenix Animal Rescue.

**Cost per \$20.00 pet
(cash only, please)**



On Community Day at noon, there will be a Pet Parade for all pets who get along well with others. Bring your pet (or stuffed) pet and march around the park with us. All pets will get a treat!



West Vincent CONNECTIONS

Spring 2016

Board of Supervisors

Meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM

Planning Commission
3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:30 PM

Environmental Advisory Council:
1st Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 PM

Park and Recreation Commission
1st Wednesday of the Month at 7:30 PM

Sustainability Committee
3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 PM

Zoning Hearing Board
Hearings Scheduled as Needed

Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee
Last Wednesday, 7:30 PM
Schuylkill Twp Building

Inside this issue:

- Police News 2
- Sustainability News 3
- Underground Railroad Talk 3
- State Dog Law Info 3
- West Vincent's General Stores 4,5
- Park News 6
- Township Roads 7
- Helpful Energy Tips 7
- Community Day 6

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZE

On January 4, 2016, the West Vincent Township Board of Supervisors conducted the Reorganization Meeting. At that time, Mike Schneider took office to begin his six year term. John Jacobs is now the Chairman and David Brown is the Vice Chairman.

The new Board encourages you to attend their meetings and to keep yourself informed about Township business and to share your thoughts with them and the general public. Note that the Board meetings have changed. They are now the first and third Monday evenings at 7:00 PM.



FELLOWSHIP GARDEN

Would you like a space in the Fellowship Garden? Come and spend time in the garden with your neighbors and meet new ones at the Community Garden. It is located near the Weatherstone Subdivision on Westover Lane. The cost is \$35 per garden. Please contact the Township at 610-458-1601 or email office@westvincentwp.org.

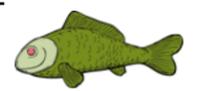
KIDS' TROUT RODEO SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 WARWICK COUNTY PARK

The East / West Vincent Police Officers Associations and the Coventryville Trout Club will host this year's Trout Rodeo.

Please note the change in location.

The Rodeo has been a huge success in past years (over 130 children participated last year)! In order to accommodate the growing number of participants, this year's Rodeo will be held at **Warwick County Park**, 382 County Park Road in Pottstown.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.; Fishing begins at 9:00 a.m. Trophies will be awarded at 1 p.m. There will be two divisions - Junior (ages 3 through 11) and Senior (ages 12 through 15). Admission and parking are free.



We invite you to come out for a fun day of fishing, to meet and greet local police officers and



to have a chance to take home the big one – hope to see you there!!

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



Phone and Email Scams

Did you receive a call from someone demanding money and claiming to be from the IRS?? Did you receive a phone call or email from someone claiming to be from Microsoft who indicated your computer has a virus?? If so, you are not alone!! Our department has received plenty of complaints recently about scams. It seems the IRS imposters are at it again, as well as other crooks! Don't let these bad guys win - the best way to fight back is to stay informed about new scams and the inventive tactics used to steal your money or personal information.

Some tips for you...

DO NOT attempt to forward money - the caller may try to scare you into paying money and may go so far as to threaten that there's a warrant for your arrest - HANG UP!

DO NOT give ANY personal information and DO NOT VERIFY any personal information they may have (or imply they have) - the caller may address you by name or give your address in an attempt to get more personal information from you - HANG UP!

DO NOT return a call - if you received a voicemail and are asked to call back, don't! These cons are using 'Caller ID Spoofing'. This means they alter the phone number to make the number on Caller ID appear legitimate.

DO NOT engage these individuals in conversation - HANG UP!

DO NOT allow a caller claiming to be from Microsoft (or some other company) to get remote access to your computer - HANG UP! The caller may tell you that your computer is infected with a virus. Then they try to coerce you into allowing them remote access to "fix the virus". Once they gain access to your computer, they may be able to access personal information on your hard drive.

DO NOT OPEN any suspicious email or click on a pop-up message - it may very well be a phishing scam (phishing is the on-line version of the Caller ID Spoofing). Again, criminals go to great lengths to draw you in by making an email or website look like the official one. Don't fall for it! Before opening the email or clicking on any links or attachments, check for authenticity (contact the company using their official phone number, official email or mailing address) or simply hit the DELETE key! These phone calls or emails can be quite unnerving and downright scary, even when you suspect it may be a scam! The best way to fight back is to stay in control of the situation by following the tips listed above. Also, try to stay informed of old and new scams by checking these official websites often:

Internal Revenue Service: <https://www.irs.gov/News-&-Events>

Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov>

Both websites also include links and/or phone numbers where you can report a scam. You may also file a report with West Vincent Police Department: during normal business hours call 610-458-3205; after hours call 911 (Chester County Dispatch Center) and ask for the West Vincent Officer on duty. West Vincent Police also offers on-line information/alerts on identity theft and other crimes (www.westvincentwp.org Police - Home Safety and Protection).

As always, if you have ANY questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us. BE SAFE!!

Join the Litter Brigade!

Help clean up the litter in the Township when you take your walks! Also, the Ronald McDonald House is collecting aluminum tabs. If you have any, bring them in and we can get them to the correct person.



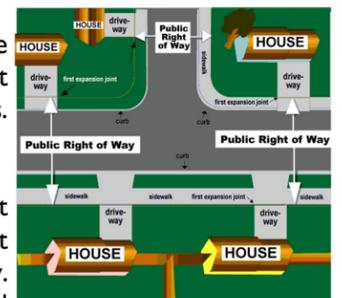
WORKING TO DO THE RIGHT THING FOR THE RESIDENTS OF WEST VINCENT

One of the major responsibilities of a municipal government is to assure the health, safety and welfare of its residents. Zoning Ordinances are one of the tools in place to assist governments with carrying out that responsibility. The Ordinances are enacted by the Governing Body of a government and are carried out by the appointed staff; typically a Zoning Officer. West Vincent Township has several layers of zoning throughout the township, all of which are governed by the Zoning Ordinances. Citizens living and/or doing business in the Township must abide by the ordinances that govern where they live or conduct their business. Residents also expect that the Township enforce its ordinances so that the place where they reside or do business is not subject to activity that violates those ordinances. As one resident puts it "when we decided to call the Township our home, it was the pure beauty of our lands that was an immediate draw." These words were in a note of thanks to the Township for doing our job. This note was among a chorus of notes and phone calls that we've received thanking us for doing our job and/or alerting us to a situation that required our attention. Our approach is to work with each of our residents as we see a problem or potential problem arise. Through these communications we take time to explain the reason why certain activities cannot occur in certain areas in order to prevent the need to take legal action. Such is the case with an event planned in a residential neighborhood that was not only a violation of the Zoning for that neighborhood but also of concern with regard to the number of vehicles that would be coming in for the event and the lack of off street parking for that event. We were notified by concerned neighbors and alerted to it through social media. It is not our practice to speak publicly about our actions concerning individual cases. We work hard to keep those transactions as confidential as possible. However, in this particular case, social media made the event and our actions very public. Although we were praised by grateful neighbors, and we did the right thing, the unfortunate result was that a charitable event for a worthy cause was cancelled by the organizers. As has been our practice, we will continue to help our residents understand what can and cannot be done in a particular area of the township so that they do not create a situation of undue hardship for themselves and their neighbors. With limited resources we cannot have our eyes on every situation. To that end we appreciate outreach from our residents alerting us to situations for which they may have concern. In every case we listen and follow up accordingly. We may not always do what someone thinks we should do, but we do work to assure that we are following the rules and laws that govern West Vincent Township and in a way that is respectful to those with whom we interact.

WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP ROADS

The Public Works Department has a road maintenance program for the 29.39 miles paved roads and 17.29 miles of unpaved roads in West Vincent Township. The Township provides road maintenance to all Township roads. The Township employees 4 full-time public work members.

Road maintenance includes roadside mowing, which allows for better sight distances for motorists. It is important that Township residents realize that trees and objects like boulders should not be put in the road right-of-way. Such items represent a potential hazard to motorists both on the road and on the roads and driveways which intersect those roads. In addition, such objects damage the Township road equipment used to maintain the roadways. Generally, the right-of-way is the edge of your property along the roadway. Measured from the center of the road its width varies from 33 to 50 feet. Residents should always maintain this area as it is your property. Call the Township to find out how large yours is. It is important to remember that the Township employees have the right to enter, use, maintain and improve the right-of-way. State law gives municipalities the right to remove obstructions in the right-of-way at the owner's expense, so please do not cause yourself undue stress by having to see your gardens destroyed if maintenance requires it. If you see road conditions which need attention please call the Township office 610-458-1601. These road reports are submitted daily to the Public Works Department. For State Roads please call Penn DOT, 1-800-FIX-ROAD.



NEW TOWNSHIP PARKLAND

West Vincent Township has new passive-recreation parkland that was conveyed to us by Chester County. This beautiful 54 acre property is along the French Creek border with East Vincent Township and has several trails throughout. There are great fishing, horse-back riding and hiking opportunities, along with some rustic picnicking. The land is covered by County Restrictive Covenants which ensure it will remain open space and in its natural, undisturbed state. The park is divided into three separate parcels, but can be accessed from Sheeder Mill or Cooks Glenn Roads. Go for a hike soon and check it out!



Playing Fields In The Park

The main West Vincent Township Park, located adjacent to the Township Building, is a wonderful 14 acre resource for residents. This includes a gazebo, playground, basketball court, half mile paved trail, a pond, and beautiful playing fields. These fields are used for soccer, lacrosse and baseball from April-November. The fields are scheduled by our Parks and Recreation committee for use by local leagues that involve our township residents and children. Importantly, the Parks and Recreation Committee works to ensure there are also open times for our residents to use the fields for casual games and play. This year the playing fields are open to residents most Sundays all day, Fridays, as well as weekdays during the day. We encourage residents to use the fields for casual play in these open times and to welcome other residents who are in the park to join in the games.



The yellow dashed lines show where the trails are in the new Township Park



**Movie Night
In the Park
August 26, 2016
8:30 PM**

SAVE THE DATE: The Park and Recreation Commission have set the date of August 26th for the Annual Movie Night in the Park. At Community Day someone will be taking a survey of what movie you would like to see.

Sewer Bills Via Email?

If you would like to receive your **Quarterly Township Sewer Bill via email, just call 610-458-1601 or email office@westvincenttp.org.**



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NEWS

The spring Sustainability Fair held for the last several years at the West Vincent Elementary School will be held either this fall or next spring. We are sorry to lose the momentum and awareness generated by the previous fairs, but it will be returning. Those interested in assisting the committee can contact Tammy Swavely at the Township office and she will pass the information along to the committee.

Northern Chester County Green Drinks

Join Us! Every Fourth Wednesday of the Month

Green Drinks are organic self-regulating networks, informal, monthly get-togethers for people who think of themselves as "green" - anyone who works or studies or just lives with a passion for making changes in the world that will facilitate a healthier future for our planet.

Green Drinks has no agenda other than to bring like minded people together for some fun and sustainable socializing.

Location: Sly Fox Brewhouse and Eatery
520 Kimberton Road, Phoenixville, PA
When: 7 PM to 9 PM, every fourth Wednesday



TOWNSHIP INFORMATION BY EMAIL

Do you want up to date information from the Township? Then join the West Vincent Township email list. The Township sends Board Agendas and Minutes, Newsletters and important information including emergency road closures and other information that you should know from the committees. Please know your email is kept confidential and will not be shared with others. It is easy to do. Go to the Township website, www.westvincenttp.org and click on the Notify Me! tab on the right side. You will be added to the list and enjoy getting the information you need to know from the Township.

THE UNDERGROUND

RAILROAD IN WEST VINCENT

April 1, 2016 7:30 PM

Sponsored by: Historic Resource Committee

Location:

West Vincent Township Building

729 St. Matthews Road

Chester Springs, PA 19425

◇ Come to a fascinating presentation about the history of West Vincent Township and how residents were active before the Civil War.

STATE DOG LAW INFORMATION



The State Dog Law requires that all dogs three months of age or older must be licensed and have a current rabies vaccination. Officials from Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement will be canvassing in our area in April, 2016. In 2015 over 85 citations were issued in Chester County for violation of the Dog Law. Dog Licenses are available at the Chester County Treasurer's Office. You can call the Treasurer's office at 610 344 6370 for the nearest licensing agent or you can obtain your dog license on line: padoglicense.com

**Coming Again this Fall...
Paper Shredding Event
No Charge to Residents**

October 4, 2016

Your Papers will be securely shredded by Proshred Security



WEST VINCENT'S GENERAL STORES: WILSON'S CORNER

Downstream, about one mile from where the Birch Run tumbles into French Creek after powering what was Garret Brumbaugh's (Brownback) early 18th century mill, is a small settlement known as Wilson's Corner, named in honor of the Wilson family who emigrated from Ireland to settle in Pennsylvania. Wilson's Corner, nestled in an elbow-shaped curve of French Creek was named after this early 18th century family.

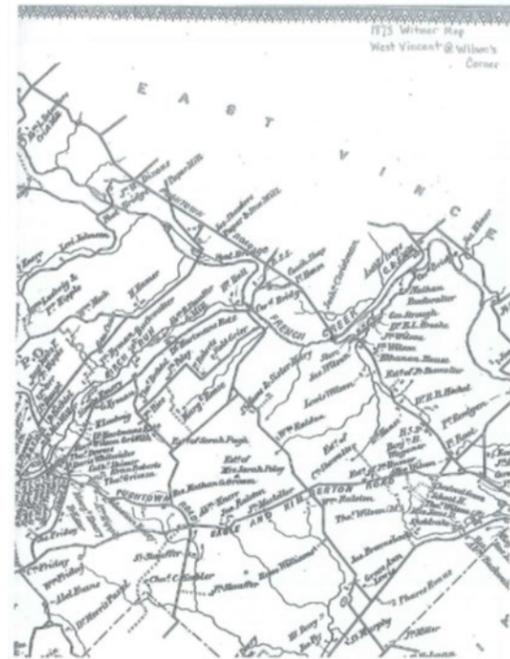
French Creek provided the natural boundary between East and West Vincent in 1832, when a petition for a bridge had been granted. A 118 ft. covered bridge, connecting James Wilson's farmland, was completed by Benjamin Hartman & Company in 1833, at a cost of \$4,400. James, the son of John and Mary (Whitesides) Wilson, was born in 1820. His grandfather, Thomas first farmed the land. James was not only a prominent farmer and stock dealer; he also operated a general store on the 112 acre farmstead.

By 1873, Wilson's Corner contained the Lewis Wilson farm, James' farm and store and two houses belonging to John Wilson. James Wilson's farm was valued at \$11,000 with an additional personal estate of \$5000. His wife, Elizabeth (Emery), and his seven children were part of the household in the 1870 census. John Swinehart is enumerated right after George Strough in the 1870 census and is listed with the occupation of dry goods merchant.

Along the creek road was Dr. E. L. Brooke's office, George Strough's butcher shop, Mrs. C. M. Wilson's millinery and the farm of Nathan Buckwalter. The Buckwalter farm had been owned first by Henry Knerr, a German weaver, in 1790 when he took title to 313 acres and then passed it to his sons, Abraham and Jacob in 1810. The large stone barn indicates an 1826 date stone, built by Abraham. Here the road recrosses French Creek into East Vincent via Hallman's Mill Bridge, which was also originally a covered bridge before being replaced with a steel plate structure after a fire in 1927.

The hamlet continued its growth with the advent of the railroad and the anticipation of prosperity came with the twelve mile French Creek Valley Route of the Delaware River and Lancaster Railroad, commonly referred to as the "Sowbelly". The first train ran from St. Peters to Phoenixville on November 10th, 1890. West Vincent had four stations: Boraef, at Cook's Glen, Sheeder, Vincent, near the Sheeder-Hall bridge and Wilson's Corner. Wilson's Corner was also known as Lockart's station for David Lockart who owned the 140 acre farm formerly owned by Nathan Buckwalter.

There was a siding near the covered bridge and a flag-stop station. The former railroad bed can still be seen as French Creek Road, as it proceeds upstream to Vincent Station and the Sheeder Hall Bridge. Various problems plagued the Sowbelly railroad and it went bankrupt after only a few years. The buildings associated with the operation of the railroad were eventually removed, as well as the track and anything else of value, for investors to recover.



The ladies of the area were pleased to have a milliner right in the village. Mrs. C. M. Wilson offered an extensive stock of millinery goods for the summer and fall seasons and informed the Local newspaper in 1874 that there were sixty styles of bonnets available. "Three new fall shades, a "peculiar yellow, a red, and a mixed shade called "volcanic" were being introduced and Mrs. Wilson advised that "flowers would not be worn as much as last year."

About a mile farther down Pughtown Road, across the road from the Heckel Farm was the home and blacksmith shop of Benjamin B. Wagner. Benjamin took on an apprentice, Herbert Mooney, as well as teaching two of his son's the blacksmith trade. His youngest son, Christian opened a blacksmith shop in East Vincent (across from Vincent Elementary School).

His oldest son James Monroe boarded with Lewis Wilson as a hired servant at age 16 in 1880. In 1887 James married Sallie Frances Longaker and they lived in West Vincent Township with a shop at Wilson's Corner. His sales receipts indicate that he was also a wheelwright and he specialized in horseshoeing.

The Wilson's Corner blacksmith shop photograph is circa 1908. The pointer boards give the mileage to Pughtown as four miles, Kimberton, two miles and Seven Stars, one mile. The village provided a number of conveniences to the residents of the northern section of West Vincent Township.

