

Whitemarsh Living

Spring, 2012



(Aquilegia canadensis)

In this issue:

- ***Meet the New Members of the Board of Supervisors***
- ***Newly renovated William Jeanes Memorial Library Now Open!***
- ***2011 Township Department Reports***
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On the cover:

Wild columbine (aquilegia canadensis). This herbaceous perennial, native to eastern North America, is prized for its red and yellow flowers.

The flowers are 1-2 inches long and have yellow petals with a red spur and red sepals. They appear in late spring, nodding on stems above the leaves. The round end of the spur contains nectar, which is sought by butterflies and hummingbirds.

The caterpillars of Columbine Duskywing (Erynnis lucilius) feed on the leaves.

Read about this and other native plants on page 25 of the newsletter to learn about the importance of native plants to our habitat and ecosystem.

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

4021 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

610-828-7276 (TEL)
610-828-7391 (FAX)

**Whitemarsh Township
Board of Supervisors:**



Robert R. Hart, Chair



Sara J. Erlbaum, Vice-Chair



Amy P. Grossman



Cathy Peduzzi



Melissa S. Sterling

Whitemarsh Living

Spring 2012

Dear Whitemarsh Residents:

We are proud to present to you the latest issue of the Whitemarsh Living Magazine.

In this spring edition of the township newsletter, we introduce to you the two new members of the Township Board of Supervisors, Amy Grossman and Cathy Peduzzi, ready and excited to serve the citizens of Whitemarsh Township with fellow members of the Board, Sara Erlbaum, Melissa Sterling, and myself, Bob Hart.

In addition to all the special news, announcements and upcoming events taking place throughout the township, this newsletter also reports on all the 2011 highlights of the various township departments. The department reports will update you on how your tax dollars are spent to continue to keep Whitemarsh Township a "Great Place to Live and Work"!

We have also included a photo collage of the first-place gardens from the 2011 Whitemarsh Township Garden Contest. We are proud to boast that Whitemarsh Township has some of the most beautiful gardens! And while you admire these award-winning gardens, you can read up on tips on how to create your own native gardens not only to beautify your own property and neighborhood, but also to contribute to the local ecology.

And please remember that we, the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors, hold public meetings at the Township Building on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings or watch them live on WTV (Comcast Ch. 965, Verizon Ch. 46). The meetings are also available on the township website, where residents can get the latest updates on what is happening in Whitemarsh.

Sincerely,

Bob Hart, Chair
Board of Supervisors



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 boards and commissions and the members. If you would like to serve on any of these boards or commission, please visit the Township website and submit a volunteer application. *(The listing of each board and committee members below as of February 15, 2012)*

ETHICAL STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD

Nancy Langerfeld
John E. Mitchell
Paul Stanish
Lester Weinraub
Vacancy

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Jackie Topaz, *Chair*
David Hanel, *Vice-Chair*
Larry Bender
Duane McCarthy
Suzanne Ryan
Crystal Taylor
Vacancy

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Deidra A. Lyngard, *Chair*
Stephen J. Kaufman, *Vice-Chair*
P. Randolph Gray
Deborah Lamb
Christopher L. Lane
Hugh G. Moulton
Vacancy

PLANNING COMMISSION

J. David Shula, *Chair*
Peter B. Cornog, *Vice-Chair*
Christopher Gubeno
Richard F. Leonard
William F. O'Donnell
Sherri Glantz Patchen
Scott Quitel

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Robert Bisbing, *Chair*
Stephen J. Ziegler, *Vice-Chair*
Karen Danko
Scott Quitel
L. Matthew Schwartz
Howard Salasin
Deborah Shreero

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Stephen J. Ziegler, *Chair*
Celine Childs, *Vice-Chair*
John H. Kafes
Jennifer Thomas
Katherine Zanecosky

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

Jeffrey Wojciechowski, *Chair*
Jonathan Riesberg, *Vice-Chair*
Jerold A. Glick, *Treasurer*
Timothy Ferris
Doron Segal

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Joanne S. Crawford, *Chair*
William D. McMenamin, *Vice-Chair*
Terry Ferris
Kevin C. Kissling
Thomas J. Manley, Jr.,
Brian D. Rosenthal
Leslie Finegold (Colonial SD Appointee)

Vacancy Board

Lynda Bard
Christopher Indelicato
Carole Lukoff
Susan Paul
Thomas Sivell

ZONING HEARING BOARD

William E. Kramer, *Chair*
Marc Weinstein, *Vice-Chair*
Robert A. Bacine
James F. Behr
Jack Cohen
Randi Rubin Goldstein (*Alternate*)

LIBRARY BOARD

Township Appointees:
Carole Lukoff
Dara Nasatir, *Secretary*
Jacy Toll
Sydelle Zove, *President*
Library Appointees:
Jeffrey Horrow, *Treasurer*
Donald Mattson
Vacancy

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Nancy Brown
Richard F. Leonard
John Loughridge
Kenneth A. Parsons, AIA
(Plymouth Township also appoints 4 members and the members of the HARB appoint a 9th member)

EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Ivy Bryan
James D. McGlinchey, Sr.
Bill McMenamin
Three Fire Companies (Chief + one member of each fire company)
Whitemarsh Ambulance Association (Chief + one member)
Fire Marshal, Scott Lynch
Chief of Police, Mike Beaty
Township Manager, Bruce G. Horrocks





(Still image of a LIVE televised Board of Supervisors Meeting)

PUBLIC MEETING DATES & TIMES:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Township Building - Also televised LIVE on Comcast Ch. 965 and Verizon Ch. 46.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Third Wednesday of each alternating months starting with the month of February at 7 pm at the Township Building

THE WHITEMARSH AUTHORITY

Third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Township Building

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Third Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Township Building

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

First Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Township Building

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (joint with Plymouth Township)

Second Wednesday of each alternating month starting with the month of February at 8 am at the Whitemarsh Township Building

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Fourth Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Township Building

LIBRARY BOARD

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the William Jeanes Memorial Library

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

First Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Parks & Recreation Building

PLANNING COMMISSION

Second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Township Building

ZONING HEARING BOARD

First Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, plus the first Monday following at 7 pm at the Township Building.

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



Comcast Ch. 965
Verizon Ch. 46

The purpose of the Whitmarsh Township Government Access Channel is to provide township residents information on local government and local government-related community programs and events such as the Whitmarsh Township Board of Supervisors public meetings and taped recordings of various township events such as Township Day, the History Tour, and the 4th of July Parade. WTV also televises informational slides to update viewers on upcoming events and public meeting schedules.

Available on Comcast channel 965 and Verizon channel 46, Whitmarsh TV offers residents access to a variety of programs and shows to keep you informed about what's happening in your community. A weekly schedule of programming is available on the township's website: www.whitmarshntp.org.

Township Board of Supervisors meetings are televised LIVE on the night of the meeting (second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7 pm) and re-cablecast on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9 am and Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7 pm. The County Commissioners Meetings are also televised daily at 1 pm. Residents can also watch Board of Supervisors meetings online via: wtv.pegcentral.com

WTV - Whitmarsh TV: The Best of Whitmarsh Township

Whitmarsh TV - The Best of Whitmarsh Township

January 12, 2012 - Board of Supervisors Public Meeting

Program Information
Created Date: January 12, 2012

Index Points
[Call to Order](#)
[Announcements](#)
[Public Discussion Items - Stormwater Improvement Project](#)
[Public Discussion Items - Germantown Pike Improvement](#)
[Resolutions](#)
[Motions](#)
[Public Comments](#)
[Adjournment](#)

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[Subscribe to RSS feed](#)

Board of Supervisors meeting streaming online via PegCentral



Water Rescue Training Show



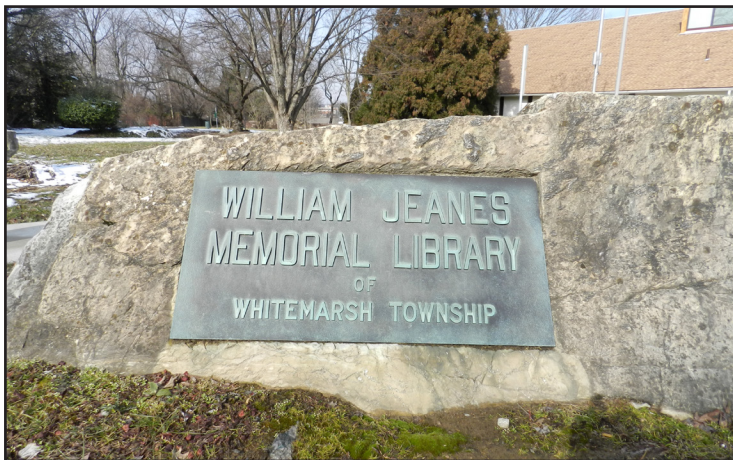
Coverage of the VFW Memorial Day Ceremony



Emergency Message in preparation for Hurricane Irene

WILLIAM JEANES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

No Place Like Home: Library Opens at Joshua Road!!



Its official—the William Jeanes Memorial Library has returned to its permanent home! The newly renovated and expanded building at 4051 Joshua Road welcomed its first patrons on Monday March 5, 2012. It was nearly 80 years ago on April 26, 1933, that the library first turned on its lights to welcome the public. From a rented room in a private home on Butler Pike, to an energy-efficient 17,000 square-foot structure located at the center of Whitemarsh Township (with a 35-year stopover at the stone building on the grounds of Plymouth Monthly Meeting of Friends)—the library has endured and flourished.

The renovations to the original 11,000-square-foot Joshua Road building, and the construction of the 7,000-square-foot addition at the rear have been made possible through the generosity and support of Whitemarsh residents Nicolas and Athena Karabots, and the Karabots Foundation. Their magnanimous \$4.4 million gift covered all of the brick-and-mortar costs. The library now is in the midst of a fundraising initiative to underwrite the expense of furnishing and equipping the improved and expanded facility.

In saying farewell to the cozy white building at Koontz Parks, thanks are due to the Whitemarsh Board of Supervisors for allowing the library to use the Harts Lane property. During the renovation and expansion process, these temporary quarters enabled the library to continue serving the community and also provided the opportunity to get better acquainted with the residents in the southeastern section of the township.

The newly renovated library is situated on a handsomely landscaped three-acre lot. And for those of you who choose to reach the library on foot or bicycle, the township bike path connects the building to the high school complex and surrounding neighborhoods.

Children's Room

The new Children's Library, located on the lower level of the new wing, has its own circulation desk, a large craft area with sink, and lots of cozy space for parents to sit and read with their children. It features colorful furniture and carpeting, an expanded early literacy area with three computer stations, internet-accessible computers, and a convenient print station.



Adult Sections

The upper level of the library houses the entire adult collection: fiction, non-fiction, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, magazines, and newspapers. Two new study rooms have been added for small groups for tutoring, teens prepping for their SATs, or self-employed adults who need a quiet space to work with access to free Wi-Fi. The upper level of the library also has a new board room, ideal for smaller instructional classes of approximately 25 people. This room is equipped with a projector, screen, and speaker system creating a modern presentation space.

For the Teens

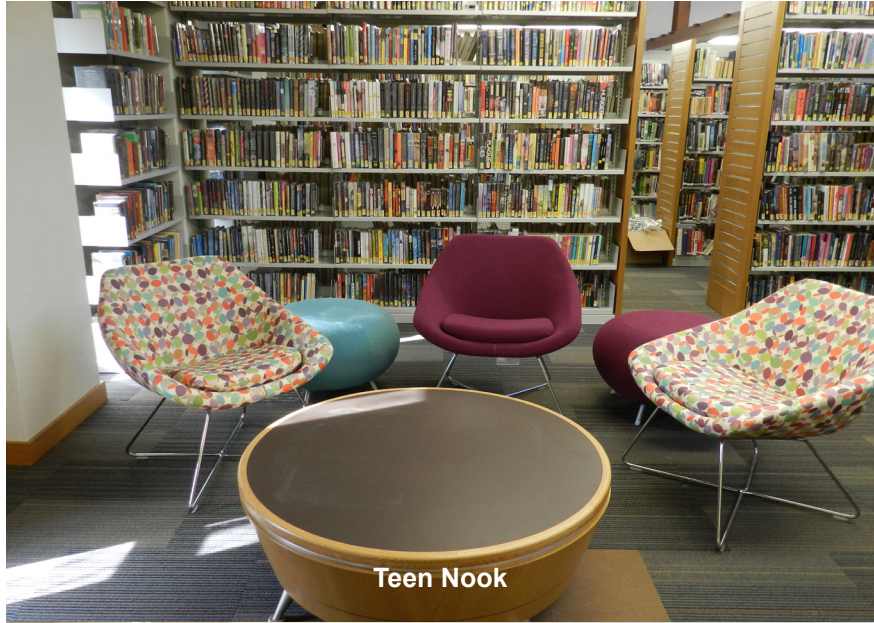
Designed by the Youth Advisory Board, teens can use this area to express themselves and have access to age-appropriate learning materials at their fingertips. The teen nook also offers Internet-linked computers, as well as a movable flat screen TV for afternoon and weekend gaming.

For All of Whitemarsh

The renovation of the community room on the lower level is a particularly special accent to the new library. With accessible restrooms, a catering kitchen, and a well-lit 'Friends Room', this improved space offers enhanced amenities, creating a bright and hospitable gathering spot expected to be bustling with various programs and activities. With easy access to the elevator that connects the two levels, the new and improved, ADA-compliant library is ready to serve the community.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to the new and improved library, and are certain you will share both our delight and appreciation. None of this would have been possible without the gift from Nicholas and Athena Karabots and the Karabots Foundation.

During the school year, the hours of operation are Monday, 12pm-8pm; Tuesday through Thursday 10am-8pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-5pm; and Sunday 1pm-5pm. Please visit the library's website, jeaneslibrary.org, to view the monthly events calendar, search the catalog, reserve materials, confirm opening and closing times, and keep up-to-date with what's happening throughout the library. The lights are on and the doors are open, so come on in and stay a while; there's lots to explore!



Teen Nook



Internet Ready Computers for Visitors to use



Study Room



An expanded collection!

PARKS & RECREATION

2011 marks another year of success and growth for the Township Parks & Recreations Department. With a total of 9,367 enrollments in various township programs and events, the township continues to respond to the residents' need for affordable yet quality recreation programs for all ages. Some of the programs to highlight include the 9-week Summer Camp program for children ages 3 to 15, the History Tour, the Garden Tour & Contest (pictures of first place winners in each category can be found on pages 26-27), the 4th of July Parade and the annual EcoFest.

In 2012, the Parks & Recreation Department, in response to the needs and requests for new programs and activities, have added new programs such as indoor pee-wee soccer for ages 3-7, a variety of Saturday Pre-School programs, Zumba and Kickboxing fitness classes for adults and many more!

Whitemarsh Township always strives to meet the residents' needs for parks and recreational facilities where families and friends can gather to enjoy the outdoors and socialize. The township is currently in the process of renovating Leeland Park, a 3-acre park located at North Lane and Jones Street, at the Cedar Heights portion of the township. The newly renovated park will consist of a new basketball court, a walking path, a new restroom facility, bocce court and a horeshoe pit. The new park will also receive 110 trees and additional shrubbery to beautify the park while functioning as a method of stormwater control. The township anticipates the opening of the new park in the Spring of 2012 for everyone to enjoy!



Pictured above from top: Miles Park Camp (ages 6-11), Cedar Grove Camp (ages 3-6), Teen Extreme Camp (ages 12-15)

2

Di

For more information on recreation programs and events contact the township Parks & Recreation Department at 828-72... out to the Recreation Department for more information on upcoming programs

Township Day!

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Noon to 5 pm at Miles Park

(Rain Date: Sunday, April 29)

Come out and join us for a fun-filled afternoon at Miles Park, including rides, games, live entertainment, food and much more.

This event is free to attend, but there is a fee for rides, games and food. Wristbands may be purchased on the day of the event at the ticket tent, or if you don't want to wait in line missing out on all the fun taking place on Township Day, you can pre-purchase your wristbands at the Parks & Recreation Building. Wristbands are \$15.00 and are good for all rides and games.

There will be a variety of local restaurants at Restaurant Row as well as other food vendors throughout the event.



2012 TOWNSHIP DAY PRESENTED BY
KARAMOOR FARM &
THE KAPPA GROUP OF COMPANIES



2012 Summer Camp:

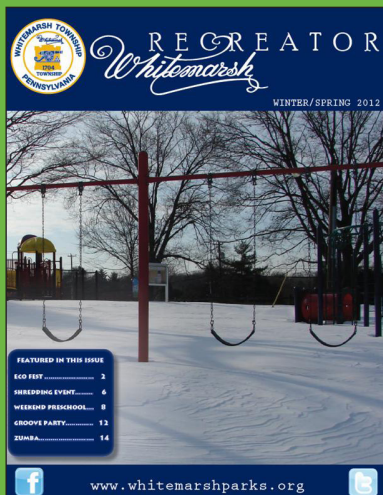
June 18 - Aug. 17

Ages 3 to 15

Discount prices available until March 31, 2012.

Register today! Spaces filling up quickly!

For more information on recreation programs and events, visit the township website or contact the Township Parks & Recreation Department at: 610-276-2766. Also, check the Whitemarsh Recreation Director that contains information on all of the upcoming recreation programs and events!



SHREDDING DAY

SAT., MAR. 31, 2012



8 AM TO NOON

MILES PARK

(Lower Parking Lot off
Germantown Pike)

Free for Whitemarsh Township Residents, \$5/bag or container for Whitemarsh Township Commercial Residents, and \$10/bag or container for all non-Residents.

SPONSORED BY JODY DAVIS, ALLSTATE INSURANCE

2011 Highlights

- Ended 2011 with a General Fund balance of \$2,913,617
- Completed road improvements totaling \$1,485,000
- Applied for Federal Emergency Management funds (FEMA reimbursement) totaling \$560,000 for storm damage caused by Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene.
- Purchased 22.83 acres of open space known as the "Gambone Property" at the corner of Wells Street and Cedar Grove Road using funds from the Township's Act 153 Open Space Fund.
- Reserves across all funds total \$10,989,656. General Fund Reserve of \$ 4,804,555 is 26% of budgeted revenues. This percentage exceeds recommended levels of 5% to 15%.
- The Township continues to maintain the real estate tax rates at a steady 2.0379 Mills with no rate increases since 2001.

Where Do Your Real Estate Taxes Go?

Residents of Whitemarsh Township receive two Real Estate Tax bills each year - one for the Township and County and one for the Colonial School District.

The Township Real Estate Tax is based on a rate of 2.0379 Mills, which can be calculated as $.020379 \times$ assessed value of your real estate property.

The School District Real Estate Tax is currently based on a rate of 18.478 Mills, which can be calculated as $.18478 \times$ assessed value of your real estate property.

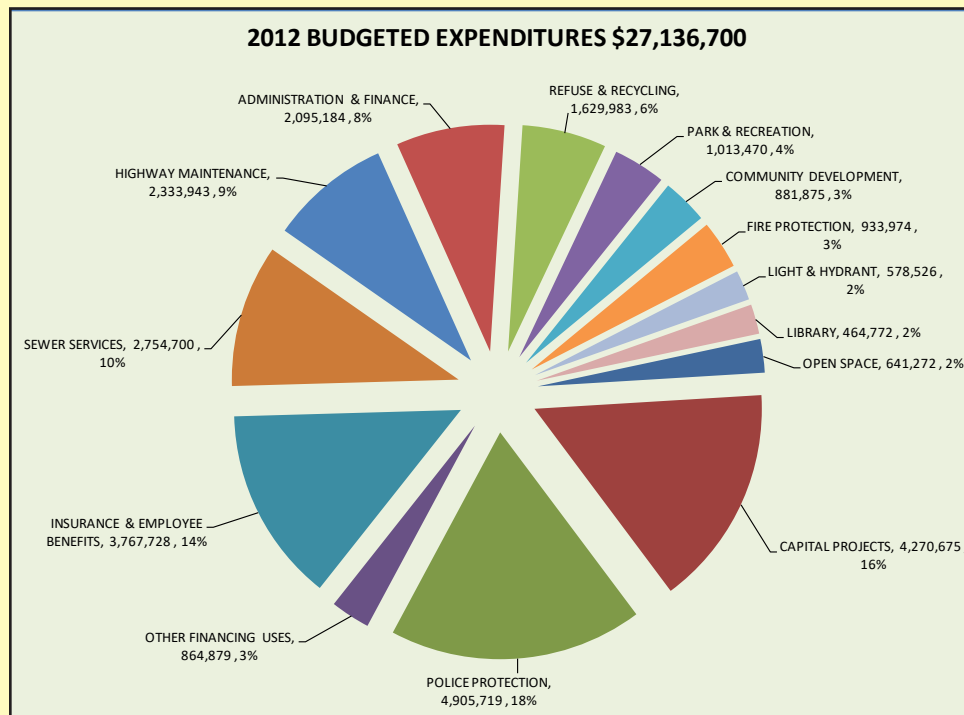
The County Real Estate Tax is based on a rate of 3.152, which can be calculated as $.03152 \times$ assessed value of your real estate property.

Please remember to pay the Township and County Real Estate Tax to the Township and the School District Real Estate Tax to the Colonial School District.

Whitemarsh Township Real Estate Tax bills are mailed out March 1, 2012. For a 2% discount, payments are due April 30, 2012. All bill payments made after July 1, 2012 will be assessed an additional 10% late fee.

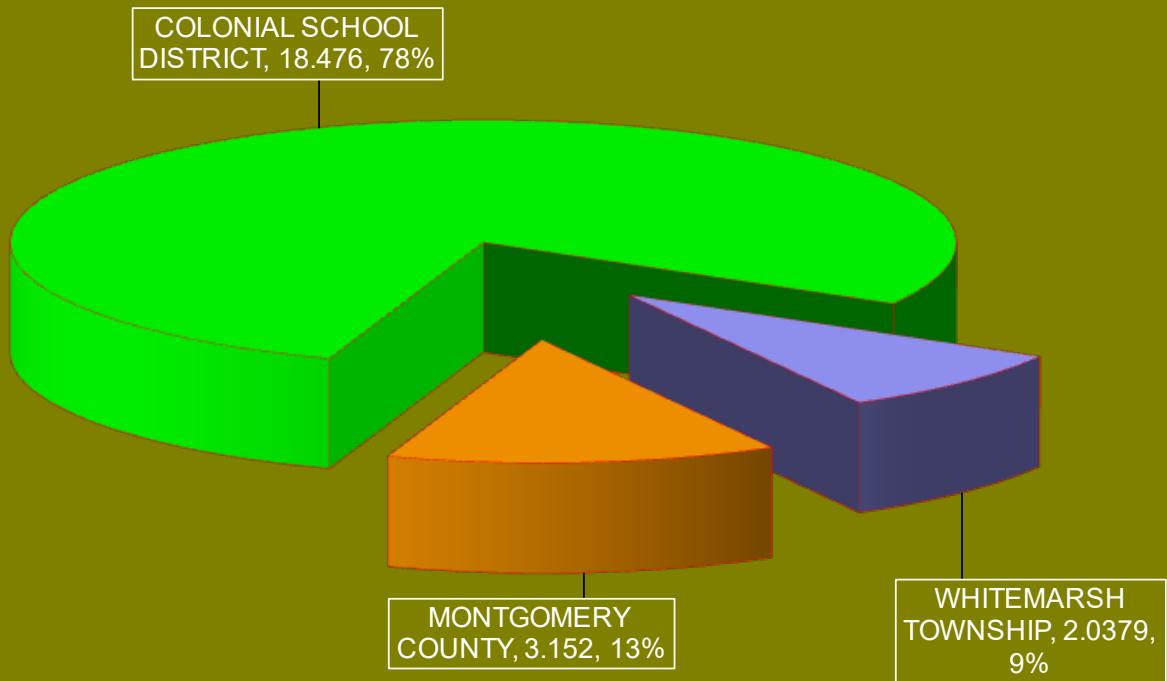
2012 EXPENDITURES

Police Protection	\$4,905,719	18%
Capital Projects	\$4,270,675	16%
Insurance	\$3,767,728	14%
Sewer Services	\$2,754,700	10%
Highway Maint.	\$2,333,943	9%
Administration	\$2,095,184	8%
Refuse & Recycling	\$1,629,983	6%
Parks & Recreation	\$1,013,470	4%
Community Dev.	\$881,875	3%
Fire Protection	\$933,974	3%
Lights & Hydrants	\$578,526	2%
Library	\$464,772	2%
Open Space	\$641,272	2%
Other Finances	\$864,879	3%
Total	\$27,136,700	100%

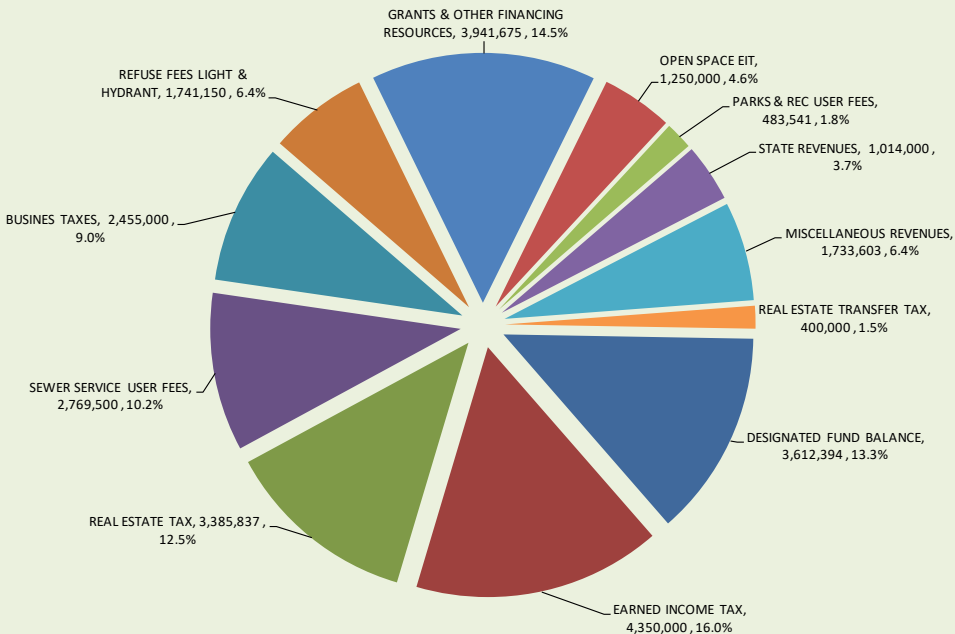


2012 TOTAL REAL ESTATE TAXES

MEDIAN ASSESSED VALUE \$173,190. TOTAL R.E. TAX \$4,099



2012 BUDGETED REVENUE \$27,136,700



2012 REVENUES

Designated Fund Bal.	\$3,612,394	13.3%
EIT (Earned Income Tax)	\$4,350,000	16.1%
Real Estate Tax	\$3,385,837	12.5%
Sewer Service	\$2,769,500	10.2%
Business Tax	\$2,455,000	9%
Refuse/Light/Hydrant	\$1,741,150	6.4%
Grants	\$3,941,675	14.5%
Open Space EIT	\$1,250,000	4.6%
Parks & Rec. Fees	\$483,541	1.8%
State Revenues	\$1,014,000	3.7%
Other Revenues	\$1,733,603	6.4%
R. E. Transfer Tax	\$400,000	1.5%
TOTAL	\$27,136,700	100%

POLICE



The Whitemarsh Township Police Department is a community-oriented accredited law enforcement agency committed to the protection of the citizens of our great community. The men and women that comprise the Police Department are dedicated to achieving a safer community by providing excellent service and involving the community as partners. Incorporating the values of service, integrity, respect, accountability, innovation and teamwork, the members of the Whitemarsh Township Police Department work to educate and engage with the citizens of Whitemarsh in order to provide the highest level of professional law enforcement service.

- Chief Mike Beaty

2011 WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC OUTREACH & CANINE PROGRAM STATISTICS

CALLS FOR SERVICE 15,386

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Cop Camp Program	236 HRS
Citizens Police Academy	139 HRS
Programs for local schools	
REACH Programs	88 HRS
Constitutional Law	46 HRS
Safety programs	53 HRS
Others	48.5 HRS
Community Outreach Programs	
Senior Assist Program	81 HRS
Victims Assist Liaison Unit	62 HRS
Programs for Community Organizations	
Tours	32 HRS
Parades	40.5 HRS
Township Programs	133.5 HRS
Funeral Details	56 HRS
Edu. Meetings/Events	45 HRS

CANINES

- Called to service 60+ times for building searches, vehicle searches, tracking, suspect apprehension, and narcotics investigations throughout Montgomery County.
- 5 explosive sweeps including commercial retail properties, residences, and dignitary events.
- 9 fleeing suspects caught
- 3 vehicles seized after presence of narcotic odor was detected, two of which had a hidden compartment for the transportation of illegal narcotics.
- 3 illegal firearms retrieved
- Attended 15 public relations events such as: Township Day, Cop Camp, Citizens Police Academy, group meetings, school events and day camps.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

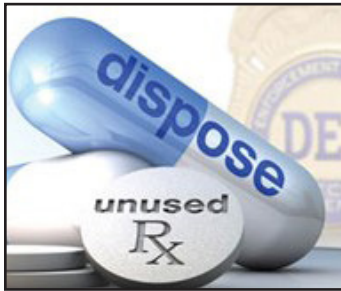
**Saturday, April 28 from
10 AM to 2 PM**

Whitemarsh Township Police Department

Turn in your unused/expired medication for safe disposal at the next Drug Take-Back Day. It's easy! No paperwork or forms - just

drop-off at the Whitemarsh Police Station lobby and go.

At the Fall, 2011 National Drug Take-Back Day, the Whitemarsh Police Department collected 83 pounds of unwanted/expired medications, and according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, a total of 377,086 pounds (188.5 tons) of unwanted or expired medications were collected across the country.



COP CAMP 2012 (2012 Registration Full!)



The Whitemarsh Police Department sponsors an interactive Cop Camp for 10 & 11 year-olds at the Whitemarsh Township Police Station for one week each summer.

The trainees will investigate crimes, gather evidence and "arrest" perpetrators, then participate in a mock trial where the cadets will prosecute the case or defend the perpetrator to learn about the legal system. Highlights of the week include a police obstacle course and daily outdoor cookouts.

The camp concludes with a swearing-in ceremony, where the Police Chief presents official ID cards and diplomas. At the end of the week, each Cadet leaves knowing every police officer on a first name basis.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



The Citizens Police Academy is a program designed to provide participants with a working knowledge of the Whitemarsh Police Department. The Academy consists of a series of classroom instruction and practical field exercises held one evening per week over a ten-week session. The Citizens Police Academy is offered to the residents of Whitemarsh Township at no cost. For more information on the Citizens Police Academy, visit the township website!

PROACTIVE PATROL ALERT TO REDUCE UNDERAGE DRINKING

The Whitemarsh Police Department, in collaboration with the Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School and Germantown Academy S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness Forum and Education)



Coalition, has implemented the Proactive Patrol Alert to reduce underage drinking. Over a nine-month period, officers of the Whitemarsh Police Department are conducting patrols in the community for alcohol related violations committed by anyone under the age of 21.

This program/enforcement effort is funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Whitemarsh Township Office of Emergency Management team consists of the Township Fire Marshal, the Police Department, the three local Fire Companies (Barren Hill, Lincoln and Spring Mill), the Township Public Works Department, and the Township Administration Department. Together, the various departments within the Township has over 100 years of combined emergency management experience.

The Office of Emergency Management is pro-active within the community, constantly training to keep up-to-date with everyday changes in the technology for the safety of everyone living and working in the Township.

The Township Fire Marshal is the designated Emergency Services Management Administrator responsible for coordinating the efforts of all the parties involved when responding to an emergency.

In August/September of 2011, Whitemarsh Township was hit with two major natural disasters (Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee) within one week of each other. The Office of Emergency Management, in coordination with other surrounding emergency response teams, responded to a number of rescue calls between the two storms saving an estimated 50 residents from various adverse situations caused by the storms.

The Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors, at their December 8, 2011 public meeting, commended the emergency response teams for their perseverance, outstanding courage and teamwork, which resulted in saving the lives of several residents. The following emergency response teams members were recognized in the commendation:

- Barren Hill Fire Company
- Fairmount Fire Company of Norristown Borough
- Gladwyne Fire Company of Lower Merion
- Lincoln Fire Company
- Spring Mill Fire Company
- Washington Fire Company of Conshohocken Borough
- Whitemarsh Ambulance Association
- Whitemarsh Township Police Dept.
- Whitemarsh Township Public Works Dept.
- Whitemarsh Township Fire Marshal

To the right: local emergency response teams received commendations from the Whitemarsh Board of Supervisors for their rescue efforts when the Township was hit with Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Image 1: Members of the Whitemarsh Township Emergency Management team consisting of the Whitemarsh Police Department, Public Works Department, Fire Marshal, Whitemarsh Ambulance Association, Barren Hill Fire Company, Spring Mill Fire Company and Lincoln Fire Company

Image 2: Members of the Barren Hill Fire Company, Washington Fire Company, Spring Mill Fire Company, and Gladwyne Fire Company

Image 3: Commendation of Valor presented to the members of the Barren Hill Fire Company, Gladwyne Fire Company and Washington Fire Company

Image 4: Members of the Barren Hill Fire Company, Whitemarsh Ambulance Association, Spring Mill Fire Company, Gladwyne Fire Company and Fairmount Fire Company



FIRE MARSHAL REPORT



The Whitmarsh Township Office of the Fire Marshal helps enforce fire safety laws within the Township. The Fire Marshal also conducts building inspections and issues notices and citations for violations related to fire safety. The Fire Marshal is also involved in the investigation of fire-related crimes and accidents, and provides assistance in emergency situations to the local emergency response teams. In 2011, the Whitmarsh Township Office of the Fire Marshal was involved in 816 fire related incidents. The following is a report of the fire related incidents in Whitmarsh Township for the 2011 calendar year.

TYPES OF CALL	#
Vehicular Accident Stand-By	11
Automatic Fire Alarm	378
Assistance to Emergency Medical Service	2
Assistance to Fire Marshal	5
Assistance to Other Municipalities	47
Assistance to the Police Department	3
Carbon Monoxide Detectors	36
Cover-Up Relocate/Back-Up Service	5
Dumpster Fires	8
Dwelling/Residential Fires	39
Electrical Fires (outside)	63
Rapid Intervention Team (Back-Up Rescue)	37
Gas Leaks (inside)	13
Gas Leaks (outside)	24
Hazardous Materials Incident	0
Helicopter Landing	10
Officer's Investigation	25
Rescues	38*
Special Service	14
Structure	23
Vehicle Fire	12
Vehicle Fuel Leaks	2
Water Flow (Sprinkler) Alarms	9
Woods Fire	8
Other Fires	1
Unknown Types of Fires	3
TOTAL	816

* 9 vehicular, 23 water, 2 elevator, 2 industrial, 2 residential



FLUORESCENT LAMPS & CFL BULB RECYCLING

Curbside Trash Collection

Residential trash and recyclables are collected curbside once/week on the designated day in each Collection District in Whitmarsh Township by J. P. Mascaro & Sons.

For questions/complaints related to trash and recycling collection, call Mascaro at 1-800-432-1616 during regular business hours [Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 5 PM].

ALL Collection Times begin at 7:00 AM

All residential trash **MUST BE ENCLOSED** in up to six (6) waterproof bags or containers, each no heavier than fifty (50) pounds. No bulk item or yard waste is collected with trash.

Residential Recycling

Whitmarsh Township participates in the rewards-based single-stream recycling program through RecycleBank. To activate your account or for questions/complaints related to the program, call RecycleBank at 1-888-727-2978.

Single-Stream Recycling Means: You may mix all recyclable materials into one bin. There is no need to separate materials or tie/bag newspapers.

Recyclable Materials Include:

- GLASS (all colors): Food and beverage jars and bottles ONLY
- CANS: Aluminum, steel, tin, or bimetal food and beverage containers ONLY. (No aluminum foil or food trays. No aluminum scraps.)
- PLASTICS: #1 thru #6 containers ONLY. Look for a #1 thru #6 recycling symbol imprinted on the container bottom.
- NEWSPAPERS & JUNK MAIL

Visit the Mascaro website for detailed list of accepted recyclables.

Curbside Yard-Waste Collection

J. P. Mascaro & Sons collects yard-waste from residential properties every Wednesday. It is not necessary to call the Township to schedule yard-waste collection.

Items permitted in residential yard-waste collection include grass clippings, bundled shrubs, brush or plants, excluding dirt, and under four (4') feet in length and bundled tree branches under three (3") inches in diameter and under four (4') feet in length.



Fluorescent lamps and compact fluorescent lamp ("CFL") bulbs are included in the US EPA universal hazardous wastes.

Whitmarsh Township collects fluorescent lamps up to four-feet in length and CFL bulbs for proper disposal. Just bring the lamps and bulbs to the Township Building during regular business hours.

In 2011, the Township collected a total of 135 CFL bulbs for recycling.

COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents can help the environment and also help reduce the Township's trash collection expenses, saving tax dollars, by bringing in electronics for recycling to the Township Building.

All electronics are accepted including computers, monitors, printers, microwaves, video recorders, stereos, telephones, and DVD players - **NO TELEVISIONS**. Equipment is collected during regular business hours at the Township Building.

All electronics dropped off at the Township Building are picked up by a recycling company that provides a certificate of proof of all materials recycled.

In 2011, Whitmarsh Township collected and recycled 36,763 pounds of computers and electronics.

For more information regarding recycling electronics, call the Township at 610-825-3535.

2012 Holidays Collection Schedule

There is NO COLLECTION on the following holidays: **Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day**

When your trash and recyclables collection day falls on a holiday, your trash and recyclables will be collected on the WEDNESDAY of that week.



LEAF COMPOST

The Township Public Works Department collects an average of 1,500 tons of leaves each year through the Curbside Leaf Pick-Up Program. Once the leaves are collected, the Public Works crew run the leaves through the tub grinder and set them in windrows. In about a year's time, the ground-up leaves become a viable product called leaf compost.

Starting in early April, residents can order leaf compost to be delivered right to your home! The cost to purchase the

leaf compost is \$12/yard for regular leaf compost and \$15/yard for double ground mulch. (Double ground mulch is made up of yard waste and brush debris, which degrades at a favorable rate to return nutrients to the soil, proving to be especially beneficial to trees).

Residents can call the Township at 610-825-3535 to place an order for the compost delivery!

2010 RECYCLING REPORT

Each year, municipalities in Pennsylvania submit an annual Recycling Report to the Department of Environmental Protection as part of the PA DEP 904 Recycling Performance Grant. In 2011, Whitemarsh Township was awarded \$89,654 by DEP for the 2010 recycling report showing approximately 4,013.9 tons recycled by Whitemarsh residents and businesses. The following is a breakdown of the report:

RESIDENTIAL

(in tonnage)

Mixed Paper:	27.9
*Commingled & Single Stream:	2,494.5
TOTAL:	2,522.4

* Commingled & Single Stream includes: aluminum cans; steel and bimetal cans; clear, green and amber glass; plastics; mixed paper; cardboard

COMMERCIAL

(in tonnage)

Office Paper:	76.4
Cardboard Paper:	601.7
Mixed Paper:	72.3
Mixed Plastic:	452.2
*Commingled & Single Stream:	288.9
TOTAL:	1,491.5

2011 BULK PICK-UP

The Whitemarsh Township Public Works Department provides residents with a weekly bulk pick-up service, where residents can dispose of large household furniture, televisions, appliances, vehicle tire, etc. In 2011, the Public Works Department collected almost 5,000 bulk items to be properly recycled and disposed.

Bulk pick-up days are scheduled for every Thursday. Call the Township at 610-825-3535 to schedule a bulk pick-up. For a specific Thursday Bulk-Items collection, the appointment must be scheduled by 3:00 PM of the preceding Tuesday.

PLANNING & ZONING

In 2011, Whitemarsh Township approved five (5) Subdivision and Land Development applications, eight (8) conditional use applications, and heard 44 Zoning Hearing Board cases.

Land Development Approvals for 2011:

1. **CVS** - Land Development approval granted on August 18, 2011 for construction of new CVS/Pharmacy on 4.45 acres at the corner of Skippack and Butler Pikes.
2. **10th Avenue Condos** - Land Development approval granted on August 18, 2011 for construction of a three-story 12-unit condominium building, with internal parking on the first level, at Spring Mill Avenue and E. 10th Avenue.
3. **AQUA PA** - Land Development approval granted on September 22, 2011 for a new well station building on River Road (this is a revised land development plan with a modified building orientation to meet PECO's clearance requirements; land development for previous building location was approved by the Township Board of Supervisors in 2010).
4. **The Courts at Spring Mill** - Land Development approval granted on October 13, 2011 for construction of a 385 unit apartment complex with 2,500 sq. ft. of retail (in existing historic building) at 1101 E. Hector Street (former Reilly Foam site).
5. **National Label** - Land Development approval granted on September 22, 2011 for construction of a 30,270 sq. ft. addition to the existing building on Joshua Road.



The Board of Supervisors granted CVS Pharmacy land development approval to construct a new CVS/Pharmacy on 4.45 acres at the corner of Butler & Skippack Pikes. This project is scheduled for completion in July, 2012.

The Township Zoning Ordinance divides the Township into Zoning Districts to accommodate various types of development and uses of land. Each zoning district has a list of permitted uses such as residential, apartments or commercial. If a use is not on the list for a specific zoning district, then that use is not allowed in that district. There are some uses however that are not deemed acceptable for the entire district but may be appropriate under the right circumstances by special exception or conditional use. Any special exceptions, variances and certain extensions for nonconforming uses must receive approval from the Zoning Hearing Board. Conditional Uses must receive approval from the Board of Supervisors.

Conditional Use Approvals for 2011:

1. **Colonial School District** - Installation of rooftop solar panels (approved April 15, 2011).
2. **Schwartz Residence** - Installation of rooftop solar panels (approved April 15, 2011).
3. **Conrail (Café Au Lait)** - Restaurant Use in the Village Commercial District (approved Apr. 28, 2011).
4. **Cantina Feliz** - Outdoor dining in the Village Commercial District (approved May 26, 2011).
5. **Elinger Residence** - Installation of rooftop solar panels (approved July 14, 2011).
6. **Patricia A. Skiba** - Free-standing sign in the Village Commercial District (approved July 14, 2011).
7. **Joshua House Association** - Installation of rooftop solar panels (approved Dec. 22, 2011).
8. **Freeze Zone, Inc.** - Restaurant Use in the Village Commercial District (approved Dec. 22, 2011).



The Board of Supervisors granted the 'Courts at Spring Mill Station' land development approval for construction of a 385 unit apartment complex with 2,500 sq. ft. for retail at 1101 E. Hector Street (formerly the Reilly Foam Site). This project is scheduled for completion by mid-2014.

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

Building permits are required to enlarge, alter, repair, move or demolish the exterior of an existing building, construct a new building or structure or change the occupancy of a building. A permit is also required to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace an electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.

In 2011, Whitmarsh Township received and processed 892 building permits.

RESIDENTIAL		NON-RESIDENTIAL	
New Dwelling	2	New Construction, Roofing, Siding	4
Roofing & Siding	146	Alternations/Additions	48
Sheds, Decks, Patios	63	Fences & Signs	16
Fences	56	Use & Occupancy	48
Pools	10	Demolition	19
Alternations/Additions	158	Misc. Temporary Permits	7
Zoning Permits	219	Zoning Permits	96
TOTAL	654	TOTAL	238

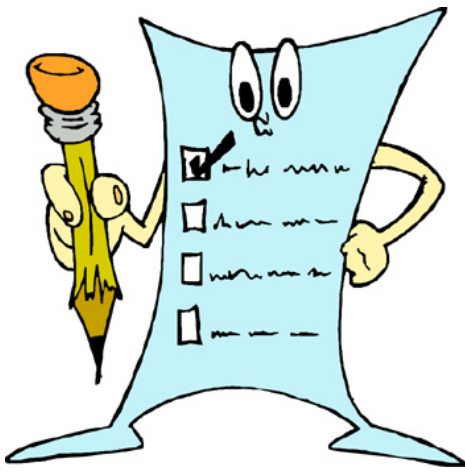
Prior to starting any new building project, residents are encouraged to make an appointment with the Township to review the permitting process. The Township Department for Building Permits can be reached at 610-825-3535, Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

BUILDING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED WHEN...

- Installing a permanent heating or air conditioning equipment
- Replacing a roof
- Installing fences, utility sheds, above-ground and in-ground swimming pools (4 feet or deeper)
- Erecting signs
- Adding or replacing all plumbing fixtures, including water softeners, water heaters, and garbage disposals (replacing an existing residential garbage disposal does not require a permit)
- Regrading property
- Constructing a new building or additions, enclosures and alterations to an existing building, including decks, porches and sunrooms.
- Working on an on-site sanitary sewage system (through Montgomery County)
- Installing fire protection systems and modifying systems including fire alarms, security systems, burglar alarms, sprinkler systems, hood systems, fire places and fire suppression systems
- Removing and installing storage tanks, both above ground and underground



If you are still unsure whether you need a permit for your project, please call the Township Building & Permits Department at 610-825-3535 to verify.



Zoning Requirements

All Building Permit applications except for roofing and siding projects require a Zoning Permit. For more information on the Township Zoning Ordinance please visit the Township website.

Use and Occupancy

All new construction, any changes in commercial use, new residential construction projects and home occupation requires a Use and Occupancy Certificate. A Use and Occupancy certificate is not required for the resale of residential properties.

In order to obtain a Use and Occupancy Certificate, both the Building Permit Application and the Zoning Permit Application (both applications available on the Township website) must be completed and submitted to the Township. There is no separate Use and Occupancy Form to fill out.

Earth Disturbance/Grading Permit

An Earth Disturbance Permit may be required if your project involves any of the following:

- Work that disturbs more than 20 cubic yards, total, of earth removed, or
- Adds more than 1000 sq. ft. of new impervious surface, or
- Earthmoving over 1,200 sq. ft. on existing developed properties that will alter drainage patterns, accelerate erosion, interfere with existing stormwater facilities, or adversely impact adjoining properties.

If you are unsure whether you need an Earth Disturbance Permit, please call the Township Engineer at 610-825-3535 to verify.



Highway/Road Occupancy Permit

All work performed within the Right-of-Way (ROW) of Township roads require a Road Occupancy Permit. Any work performed on a Township road over, under or within the limits of a limited access state and/or county road/highway ALSO requires a state and/or county permit.

If you are unsure whether you need a Highway/Road Occupancy Permit, please call the Township Engineering Department at 610-825-3635 to verify.

Contractor Registration

Only contractors who are registered with the township may obtain building permits to perform work in Whitemarsh Township. Contractors must be able to show proof of workers' compensation insurance, designating Whitemarsh Township as a certificate holder. Contractors who are self-employed or meet the criteria outlined in the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Law for exemption from providing Workers' Compensation should fill out the Workers Compensation Exemption Form (available on the township website).

Contractors who are registered with the state must also register with the township. There are no fees to register EXCEPT for plumbers, who have a \$50 registration fee. Master Plumbers must also be able to provide proof from the institution or municipality which certified them as master plumbers. Journeymen plumbers must be able to list the name of the master plumber for whom they work.

SAVE YOUR TREES...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!

Importance of Removing English Ivy

The Whitemarsh Township Shade Tree Commission has initiated a "De-Vine" project to challenge all the residents of the Township to help protect our trees and remove the English Ivy that is a detriment to the health and well-being of our trees.

All green is not good. In fact, the type of green is very important. Invasive plants are green, but they are a detriment to our environment by changing the natural succession in our urban forest.

"English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is an aggressive invader that threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas", according to the National Park Service. It is also listed as an invasive plant in Pennsylvania and 19 other states by the USDA Forest Service.

Ivy is often the cause of unhealthy trees that eventually become hazards to homes and properties, and here are some reasons why:

1. Ivy running up trees will cover branches and prevent leaf-out, marring the tree's appearance and its health. **Loss of host tree vigor, evident within a few years, is followed by death a few years later.** The cost of tree removal can be substantial.
2. The weight of mature ivy vines makes infested trees susceptible to blow-over during storms.
3. Ivy can transmit bacterial leaf scorch, which threatens native elms, oaks and maples.
4. Ivy creeps aggressively beyond its intended space into neighboring yards, parks and forests. Mature vines live for years, and develop seeds which birds disperse to other areas.
5. Its dense growth smothers native plants, preventing sunlight from reaching leaves.
6. Ivy is NOT a good bank stabilizer because its roots are shallow and out-competes better, deeper-rooted bank stabilizers.

HOW TO CLEAR IVY FROM TREES

First, remove ivy from trees and then remove ivy from the ground. Use loppers or a pruning saw to cut through each vine at shoulder height and at ankle height. Strip the ivy away from the tree between the two cuts. *Be careful not to damage the bark.*

Next, pull up as much ivy as possible around the base of the tree. Extend the pulled area to at least six (6) feet



Pictured: Tree covered completely in ivy - with lack of sunlight reaching the tree due to the excessive cover of ivy around the entire tree, this tree will eventually die.

from the tree's base all the way around to prevent ivy from climbing back up the trunk. Cautiously dispose of the ivy as it resprouts easily.

If chemicals are used, "paint" the cut side of the vine with glyphosphate (available in a variety of forms in garden stores) immediately after cutting.

REPLANT WITH NATIVE GROUNDCOVERS

Suggestions include: wild ginger, mayapple, partridge berry, foamflower, creeping phlox, wintergreen, Allegheny (or native) pachysandra, bearberry, asters, and Christmas fern (evergreen). Avoid other vines around trees - their effect can be similar to ivy.

****Invasive removal is not a cosmetic issue; the health of our native habitat and magnificent trees are at serious risk. Without prompt action, thousands of trees in our area alone will be toppled or killed by ivy and other invasive vines. We are privileged to live in such a beautiful environment - but with this privilege comes the obligation to care for it. *Please do your part before it's too late!***

IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE PLANTS: *a Vital Part of the Landscape*

As open space disappears, it becomes increasingly necessary to look at our own landscapes as a refuge for biodiversity. Native organisms including plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and insects create an intricate web of life. This is a wonderful natural orchestration with each species' life cycle highly dependent on the others.

For example: Spring wild flowers are pollinated by and provide nectar to tiny flies. These flies become food for early spring birds. The timing is orchestrated perfectly. It is not a coincidence that the local native plants have seeds and berries ready just when the birds need them. Birds dropping the seeds all about are the best way to get native plants dispersed. Plants and animals that have evolved together depend upon each other for survival.

Unfortunately, native plants, which a vital part of the natural web of life, are being lost at an alarming rate. Removing a certain native plant from the landscape will likely remove the insects that feeds on that plant, which in turn may eradicate the birds that feed on those insects. And this is just a simplified example. The loss of a species can quickly escalate to affect an entire ecosystem. To paraphrase Paul Ehrlich, author of *Native Plants: Relationship of Biodiversity to the Function of the Biosphere*, removing native species from an ecosystem is like taking rivets out of an airplane wing; it is impossible to know which one will be the last one that was holding the whole thing together.

There are real and practical pay-offs to encouraging a more biologically diverse yard. Healthy, balanced ecosystems clean our water and our air. Pollinators are vital to food production.

There are also other profound reasons for using native plants in our yards. Aesthetically and spiritually, native plants enhance our sense of place. Native plants are one of the most visible elements in the local landscape. They are part of what makes a region unique. Learning and growing native plants promotes a deeper understanding and respect for the land.

(Information from the Native Plant Society of Northern Ohio. More information on common native plants can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources website: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/nativeplants/index.htm>)

A FEW COMMON NATIVE PLANTS:



Wild Columbine

(*Aquilegia canadensis*) Grows to 6-35 inches with flowers between 1-3 inches and blooms between April to June. The red-yellow flowers Nectar plant for hummingbirds.



Sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*)

Grows to 6-12 inches with flowers between 1-2 inches and blooms between June and August. This perennial is known to be drought tolerant and has a long blooming period



Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

The tree grows to 50-60 feet tall with a trunk up to 25 inches. The plants bloom between April and May. The tree bears yellow, fragrant flowers, dark blue fruit; a great tree to plant in clumps

Use Native Plants Instead of Butterfly Bushes



Butterflies are actually better off with native plants rather than butterfly bushes that have virtually no natural predators in this area, thus infesting the area and crowding out native plants that provide food for native bugs, birds, and other animals. Also, while butterfly bushes draw butterflies with its

nectar, they do not supply butterfly larvae with any food, which means the butterflies are forced to expend time and energy finding another place to lay their eggs.

2011 Whitemarsh Garden



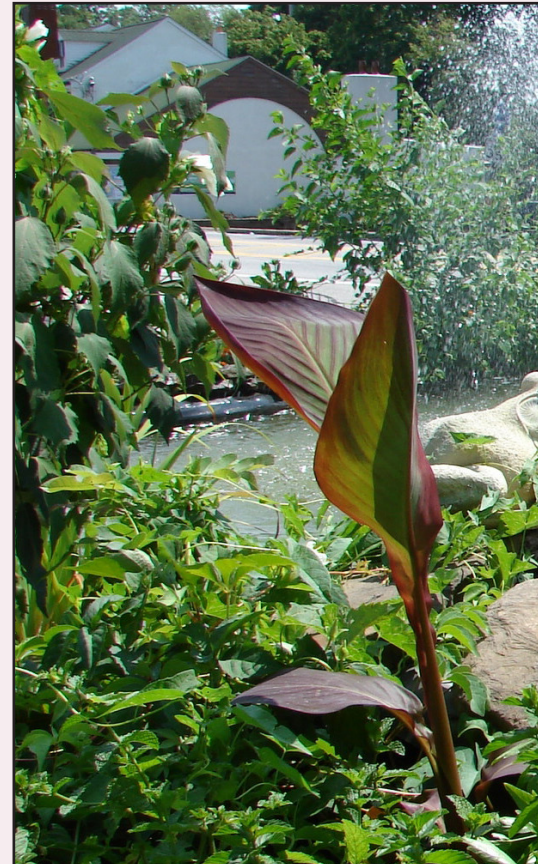
HORTICULTURE: ANN ALBERTS

NEW GARDEN

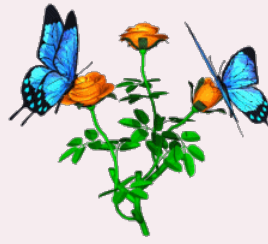


VEGETABLE: ARI GREIS

COMMERCIAL



Contest Winners



**PLEASURE :
KATHLEEN ALLEN**



DAVID KAISER

BIMAL MOKTAN



**HABITAT:
CHRISTINA KOBLAND**





Whitemarsh Township
616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444



***SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY, APRIL 27
6 pm - 9 pm***

***Art Center's annual
art exhibition &
pot luck dinner!***

(with a special dessert extravaganza!)

Tuesday Afternoons at the Whitemarsh Art Center

A relaxing approach to celebrating art in the summertime!

This summer, the Art Center is expanding the open studio ceramics program to include other forms of art that can be explored in and around the farmhouse at Cedar Grove Park, in an open studio format.

Meet friends, Make friends, Learn from others, Create!

The Tuesday Afternoons program runs from 1:30 PM to 4 PM for 8 weeks from June 19 to August 14 (excluding July 3), and is available for Whitemarsh Art Center adult members only.

Check the website for more information: www.whitemarsharts.org

