



Spring 2024

Whitemarsh
1704
PENNSYLVANIA

THE NEWSLETTER OF
WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP

Living



A great place to live and work!

whitemarshwp.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE EVENTS!



Whitemarsh TOWNSHIP DAY

APRIL 20TH 12PM-5PM
VICTORY FIELDS
201 E. GERMANTOWN PIKE

WHITEMARSHPARKS.ORG 610-828-7276

YOUR LOGO HERE!

Whitemarsh Township Day is our largest community event of the year, and we cannot do it without the generous support of our local businesses. We have a wide array of sponsorship opportunities available. Email parkandrec@whitemarshwp.org or call 610-828-7276 to discuss sponsorship opportunities for Whitemarsh Township Day!



WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AND THE LIONS CLUB OF WHITEMARSH PRESENTS

2024 FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

JULY 04 AT 10 AM

PARADE BEGINS AT THE WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP BUILDING

SPONSORS OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT WILL BE LISTED HERE!

BECOME A SPONSOR BY CONTACTING US WITH THE INFORMATION BELOW.

WWW.WHITEMARSHPARKS.ORG - (610) 828-7276



TOWNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Administration Building

616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
610-825-3535 (TEL)
610-825-9416 (FAX)

Police Department

616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
610-825-6530 (Non-Emergency)
610-825-5078 (FAX)
911 (EMERGENCY)

Public Works Department

2015 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
610-825-3424 (TEL)
610-825-3144 (FAX)

Parks & Recreation Department

(Koontz Park)
2391 Harts Lane
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
610-828-7276 (TEL)
610-828-7391 (FAX)

Living INSIDE

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

The turning of the calendar brings a time of reflection of the past and planning for the future. The Board of Supervisors recently said "farewell and thank you" to former Supervisor Laura Boyle-Nester and Township Manager Rick Mellor, and wished them both great success in their future endeavors. The Board also "welcomed" newly elected Supervisor Elizabeth Moy and new Township Manager Craig McAnally, as they start their journeys serving the Whitemarsh Community.

The Board of Supervisors are thrilled to announce that the 2024 Township Budget was approved without the need for a tax increase while maintaining the lowest tax millage (2.3633) in the surrounding area and a Aaa Bond Rating, the highest of all Moody's bond ratings.

I am pleased to inform you that the Township, in cooperation with other entities, successfully preserved 19-acres of Open Space in Whitemarsh Township in December 2023. This \$6M contribution from the Township Open Space Fund will create 170 acres of continuous, permanently preserved land around the Highlands Mansion on Sheaff Lane. The plan is to have this area open for public trails to enjoy the beautiful amenities of the area.

Our Emergency Services personnel were busy over the past months as well. Our Police Department celebrated two promotions in November as Christopher Hunsberger was elevated to Corporal and Matthew Stadulis to Sergeant. Spring Mill Fire Company celebrated 100 years of courage, commitment, and community in October with an open house and truck housing ceremony. Congratulations to everyone for their achievements!

The Board of Supervisors passed an Act 172 Ordinance for volunteers that serve Whitemarsh Township in an Emergency Services capacity to be able to receive real estate tax credits for their service. Coincidentally, Montgomery County passed similar legislation to receive a similar tax credit on their county real estate taxes. It's a good time to volunteer with the Fire and Ambulance Departments!

I look forward to seeing everyone at Township Day on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Victory Fields and the annual 4th of July Parade on Thursday, July 4, 2024, starting at 10:00 AM. These two events capture the essence of the residents of Whitemarsh Township- Family, Friendly and Fun!!

Please always know that you can reach the Township Supervisors and Staff via email from our website or by contacting the Township Building during business hours at (610) 825-3535.

Fran McCusker

Fran McCusker
Chair, Board of Supervisors



YOUR WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



FRAN McCUSKER
Chair



JACY TOLL
Vice Chair



VINCENT MANUELE



PATRICE TURENNE



ELIZABETH MOY

TOWNSHIP MANAGER



Craig T. McAnally
Township Manager



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MARY JO DALEY

148TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Website: www.RepMJDaley.com • Email: RepMaryJoDaley@pahouse.net

STATE REP. MARY JO DALEY IS HOSTING SATELLITE OFFICE HOURS!

Every third Wednesday of each month

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Whitemarsh Township Building

616 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

Constituents of the 148th District are encouraged to stop by Representative Mary Jo Daley's Satellite District Office, which will take place on the third Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Whitemarsh Township Building.

Call the district office at (610) 832-1679 with any questions.

312 Old Lancaster Rd. • Merion Station, PA 19066 • (610) 832-1679 • Toll-Free: (833) 787-1543
RepMaryJoDaley@pahouse.net • www.RepMJDaley.com



UPCOMING SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

music with gina

FREE

SPRING OUTDOOR CHILDREN'S CONCERT!

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH, 2024
4:00PM-5:00PM
CONCERT WILL TAKE PLACE AT MILES PARK PAVILION!
BRING BLANKETS AND CHAIRS FOR GRASS SEATING.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. RAIN OR SHINE.

KONICE King of Prussia
STREETSIDE BBQ

WWW.WHITEMARSHPARKS.ORG (610) 828-7276

Mini Spring fling

05.21.24

10:00AM-11:00AM
CEDAR GROVE BARN
100 CEDAR GROVE ROAD

\$5.00 PER CHILD AGES 2-6 & PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MUSIC GAMES SNACKS
PRIZES KARATE DEMO

DeStolfo's PREMIER MAINTENANCE

WWW.WHITEMARSHPARKS.ORG (610) 828-7276

MOORE BROTHERS BASKETBALL PRESENTS

MOORE BROTHERS BASKETBALL CAMP

FOR BOY'S & GIRL'S AGES 6-13
TIME: 9AM - NOON

WEEK 1: JUNE 17TH - 21ST	WEEK 2: JULY 8TH - 12TH	WEEK 3: JULY 29TH - AUG. 2ND
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MILES PARK, LAFAYETTE HILL, PA

\$175 for Residents
\$196 for Non-Residents

Training & Coached By:
Chuck Moore & Ronald Moore

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Register.communitypass.net
Or call 610-828-7276

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2024 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA RESIDENTIAL EVENTS By Appointment Only. Preregistration is Required.

Register at www.MontcoPARecycles.org

DATES:

Saturday, April 27
Indian Valley Middle School
130 Maple Avenue, Harleysville

Saturday, June 1
Temple University–Ambler Campus
Enter at 1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler

Saturday, June 15
Abington Middle School
Enter at 2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington

Saturday, June 22
Norristown Area High School
1900 Eagle Drive, Norristown

Saturday, September 21
Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center
400 South Lewis Road, Royersford

SUNDAY, October 13
Lower Merion Transfer Station
1300 N. Woodbine Avenue, Penn Valley

Free residential collection events are held outdoors. There are no permanent drop off locations, only these collection events. Montco residents may also attend any Household Hazardous Waste event held by [Bucks](#), [Chester](#), [Delaware](#), or [Philadelphia](#) Counties.

Please do not contact the host sites, as they are not affiliated with the events.

In case of severe weather, call 610.278.3618, option 6 for event status.

Contact us at:
Recycling@MontgomeryCountyPA.gov
610.278.3618



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Jamila H. Winder, *Chair* • Neil Makhija, *Commissioner* • Thomas DiBello, *Commissioner*

REAL ESTATE TAXES

The Township contracts with Berkheimer to collect property taxes.

PAYMENT METHODS

ONLINE
 YOU MAY PAY ONLINE AT WWW.HAB-INC.COM OR BY PHONE (866)225-8451 WITH A CREDIT CARD, CHECKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT.
 RECEIPTS CAN BE REQUESTED ONLINE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.HAB-INC.COM/REAL-ESTATE-TAX-RECEIPT-REQUEST-FORM/](https://www.hab-inc.com/real-estate-tax-receipt-request-form/)

IN-PERSON
 W. 4TH St, BRIDGEPORT, PA 19405 - BERKHEIMER OFFICE
 THIS OFFICE IS OPEN TO IN-PERSON VISITS ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND FRIDAYS.

BY-MAIL
 BERKHEIMER, PO BOX 25144, LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002-5144
 TAXPAYERS WHO WANT A PAID RECEIPT MUST INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH THEIR PAYMENT

***CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED**
****TITLE COMPANIES:** If you need a tax certificate for 2024 taxes you can call Berkheimer at (610)599-3143 or you can request on the following website: <https://www.hab-inc.com/real-estate-tax-certification-request-form/>

TAX DISCOUNTS & PENALTIES

Residents who pay their current year's Township and County Real Estate Taxes by April 30 receive a 2% discount, while township and county taxes paid after June 30 are subject to a 10% penalty. If a Whitemarsh Township property owner does not pay their township and county taxes by December 31 of the year, these delinquent tax accounts are turned over to the Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau and subject to lien. Taxes paid after December 31 of the year may be subject to an additional 5% fee, pursuant to County, Municipal, and School District Ordinances or Resolutions.

Keep in mind that the Colonial School District's Real Estate Taxes are due to the Colonial School District. For information on where to pay, call Northeast Revenue at 484-681-9231.

2024 REAL ESTATE TAX BILL DUE DATES

The last day for Discount Period payments for 2024 County and Township Real Estate Tax will be on Friday April 30, 2024. Payments not made on or before April 30, 2024 will not be eligible for the 2% discount.

Payments received or postmarked after April 30, 2024 will be applied to the face period and must satisfy the face period amount. Payments can be made one of three ways: By-mail, online, or in-person. Please note, in-person payments should be made at the Berkheimer office in Bridgeport. The Township Building can accept payments, but cannot provide a receipt.

If payments are made by mail, the payment must be postmarked by midnight April 30, 2024 in order to receive the discount.

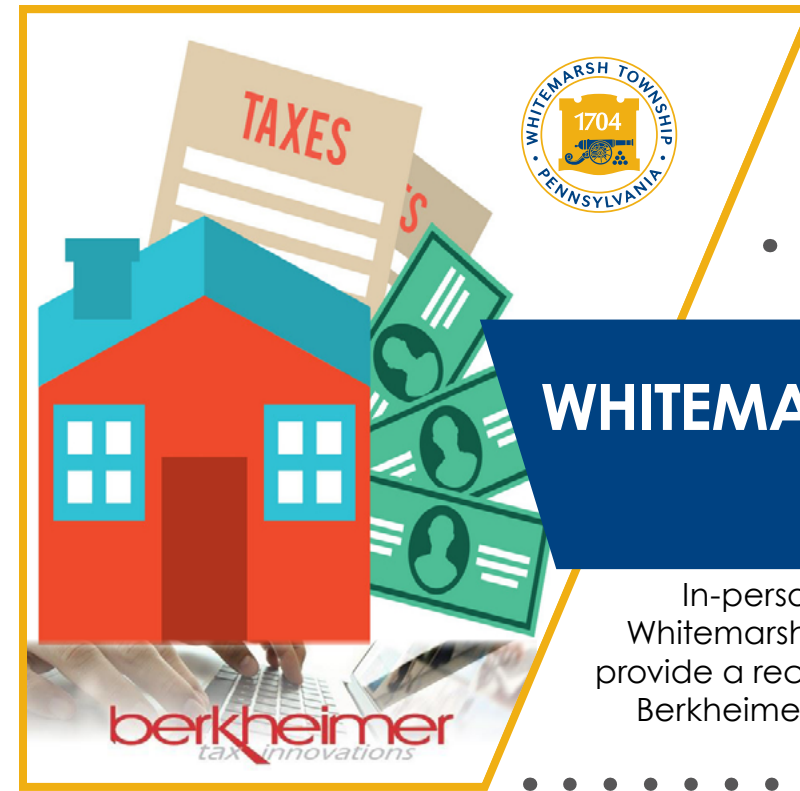
The Finance Department is responsible for the administration of activities pertaining to the receipt, expenditure, accounting, investment, custody and control of municipal funds and assets. The Finance Department performs the following functions:

- Collects and receives all taxes and other moneys due or receivable by the township or authorizes other municipal or service units to do so under prescribed procedures
- Develop all tax rolls, which are not prepared by other political subdivisions of the Commonwealth
- Administer a system for the collection of municipal tax claims and liens in accordance with law
- Maintain a uniform accounting system in accordance with the Pennsylvania State chart of accounts and generally accepted principles of governmental accounting
- Prepare books and records in accordance with generally accepted principle of governmental accounting
- Prepare and disburse all payments for authorized expenditures and payrolls
- Deposit moneys in depositories authorized by the Board of Supervisors, consistent with generally accepted governmental financial practices
- Provide for the prudent investment of moneys in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Assist in the preparation, maintenance and reporting of financial plans and budgets
- Assist in the administration of the purchasing system and Township contracts
- Advise the Township Manager and Board of Supervisors on Township fiscal matters

The department is headed by the Finance Director who also serves as the Tax Collector for the Township. Under contract with Montgomery County, the department also collects real estate taxes for Montgomery County.

CONTACT US

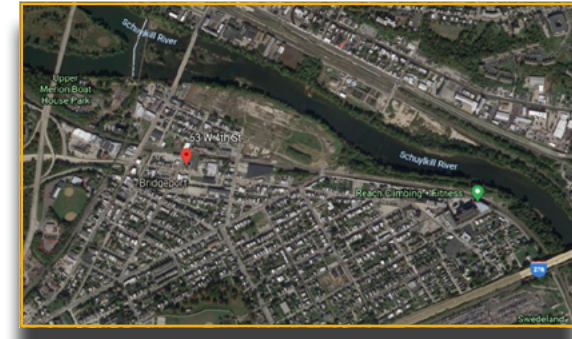
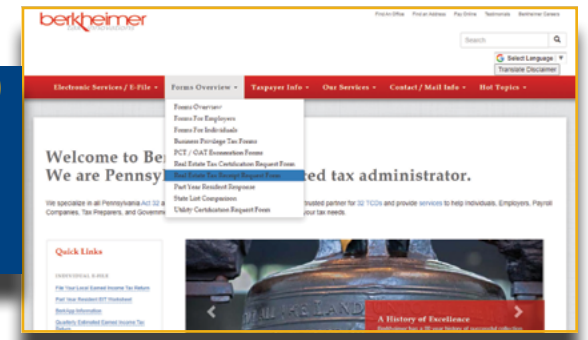
616 Germantown Pike
 Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
 (610) 825-3535
 Mon-Fri
 8:30am-4:30pm



WHITEMARSH CONTRACTED WITH BERKHEIMER

In-person payments are still accepted at the Whitemarsh Township Building, but we will no longer provide a receipt. Those who want a receipt should pay Berkheimer directly through any of these methods.

1 PAY ONLINE (WWW.HAB-INC.COM) OR BY PHONE (866-225-8451)
 Credit Card or Checking/Savings Account accepted.
 (a third-party fee will apply)
TO REQUEST A TAX RECEIPT:
 +Go To "FORMS OVERVIEW"
 +Click "REAL ESTATE TAX RECEIPT REQUEST FORM"



2 PAY IN-PERSON AT THE BRIDGEPORT BERKHEIMER OFFICE
 63 W. 4TH ST.
 BRIDGEPORT, PA 19403
 1-(866)-225-8451
OFFICE HOURS
 MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
 9:00AM - 12:30PM & 1:30PM - 4:00PM

3 MAIL PAYMENTS TO BERKHEIMER
 BERKHEIMER, PO BOX 25144
 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002-5144
TO RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT:
 You **MUST** include a stamped, self-addressed, envelope with your payment. **NO CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED!**

How To Mail a Self-Addressed-Stamped Envelope

Step 1 Address an Envelope to THE COMPANY and put a stamp on it #1

Step 2 Address an Envelope to YOURSELF and put a stamp on it AND put it into Envelope #1 #2

2023...A YEAR OF FUN AND SMILES!



PARKS & RECREATION

CONTACT US

2391 Harts Lane
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
(610) 828-7276
Mon-Fri
8:30am-4:30pm



As the New Year's ball dropped to start 2023, the Parks and Recreation Team had already begun planning for an exciting year of Fun and Smiles in Whitemarsh Township. The Parks and Recreation Team focused on the importance that parks, recreation, and open spaces play as a key component in the community and implemented safe and accessible year-round programs, activities, and special events that were inclusive for people of all ages and abilities. These diverse offerings addressed priority issues of physical and mental health and wellness, the environment and park green spaces, and growing through recreation, parks, and play.

Winter began with the 6th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Clothing Drive Fundraiser. Whitemarsh residents seized the opportunity to benefit the non-profit charity Colonial Neighborhood Council and Township Day by donating 601 bags, weighing an amazing 6,507 lbs. To encourage the public to have Fun and Smiles with outdoor healthy engagements, the Department held the seek-and-find for Magic McSnow-Flake and Crystal Northfrost in the Parks, a visit from our own famous groundhog Whitemarsh Will, and Valentine's Day for our youngest community members. The Connecting Exceptional People program for adults with special abilities was held in conjunction with the William Jeanes Memorial Library and had a Fire and Ice event that marveled the group in attendance. Another bright addition of the New Year was the new Township LED informational sign that was installed at the

marquee intersection of Germantown Pike and Joshua Road, allowing a revolving series of helpful information to reach residents about community events. At the end of Winter, the Whitemarsh Athletic Association held their annual meeting highlighted by a presentation from guest speaker Liz Bland who spoke on "Coaching Mindfulness".

Warm weather in March allowed Spring to burst with energy and activities. The Department held our annual Shamrocks in the Parks engagement, Teenie Shamrocks, Mini-Spring Fling, and our always-popular Annual Spring Shredding Day. At Shredding Day, the community helped the environment through the recycling of shredded paper in the 4-hour event. The Township was able to save the equivalent of 242 trees, 57,000 kilowatts of energy, 42.75 cubic yards of landfill space, and 99,750 gallons of water. In addition, the Township partnered with Colonial Canopy Trees to Celebrate Arbor Day and plant an array of trees in the Park System throughout the year. Furthermore, the Township worked with Red Tail Restoration and Land Management to address invasives and plant native species in Township Open Spaces and assisted our community Trash Mob Team to perform trash collection and help beautify our roadways. New programs that included Cupcake Decorating Classes, Survival School, and Quidditch Class – each explored new areas of recreation for residents.

Last but not least, April brought us the signature Township Day event that had over 7,500 people in attendance for vendors, games, inflatables, rides, music, and food at the Victory Field Complex at Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School. There was Fun and Smiles everywhere!

With warm temperatures, over 400 children and families enjoyed a live music concert and food on the basketball courts at Miles Park as the sun would set and Summer began. Our yearly staple summer camps Cedar Grove Park (ages 3-5 – DHS Childcare Licensed) and Miles Park (ages 6-14) provided a wonderful outlet to countless kids and parents alike with structured themed days, games, and trips to local attractions bringing Fun and Smiles to our campers. The specialty camps (chess, science, sports, art, theatre, etc.) in our parks, fields, and facilities flourished like never before. Our "Movies in the Parks" series was enjoyed over the summer months sitting on a blanket under the stars.

The Township was also honored to be advised that we received a Montgomery County 2040 Grant in the amount of \$200,000 for the Wells Street Parking Lot and Pedestrian Bridge that will be implemented in forthcoming years. Our traditional 4th of July Parade was held with over 90 participant groups and thousands of parade-goers enjoying the celebration of our nation's birthday.

Great news followed the Township into the Fall when the Township was humbled to learn that we were awarded a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant for the Magical Miles Park Playground in the amount of \$200,000. The new playground will replace the existing structure and include ADA accessible pathways and a solar cell phone charging station. The project is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2025. Autumn also saw the continuation of the popular Eat and Enjoy Senior Socials with Streetside BBQ providing food and super entertainment via musical and magic acts bringing Fun and Smiles to our older adults. We also saw the expansion of the After-School Fun Club Program to the Miles Park Building and the inclusion of busing from the Whitemarsh Elementary School. The award-winning Witches of Whitemarsh hayrides entertained over 600 residents during the spooky season. Lastly, with Pickleball Court lines installed on the basketball court at Koontz Park, the Department held our first Pickleball instructional classes.

As frost and the holidays were upon us, the Department proudly finished the DCNR Miles Park Basketball Court Rehabilitation, and it looks incredible! The Township was able to complete the project with a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant in the amount of \$219,000. The Township also completed the Greenhouse Building renovation with big thanks to the Public Works Department. Winter brought season's greetings with the community Holiday Displays at the Miles Park Building bringing Fun and Smiles to onlookers. The Gingerbread House Decorating Contest was well received by families and has become a tradition in December. The 4th Annual "Light Up Whitemarsh" home decorating contest was a success and provided residents with a route of homes to safely drive-by and enjoy the lights. The annual excursion to New York City and Radio City Music Hall Holiday Spectacular was a sell-out and a joy for all.

As the seasons change, the Department would like to thank our many great corporate and community partners in 2023 for serving as a foundation for our success. In addition, we would like to thank the Police, Public Works, Finance, and Administration Departments at the Township, as it takes a complete team to execute our Parks and Recreation year-round programs and events. We appreciate the guidance of the Parks and Recreation Board to achieve our goals. Most importantly, we extend our gratitude to the Board of Supervisors for their leadership and support and to allow our Department to carry out our mission safely and proactively and enhance the quality of life to our residents through sharing Parks and Recreation Fun and Smiles!

Best always,

*The Whitemarsh Township
Parks & Recreation Team*



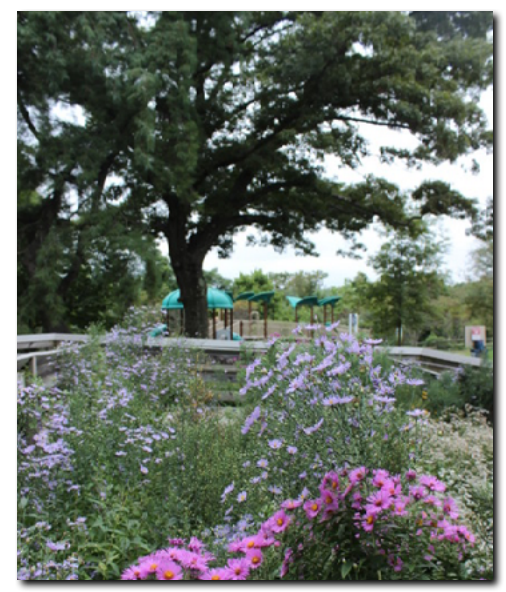


HISTORIC HOPE LODGE

553 South Bethlehem Pike
Fort Washington, PA 19034



Growing a Better Habitat: NATIVE PLANTS IN KOONTZ PARK



The Park:
Our Township's Koontz Park, at 2391 Harts Lane, is a haven for nature! The seed was sown in 2006 when plans for the park began with the mindset of demonstrating environmentally sound design of public spaces. Looking back, so much has been accomplished!

The Greenhouse:
A greenhouse, existing on the site at the time, was put to good use by a dedicated group of volunteers. Over many years, volunteers grew thousands of native plants which they installed in several gardens throughout the park, and in other areas around our Township. Today, the greenhouse is used by local Community Garden members, who donate a portion of their annual vegetable harvest to Colonial Neighborhood Council. In addition, The Township and the Parks and Recreation Department has worked with the master Gardener's program of the Penn State extension to cultivate plants and also offer the community environmental education.

Wildlife Habitat:
Landscaping with native trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials has been a focus at Koontz Park since its inception. These plants provide much needed habitat for native wildlife while demonstrating to Township residents how native plants can be included in their own landscaping. Native plants are incredibly important for maintaining healthy ecosystems! A healthy ecosystem is one that is well balanced, where each species benefits the ecosystem without one species overwhelming the others. Many native insects depend on native plant species as the only suitable food source for their offspring. Non-native plants simply can't support healthy, diverse insect populations necessary for supporting birds and other animals.



Improvements are underway! With the help of Red Tail Restoration & Land Management, invasive species are being removed in the stormwater basin and natural areas of the park. The Township and the Shade Tree Commission has also partnered with Colonial Canopy Trees, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, to supplement the native tree plantings throughout the park, as they have in several other locations around the Township.

Volunteers at Koontz Park Native Gardens:
Since 2008, many different volunteers have participated in a variety of projects at the park. Volunteers continue to meet weekly (weather permitting) to tend the Koontz Park Native Gardens, from Spring through Fall. New volunteers – beginners and experts alike – are always welcome. Come and learn together about native species, and how they grow and connect with wildlife.

If you are interested in getting more information, please contact Karen at knemeth28@gmail.com or 610-405-4269.

Historic Hope Lodge, located on Bethlehem Pike near Skippack Pike, readies itself for another year with a full calendar of events for 2024. For those not familiar with the historic Hope Lodge mansion, it was built between 1743 and 1748 on ground originally deeded from William Penn. It is a beautiful example of early Georgian architecture that has to be seen to fully appreciate.

The property, which is a state historic site, is a peaceful place encompassing 42 acres that has much to offer our community. The property is open during daylight hours for passive recreation including walking, hiking, bird watching, and just relaxing. For those that love flowers, there is a beautiful formal garden that is a favored spot where many couples have made their marriage vows. The Friends of Hope Lodge, the volunteer group that manages the site, conducts guided tours of the mansion on Sundays from April through October, where you will learn about local history and architecture. Additionally, Hope Lodge hosts events of general interest that include the popular Cars and Motorcycles of England Show, Ambler Symphony Orchestra Concert on the Lawn, Second Sunday Beer Gardens, Tavern Night, Halloween Lantern tours, and Holidays at Hope Lodge.

The signature event of the year, held on the first Saturday of November, is the 1777 Whitemarsh Encampment Reenactment, which celebrates the time in November 1777 when the Continental Army encamped near Hope Lodge. Each year, British and Continental soldiers face off for a mock skirmish in the fields behind the mansion. It's a colorful reenactment of real fighting that took place in the vicinity almost 250 years ago.

Information on these and other events are available on the Friends website, WWW.HISTORICHOPELODGE.ORG, are advertised by Whitemarsh Parks & Recreation and local media and, on Facebook and Instagram.



WWW.HISTORICHOPELODGE.ORG
(215) 646-1595

PLANNING & ZONING

2023 Subdivision & Land Approvals

SLD #10-22 Rebecca Padro & Karen Schrader (Montgomery Animal Hospital)

827 S. Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown - Parking and related improvements

This plan was approved for Conditional Preliminary and Final Minor Land Development by the Board of Supervisors on September 14th, 2023. The plan involves parking expansion and improvement on the lot with the Animal Hospital as well as an adjacent lot more recently purchased by them that was previously used for a PECO substation; a new fenced dog walk area was also included in the project. Much of both parcels are within the floodplain of Oreland Run; Zoning Hearing Board relief therefore had to be obtained to implement the plan. No changes were made to the Animal Hospital building as part of this project.

SLD #11-22 Alliance HP Spring Mill Property, LLC

Spring Mill Corporate Center, 1100 E. Hector Street, Conshohocken - Land Development Waiver

The Board of Supervisors approved a Land Development Waiver on January 3, 2023 for outdoor dining for a new restaurant to be located within the complex, at the corner of E. Hector and Lee Streets. In addition to an indoor eating area, the new restaurant, 'Goat's Beard', would install a two-tiered outdoor patio/deck over an existing paved patio and loading dock.



SLD #02-23 Lance and Emily Bachmann

6114 and 6202 Sheaff Lane, Fort Washington - Lot Consolidation

A Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision Plan allowing the consolidation of two lots was approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 11, 2023. The consolidated lots contain approximately 16.2 acres. An existing home is located on the lot at 6202 Sheaff Lane; a pond and some minor accessory uses are located on 6112 Sheaff Lane. Following consolidation, the new lot will continue to be used as a single-family property.

SLD #03-23 MileOne Fort Washington, LLC

BMW Automobile Dealership at 500-512 Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Washington

A Preliminary Minor Subdivision and Major Land Development Plan was granted conditional approval by the Board of Supervisors on August 10, 2023. The project involves the consolidation of four lots (consisting of five parcels), the removal of two buildings, and a 4-story addition to rear of the sales facility in which all functions of the dealership would take place. Use of a multi-story building was proposed because the entire site is in the floodplain of Sandy Run; the floodplain presence made certain relief necessary which was obtained from the Zoning Hearing Board.



Also proposed is an improved access plan where five existing driveways would be consolidated into two, with the main access driveway aligning with the signalized intersection at Commerce Drive. A significant stormwater management plan is part of the project. Additionally, an easement is provided along the rear of the tract for a future section of the Montgomery County Cross County Trail.

SLD #04-23 The Miquon School ("Heart of the Campus")

2025 Harts Lane, Conshohocken -

Construction of New Classroom & Library Building

The Board of Supervisors granted Conditional Preliminary/Final Minor Land Development approval on November 9, 2023. The plan involves the removal of two existing buildings and replacement with one new classroom and library building in the center of the school's approximate 9.5-acre campus. The campus is challenging due to its steep slopes and floodplain and riparian corridor issues; certain relief had to be obtained from the Zoning Ordinance's floodplain and riparian corridor regulations from the Zoning Hearing Board. The new building is a replacement for the two removed; no additional staff or students are proposed as a result of its construction.



PLANNING & ZONING

SLD #06-23 Highlands Historical Society

7001 Sheaff Lane, Fort Washington - Lot Line Adjustments

The Board of Supervisors granted Conditional Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision approval on September 14, 2023 to a 4-lot plan that preserves this approximate 50-acre site from development. The subdivision consists of three lots, each of 10 or more acres, which after transfer to the Historical Society, were then earmarked for purchase by buyers, each of whom would agree to a conservation easement held by Whitemarsh Township, allowing one single-family home (and accessory uses) per lot. The remaining 19-acre lot was also transferred to the Highlands Historical Society and added to its existing 40-acre estate. This lot is subject to a conservation easement held by Whitemarsh Township, preventing any development and providing for public access.



2023 Conditional Use Approvals

CU #01-23 454 Germantown Pike Associates, LLC

454 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, Residential Conversion

On March 9, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved a conditional use for the conversion of the main building at this address, from professional office to five apartments. This property is located in the VC-1 District (Village Commercial, Subdistrict 1).

CU #02-23 505A-507 Germantown Pike Associates, LLC

507 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, Residential Conversion

The Board of Supervisors approved a conditional use for a residential conversion on August 10, 2023. The approval would allow the existing office space on two floors to be converted into 5 apartments; one additional apartment would remain, for a total of six apartments post-conversion. This building is part of the condominium development known as 'The Knolls at Lafayette Hill'. This property is located in the VC-1 District (Village Commercial, Subdistrict 1).

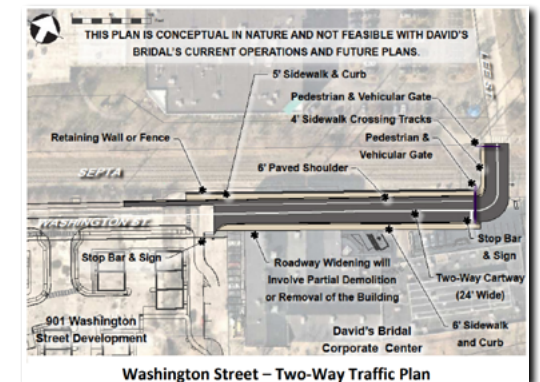
2023 Approved Ordinance Amendments

SLD #01-23 Amendments to Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)

On March 9, 2023, the Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance #1023 which amended certain definitions in the SALDO. The definitions amended are ones that also appear in Chapter 55 of the Township Code, Tree Protection Standards. The purpose of the amended definitions was to have both ordinances consistent in the use of these terms. Chapter 55 had been amended and re-enacted in December 2022.

SLD #05-23 Amendment to the Official Map

The Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance #1031 on September 14, 2023. That ordinance amended the Township's Official Map to show an extension of Washington Street from its current terminus at the eastern edge of 901 Washington Street to tie into the southern end of Lee Street. The purpose of this extension is to eliminate the dead-end nature of Washington Street; this extension has been recommended in a number of Township plans, the most recent of which is the 2022 Spring Mill Area Multi-Modal and Land Use Study. A conceptual drawing of the extension from this Study is shown here.



PLANNING & ZONING

RIDGE PIKE PROJECT STATUS REPORT



Section D (Crescent Avenue to Northwestern Avenue):

The project is now in Stage 3 (continuation of road widening, just on the opposite side of the roadway), with only one lane open in both directions throughout the entire project area. The County switched into Stage 3 beginning between Manor Road and Northwestern Avenue in order to continue placing stormwater and curb on the south side of Ridge Pike. PECO Gas finished lowering their gas main at the intersection of Barren Hill Road and Ridge Pike before the end of December 2023 and we were able to open up Barren Hill Road before the holidays. Unfortunately, Barren Hill Road will need to close again sometime during Spring 2024 in order to shorten the length of Stage 4 in an effort to keep the project on its current schedule. Church Road was closed in early January and will remain closed through March 2024. Both Church Road and Barren Hill Road will NOT be closed at the same time. If you are not signed up already for Project email notices, please visit WWW.RIDGEPIKEPROJECT.COM to do so. The County continues to anticipate substantial completion of Section D of the Ridge Pike Improvement Project by the end of 2024. Updates and detours will be posted regularly on their Project website.



Section C (Harmon Road to Crescent Avenue):

The County is actively progressing the final design stage of this section of the project, and have begun the right-of-way phase. Some residents may have received a Notice of Intent to Enter (NOITE) letter from the County. Most of the same residents that received our NOITE letter in the Fall of 2023 also received letters from a "Zacheus Law Firm" with right of way (ROW) "plans" claiming that the County was going to take their property and offered their services to defend them. The plans this law firm shared with residents are not official ROW plans. The County is currently in the process of finalizing their ROW and construction plans, and residents will be hearing from their representatives in the coming months. If Section C's construction will directly affect your property, a County representative will be in contact with you during the final design process. Construction for Section C is anticipated to begin before 2030.

For more information, and to signup for update notifications, please visit the County's website at WWW.RIDGEPIKEPROJECT.COM. If you'd like to reach out to the construction management team directly you can contact them at: **484-534-8188**.

SPRING MILL AREA ZONING UPDATE

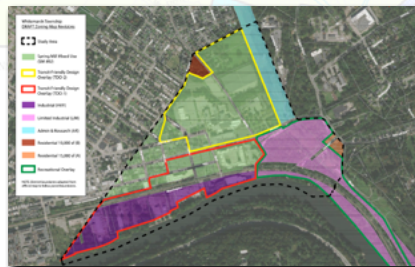
Beginning in the Fall of 2022, the Township's consultant, Bergmann, a firm of architects, planners, and engineers (now rebranded as Colliers Engineering & Design), began work on a zoning analysis and potential revision options for the Spring Mill area of the Township. The consultant worked with staff and a Steering Committee that was originally established in 2021 to implement a number of zoning recommendations from the Township's 2020 'Selective Comprehensive Plan Update'. The zoning revisions for the Spring Mill area were specifically designed to be appropriate for underdeveloped and other parcels identified in the more recently adopted **Spring Mill Multi-Modal and Land Use Study**, a further amendment of the Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2022. This Spring Mill area zoning work is being done based upon the land use policies in that study as well as those contained in the 2020 Selective Update. A final draft of a new Spring Mill Mixed Use District was completed last Fall, which would replace much of the existing HVY Heavy Industrial District in this area. Also completed is a 'companion' new Transit-Friendly Design Overlay District draft, that would cover much of the new Spring Mill Mixed Use District (replacing the current Riverfront Development Overlay District). The Overlay District contains provisions in recognition of the proximity of the Spring Mill (SEPTA) Train Station, and extends down to the river. Since The Fall, staff and the Township Solicitor have been reviewing the draft ordinances, making necessary adjustments and edits.

These proposed Spring Mill zoning is on our website in the 2024 Subdivision and Land Development List: ([HTTPS://WWW.WHITEMARSHWP.ORG/606/2024-SUBDIVISION-LAND-DEVELOPMENT-LIST](https://www.whitemarshwp.org/606/2024-SUBDIVISION-LAND-DEVELOPMENT-LIST)) The proposed zoning map, alongside the current zoning map for the area, are shown here for reference.

The drafts of the zoning amendments and the proposed map will be reviewed by the Township Planning Commission at a future meeting; check the agendas on the website to see when they will be discussed.



EXISTING



PROPOSED



BUILDING, PERMITTING & LICENSING

2023 SUMMARY REPORT

RESIDENTIAL

PERMIT TYPE	2023
Alterations / Additions	109
Cell Tower Equipment	0
Covered Patios / Decks	13
Driveways / Walkway / Steps / Retaining Walls	18
Fences	68
Misc. Temporary Permits	0
New Dwellings	48
Pools	7
Roofing & Siding	191
Sheds / Accessory Building / Pergola / Gazebo	10
Sheds, Decks & Patios	7
Solar Panels	0
Temporary Dumpster / PSU / Trailer	32
Uncovered Patios / Decks	32
TOTAL	535

NON-RESIDENTIAL

PERMIT TYPE	2023
Alterations / Additions	39
Cell Tower Equipment	0
Covered Patios / Decks	0
Demolition	3
Driveways / Walkway / Steps / Retaining Walls	1
Electrical	240
Fences	4
Fire Protection	0
Mechanical	200
Misc. Temporary Permits	1
New Construction	0
Plumbing	200
Pools	0
Roofing & Siding	13
Sheds / Accessory Building / Pergola / Gazebo	2
Sheds / Accessory Structure / Windmills	2
Signs	13
Solar Panels	0
Temporary Dumpster / PSU / Trailer	3
Uncovered Patios / Decks	1
Use and Occupancy	60
TOTAL	783



PUBLIC WORKS

In keeping with the Township's Policy Goal of Sustainable Design and Environmental Stewardship, the Public Works Department ordered their first electric mower!

After hours of research, conversations, and test runs, the decision was made to purchase one electric mower to see how it holds up against long days and steep slopes. If this cutting-edge technology proves to be a success, they may consider purchasing more in the future. Aside from the environmental benefit of reducing air pollution, this machine will also reduce noise pollution and time spent on maintenance.

They are also considering purchasing a couple of electric chainsaws.

The Public Works Department maintains all township-owned buildings, parks and open spaces; streets, bridge, storm water conveyance systems; and all township automotive truck and construction equipment.



Public Works Personnel Pictured: Gary Hill, Grounds Maintenance Foreman; Robert Williamson

Sitting in Electric Mower: Sam Zrillo, Assistant Planner (Twp./EAB Liaison)



Non-Emergency Phone Number:
610-825-6530

For ALL Emergencies, Dial 9-1-1

2023 was a year of change for the Whitemarsh Township Police Department. Lt. Jeff Nowak retired early in the year and five officers earned promotions in the months that followed. This retirement and these promotions were just the beginning of changes that will occur over the next few years with the Police Department. At mid-year in 2024, Det. Sgt. James Cotter will retire after 38 years of dedicated service to the Whitemarsh Community. This retirement will lead to more promotions, and more change.

While retirements are bittersweet, they are well deserved. The promotions that have and will occur after these retirements will be earned and are deserved by the dedicated men and women that will receive them. Finally, as our members move into retirement, we are responsible to find the next generation of men and women that will earn the right to fill the ranks of the Whitemarsh Township Police Department.

Since our founding in 1930, this is how your police department has operated. As residents, you should see new faces in our police cars and in the community, and you should look back fondly on the police officers that you may have known in earlier years, but, as residents, you should never worry whether your police department will be there for you. You should never worry that our leaders are not strong and ready. You should never worry that that new face is not prepared to help you. And you should not worry that we will not be there when you need us.

For the last 94 years that has been the legacy that we have built and that is the legacy that we will continue to honor.

Thank you for your support.

Christopher P. Ward

Chief



CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

Unfortunately, we were unable to host the 16th Citizens Police Academy in 2023. We hope to have the CPA up and running again in the Fall of 2024. The purpose of the CPA is to give residents an inside look at the police department. Participants are introduced to all the members of the police department and can learn about our various units and the responsibilities of a Whitemarsh Township police officer. Participants can have a better understanding of how the police department works, build support between them and the officer, and take their knowledge back to their neighborhoods where they can enhance the quality of neighborhood life and understanding of the police to the stakeholders of the community.

If you are interested in attending our Citizens Police Academy in the Fall of 2024 or would like to receive more information on this program, please contact Community Policing Sgt. Michael Kolar at MKOLAR@WHITEMARSHPD.ORG.

COP CAMP

Our 23rd Cop Camp Program was held in June of 2023. Cop Camp is a one-week camp that we host at the Police Department for 10- and 11-year-old children for one of the last two weeks of June, depending on school schedules, for the last 22 years. During this week the campers can meet all our police officers, our staff and our K9s. The children get to experience the various police functions that the Whitemarsh Township Police Department performs, including crime scene processing, court testimony, mock traffic stops, a mock vehicle accident, a SWAT demonstration and more. We also expose the children to some of our working partners, to include the Montgomery County Bomb Squad, the Whitemarsh Community Ambulance, both Barren Hill and Spring Mill Fire Companies, our District Justice and District Court, and PennStar's Medical Helicopter.

In 2023, 29 children had the opportunity to attend Cop Camp. Sgt. Michael Kolar led the cadre of Cop Camp instructors that included Cpl. Matthew Stadulis, Cpl. Vincent Mundy, Det. Stephen Kerns, Ofc. John Hartman, Ofc. Jon Cooney, and Ofc. Todd Burton.



HIRING

On January 16, 2024, Ofc. Conor Perdoch was hired as a police officer with the Whitemarsh Township Police Department. Ofc. Perdoch is a 2018 graduate of Pennsbury High School, a 2013 graduate of West Chester University, and a 2023 graduate of the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police Academy. Ofc. Perdoch has been assigned to the Field Training Program with "C" Squad, under the supervision of Field Training Officer Colin Yabor.

GRADUATION

Lt. Amanda Johnson graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command on Friday, February 16, 2024. This police executive level training, that is recognized nationally as one of the top police executive training opportunities, was hosted by the Bucks County Public Safety Training Facility. Lt. Johnson attended this ten-week program with 38 other police supervisors from the Delaware Valley. Lt. Johnson will bring her newly learned skills back to Whitemarsh Township to aid in her duties as the Administrative Lieutenant of our police department.



Pictured left to right: Honorable Matthew Weintraub, Court of Common Pleas, Bucks County; Lt. Amanda Johnson; and Michelle Camden, Executive Director of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety

PROMOTIONS

In the Fall Newsletter, we reported on the promotions of Lt. Amanda Johnson, Sgt. Mark Williams, and Cpl. Michael Hannon. After the Fall Newsletter was published, we had two more promotions within the Police Department. On November 8, 2023, Cpl. Matthew Stadulis was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and he assumed command of "B" Squad in our Patrol Division. Ofc. Christopher Hunsberger was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and he will be the Corporal for "B" Squad.



Pictured left to right: Chief Ward, Supervisor Vince Manuele, Lt. Johnson; Chair Fran McCusker, Cpl. Hunsberger, Sgt. Stadulis, Supervisor Jacy Toll, Vice Chair; Laura Boyle-Nester, and Lt. Mack

YEARS OF SERVICE

The Whitemarsh Township Police would like to recognize the following personnel for milestone work anniversaries with Whitemarsh Township:

- Chief Christopher Ward.....35 years
- Lt. Brian Mack.....25 years
- Sgt. Samuel Ditzler.....25 years
- Det. Craig Cubbin.....25 years
- Ofc. Richard Stemple.....25 years
- Sgt. Mark Williams.....20 years
- Ofc. Stephen Cline.....20 years
- Ofc. James Sweeney.....20 years

SERVE - PROTECT - DEFEND

The mission of the Whitemarsh Township Police Department is to tirelessly protect the citizens of our great community, to serve those citizens without prejudice, and to defend our community under any circumstance.

The unmitigated commitment of each member of this department reflects the true nature of the men and women who demonstrate exemplary conduct on- and off-duty. Through our service to the community, we promote the quality of life and ensure justice.

The men and women of the Whitemarsh Township Police Department strive to make Whitemarsh Township a great place to live and work.

This goal shall be accomplished each and every day with honesty, respect and integrity.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please be sure to find the Whitemarsh Township Police Department on [Facebook](#) and [Nextdoor](#).





For Fire Plan Reviews, Fire Protection Permits, and General Fire Safety or Questions, please contact: Andrew Thomas, Fire Marshal & Emergency Mgmt Coordinator: ATHOMAS@WHITEMARSHWP.ORG - (484) 594-2614

For Fire Inspections, Smoke Detector Installations, and Fire Safety Presentations, please contact: Nate DiDonato, Fire Inspector: NDIDONATO@WHITEMARSHWP.ORG - (484) 594-2615

SMOKE ALARMS **SAVE LIVES**

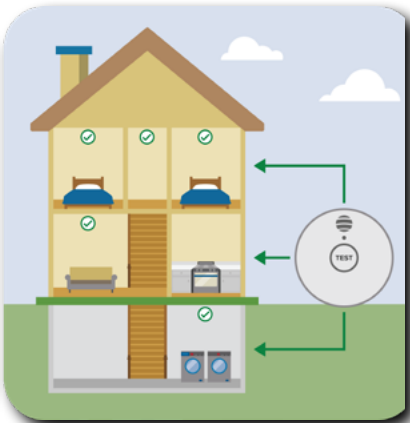
Smoke alarms are needed in your home! They should be in the following locations:



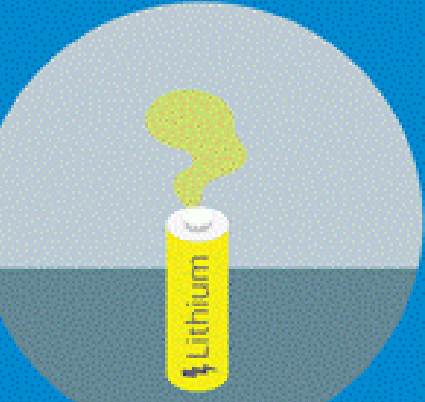
ONE IN EACH SLEEPING AREA (i.e., Each Person's Bedroom)



OUTSIDE OF SLEEPING AREAS, LIKE IN A HALLWAY




ONE ON EACH FLOOR



Be aware of lithium battery fire safety.


Stop using them if you notice an odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking or odd noises.



TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

Whitemarsh Township is prone to flooding. **NEVER** drive through water, it may be **DEEPER** than it appears!

Floodgates and barricades are put in place to protect you. Do **NOT** go around them!



Firefighters understand that pets are a part of your family!

If your pet does not make it out of the house with you, let first responders know right away, so they can search them out!

READYMONTCo

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR READYMONTCo?

ReadyMontCo is a mass notification system used by county and local Emergency Management organizations to provide immediate and real time info to residents during emergencies.

As a participant of ReadyMontCo, you will receive alerts based on where your home is, as well as your current location! The alerts can be modified to fit your needs, such as: Phone calls, Texts, or E-mails.

To Sign Up, Visit:

[HTTPS://WWW.MONTCOPA.ORG/3311/READYMONTCO](https://www.montcopa.org/3311/readymontco)



TOUCH-A-TRUCK



See your favorite vehicles up close & personal! Jump behind the wheel & learn about the people & vehicles that help build, protect, & serve our community!

The fee is \$2.00 per person ages 2+ (including adults). Pre-registration is required due to limited parking. Time slots are hourly, and the event runs 11:00am-2:00pm on Saturday, September 21st, 2024.



Miles Park Lower Parking
374 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444



WWW.WHITEMARSHPARKS.ORG (610) 828-7276

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THIS EVENT?
CONTACT EMOORE@WHITEMARSHWP.ORG

1704

WHITEMARSH COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION



DONATE

[HTTPS://WWW.WHITEMARSHEMS.ORG](https://www.whitemarsheems.org)



PLEASE JOIN OUR 2023-2024 SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE!

[HTTPS://WWW.AMBULANCEBILLINGOFFICE.COM/SUBSCRIPTIONS/WCAA](https://www.ambulancebillingoffice.com/subscriptions/wcaa)



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Our current ambulance facility is outdated and no longer meets the needs of our growing community. The facility has significant maintenance issues, and does not have the space or equipment we need to provide the best possible care for our patients.

We are asking for your support to make this new ambulance facility a reality. Please register your support or consider a donation to WCAA. Any donation, no matter how small, will make a difference!



For years, we've sent this important message about a critical 9-1-1 call and how crucial your support is. We also want you to know other ways we can support our community. Whitemarsh Ambulance is dedicated to our community beyond the dispatch for 9-1-1.



We are willing and able to aid our community with CPR, first aid and other classes aimed at keeping us all safe. Set up a class or come meet our staff including Teddy, our emotion support/certified therapy, hypoallergenic goldendoodle. Please reach out to us at WCAA318@WHITEMARSHEMS.ORG, or call us at **610-828-3056**.

In 2023, we had a record year, handling 4,979 calls!

1704

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER (MS4) SYSTEM

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE TOWNSHIP PREVENT CONTAMINATING OUR WATERBODIES

It's easy to be involved in helping to make sure the only thing that stormwater contributes to our water is water. Stormwater runoff picks up pollution from land surfaces such as pavements, yards, driveways, and roofs. Efforts to control stormwater pollution must consider individual, household, and public behaviors and activities that can generate pollution from these surfaces. Remember, the rainwater that drains from the roadways and your property in Whitemarsh Township eventually makes its way to Wissahickon Creek and/or the Schuylkill River.

These common individual behaviors have the potential to generate stormwater pollution:

- Littering
- Improper disposal of trash and recyclables
- Improper disposal of pet-waste
- Applying lawn-chemicals
- Washing cars
- Changing motor-oil on paved driveways
- Improper disposal of leftover paint and household chemicals

HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH POLLUTION OF STORMWATER RUNOFF?

- Contact the Township to report any erosion and sediment, stormwater runoff or other pollution issues, whether from construction sites, businesses, or other locations throughout the Township
- Organize a neighborhood pollution watch
- Participate in a stream or creek cleanup within the Township.
- Plant trees along a stream or creek
- Practice these healthy household habits:
- Use fertilizers sparingly
- Use pesticides only when necessary
- Do not blow grass clippings or leaves into the street or inlets
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down paved areas
- Compost or recycle yard waste
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of properly
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved area
- Service your car regularly to prevent leaks onto paved areas
- Dispose of household hazardous waste at designated collection locations
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled or recyclable products whenever possible



The Township website is a valuable resource for stormwater related information: [HTTPS://WWW.WHITEMARSHWP.ORG/275/STORMWATER-MANAGEMENT](https://www.whitemarshwp.org/275/STORMWATER-MANAGEMENT).

This webpage contains useful information regarding the NPDES MS4 program. Several links to EPA and PADEP (the Federal and State agencies responsible for this program) are provided as well as numerous other educational and informational resources.

All residents and businesses within the Township are encouraged to review this information and to help in Township efforts to keep our water clean.

retrievr

REGAIN YOUR HOME SPACE!

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JOIN THE #RETRIEVINGCHALLENGE

#REDUCE #REUSE #RETRIEVE



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BARREN HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

647 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

(610)825-2250 • www.barrenhill.com

Proudly serving Whitmarsh Township and our Neighboring Communities since 1915

2024 OPERATIONS OFFICERS

- Fire Chief:** Chris Schwartz
- Deputy Chief:** Renard Rose
- Assistant Chief:** Scott Yoder
- Battalion Chief:** Bucky Swider
- Captain:** Jamie Viall
- Captain:** Shaun Maher
- Lieutenant:** Pat Gaffney
- Safety Officer:** Tim Tygh
- Chief Engineer:** Tim Lyons
- Fire Police Captain:** Scott Rotenbury

2024 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

- President:** Renard Rose
- Vice President:** Bucky Swider
- Secretary:** Semeion Hall
- Treasurer:** Eli Anselm

2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Chairman:** Shel Klein
- Members:** Dave Cox, Mike Gaffney, Pat Gaffney, Jamie Viall, Jon Walker, Scott Yoder

The Officers and Members of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company look forward to serving our neighbors and our Community of Whitmarsh Township. We appreciate the continued support!

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

2024 marks the seventeenth (17th) year that I have proudly accepted the title of Fire Chief of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company. The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company is not the story of one, though. Rather, our Fire Company is the story of the many who have dedicated their lives to volunteering in their community since 1915. In the most inopportune times, our volunteers have committed to leaving what they are doing and responding to our neighbor's emergency, never asking for anything in return.

There are not enough good things to say about our fire company's dedicated men and women. From every neighborhood, our volunteers are committed to serving their neighbors, their friends, and their community!

The volunteer fire service is coming to a crossroads. Community changes, societal changes, and less time means that fewer and fewer people are willing to volunteer. The cost of a volunteer fire company is minimal to the municipal budget compared to a fully paid department. Not everyone in our company is a firefighter battling fires, performing rescues, or responding to other emergencies. There are fire police officers controlling pedestrian and vehicular traffic and fundraising and fire prevention opportunities. There is something for everyone. Make 2024 the year that you join our family.

Check out WWW.BARRENHILL.COM/VOLUNTEER for more information!

As we look to 2024, we are excited about what is on the horizon. We look forward to a fire-safe Whitmarsh Township. We look forward to continuing to build our partnerships with our community stakeholders. We look forward to continuing to serve our friends and our neighbors.

~ Chris Schwartz, Fire Chief ~

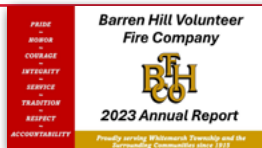
BHVFC 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Officers and Members of the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company are pleased to offer our **2023 Annual Report**. Throughout this report, you will see our volunteers' unwavering dedication and commitment to service. Our volunteers are your neighbors and friends. In your most critical moments, our volunteers are ready, willing, and able to respond to your call for service.

This year's annual report includes twelve volunteer spotlights. In those pieces, we proudly introduce you to the men and women of our organization who are serving you and our community. Many incredible achievements by our volunteers should not go unrecognized either and are shared throughout the report.

In 2023, we initiated the Reaching New Heights campaign; our effort to raise \$2 million for a new Tower Ladder to serve the community.

The Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company is a humble family built on a foundation of pride, honor, traditions, and integrity. We look forward to serving you in 2024 and beyond!



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

In February 2023, the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company launched a fundraising campaign to raise funds to replace our aging 1997 Tower Ladder. The campaign, "Reaching New Heights," is our call to YOU, the citizens and business owners of Whitmarsh Township, for help.

After the first year of the campaign, community support has raised just over 3% of our goal. Shockingly, only 10% of the nearly 6,000 campaign solicitations were returned. While we understand everyone's financial position is different, we make a plea with you and ask you, what is the value of state-of-the-art firefighting equipment, protecting you, your family, and your neighbors for the next 25 years? Thank you to those who have contributed to the campaign. We have a long way to go, but we are confident that our Community will lift us up. Check out WWW.BARRENHILL.COM/DONATIONS for more information or to donate.

Donations for this campaign are tax-deductible and can be made by check or online using the QR codes. A donation of any amount will make a difference. Donors who give \$1,000 or more will receive special recognition for our new tower ladder during a community event.

We are excited to include our community in the Reaching New Heights campaign.



SEVEN MEMBERS ATTAIN FIREFIGHTER I CERTIFICATION IN 2023



Seven (7) Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company members attained their Firefighter I certification during the 2023 Spring and Fall semesters at the Montgomery County Fire Academy.

Firefighters GRANT ATHERHOLD, BETHSEBATH GEKONGE, MOKEIRA GEKONGE, MIKE MONAHAN, TIMMY MURPHY Jr., JOSHUA TIRADO and JAYSON YODER

The Firefighting I curriculum is more than 180 hours, spread over four semesters. Each member spent time in the classroom and participated in hands-on training. Following all of the training, they each passed a written test and practical applications to become certified.

The future is bright at the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company. The dedication and commitment of our volunteers never ends!

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY APPROVE PROPERTY TAX CREDITS FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



At the November 2023 Whitmarsh Township Board of Supervisors Meeting, the Board approved an ordinance authorizing a property tax credit of up to 100% for active volunteer firefighters. This small reward is intended to continue building the volunteer fire service ranks that have drastically dwindled in the last several decades.

Check out WWW.BARRENHILL.COM/VOLUNTEER to see how you can join our family and become eligible for Township and County property tax credits.

COME JOIN OUR FAMILY!

Do you know that the Fire Companies in Whitmarsh Township are operated nearly exclusively by Volunteers? While each Station has two career firefighters during the daytime hours and part-time coverage during the evening and weekends, all of our operations are supported by Volunteers.

Our Volunteers are just like you; We have families, work full-time jobs, coach Little League sports, help our kids with homework, do chores around the house, support other volunteer organizations, and the list goes on. Why not join our team? We can do it, and so can you!

Firefighters, Fire Police Officers, Junior Members, Administrative Members, Members for Fundraising & Recruitment; WE NEED YOUR HELP!

How can you help? Stop by and see us. Our family consists of people from all walks of life, from every neighborhood in Whitmarsh, and from different economic, social, and religious backgrounds. There is a job for everyone! We are accountants, businesspersons, doctors, retirees, IT specialists, college and high school students, schoolteachers, salespersons, police officers, career firefighters, business owners, and many others.

Our doors are open, and we invite you inside! Check out the QR code to take a virtual tour of our Station! After that, stop by and see us! You won't regret it!



OUR HALL IS OPEN

Looking for a place for your 1st Holy Communion party, wedding shower, baby shower, retirement party, birthday party or any other event? Look no further than the Hall at the Barren Hill Volunteer Fire Company. With room to accommodate more than 100 people, our Hall is the perfect place to hold your event! Contact our Hall Rental Manager at **484-362-9123** or online at WWW.BARRENHILL.COM/HALLRENTAL.





SPRING MILL FIRE COMPANY NO.1

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP - MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA - STATION 45
1210 EAST HECTOR STREET, CONSHOHOCKEN, PA 19428
610-825-1164
WWW.SPRINGMILLFIRE.COM



The perfect upscale venue for your special event!

When you're planning a wedding, birthday party, fundraiser, corporate event, holiday party, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, shower or any other event - contact Spring Mill Ballroom for the best event space in the area. You'll enjoy fantastic amenities and friendly service.

Our recently renovated 3,800 square foot ballroom will fit up to 225 seated guests. You and you guests will enjoy our large dance floor, state of the art kitchen, full bar with various beverage packages and additional service options.



Contact: Terrí Esposito - Ballroom Manager

1210 E. Hector Street
Conshohocken, PA 19428
610-283-2371
springmillballroom@gmail.com

COMMAND OFFICERS
 Fire Chief - Wayne Masters, Jr. (1988)
 Deputy Chief - John Pierce (2008)
 Assistant Chief - Gary Davis (1984)
 Lieutenant - Jeff Heil, Sr. (2002)
 Lieutenant - Rob Walls (2014)
 Lieutenant - John Warner (1992)
 Safety Officer - Joe Heil (1998)
 Chief Engineer - Carmen Lilick (2015)
 Fire Police Captain - Dave Hertzler (2002)

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVE TEAM LEADERSHIP
 Dive Captain - Joe Rogers (2019)
 Lieutenant - Ron Rossbach (2020)

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP
 President - John Pierce (2008)
 Vice President - Jeff Heil, Sr. (2002)
 Treasurer - Hal Kahn (1974)
 Secretary - John Warner (1992)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Co-Chair of the Board - Joe Rogers (2019)
 Paul Davis (1971)
 Dave Hertzler (2002)
 Joe Heil (1998)
 Steve Ambs (1983)
 Michael Center (2019)
 Liza Mattis (2016)
 Jennifer Krier (2003)

OVER 400 Combined total years of service

KID'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE FIREHOUSE

Celebrate your child's birthday with a once-in-a-lifetime experience! By renting a kid's party with the Spring Mill Fire Company, you gain access to our engine room filled with unique equipment and awe-inspiring fire trucks and tools. Bring your child, and up to 25 of their friends, siblings, or cousins, on a tour through our department and meet some of our active volunteer firefighters. With fun, educational demonstrations, and fire-centric toys to play with, your child will have an awesome experience to tell everyone at school.

<https://springmillfire.com/kids-birthday-parties/>

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

We are proud to recognize the following members who have recently joined SMFC to volunteer for our community.

- Jane Brandon-Brown
- Jon Comtois
- Kimberly Linette
- Hunter Masters
- Evan Montgomery
- Tyler Schiele
- Abigail Shoemaker
- Tyler Shoemaker
- Jose Velazquez.



WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!

<https://springmillfire.com/join-smfc/>

Donations are Appreciated



WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP BOARDS & COMMITTEES

The Board of Supervisors receives the assistance of various boards/commissions in the operations of the Township. The various boards/commissions are staffed by citizen volunteers who commit hours of their personal time and bring their talents and skills to the township government.

The following is a list of the Township's boards and commissions, and its members. If you would like to serve on any of these boards or commissions, please visit the Township website and submit a volunteer application.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Second and Fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at the Township Building. Residents can attend/participate IN-PERSON or VIRTUALLY.

Also televised LIVE on Whitemarsh TV (Comcast 965, Verizon 46), and LIVESTREAMED on the Township's YouTube Channel.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Third Wednesday of each alternating month (February, April, June, August, October, December) at 7:00pm. Locations will vary.

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Whitemarsh Authority Building (next to Public Works), 2015 Joshua Road, Lafayette Hill, PA.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Third Monday of every other month starting January at 7:00pm at the Township Building.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

First Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Township Building.

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD *(joint with Plymouth Township)*

Second Wednesday of each month at 8:00am at the Township Building.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Fourth Wednesday of every third month starting with January at 7:00pm at the Township Building.

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Fourth Monday of every other month starting with January at 7:00pm at the Township Building.

LIBRARY BOARD

Fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the William Jeanes Memorial Library, 4051 Joshua Road, Lafayette Hill, PA.

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

First Tuesday of every other month starting February at 7:00pm at Koontz Park.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Township Building.

ZONING HEARING BOARD

First Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm, plus the second Wednesday following (if needed), at 7:00pm at the Township Building.

Some meetings may be cancelled, rescheduled or relocated, so please check the Township website for the latest meeting schedule.

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(Updated as of March 21, 2024)

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Stephen J. Kaufman, *Chair*
Christopher L. Lane, *Vice-Chair*
Beth Howard
Stephen Malloy
Hugh G. Moulton
Richard Williamson

PLANNING COMMISSION

Aaron Kostyk, *Chair*
J. David Shula, PLS, *Vice-Chair*
Patrick Doran
Robert Dambman
Sherri Glantz Patchen
Scott Quitel
Elizabeth Shaw-Fink

VACANCY BOARD

Patrick Doran
Sara Erlbaum
Salam Ibrahim
Chris Solecki
Johanna Wood

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Ryan Hurley, *Chair*
Sharon Harvey, *Vice-Chair*
Mark Cratin
Megan Griffin-Shelley
Crystal Taylor

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Deborah Sheero, *Chair*
Debra Harris, *Vice-Chair*
Gordon Geasland
Leia Heritage
Karen Kabnick
James Tone

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Christian Fassbender, *Chair*
Natalie Borkowski, *Vice-Chair*
David D'Amore
Fran Kelly
Vera Kosabutski

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

Timothy Ferris, *Chair*
Jonathan Riesberg, *Vice-Chair*
Jori Broad
Jeanette Quirus
Gene Swider

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Kevin C. Kissling, *Chair*
Joanne S. Crawford, *Vice-Chair*
James Convey
Meghan Hector
Thomas J. Manley, Jr.
Jerome Robinson

ZONING HEARING BOARD

James F. Behr, *Chair*
Robert A. Bacine, *Vice-Chair*
William E. Kramer
Gregory Nester
Marc Weinstein

LIBRARY BOARD

Diane Smith-Hoban, *President*
Carly Greis, *Vice-President*
Cathy Levin
Tamika Walton
Library Appointees:
Chris Cahill
Ellen Kirby
Rachel Berkson Schupack

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Gerald Rafter, *Chair*
Kenneth A. Parsons, AIA, *Vice-Chair*
Tom Higgins
John Von Essen

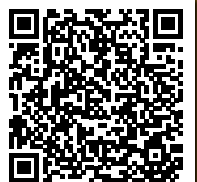
(Plymouth Township also appoints 4 members.)

EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

John Lukens, *Chair*
Eileen Behr, *Vice-Chair*
Alex DiGiacomo, Jr.
Carol Proud
Chad Waters
Renard Rose (BHVFC)
Chris Schwartz (BHVFC)
John Pierce (SMFC)
Wayne Masters, Jr. (SMFC)
Maria Pierce (WCAA)
Becki Werner (WCAA)

PARTICIPATION

Service-minded residents interested in participating on one of the Township's volunteer boards or committees should submit a completed volunteer application to the Manager's Office. The application can be found at www.whitemarshntp.org, or [Scan the QR code Here:](#)





WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP BOARDS & COMMITTEES

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION REPORT

After public hearings and input, and favorable comment by the Montgomery County Open Space Committee, the current Whitemarsh Township Open Space Plan was formally adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 21, 2006. The Plan noted that, unique among inner-ring Philadelphia suburbs, Whitemarsh enjoyed an unusually large amount of undeveloped open space. This consisted of State, County and Township parkland; six golf courses; state-owned historical properties; and privately owned farmland and large estates. These open space resources totaled about 4,000 acres, nearly a third of the Township's 15 square miles.

In the introductory section, the Plan stated:

"Looking ahead 20 years, Whitemarsh envisions itself as an oasis of green amid the predominant suburban development of southeastern Montgomery County. The Township will be appreciated for its high quality of life, the result of its large expanse of open space and comprehensive network of trails and greenways connecting the region's parks, recreational facilities, natural areas, and social and cultural resources."

The Goals section provided:

- 1. Preserve 75% of the Townships remaining open space ...
- 5. Establish a permanent substantial dedicated revenue stream to support the Township's open space vision.

The Comprehensive Plan Update, approved by the Board of Supervisors in November 2020, reaffirmed the goals and objectives of the 2006 Open Space Plan.

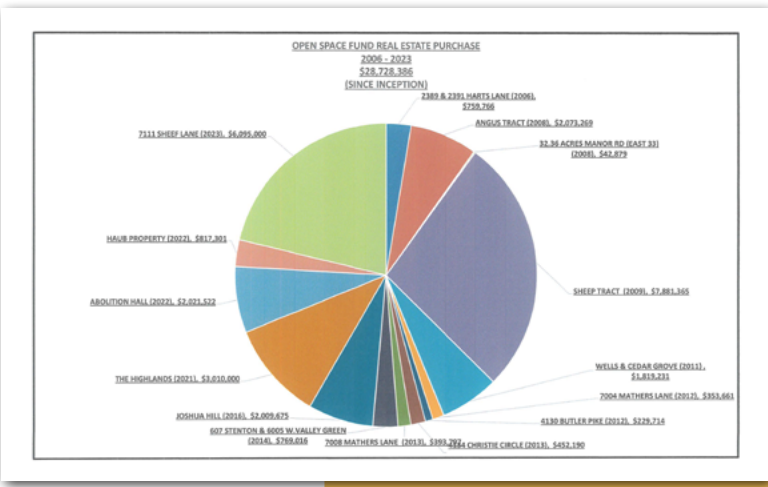
So called "Act 153," originally adopted by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1968, authorizes municipalities to impose special real estate or income taxes to be used solely for acquiring "open space benefits" which includes, among other things, preservation of undeveloped land, provided that the tax is authorized in a referendum approved by the voters. In the November 2006 election, 62% of those voting approved a ¼ of 1% tax on earned income; and in December 2006, the Board of Supervisors enacted the tax effective January 1, 2007. In 2013, Act 153 was amended to authorize the expenditure of up to 25% of current open space taxes for the maintenance of properties acquired or protected with Act 153 funds. Thereafter, the Board of Supervisors has set aside up to 25% of current tax collections for maintenance, although such funds may be used for acquisition of open space benefits at the discretion of the Board.

Between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2023, over \$33.2 million in Act 153 taxes has been collected by the Township. During this same 16-year period, the Township has spent \$28.7 million to acquire the fee or easements protecting 350 acres in the 14 transactions described in the pie chart (above, right). In addition, the Township's action has leveraged protection of approximately 200 additional acres funded from other sources. Two of these transactions have also supported the preservation of historic Township properties, advancing historic preservation goals set forth in the Updated Comprehensive Plan.

These completed transactions, including those leveraged with Township funding, have protected over 550 acres within the Township, about one sixth of the initial goal set forth in the 2006 Open Space Plan. In addition, about \$350,000 has been spent on the maintenance of preserved properties.

All of this has been accomplished without any impact on the Township's operating budget, and Act 153 is generating nearly \$3 million additional open space funds annually, to be used for future open space purposes.

The most significant open space transactions completed to date, with Township Open Space Funds, are summarized in the following pages...



2008 Erdenheim Farm, Angus Tract: 98 acres \$2,073,269

Both Tracts were purchased by the Whitemarsh Foundation, with the Township and other public funders holding conservation easements protecting both tracts from development. The Township contributed less than 40% of the \$26 million purchase price, with the Whitemarsh Foundation raising the balance and transaction fees from other public and private funders.

The 450-acre Erdenheim Farm is the centerpiece of 2,000 acres of nearly contiguous open space from Fairmount Park in Philadelphia to Fort Washington State Park in Whitemarsh. It has been in continuous agricultural use since the days of William Penn. It has been described in the Township's Update Comprehensive Plan as "the jewel in the crown of Whitemarsh Township. These 450 acres, with its inspiring vistas and glimpses into life of a working farm, offer residents and passers-through alike a moment of respite and connection to simpler times."

The Foundation's purchase of the Angus and Sheep Tracts leveraged the protection of all of the remainder of the Farm from all but the most limited development, as required by some of the parties to the complex transactions. The remainder of the Farm was purchased by the McCausland family who continue to operate the property as a working farm.

The 14-acre Dixon Meadow Preserve, a nature preserve and stormwater retention facility constructed by the Foundation on the Angus Tract, is open to the public with parking provided by the Foundation. It features an 800' boardwalk built by the Township and is widely regarded as a birding "hot spot". Although daily visitation varies depending on the season, weather, and bird sightings; according to the electronic monitoring system installed by the Foundation, an average of 63 people visited the Preserve every day in 2022, for a total of nearly 23,000 visits by Township and area residents.

In addition, the Foundation, with private funding, has restored and repurposed a 19th century farmhouse on the Angus Tract which features educational programs, including those sponsored by the Township's Parks & Recreation Department, and other local institutions. Furthermore, Montgomery County is planning to construct public trails on the Sheep Tract and other portions of the Farm, to provide critical linkages with the Green Ribbon Trail along the Wissahickon Creek and the in-process Cross County Trail.

Without the critical Township financial support afforded by Act 153, it is probable that the Farm would not have been preserved and likely would have been lost to residential development. Although the purchase price paid for the remainder of the Farm is not a matter of public record, the Committee estimates that the total cost of preserving the Farm was not less than \$50 million, so the Township's \$10 million investment effectively leveraged at least \$40 million of additional funding from other public and private sources.



2011 Wells Street & Cedar Grove: 23.1 acres \$1,819,231

The 23.1-acre Wells Street Open Space and Trails property (formerly the Gambone property) was purchased in 2011 for \$1,819,231 as open space for the community, and is currently being used for passive recreation, with trails and meadow areas in the Whitemarsh Township parks system. It is generally located between Cedar Grove Road to the east, Hillcrest Avenue to the west, Butler Pike to the north, and Hector Street to the south. Additionally, Wells Street traverses through the northern portion of the Property; a PECO powerline borders its entire western boundary; the eastern boundary includes three residences and Cedar Grove Road; and the southern property boundary is shared with PQ Chemical Company. The Property is accessible from a parking lot in the adjoining Cedar Grove Park and a pull-off area on Wells Street. Nearby parks include Cedar Grove Park, Kline Park, and Leeland Park, owned by Whitemarsh Township, and Spring Mill Park owned by Montgomery County.



Historically, the property was maintained as an arboretum. By 1958, the property transitioned from the formal arboretum structure to a less manicured state. Roads/Trails through the property increased, and a sewer line was installed running northwest to southeast across the property. In the early 1970's, there was a transformation of the property to a more natural state, with areas of woodlands, scrub/shrub, meadows, and lawn, and the construction of Wells Street. Today, the natural resources, water resources, and scenic landscape within the Wells Street Open Space provide excellent opportunities to connect the community to their natural surroundings, with outdoor recreation and meaningful volunteer and educational experiences with the environment.

VISIT
WWW.WHITEMARSH TWP.ORG/OSC



WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP BOARDS & COMMITTEES

2016 Joshua Hill - 12 acres \$2,009,675

This parcel is near the 50-acre Kline Park dedicated to the Township by National Label, as well as the 7.5 acres of open space being dedicated to the Township as part of The Oaks at Lafayette Hill Townhouse development.

2021 The Highlands - 28 acres \$3,010,000

In December 2021, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania transferred title to this 40-acre site, featuring the Georgian mansion outbuildings, garden and grounds constructed by Anthony Morris in 1796, to the Highlands Historical Society. At the same time, the Township purchased a conservation easement on the 28 acres of the undeveloped portion of the Highlands Estate, providing for public access to the entire Estate, and subject to the condition that use of the proceeds be restricted to the maintenance, repair and restoration of the historic mansion, outbuildings, gardens, and grounds. The Township, by use of Act 153 Funds, not only preserved 28 acres of open space, but assured that the proceeds would be used for advancing the Township's historic preservation goals set forth in the Updated Comprehensive Plan, thus doing in effect "double duty." A member of the Township Board of Supervisors serves as a member of the Highlands Historical Society's governing board.



2023 7111 Sheaff Lane - 51 acres - 2.7 acres \$6,095,000 (plus \$7,280,000 of Other Public and Private Funds)

The owner of a 51-acre tract of open space adjacent to the 40-acre Highlands Estate filed an application for a 46-lot residential subdivision. The Highlands Historical Society, after extensive negotiations with the developer, purchased the entire tract in December 2023 for \$13,375,000.

The 51 acres has been subdivided into four separate lots, consisting of three 10+ acre lots totaling 32 acres and one 19-acre lot. The three 10 acre lots have been resold by the Highlands Historical Society to conservation buyers subject to easements held by the Township, limiting development to one residence per lot. The remaining 19-acre lot will be retained by the Highlands and added to its 40-acre estate and is subject to an easement held by the Township preventing any development, and providing for unrestricted public access.

This 19-acre tract is contiguous with both the Highlands estate and Wissahickon Trails' Willow Lake Farm and its extensive trail network. This will create a 170-acre privately owned public park extending from Sheaff Lane to Broad Axe, with ample trailhead parking at the Highlands.

Funding sources included \$6,095,000 of Township open space funds; \$500,000 of County open space funds; \$5,500,000 from the resale of the three 10 acre lots; and the \$1,800,000 proceeds of a broad-based public fundraising program initiated by the Highlands, which also included funds to cover transaction expenses and a small endowment to cover maintenance expenses on the 19-acre lot. Contributions were received from 104 donors, with the largest being \$500,000 and the smallest \$25. This broad-based public support evidence the importance which residents attach to protecting open space and open space amenities, including public trails.



2022 Haub Parcel - 2.7 acres \$817,301



The Haub parcel holds a strategic location and a historically interesting past. Along its eastern boundary, it shares approximately 88 linear feet with a 10-acre open space parcel acquired by Whitemarsh Township in 1991. To the south, it is contiguous to a portion of the Abolition Hall/Corson tract (see below). When combined, these three adjacent parcels (two of which were acquired with Act 153 Funds) contain just over 23 acres. Into the middle of the 20th century, the Haub parcel had been owned by the Corson family. The subdivision and conveyance that created this lot was one of several that began as early as the 1830's, when some of the former Samuel Maulsby lands, which reached from Germantown Pike north to Flourtown Road, were subdivided and sold. The blending of the Maulsby and Corson families began with the marriage of Martha Maulsby to George Corson in 1832.

2022 Abolition Hall, Hovenden House, Stone Barn (Corson Tract) - 10.45 acres - 2.7 acres \$2,021,522 (plus \$2 Million of Private Funds)

This property is one of the most significant sites in Whitemarsh Township, for its roles in both Abolitionist history and art history in the United States. Abolition Hall, the adjacent Maulsby (Stone) Barn, and the Hovenden House are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as contributing to the significance of the Plymouth Meeting District. Abolition Hall is further celebrated as a noteworthy site by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which, in 2000, approved the installation of one of its commemorative blue and gold markers. Following the 2012 passing of Nancy Corson, great-granddaughter of Underground Railroad conductor George Corson, Whitemarsh Township amended its Open Space Plan, making acquisition of this homestead a priority. The property contains just over 8 acres of open fields, including delineated wetlands.

In 2022, the Township acquired the property with Open Space funds, in combination with the generosity of Whitemarsh residents and philanthropists Nicholas and Athena Karabots, who contributed a \$2 million gift. Under the terms of the gift agreement, they delivered the gift to the nonprofit Whitemarsh Art Center, which will occupy a portion of the property following its move from another Township-owned building at Cedar Grove Park. The Township and the Whitemarsh Art Center each own a 50 percent interest in the homestead as tenants in common.

The Hovenden House, dating to 1767, with numerous expansions and additions, thereafter, was once known as the Maulsby House for its original owners. During the 1800's, this was the home of George and Martha Maulsby Corson, and it functioned as both a welcoming stop on the Underground Railroad for enslaved people, and as a domicile for traveling Abolitionist speakers of the period. Since the 1880s, it has been known as the Hovenden House, so named for the nationally acclaimed artist Thomas Hovenden, who married Helen Corson, daughter of George and Martha Corson. **(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**



CONCLUSION

With Act 153 revenues now approaching \$3 million annually, the Township has the financial capacity to accelerate the acquisition, protection and maintenance of open space and open space amenities. This will enable the Township to build upon the significant progress accomplished in the 16 years since the Open Space Plan was adopted. Not only will Act 153 provide cash flow to fund open space and open space benefits, but to provide debt service for borrowings when need or opportunity arises.

The Open Space Committee appreciates and thanks the Board of Supervisors for its vision and leadership in preserving and protecting open space and encourages the Board to accelerate use of the significant financial resources provided by Act 153 to continue to implement the Open Space and Updated Comprehensive Plans.



WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP BOARDS & COMMITTEES

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Whitemarsh Community,

We are excited to welcome you to the Township's Spring 2024 *Whitemarsh Living* publication! These bi-yearly publications are a tangible example of the Media Communications Advisory Board's main objective: To communicate Township news and happenings with residents. The Board oversees Whitemarsh's media communication services through multiple platforms, aiming to achieve clear and timely dissemination of important information.

Perhaps the most utilized platform is the Township's website, **WWW.WHITEMARSH.TWP.ORG**. We are thrilled to share that the website officially has a new look and feel as of January, when the website update went "live." We encourage everyone to check it out and explore all the website has to offer.

Another critical role of MCAB is to oversee the Township's Government Access Channel, also known as **Whitemarsh TV (WTV)**. WTV houses Public Service Announcements (PSAs), instructional videos, and the Board of Supervisors Meetings. The Supervisors Meetings are livestreamed on the Township's **YouTube Channel** as well, ensuring residents remain knowledgeable about the governance of the township. WTV also promotes and highlights resident favorite events, such as Whitemarsh Township Day and the Fourth of July Parade.

MCAB is extremely proud of WTV, which has won multiple Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) awards throughout the years, including 2nd and 3rd Place for Cable TV Program in 2010, 2011, and most recently in 2023.

MCAB would like to highlight Rob Brown, Whitemarsh's Media Production Coordinator, for his wonderful work and dedication to WTV and all the Township's media communication efforts. His PSAs in particular are amazing!

Next year, Whitemarsh Township is celebrating WTV's 15th year. More on that to come!

We encourage residents to share their ideas for ways to further strengthen the Township's communications at **WTV@WHITEMARSH.TWP.ORG**.

Sincerely,
Ryan Hurley, Chair
Sharon Harvey, Vice Chair
Mark Cratin
Megan Griffin-Shelley
Crystal Taylor



Left to Right: Media Production Coordinator Rob Brown (Staff Co-Liaison); MCAB Members Sharon Harvey, Mark Cratin, Ryan Hurley and Megan Griffin-Shelley; Supervisor Fran McCusker (BOS Liaison). **(Absent:** MCAB Member Crystal Taylor)

THE TOWNSHIP'S COMMUNICATION OUTLETS:



TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

X (formerly Twitter)
@WhitemarshTwp

FACEBOOK
Whitemarsh Township

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM
@WhitemarshTownshipPA

WHITEMARSH TV
Comcast Channel 965
Verizon Channel 46

WHITEMARSH WEEKLY
Weekly Township News via Email
(Signup on the Township Website)

YEARLY PUBLICATIONS
Whitemarsh Living: The Recreator
(In Print or on the Township Website)

ELECTRONIC COMMUNITY SIGN
Located across from Miles Park
(Germantown Pike/Joshua Road)
More Info on Township Website

VISIT
WWW.WHITEMARSH.TWP.ORG/MCAB

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Environmental Advisory Board promotes the conservation and improvement of our natural resources through environmental awareness and programs. Their hard work will improve the quality of the environment and ultimately improve the quality of life throughout the Township. Below is a snapshot of the EAB's work over 2023. Check out our website to learn more!

GREEN RECOGNITION AWARD

In 2022, the EAB introduced the Whitemarsh Green Recognition Award that recognizes local organizations who take meaningful action to improve our local environment.

2023 Awardees: Germantown Academy, Back to Earth Composting



EDUCATIONAL & PROMOTIONAL OUTREACH

The "5 R's" PSA Series: With the help of WTV, this five-part PSA series is now complete! Learn about the 5 R's: **Recycle, Repurpose/Repair, Rot, Reduce and Refuse** on Whitemarsh Township's YouTube Channel and on Whitemarsh TV (Comcast Ch. 965, Verizon Ch. 46).



TOWNSHIP DAY

Each year, the EAB promotes environmental awareness at Township Day. In 2023, the emphasis was to teach residents about composting — what it is, what the benefits are, and how to do it at home.



ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY

Board members helped prepare for the Shade Tree Commission's Annual Tree Giveaway and volunteered their time to distribute 260 native trees to Whitemarsh residents!

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG BAN

The EAB was a huge help in the passage of the plastic bag ban! Switching to reusable bags reduces the resources needed to create single-use plastic bags and prevents litter, pollution, and waste — a big win for the health of our ecosystems.

As of October 11, 2023, Whitemarsh businesses are prohibited from providing single use plastic bags at checkout. Consumers are encouraged to bring reusable bags, or they may purchase reusable carryout or paper bags with at least 40% post-consumer recycled content at a nominal charge. Disposable straws and utensils will be provided upon request.



Join us at the Township Building at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of every other month to help reach our goals for 2024!

VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.WHITEMARSH.TWP.ORG/EAB](https://www.whitemarshTwp.org/EAB)

SHADE TREE COMMISSION 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Shade Tree Commission has several duties. One duty is to review and provide recommendations on landscaping required for subdivision and land development projects and ensure the selection of proper and suitable plant materials. However, you may be more familiar with other aspects of the STC, like increasing overall tree canopy with native trees throughout the Township (think the Annual Tree Giveaway!).

SPEAKING OF THE ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY...

In 2023, members from the Shade Tree Commission, the Environmental Advisory Board, the Board of Supervisors, and Staff came together with several community member volunteers to give away 260 native trees to residents! Be sure to keep checking our website for updates on the 2024 giveaway!

PLANTINGS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

While trees from the Giveaway are for residents' private property, the STC also works hard to plant trees on public property throughout the Township. In 2023, 57 trees were planted with help by Colonial Canopy Trees!

Locations included: Koontz Park, Miles Park, Valley Green Park, Gateway Open Space Park at Cold Point and Wells Street, Township Building

ARBOR DAY

In recognition of Arbor Day, the Township and Colonial Canopy Trees hosted a Community Tree Planting Event at Miles Park on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

Vice-Chair Natalie Borkowski represented the STC at Whitemarsh Elementary school where a new tree was planted in honor of Arbor Day 2023. The children eagerly learned about the benefits of native trees and how to care for them. They celebrated the tree planting by doing the popular yoga "tree pose."

You can also see members of the STC at other events such as Township Day and the Fourth of July parade.

The Shade Tree Commission meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Township Building.



Tree Giveaway



Plantings on Public Property



Arbor Day

Facebook / Colonial Canopy Trees

VISIT

WWW.WHITEMARSHTWP.ORG/STC

Friends of the William Jeanes Memorial Library



2024 Used Book Sale Dates



One-Day-Only Mini Book Sale: July 27

Fall 2024: September 28 & 29

One-Day-Only Mini Book Sale: December 7



11th annual plein air COMPETITION

Saturday | April 27 | 8:AM - 7:PM

We are extremely grateful to the Nowak Family for their continuing sponsorship of Whitemarsh Art Center's Gregory J. Nowak Memorial Plein Air Competition. This gift is made courtesy of Denise Maggetti Nowak and Family.

En plein air is a French expression meaning *in the open air* and refers to the act of painting outdoors with the artist's subject in full view.

Welcoming Our New Teachers

For nearly six decades, our most valuable asset, setting us apart from other art centers, has been our dedicated team of teachers. Recently, we welcomed two new additions to our talented roster:

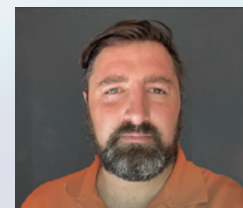


Ratna Gandhi: a multi-talented artist with expertise in sculpture, art curation, and art instruction.

I share my dreams with a desire to explore the unexplored

In her time at the Art Center, she has introduced a new approach to ceramics that reflects her multi-cultural experiences. Her creativity and breadth of experience have been immediately evident in her students' work.

We are excited to have Ratna's influence on future programming including our workshops and summer camp.



Trevor Wade Thomas: creates artwork through perception and places emphasis on exploring the world's perceptual oddities through his paintings.

As an artist, I am fascinated by the interplay between the world as it is and the world as I perceive it.

Trevor will be teaching Colorful Composition in Oil beginning this spring. He will help students to create more colorful oil paintings through quick sketching and palette-mixing. Our staff has already experienced the energy Trevor brings to his art. We are looking forward to expanding our two-dimensional program offerings.



Abolition Hall

Contact us for details, tours and event information.

610.825-0917

office@whitemarsharts.org

Student Teacher Expo and Market

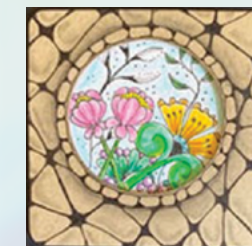
Friday | May 31 | 5 - 8 PM

Our students, teachers and staff have worked all year to create beautiful artwork to display and sell at our semi-annual exhibition. Meticulously crafted pieces range from ceramic sculptures to functional pottery, paintings and more. Give the gift of art all year long.



2024 Children's Summer Camp

Whitemarsh Art Center is thrilled to announce our 2024 Summer Art Camp for children 6-10. Explore creativity and experiment with various media. For details visit whitemarsharts.org.



Zentangle — Zen Garden

Wednesday | April 16 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

A self-directed art method that can be practiced at your own pace, in your own time. Explore creative freedom as you create art without fear.

Using the Zentangle method, create your own secret garden. Like peering through a window filled with flowers in the spring, your art can give you springtime, anytime! A basic Zentangle class is not necessary but is encouraged.



End of Year Semi-Annual Meeting

Monday | June 10 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

This meeting of the Board of Directors is held at the end of our fiscal year for all members of the Art Center in June. Each Member, 18 years or older, is entitled to one vote for each open Director and Officer position at the Semi-Annual Meetings



The Transformative Power of Art

Abolition Hall: 4010 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
Juneteenth — June 23; see whitemarsharts.org for more info



The mission of the William Jeanes Memorial Library and Nicholas and Athena Karabots Center for Learning is to be a resource center that serves the diverse and changing needs of the community by providing materials, programs, and services for education, enrichment, and enjoyment.

The William Jeanes Memorial Library is proud to be a Gold Star Library with the Pennsylvania Library Association, and a recognized Family Place™ Library.



CHECK US OUT!

The William Jeanes Memorial Library offers more than 75 FREE programs each month, for all ages! Please check the website or call the Library to register for each program.

- New collections to browse, new devices to check out, and new programs!
- Sign up for our monthly newsletter—ask our staff for information or visit our website.
- Our complete Calendar of Events is available on our website and at either Check-Out Desk
- Sign up for Wowbrary, our weekly newsletter featuring all the new items added to our Collection in the previous week. See our website for details.
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

LIBRARY HOURS

Mon: 12 noon to 8 pm; Tues - Thurs: 10 am to 8 pm; Fri and Sat: 10 am to 5 pm; Sun: 1 to 5 pm
Special Weekend Hours in the Summer: Visit our website for details.

**Closed May 25-27, July 4-7, Aug 31-Sept. 2

4051 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
610-828-0441
jeaneslibrary.org
jeanesinfo@mclinc.org

SUMMER READING FOR ALL AGES

June 15 - Aug 10

ADVENTURE BEGINS

Summer Reading Kick-Off
Saturday, June 15 @ 10:30 am

Join us as Mr. Matt from Turtle Dance Music returns to help us set off on a summer full of adventure!



Plus, look for themed programs for all ages throughout the summer, track your reading, and enter for Adult, Teen, and Children's prizes!

All Summer Reading programs and prizes courtesy of the Friends of the William Jeanes Memorial Library.



SAVE THE DATES

- April 13: Wine and Cheese Fundraiser
- April 20: Look for us at Township Day
- April 27-28: North Penn S Gaugers' Train Display
- May 28: Red Cross Blood Drive
- June - Sept: Jewelry Collection
- July 4: Township Parade
- July 27: Friends' One Day Summer Book Sale
- August 5: Red Cross Blood Drive
- September: Halloween Costume Collection
- September 28-29: Friends' Fall Book Sale

CHILDRENS EVENTS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

SPECIAL EVENTS

New programs are coming in April and May including: **Science Explorers**—hands-on science experiments for children in Gr. 1-2; **Spy School** - fun with fingerprinting, code breaking & disguises for children in Gr. 3-5; and **Human Body Odyssey**: Gr. K-5 and their families will learn about the various body systems. We are also bringing back another fun-filled session of **Artists in the Afternoon** - children in Gr. 1-2 and Gr. 3-5 will learn about artists through the use of various mediums. Registration is required.



MUSIC & STORYTIMES

- 0-17 mos. Storytime: Tuesdays @ 11:00 am or 11:30 am
- 18-35 mos. Storytime: Tuesdays @ 10:15 am or Wednesdays @ 10:15 am
- 3-5 yrs Storytime: Wednesday @ 1:15 pm or Thursdays @ 11:15 am
- 18mos.-5 yrs Music & Movement: Wednesdays @ 11:15 am or Thursdays @ 10:15 am



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Young Knights Chess Club (Gr 1-5): Every 2nd Monday @ 6:30 pm, meetup & play (no instruction)
Book Clubs: Magic Treehouse Book Club, once a month @ 4:30 pm (Gr. 1-3), **I Survived ... Book Club** once a month @ 4:30 pm (Gr. 4-6); **PJ Storytime** once a month @ 6:30 pm

FAMILY EVENTS

Look for special Wednesday evening programs at 6:30 pm throughout the summer including **Ridiculous Nicholas**, an interactive family comedy show; **Going on an Adventure, Digger & David, Pearl Observatory, Briar Bush**, and a special **Storybook Party** with Batman and Bluey on August 10th!



For additional information, details, and questions about children's programming, visit jeaneslibrary.org or contact Rachel Fecho at rfecho@mclinc.org 610-828-0441 x104.

PLUS!

Check out our Lawn Games, Board Games, Adventure Backpacks, the Library of Things, and our amazing PUZZLE EXCHANGE!

TEEN EVENTS (GR. 6-12)

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) meets monthly on a Friday from 3:30 - 5:00 pm. Teens grades 6-12 help create, plan, and implement teen programs for the Library.

WEEKLY

Teen Cafe

Join us Mondays @ 6:00 pm for a drop-in craft, snacks, and conversation, or to just hang out with your friends. No registration necessary!



SPECIAL EVENTS

Writing programs for teens coming this summer. Check our website for details and registration.

For additional information, dates, and times of monthly and special Teen events, please visit jeaneslibrary.org/events or contact Eileen Denton at 610-828-0441 ext 112, or edenton@mclinc.org.

ADULT EVENTS

BOOK CLUBS

Visit the website for a schedule of books and discussion guides!

- Daytime Book Club**: 3rd Wed at 3:00 pm (hybrid)
- Romance Book Club**: 2nd Thurs at 6:30 pm (hybrid)
- The History of Mystery Book Club**: 2nd Wednesday @ 1:00 pm (hybrid)
- Silent Book Club**: Virtual, Weekend & Daytime Edition
- Lawn Chair Book Club**: Returns this summer on the following Fridays @ 11:00 am: June 14, July 12 & Aug 9

MONTHLY

- Book Art**: 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm
- Afternoon Book Art**: 4th Thurs @ 2:00 pm
- Senior Social Hour**: 1st Friday @ 10:30 am
- Senior Commons**: 3rd Friday @ 10:30 am
- Medicare Counseling**: 4th Wed @ 1:00 pm
- Matinee Monday**: 4th Monday @ 1:00 pm
- Movies You May Have Missed**: 1st Tuesday @ 1:00 pm



Special Events

- May 2: Baseball: Immigration and Assimilation
- June 6: LGBTQ+ Identities and Best Practices

Look for stand-alone programs, lectures, and presentations; the return of **ARTventure** workshops in June, July, and August; and other special programs throughout the year. Book **one-on-one instruction**, such as our new **On Line Job Skills Sessions** or have an exam proctored by our Reference Librarians. Plus: **Quilts for the NICU** once a quarter.

For additional information, please visit our website, jeaneslibrary.org, or contact Jennifer Rusche, Adult Services Librarian, at 610-828-0441 ext. 107 or jrusche@mclinc.org.



Whitemarsh Township
616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
whitemarshtwp.org

Staying in the know is easy, green, and cost-effective! Choose to opt-out of receiving future physical copies of the “Whitemarsh Living” and the “Recreator”. You can help decrease Whitemarsh’s environmental footprint and help save on printing and postage costs.

Visit the link below to be placed on the “opt-out list” for future mailings. Digital copies of the publications will be made accessible on the Township’s website.

www.whitemarshtwp.org/opt-out



GO PAPERLESS!

