

West Vincent CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of West Vincent Township | Chester County, PA

Fall 2018



Board of Supervisors:

Meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of Month at 7pm

Planning Commission:

3rd Thursday of Month at 7:30 pm

Environmental Advisory Council:

1st Wed. of Month at 5:30 pm

Parks and Recreation Commission:

1st Wed. of Month at 7:30 pm

Sustainability Committee:

3rd Tuesday of Month at 7:30 pm

Zoning Hearing Board:

Hearings scheduled as needed

Open Space Review Board:

4th Tuesday of Month at 5pm

Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee:

Last Wed. of Month at 7:30 pm at Schuylkill Township Building

Historic Resources Subcommittee:

4th Monday of Month at 6:30pm

All meetings held at the West Vincent Township Building, unless noted otherwise.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John Jacobs, *Chairman*
Mike Schneider, *Vice Chairman*
Bernie Couris, *Member*

westvincenttp.org



Follow West Vincent Township and the West Vincent Police Dept. on Facebook & Twitter

KEEP CELEBRATING!

20th ANNIVERSARY!



1ST ANNUAL

Fall Festival

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 27
2-5:00 PM
EVANS PARK

ADJACENT TO THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING ON CONESTOGA ROAD & ST. MATTHEWS ROAD

Join Us!

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the dedication of West Vincent's first park by the **Evans family**. To celebrate, the township Parks and Recreation Commission presented a series of events in the park. In June, the first annual Festival in the Park was enjoyed by close to a thousand attendees. This was followed by the monthly Picnic in the Park summer music series where people were able to bring lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of great music in the park gazebo. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors for these events, the Commission is planning one more celebration this Fall.

Please join us on the afternoon of Saturday, October 27th (rain date Sunday, October 28) from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for a fun-filled event for the entire family!

What's happening?

- **Scarecrow contest.** Come and assemble a scarecrow (or bring your own). Entries will be judged at the end of the event so get creative!
- **Pumpkin painting**
- **Goat races**
- **Costume parades** for people and pets
- **Photos in the gazebo**, decorated for the Festival
- **Community canvas.** Come join your fellow residents in creating a community painting that will hang in the township building. All ages are encouraged to participate.

West Vincent is an incredible place to live, let's keep celebrating our community!

The West Vincent Township **Community Series Fall Festival, Picnic in the Park and Festival in the Park** are brought to you by the township Parks and Recreation Commission and our sponsors.



Please visit WVTFestival.com for more information.

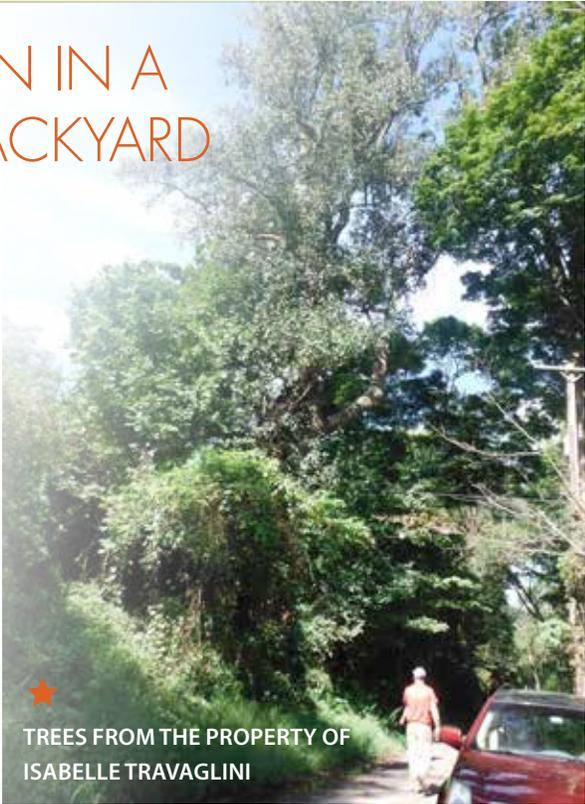


A STATE CHAMPION IN A WEST VINCENT BACKYARD

West Vincent Township has a new Heritage Tree Recognition Program

to celebrate and foster appreciation for the historic trees and the natural beauty they provide. Volunteers spent a recent afternoon measuring and documenting trees in the township, recording diameter, canopy spread, height, overall condition and GPS coordinates.

The trees featured here are on the property of long-time WVT resident Isabelle Travaglini. Isabelle owns a historic property and lives in the lovingly converted barn. Isabelle is also a tireless volunteer for the Historic Resources Committee in the township and is the “go to” person on this committee for historic information about the many historic properties and the families that built them in the early days of West Vincent Township.



★ TREES FROM THE PROPERTY OF ISABELLE TRAVAGLINI

The Japanese chestnut behind the barn on this historic property is a state champion. The diameter at breast height (DBH) is 85 inches, with a canopy of 85 feet and a height of 67 feet. This tree is listed on the Pennsylvania Big Trees website as the largest of this species in the state.

The Japanese chestnut is known botanically as *Castanea crenata* and is a member of the beech family. The native American chestnut was nearly wiped out when an estimated four billion American chestnut trees died in the first half of the 20th century from chestnut fungus blight. Japanese chestnut is resistant, but not immune, to chestnut blight. Native to Japan, Chinese chestnut is a small to medium-sized, broad, low-branched, deciduous tree that typically grows 30-40' tall with an open rounded crown. It is primarily grown as an ornamental tree.

There is another impressive specimen on Isabelle’s property. There is a tulip poplar on Green Lane and is easily viewed from the road. The estimated diameter of this tree is 60 inches, with a canopy of 60 feet and soaring over 120 feet tall. This tree is in marginal condition with part of the trunk being hollow and providing a home for stinging insects.

The tulip poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, is a native tree and often one of the tallest trees in the forest. It is actually not a poplar, but a member of the magnolia family. This tree is rapid growing, attaining heights of 120' and a trunk diameter of 5'. Using this data, we can conclude that this particular tulip poplar is likely at the apex of its growth. Tulip poplars are a desirable street, shade, or ornamental tree but the large size it attains makes it unsuited for many sites. Its good points for aesthetic use are: rapid growth, pyramidal form, resistance to insect and disease damage, unusual leaves and attractive flowers, and yellow autumnal color. Tulip poplars also have some wildlife value. The fruits provide food for squirrels in the late fall and winter months, and the white-tailed deer often browse on the twigs.

This article is provided by the Environmental Advisory Council’s sub-committee for The West Vincent Township Heritage Tree Recognition Program.



RESIDENTS WITH TREES RECOGNIZED

in the program will receive a placard suitable for display near their heritage tree. WVT residents can nominate trees on their own property or anywhere in the township. To get more information or request a nomination form, send an email to office@westvincenttownship.org.

Please add EAC in the subject line. Look for our upcoming article in the next WVT newsletter featuring more outstanding trees, titled “The Great Whites”. No, not sharks... white oaks.

The Environmental Advisory Council

is a seven-member advisory council appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

The EAC holds a public meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm.



BRYN COED PARK PLANNING UNDERWAY



West Vincent Township recently acquired 72 acres from Natural Lands as part of the preservation of Bryn Coed Farms open space for use as a public park.

The park is located at 1422 St. Matthews Road, and while not open to the public at this time, the planning for the future use of this new park is actively underway. The Parks & Recreation Commission has formed a subcommittee to guide the planning process.

BILL HOLDERNESS, CHIP FARNHAM, AND JIM DEISINGER, Commission Members

The Commission has presented a proposal to the Board of Supervisors based on three pillars:

1. Park should be consistent with the Natural Lands Preserve,
2. Public access should be concurrent with the Natural Lands soft opening of their Preserve in late 2018, and
3. Be minimal in cost to the Township to open.

The Commission's proposal involves two phases.

Phase I, to be completed in 2018, would include the installation of trails that connect to the Natural Lands preserve trails, active use of the existing pond for fishing, and to provide an area for picnicking and parking.

Phase II, to be completed in 2019, involves various site improvements as well as the installation of park amenities such as benches and a covered pavilion.

The Township is also planning the demolition of existing buildings on site to occur in 2019. The Township encourages resident input as the park is developed.

The Parks and Recreation Commission

meets every first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Township building.

LOST PETS

West Vincent Township Animal Control Officer Glenn Deery recently set up a Facebook page for lost pets in and around our Township, West Vincent Animal Control at <https://www.facebook.com/WestVincentACO/>



ACO Deery does an outstanding job of returning lost animals back to their owners and this page will certainly help him to speed up that process. In the unfortunate situation where your pet is lost we encourage you to post the information and pet's picture to the Facebook page.

VOLUNTEER!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Township has several committees who help advise, guide, and implement the Township's goals and objectives in regard to open space, recreation, sustainability, historic preservation, planning, and the environment.

If you are interested in serving on a Township committee please fill out the Volunteer Service Application Form available on our Township website and submit to the Township office for consideration.

The Board of Supervisors make appointments to these committees when there is a vacancy and during Reorganization of the Township in January each year.



THE GAZEBO AND SPORTS FIELDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE GREAT SPACES!



To reserve the baseball field, soccer field, or gazebo please contact office@westvincentwp.org.

WHAT IS THAT PRETTY BUG?



There's a new bug in town and even though it might be pretty, it's definitely not our friend. The Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) is an invasive pest that arrived in southeast Pennsylvania in 2014. It has spread into Chester County which is now part of the 13 county quarantine zone. There are numerous reports of this pest setting up camp here in West Vincent Township. There is no longer a need to report a SLF sighting unless you see one outside the quarantine zone. Authorities know they're here.

While the Spotted Lantern Fly doesn't bite or sting, it can do damage to many species of plants. This is an invasive species and there is no natural predator to control the spread of this pest. There are some ways that a homeowner can help contain the infestation and protect their vegetation.

Stop the Spread: Check your car and outdoor equipment for signs of SLF in all stages when moving in and out of the quarantine zone. Don't move firewood.

Egg Scraping: Help reduce the SLF population by scraping off egg masses on houses, trees, playground equipment, etc.

Tree Banding: Band trees to trap and kill nymphs in early spring.

Host Removal: Remove the invasive plant tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), the preferred host plant of SLF.

Chemical Control: Protect your vegetation by applying insecticides in cases of severe infestation. Follow label instructions carefully and be aware of impacts on children, pets and water supplies.

See the publication <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-homeowners> for advice on all forms of management available to the homeowner. For more detailed information about SLF and to sign up for a newsletter, go to <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>.

This article brought to you by West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council and Penn State Extension/Chester County Master Gardeners.

EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE

The Police Department has recently received many calls regarding extremely sick and dead deer, usually located near a water source. We have been in contact with Chester County Game Warden Matt Johnson of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Based on the symptoms sick deer have displayed and their need for water, Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is suspected to be the cause. Last year a confirmed EHD outbreak occurred in neighboring East Nantmeal Township. EHD is transmitted to deer by biting flies or midges and is fatal; however, humans are NOT AFFECTED by the EHD virus. Scavengers that eat the carcass of diseased deer are also not affected.

While the spread of EHD in our deer herd is concerning, it is not a reason for panic. EHD unfortunately is a product of nature and common in many surrounding states. There are no viable means to control EHD in the wild, only cold weather and frost will kill off the midges ending the spread of the virus.

Archery deer hunting season started on September 15; hunters are reminded that deer displaying severe symptoms of EHD may not be suitable for consumption.

If you harvest a deer that is sick please contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission at **610.926.3136**.

For more information about EHD visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission web page at <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/Wildlife-RelatedDiseases/Pages/EpizooticHemorrhagicDisease.aspx>



PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE



★
**WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION
 TO KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE AND WELL-MAINTAINED!**

The winter storm season will return before we know it. Snow plowing and salting of Township roads is difficult work that is usually conducted in tough environmental circumstances. Township employees and contractors take pride in their work and accidents due to the direct contact with a plow is rare. However, if you do experience an incident with your property, claims for damage must be issued in writing to the Township Manager's office within (48) hours of the snow event for review. The complete policy can be found on the Township website on the Public Works Department page.

Reminder regarding Township Right of Ways: It is important the Township residents realize that trees and objects such as boulders and stones should not be put in the road right of way. These items are a potential hazard to motorists both on the road and to 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 wide. Township employees have the right to enter, use, maintain, and improve the right of way.

TOWNSHIP MISSION

The Mission of West Vincent Township is to provide high quality service to all members of our community in an efficient, fiscally responsible, sustainable, and inclusive manner. The Township fulfills this mission through a dedicated team of elected officials, staff, and volunteers guided by the following Core Values:

- 1. Integrity & Honesty:** The Township will be dedicated to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships, truthfulness and transparency in communications, and observance of ethical guidelines contained in Federal and State law, the municipal code, and internal policies.
- 2. Operational & Fiscal Efficiency:** The Township will seek continuously to find ways to maximize the use of resources provided by the taxpayers, and recommend cost saving measures in maintaining and in improving operational performance.
- 3. Professionalism in Public Service:** The Township will honor our positions in service through civility and decorum in our interactions with our peers, residents, and officials.
- 4. Teamwork:** The Township will foster an environment of equality and respect, where people are included, valued, treated with dignity, and work together for the benefit of the entire community.
- 5. Commitment to Excellence & Continuous Improvement:** The Township will make it a duty to continually improve, develop, and encourage the abilities of our workforce.

TREASURER'S OFFICE NEWS

The Township has developed new monthly Treasurer Reports.

The monthly reports help provide information concerning the performance of the Township's various funds, reports on expenses, and provides year to date information. Visit the Township website under the Finance page to review these reports. In addition, the 2019 budget process is underway. Draft budget documents in addition to the Township's adopted budget and audit reports are also available on our Township website.

Please be reminded the Township has sold our sewer system to Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority (BCWSA). All previously held Township accounts have been transferred to BCWSA as of May 1, 2018. As the Courts at Chester Springs Subdivision is not yet dedicated to BCWSA this is the **only** billing the Township is responsible for at this time.

Should you have any questions please contact our Treasurer's office at **610.458.1601** or treasurer@westvincentwp.org

Thank you!



729 St. Matthews Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Call: 610.458.1601

Fax: 610.458.1603

email: office@westvincentwp.org

web: www.westvincentwp.org

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IMPORTANT NOTICES

Fall 2018



If you are unsure of what can be recycled, contact your hauler or call the Chester County Solid Waste Authority at **610.273.3771 ext. 228.**

You can also visit The Chester County Solid Waste Authority website at www.chestercountyswa.org or www.recyclecartons.com

WHY RECYCLE?

REDUCE LANDFILL WASTE

Each day, the average American generates more than four pounds of trash.

1. That adds up to more than 200 million tons of garbage each year – enough to fill the Cardinals' Busch Stadium from top to bottom, twice a day.
2. Despite the fact that about 75% of our waste stream is recyclable, most of this trash ends up in one of our more than 3,000 landfills, which then releases harmful methane gas that speeds up global warming. **Every time you recycle, you're taking one important step to reduce landfill waste in our world.**



West Vincent Township is a drop off point for the Coventry Food Pantry.

They are always in need of canned goods, peanut butter, jelly, cleaning supplies, personal supplies, paper products, laundry detergent, diapers and wipes.

The box is in the lobby of the Township Building.