

WillisTownne Crier

In Willistown, nearly everybody reads the Crier!



VOLUME 44 • SEPTEMBER 2008



FROM THE MANAGER

Welcome to our new WillisTownne Crier feature, "From the Manager," by Willistown Township Manager Hugh J. Murray, Sr. By way of introduction, the first installment begins with Hugh's bio. Hugh can be reached at 610-647-5300 or murman@willistown.pa.us. To contact other Willistown staff members, please visit willistown.pa.us and click on Township Staff, or call 610-647-5300.



Hugh is a true Chester Countian. Born in southern Chester County and raised in East Whiteland Township, Hugh graduated from Great Valley High School in 1964. He entered the U. S. Air Force ten days after graduation and served five years, with tours of duty in California, Spain, and Germany. While stationed in Spain, he was named Air Police Airman of the Month in July of 1966.

Hugh began his career with the Willistown Township Police Department on October 31, 1969. He was promoted to sergeant in 1981, lieutenant in 1990, and chief of police in 1998. In January 2003 Hugh was named township manager over several other applicants.

Along with his extensive police-related schooling, Hugh earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Delaware County Community College in 1976; a bachelor of science degree in administration of justice from West Chester University in 1996; and a master of science degree in public administration from West Chester University in 2003.

In addition to his role as township manager, Hugh is a criminal justice instructor with the Delaware County Community College Police Academy and is an adjunct instructor with Alvernia College in Reading and Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey.

His memberships include the Chester County Chiefs of Police Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association; the Southeast Pennsylvania Police Chiefs Association; and 20 years as board member of the Chester County Fraternal Order of Police. Hugh is also president of the Chester County Managers Consortium and vice president of the advisory board for the Upper Main Line Senior Center.

Hugh is completing 39 years of service to Willistown Township—the longest tenure of any township employee! Hugh and his wife Ginny reside in the West Chester area. They have two adult children, Hugh Jr. and Carolyn.

Supervisor Meeting Schedule Update

The time of the public meeting of the board of supervisors has changed from 8 pm to 7:30 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The supervisor worksessions begin at 6:30 pm.

View Obstructions

The township would like to remind all residents that it is against the Willistown Township Code and Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to allow walls, fences, signs, or other structures, trees, shrubs, or other growth to obstruct the view of the motorist. The appropriate sections are as follows:

Willistown Township Code 139-96. Visual Obstructions Prohibited: On any corner lot, or at any accessway, no wall, fence, sign, or other structure shall be erected or altered and no hedge, tree, shrub, or other growth shall be maintained that may cause danger to traffic on a street, highway, or public road by obscuring the view.

Vehicle Laws of Pennsylvania (Title 75) Section 6112. Removal of Traffic Hazards by Property Owner:

- General Rule – It is the duty of the owner of real property to remove from the property any tree, plant, shrub, or other similar obstruction, or part thereof, that by obstructing the view of any driver constitutes a traffic hazard.
- Notice of Hazard – When the department of any local authority determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that a traffic hazard exists, it shall notify the owner and order the hazard removed within ten days.
- PENALTY – The failure of the owner to remove the traffic hazard within ten days after notice under subsection (b) is a summary offense, and every day the owner fails to remove it shall be a separate and distinct offense. The offense is punishable by a fine of \$10.00.

NOTE: If the resident fails to remove the hazard, not only will the \$10.00-per-day fine be levied, but the township can also remove the hazard and hold the property owner responsible for the cost of the removal.

State Roads Versus Township Roads

Not every road in the township is owned and maintained by the township. Many of the roads (i.e., Paoli Pike, Route 30, Route 3, just to name a

Election Day Exercise Your Voice!

Tuesday, November 4

In order to be eligible to vote, you must be a registered voter in Chester County. If you are not, please obtain an application from Chester County Voters Services in West Chester at 601 Westtown Road. Call them at 610-344-6410 or download an application from the www.chesco.org/election website. The deadline (postmark) for registering is October 4th. First-time voters in Chester County must provide certain types of ID proof. These requirements are listed in the aforementioned website. Absentee voters must apply for an absentee ballot and it must be delivered to Chester County Voters Services (610-344-6410) no later than Tuesday, October 28th. If you've concluded that you had better "get with" registering and/or obtaining an absentee ballot ASAP, you are correct! Don't fail at exercising your privilege to vote because of paperwork!! Put "Must register" on your calendar immediately!



Republican Party Candidate Democratic Party Candidate

US President

John McCain

Barack Obama

US House of Representatives – 7th Congressional District

Craig Williams

Joe Sestak

PA Auditor General

Chet Beiler

Jack Wagner

PA Attorney General

Tom Corbett

John Morganelli

PA Treasurer

Tom Ellis

Rob McCord

PA State Senator – 19th District

Steve Kantrowitz

Andy Dinniman

PA State House of Representatives – 167th District

Duane Milne

Carol Palmaccio

Continued on next page...



Household Hazardous Waste and Computer/TV Recycling

Government Services Building, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester

October 11 • 9 am - 3 pm



Updated List of Household Hazardous Waste Materials That Will Be Accepted at Collection Site (If Properly Labeled)



PAINT PRODUCTS

Turpentine
Wallpaper Cement
Paint Thinners
Strippers & Removers
Oil-Based Paints
Stains, Varnish,
Shellac
Other Solvent-Based
Paint Products

OUTDOOR PRODUCTS

Swimming Pool Chemicals
Weed Killers
Septic Tank Degreasers
Asphalt Sealers
Caulking Compounds
Joint Compound
Roof Cements

AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

Grease & Rust Solvents
Fuel Additives
Carburetor Cleaners
Transmission/Brake Fluid
Antifreeze
Gasoline
Car/Tractor/Boat Batteries



HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Drain Openers
Rug Cleaners
Wood & Metal Cleaners
Toilet Bowl Cleaners
Adhesives/Solvents
Mothballs/Flakes
Spot Removers
Dry Cleaning Fluid
Kerosene

HOUSEHOLD OTHER

Acids, Caustics, Solvents
Flammables
Oxidizers
Reactives
Organic Peroxide
Reactive Metals
Lead
Pesticides
Mercury Bearing Items
Gas Cylinders 20 lbs or less
Asbestos

HHW MATERIALS THAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Latex Paint* (<i>water-based</i>)	Pressurized CFCs & HCFCs
Explosives & Ammunition	Used Motor Oil**
Unidentified Waste	Radioactive Waste
Appliances	Tires
Infectious or Medical Waste	

- The county will not accept any commercial/industrial-generated hazardous waste.
- The county will not accept any material that cannot be legally disposed of at a hazardous waste facility.
- Do not mix materials.
- Tighten lids on all containers. If containers are leaking, pack in larger container with newspaper to soak up leaks.
- Bring all substances in original containers with labels. **Items must be identifiable.**



COMPUTER/TV RECYCLING

Computer monitors, computer "towers," speakers, mouse/mice, keyboards, hubs, printers and other computer peripherals, and TVs no larger than 27" measured diagonally will be accepted.

*Take off lid, dry out paint, discard can without lid; or pour paint into plastic bag with absorbent material (clay-based kitty litter, sawdust, rags, shredded paper) and place bag and can without the lid reapplied in trash.

**Call 610-273-3771 ext. 228 for recycling locations list or contact local automotive service center (Pep Boys in West Chester and Exton, for example). All other questions should be directed to Willistown's Recycling Chairman, Jim Tate, 610-647-7361 ■



FROM THE MANAGER Continued from previous page.

few) are state-owned and maintained. Residents may contact the township (610-647-5300) between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm to report potholes or other road hazards. The township will report the problems to the appropriate agency. Additionally, state roads are plowed by the state during snowstorms. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the township.

Landlord/Tenant Notification

It is imperative that landlords, lessors, and sublessors furnish the township with a current list of their tenants no later than July 15 of each year. This list must be updated no later than 15 days after a new tenant moves in. The appropriate township code reads as follows:

Chapter 101: Rental Registry

§ 101-1. Filing of list of tenants and lessees required. Each landlord, lessor, and sublessor of

property in the Township of Willistown, or the agent of such landlord, lessor, and sublessor, shall file with the township on or before July 15 of each year, on a form prescribed and supplied by the township, a list of all tenants or lessees as of July 1 of each year.

§ 101-2. Distribution of list. The above listing of tenants and lessees shall be filed with the township, one copy for the township zoning officer and a second copy for the township tax collector.

§ 101-3. Supplementation of list. Said list shall be supplemented within 15 days of the arrival of tenants or lessees not previously recorded or the departure of lessees or tenants previously reported.

§ 101-4. Violations and penalties. Any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity or business association that shall violate any term or provision of this chapter shall, upon the first conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of

not less than \$25 and not more than \$50; upon the second conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$100; and upon the third and each conviction thereafter, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$300, together with the costs of prosecution for each and every offense.

We appreciate your cooperation in following these township and state codes. As noted earlier, if you have any questions, please contact the township office at 610-647-5300.

Thank you,

Hugh J. Murray, Sr.

Hugh J. Murray, Sr.
Township Manager



Sugartown Gardens Update

Willistown Township is teaming up with Greener Partners at Willistown's Sugartown Preserve, located between Spring and Providence Roads, to create Sugartown Gardens, an 80- by 120-foot teaching garden and 45- by 45-foot heritage fruit grove. They will be used to educate and entertain children and adults with respect to a host of sustainable agricultural, environmental, and cultural topics—and to inspire gardening in all visitors!



Members of cub pack 98 "diggin'" improving Willistown's Sugartown Preserve through planting trees. Left to right are Alice Heiman-Dowd, Sam Goldman, and Drew Schenk.

Our special thanks go to Greener Partners for investing their energies in Sugartown Gardens. We also thank Potter's Nursery and Landscaping Company and Sam Brown's Nursery for donating three native dogwood and three maple trees, respectively, and Cub Pack 98, under Willistown resident Andy Schenk's leadership, for planting the trees. It's a real community effort!

Site Preparation

As a first step in preparing the site and to manage the wild rose shrubs the meadows at Sugartown Preserve were mowed. Surprise! A couple of weeks later the noxious weeds that had been waiting to sprout, did—and they were everywhere! Said weeds included poison ivy, oriental bittersweet vine, and thistle. This put a halt to the project until the weeds can be brought under control and is evidence that farming depends upon natural elements that can often times derail efforts.

Agricultural Practices at Sugartown

Determination, however, is also a major component of farming—and determined this team is! The following practices being employed by Greener Partners will have the gardens ready for visitors next spring.

■ Sheet-Mulching

Just like making a lasagna, sheet-mulching is all about layering. It's a technique in which layers of compost, newspaper, leaf mold, and grass clippings are applied, keeping weeds down, attracting earthworms to better aerate the soil,

reducing erosion, and retaining moisture. The end result is a nice, crumbly, organically rich soil that will support the natural growth of healthy, nutrient-dense foods.

■ No-Till Planting

In the areas that are sheet-mulched, a no-till method for planting will be used. This means the plants will be put into the ground directly, and the soil will not be disturbed elsewhere. This will allow the beneficial nematodes, earthworms, and other soil-dwelling organisms to do their dirty work.

■ Cover Cropping

In areas with less weed pressure, instead of using the sheet-mulching technique, a cover crop of rye and clover will be planted this fall. In the spring the crop will be rolled down and left to decompose into the soil, providing a great natural source of nitrogen and other nutrients for the garden plants. No-till planting will be utilized in these areas as well.

Outreach

Meanwhile, Willistown Township and Greener Partners have been meeting with educators, local schools, and interested groups in an effort to design gardens that will illustrate their lesson plans and curriculums out in the field. Outdoor hands-on learning at its best!

If you are interested in getting involved in this wholesome, healthy, and fun effort, please contact Erin Herz of Greener Partners at ashbridgefarm@gmail.com or call 610-937-7472. ■

Okehocking Preserve Update

The Okehocking Nature Center board of directors (board), including Willistown's director of parks and recreation, Mare McLoughlin, has been hard at work for the past eighteen months on a detailed feasibility study of the proposed nature center and its location.

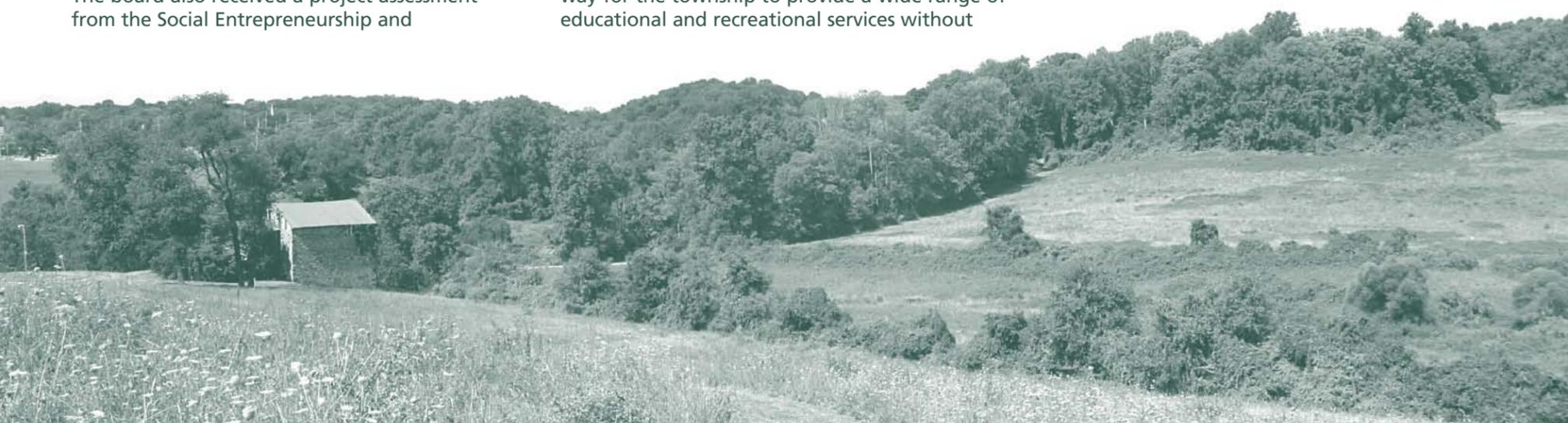
Board representatives interviewed members of the community, directors of other nature centers, fundraising professionals, and educators and received input from Willistown residents through numerous public meetings. They sought early input from the township's planning and historical commissions and supervisors. They discussed the proposed project at length with experts in fields ranging from traffic engineering to landscape architecture and civil engineering. The board also received a project assessment from the Social Entrepreneurship and

Community Leadership class of the Penn State master of business administration and master of leadership development program.

Simultaneously the board carried on its mission to connect people with nature by collaborating on the Okehocking Celebration Series events. The Willistown Parks and Recreation Department staff continues to seek creative ways to serve township residents. Through the nature center project (and as part of the inspiration for the project), we have brought together some outstanding programming partners, including the Upper Main Line Y, Great Valley School District, and Paoli Hospital, to help us provide entertaining and pertinent programs for Willistown residents. Engaging such partners is an efficient way for the township to provide a wide range of educational and recreational services without

hiring more staff. Meanwhile the partners are fulfilling their missions through the activities and events at Okehocking. It's a win-win for all!

As a result of these activities, it became clear that there are immediate requirements for Okehocking that include shelter, restrooms, running water, parking, and improved access. Meeting these basic needs would go a long way toward making Okehocking a welcoming location—for special program participants and casual visitors alike! The board is working with Willistown Township to provide these accommodations. See willistownparks.org for updates, and we'll see you at the next Okehocking Celebration Series event! ■





Willistown's Okehocking Preserve Celebration Series

Okehocking Preserve, Willistown Township's 180-acre green jewel, is a special place protected forever with the help of Willistown residents through the Willistown Open Space Fund, established as a result of the 1999 Open Space Referendum. The preserve is an outstanding asset that provides many opportunities for community celebration—hence, we introduce the Okehocking Celebration Series.



Native American Heritage Day

Sat., Sept. 27 • 11 am-4 pm

Come visit Willistown Township's first Native American Heritage Day on September 27, from 11 am to 4 pm, at the powwow field on the Okehocking Preserve. This new event replaces the Okehocking Powwow as our celebration of the rich Native American heritage of Okehocking and our area. Bring the entire family to learn about and join in the celebration of Native American customs and folkways through various demonstrations and presentations.

Two of our featured presenters will be Connie Paolino and Christine Campbell, who will host an interactive drum circle in which both children and adults can participate. Connie is the owner of The Secret Path (Art & Unique Gifts) in Edgmont, where she hosts workshops on drumming and the spiritual world. Connie is also an artist and vocalist. Christine is the founder of Wolf Song Community Drum Circles and is a recording artist, educator, and social and environmental activist.

Another special presenter will be John Canan, a naturalist and ecologist. He is the founder of the Nature Awareness School, which offers mentoring and educational sessions in nature awareness, storytelling, music, tracking, and basic survival skills, to name a few. John will interweave Native American culture with nature through engaging storytelling that incorporates music, rhythm, and audience participation.

You'll also be able to browse numerous vendor displays featuring authentic Native American jewelry, pottery, and goods for sale, as well as local fine art and nature-inspired jewelry. Food and beverages will be available. What a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon in fall! In case of inclement weather, call 610-647-5300, ext. 286, to see whether the event is postponed until Sunday, September 28.

Halloween Howl

Sat., November 1 • 2 - 4 pm

Bound to be a howl! Mark your calendars now for the Halloween "pets and people parade" at Okehocking!

A panel of celebrity judges will award prizes for the best costumes in various categories—expect many surprises! No registration is required. Refreshments will be available. Check out willistownparks.org for updates.



Celebrating Birds at Okehocking

VALLEY FORGE
AUDUBON BIRD WALKS

Sunday, October 5 • 9 am

with Joe Hudson

Sunday, October 19 • 9 am

with Edie Parnum

Willistown's Okehocking Preserve offers a variety of bird habitats that include meadows, woods, ponds, and the riparian area along the creek—it's a great place to see birds! Edie Parnum and Joe Hudson, our walk leaders, are from the Valley Forge Audubon Society (valleyforgeaudubon.org), which has tallied 134 bird species at Okehocking.

Please be prepared for walking in wet areas. These walks are free to the public. Willistown Township thanks the Valley Forge Audubon Society for their wonderful partnership at Okehocking! Meet at the Route 3 entrance. If weather is a question, please contact walk leader Edie Parnum at 610-964-8331 or eparnum@comcast.net, or Joe Hudson at 610-489-1381 or jchudson@comcast.net.

DIRECTIONS

Delchester Road Entrance:

From the township building, go south on Sugartown through the village of Historic Sugartown to the dead end at Goshen Road. Turn left onto Goshen, then take your first right (at the bend in the road) onto Delchester Road. Proceed past the horse farms and look for the blue and white "Okehocking Preserve" sign on your right. From the intersection of Delchester Road and Route 3, go north on Delchester to the top of the hill. The Delchester entrance to Okehocking will be on your left.

Route 3 Entrance:

Proceed past the Delchester Road entrance down the hill to Route 3. Turn right onto Route 3, and the entrance is ½ mile on the right (5316 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square PA 19073).

Getting to Powwow Field:

Proceed past the Route 3 entrance to the light at Garrett Mill Road and Route 926. Turn right and immediately right again into Powwow Field. It is located across from Garrett Mill Park (1040 Garrett Mill Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073).

WILLISTOWN HAPPYNINGS

For more information on Willistown Parks and Recreation, please visit www.willistownparks.org

CRC Creek Weeks a Weighty Success

CHESTER RIDLEY CRUM WATERSHEDS ASSOCIATION (CRC)

Our local Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association established Creek Weeks to raise awareness and encourage stewardship of these three local creeks. This year's Creek Weeks brought together 493 volunteers, who donated over 1200 hours to clean up over 23,000 pounds of trash from our local waters—talk about a productive day! Many thanks to Anne Murphy, executive director of Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, for spearheading this year's CRC Stream Cleanup Day at Willistown's Okehocking Preserve. Big thanks also to those who volunteered their time to weed and water the trees and establish native wildflowers in the riparian area along Ridley Creek. Your efforts are much appreciated!



From left: Anne Murphy, Kiera McNicholas, Christian Morrow, Katie Beaumont, Carol Palmaccio, and Lindsey Wayland on CRC Stream Cleanup Day at Okehocking. Kiera and Lindsey are members of Girl Scout Troop 41069 out of the Turks Head service unit in West Chester. Kiera started a teen conservation crew who conducts improvement projects, including this one at Okehocking for CRC Stream Cleanup Day, to attain her Girl Scout Silver Award designation. Congratulations, Kiera!



Oke Volunteers: CRC and Willistown Township volunteers generously donating their time at Okehocking for CRC's Stream Cleanup Day include, back row from left: John Fielder, Carol Palmaccio, Claudia Bennett, and Peter Lee. Front row: Phil Taylor and David Child. Not pictured: Charlotte Jones, Anne Murphy, and Kiera McNichols.

Festive Family Fun at the I Spy Nature Walk

A crowd of over 30 children and adults attended the *I Spy Nature Walk* at Okehocking on Saturday, May 31. In addition to the fascinating woodland walk with botanists Janet and Jack Ebert and naturalist Rachel Owen, everyone enjoyed seeing the live animals, including hawks, snakes, and turtles, brought by Great Valley Nature Center and the Upper Main Line YMCA. Families learned about native plants and animals and discovered tracks of local critters. They also took home an animal rubbing plate along with a bag full of other goodies, including healthy lifestyle information from Paoli Hospital. Special thanks to the fabulous Okehocking volunteer team, including Willistown residents Susan Ploeg, Kelly DeCurtis, Loretta Simon, Jonathon Simon, Rachel Owen, and Brad Zerr!



Young generations of nature observers put their *I Spy* magnifying glasses to work at Okehocking's *I Spy Nature Walk*.

Jeremy from Great Valley Nature Center brought feathered friends that delighted kids and adults alike at the *I Spy Nature Walk* at Okehocking Preserve.

Okehocking's Bounty Shared With Melmark

Willistown Township is partnering with Melmark by permitting them to cut native yarrow flowers from the meadows at Okehocking for their Country Garden Guild program.

Melmark's mission is to serve children, adults, and their families affected by developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, acquired brain injuries, and other neurological and genetic disorders. They provide educational, vocational, clinical, residential, healthcare, and rehabilitative services designed for each individual in an environment of warmth, care, and respect.

The Meadows Program at Melmark is a day program for adults with developmental disabilities. It provides meaningful work for participants as members of the Country Garden Guild, a business partnership in which partners are compensated by shares. The program currently serves 50 individuals, who take pride in the Guild and their productive lifestyles.

Melmark's primary focus in the program is in managing a successful horticulture business in which flowers are grown and dried to create baskets, wreaths, and potpourri balls throughout the year. The Meadows

Program also includes a fiber arts workshop and a wood, ceramic and stencil workshop, in which Guild members make knitted animals, felt balls, mosaics, bookmarks, unique cards and gift tags, handmade clay pots and cutting boards, and other woodcrafts. Melmark's tearoom allows individuals to participate in meal preparation, serving, and cleaning.

All products are created from beginning to end. A small seed grows into an abundant harvest. The adults who work here share great pride in their work. The Meadows Program continues to grow and serve the people who live at Melmark and in the surrounding communities.

The Country Garden Guild sells the items created at different local venues, which are listed on Melmark's website, www.melmark.org. The Guild also sells items out of the Meadows Day Program, located at 2600 Wayland Road, Berwyn, on Fridays from 9 am to 4 pm. Proceeds are reinvested in the Country Garden Guild.

Please contact Liza Jones, director of the Meadows Program, for further information about the program or the products created. She can be reached at 610-325-4984 or via email at lwj@melmark.org.





Stormwater Corner

Willistown Township is conducting a comprehensive stormwater management program mandated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and monitored by the state Department of Environmental Protection. A major component of the program requires an effort by the township to increase citizen stormwater awareness and participation in stormwater protection—hence the Crier’s “Stormwater Corner.”

Stormwater pollution is a challenging water quality problem. It is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere. Rainwater and snowmelt run off streets, lawns, farms, and construction and industrial sites. The water picks up fertilizers, dirt, pesticides, oil and grease, and many other pollutants on the way to our streams, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Stormwater runoff is the most common cause of water pollution. And as we all know, water is essential to life, so let’s all do our part in protecting this precious resource! For further information about stormwater, please visit willistownparks.org, go to “Environmental Stewardship,” and click on “Stormwater Awareness.”



Make Your Home the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

A homeowner’s guide to healthy habits for clean water



As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation’s greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

■ Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local waterbody.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don’t rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don’t dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

■ Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don’t overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don’t let water run off into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

■ Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

■ Pet Care

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

■ Swimming Pool and Spa

- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.

■ Septic System Use and Maintenance

- Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary (usually every 3 to 5 years).
- Care for the septic system drainfield by not driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over and near the drainfield to avoid damage from roots.
- Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil, and antifreeze can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system. Other items, such as diapers, paper towels, and cat litter, can clog the septic system and potentially damage components.

Storm drains connect to waterbodies!
Remember: Only rain down the drain!

For more information, visit
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or
www.epa.gov/nps ■



Stormwater Corner

CRC Trout Habitat Protection Work in Willistown

The Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association (CRC) has received two grants to prepare and present a Coldwater Conservation Plan to protect the wild brown trout fishery in the Upper Crum Creek watershed.

Willistown Township has two of the three watersheds in southeastern Pennsylvania (the Upper Crum Creek and Valley Creek) where streams are cold enough and stream-bottom conditions are conducive to the natural reproduction of trout! Eastern Willistown is in the Crum watershed and northeastern Willistown is in the Valley watershed. A steering committee comprised of CRC, the project consultants, representatives from the municipal EACs and parks boards, all local land trusts, and other interested citizen and conservation groups will oversee the study.

The plan will prioritize projects that address stormwater runoff at the headwaters along King Road and Route 30, identify areas needing more extensive riparian buffers and bank stabilizations, and pinpoint areas where trout habitat can be enhanced.

Owners of streamside property should be aware that, this fall and possibly next spring, representatives from CRC and the project consultants may be accessing private property from the stream corridor or bridge access points in order to document areas that may need improvement and verify recommendations in the township's Upper Crum Creek assessment. Every effort will be made to contact the property owners in advance. Residents having questions on this project, or wishing to volunteer, please contact CRC at 610-892-8731, or info@crcwatersheds.org. You may review periodic project updates on www.crcwatersheds.org under "Crum Creek." ■

Review periodic trout project updates on www.crcwatersheds.org under "Crum Creek."



Willistown Quaker Meeting Environmental Festival "Saving the Earth Begins at Home."

Saturday, September 20 • 11 am - 6 pm

The Willistown Friends Meeting will host its fourth free Environmental Festival on Saturday, September 20, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, at the meeting house at 7069 Goshen Road (the intersection of Goshen Road and Warren Avenue). Bring your family, friends and neighbors to celebrate the environment and learn practical ways to help save it at this picturesque slice of the Chester County countryside.

The first fifty people/families will receive native tree saplings, 25 copies of Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax*, and copies of *1001 Ways to Save the Earth*, along with reusable ACME cloth grocery bags.

Organizations, individuals, and government agencies, including Willistown Conservation Trust, Brandywine Conservancy, Natural Lands Trust, Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, and Willistown Township will have displays and demonstrations on a range of subjects, such as:

- Global warming
- Native tree and plant propagation
- Stream bank and riparian buffer restoration
- Conservation easements
- Thousands of acres of newly protected open space
- Deer management
- Conservation through gardening and agriculture
- Parks and Recreation in Willistown

- Chester County's open space preservation program
- Green buildings
- Solar electrical power
- Energy audits
- Biodiesel and hybrid cars
- Beekeeping

The speakers and their subjects will include:

"150,000 Acres Saved: Your Stewardship Opportunities"

– Natural Lands Trust

"Global Warming: Time to Act"

– Richard Whiteford, The Climate Action Network

"Green Building Action"

– David Becker, PNC Bank

"Sustainability and Ecomagination at GE"

– Roger Florio, General Electric

"PA Environmental Stewardship Resources"

– State Senator, Andy Dinniman, State Representative, Duane Milne

Additional activities will include carriage rides; tours of the Meeting's 42 acres, featuring a native tall grass meadow and

woodland; pumpkin painting; bird and bat box building; and a display of nature-inspired art. The new Rushton Farm Community-Supported Agriculture Project will provide local organic produce; the Newtown Square Fire Company will provide food and beverages and tours of their fire truck; and the Willistown Friends will hold a bake sale. All of this educational and entertaining activity will be accompanied by the folk music of The Thornbury Ramblers!

The festival will benefit the Thorncroft Equestrian Center, a local nonprofit organization that helps those with special needs. Donations to Thorncroft will be gratefully received at the festival. The Thorncroft Mainstreamers Equestrian Display will take place at 3:15 pm. See www.thorncroft.com for more information.

For further information on the festival, please contact Claudie Brock (610-647-5656) or Susan Cooker (610-644-9084) or visit the Willistown Friends Meeting website, www.willistownfriends.org. ■





Check it Out! (At the Library)

Malvern Public Library

1 East First Avenue, Malvern, PA

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 9 am - 9 pm
Thursday: 9 am - 8 pm
Friday: 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday: 9 am - 4 pm
Sunday: Closed

After a busy summer "catching the reading bug," the Malvern Public Library will be registering children for its fall Storytimes program beginning the week of September 8. There will be Storytimes sessions for infants (up to 23 months old), 2-year-olds, 3- and 4-year-olds, and 4- to 6-year-olds. The sessions begin the week of September 15. Call the library at 610-644-7259 for more information.

The library is looking for an interested Willistown resident to join its board of trustees. The board meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 7:30 pm. To learn more, please call the library or e-mail rdietz@ccls.org.

The library will be resuming its adult programming in September, when it will offer a monthly book club, poetry group, and knitting group. Call the library for dates and times—and come join the fun!

Paoli Library

18 Darby Road, Paoli
(behind the Wachovia Bank)
Phone: 610-296-7996

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 8 pm
Friday: 9:30 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am - 4 pm

Check out the doings at the Paoli Library designed to keep your family happily busy this fall.

- For children: Morning Storytimes continue with Wee Ones at 10 am and Toddlers at 11 am on Tuesdays. Family Storytimes with Music Circles will be Thursdays and Fridays at 10 am.
- How about a weekend event? A Star Wars Game and Trivia Event for ages 5 and up will take place at 4 pm on Saturday, September 27.
- To ring in the holiday season, Miss Scherling will lead a Holiday Music Concert on November 21 at 6 pm. For the whole family!
- Paoli Library's Youth Services will host several intergenerational events focused on a "We the People—Created Equal" theme. Contact Elektra Greer at egreer@ccls.org for more details.
- Inspired by the Beijing Olympics? Paoli Library's Youth Services wants to sponsor a Reading Olympics team in the fall and spring. Interested parents should contact Elektra Greer at egreer@ccls.org.
- Hollywood, move over—the action's in Paoli now: Lights, camera, library! Contact Paoli Library's Young Adult program coordinator to enter a YOUTUBE video contest on the theme, "How the Library Helps Me Survive in the 21st Century."
- Contact the library about "English as a Second Language" classes, which continue throughout the fall.

Willistown Conservation Trust Deer Management Plan

– By William R. Hartman, Director of Stewardship, Willistown Conservation Trust

The rapid approach of the 2008-2009 deer hunting season has resulted in significant progress on the Willistown Conservation Trust's Deer Management Plan (DMP) during the past several months.

In January 2008 an aerial infrared deer count was conducted using grant funds awarded to the trust by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Approximately 4,000 acres within the focal area were photographed, with approximately 275 deer counted, equating to 44 deer per square mile. A balanced ecosystem supports 8-14 deer per square mile.

The broad objective of the DMP is to bring the local deer herd into balance with the local ecosystem, using managed hunting as the primary method. Within this larger framework there are four distinct long-term goals:

- The restoration of currently degraded native plant communities;
- An improvement in the quality and diversity of local bird habitats;
- A reduction in the incidence of Lyme disease; and
- A reduction in the number of deer/vehicle collisions.

Audubon Pennsylvania serves as a key partner in the development of the DMP. In 2003, Audubon PA designated the Trust's program area, including Willistown Township, as the Upper Ridley/Crum Creek Important Bird Area (IBA). The IBA designation recognizes the unique role this area serves as critical bird habitat and emphasizes the need to protect it from external pressures such as deer.

The DMP Focal Area is comprised of approximately 125 properties covering roughly 7,000 acres with the bulk located in Willistown Township. The Trust has implemented intensive outreach efforts to Focal Area landowners to gather information about existing hunting practices on their properties.

Six monitoring sites have been identified within the DMP Focal Area at which baseline plant and bird inventories are currently being conducted. Subsequent monitoring will gauge the degree to which the anticipated decrease in the local deer herd is affecting native plant regeneration and the quality and diversity of the bird populations. Additionally, the data collected in the January aerial deer population assessment will be compared to future aerals to help determine the effectiveness of the DMP over the long-term.

The Trust is also working on a system to streamline the logistics and decrease the costs associated with processing harvested deer and channeling excess venison to people and organizations in need.

Please contact Lisa Rubin, associate stewardship manager, or Bill Hartman, director of stewardship, at (610) 353-2562, ext. 25 and 14, respectively, with any questions. They may also be reached by email at lkr@wctrust.org and wrh@wctrust.org, or you may visit the trust's Website at www.wctrust.org for additional information.

The Willistown Conservation Trust thanks Willistown Township for including its recent Lyme disease and deer/auto collision survey card in the April edition of the WillisTowne Crier! An important component of the Deer Management Plan (DMP), the survey will help the trust better understand the impact the DMP is having on the incidence of Lyme disease and auto collisions with deer in the Willistown area. We have received over 10% of the survey cards back—a robust response! Many thanks to all who took the time to fill out the survey!

A balanced ecosystem supports 8-14 deer per square mile. A January 2008 count estimated 44 deer per square mile in our area.





Police Update

From the Chief



I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. Remember that the little ones are back to school—please keep your speed down and watch out for school zones and school bus stops. In view of the increased school traffic, please allow for extra time getting to your destination.

“Theft from Vehicle” Precautions

Always lock the doors on your vehicles and homes. Never leave personal belongings, laptops, GPS systems, iPods, or other valuable items in plain view in your vehicle. Take them with you. Don't assume your vehicle is protected even while parked in your driveway.

Alarm Permit Process

Willistown Township has an alarm ordinance that (1) requires that an installation permit be issued for all alarm devices and (2) requires that the installer be licensed in the township. Installation permits have a one-time fee of \$25. Obtain the paperwork at the police department, or call Nancy at 610-251-0222 with questions. It's okay if you were unaware of the ordinance and don't currently have a permit, but I urge you to contact our office and we'll be happy to help you complete the paperwork.

Community Alert System

The Willistown Township Police Department, in conjunction with the South Eastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force (SEPARTF) and Ready Notify PA, has implemented a notification system that allows Willistown residents to sign up for alerts such as Amber Alerts (for missing children), weather alerts, the Emergency Alert System (EAS), crime alerts, and information issued directly from the township police department. This system is free, and you can choose what alerts you wish to receive and how to receive them. Remember that some wireless devices charge a fee for text messages. To sign up for this notification service go to <https://chesco.alertpa.org/> and register.

As always, we thank you for your support—we will continue to work hard at keeping you safe.

John M. Narcise

Chief of Police

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Officer Jim Wusinich

Officer Wusinich is a dedicated public servant, having been a police officer for 31 years, 27 in Willistown. During his career Jim has done a lot of good for a lot of people. Some highlights of his career:

- Original community relations/crime prevention officer in Willistown.
- State-certified crime prevention practitioner.
- Certified as a DARE instructor by the Philadelphia Police Department and taught the first-ever DARE class in the Great Valley School District.
- Graduate of Eastern University.
- Has received numerous awards and commendations, including the Paoli-Malvern Jaycees' "Outstanding Young Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award. He also received a duty-related award for valor from the United States Congress.
- Enjoys patrolling the township and interacting with the public.

In his spare time Jim enjoys reading, swimming, basketball, real estate, and stock market speculation. He is married with 3 children.

We thank Jim for his dedication to duty, and if you see him out patrolling, make sure to thank him for his many years of service.



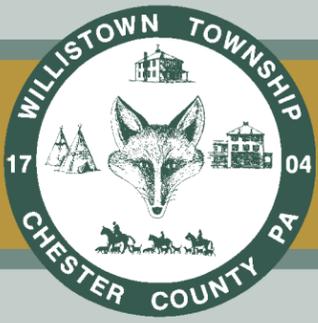
Parks and Recreation New Staff Member Hired



Willistown Township welcomes Mike Wolford to the parks and recreation department, where he serves as assistant to the director. A township resident since 2000, Mike has a background in management, education, and writing. He shares the department's mission to create community and enrich lives through people, parks, and programs. He believes that the new parks Website, www.willistownparks.org, will be a great tool for achieving those goals. Mike may be contacted at mww@willistown.pa.us or 610-647-2794. ■

Election Sign Guidelines – There are Rules!

As is cited in Zoning Ordinance Article XVIII Signs 139-110 K: Signs supporting a candidate for political office may be erected and maintained, provided that the size of any such sign is not in excess of 12 square feet, and provided that such signs may not be erected more than 30 days prior to the election, and provided that such signs must be removed within five days after the election. In the event of a violation of this provision, any or all enforcement remedies under the Municipalities Planning Code may be brought against the owner of the property on which the signs were placed and/or the candidate supported by the signs. ■



Willis Towne Crier



THE NEWSLETTER OF WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP

VOLUME 44 • SEPTEMBER 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept 20

Environmental Festival
Willistown Friends Meeting
11 am - 6 pm

September 27

Okehocking Preserve
Native American Heritage Day
11 am - 4 pm

October 4

Voter Registration Deadline

October 5, 19

Okehocking Preserve Bird Walks
Valley Forge Audubon Society
9 am

October 11

Household Hazardous Waste &
Computer/TV Dropoff Recycling
Chester County Government
Services Building
9 am - 3 pm

October 28

Absentee Ballot Submission
Deadline

November 1

Okehocking Preserve
Halloween Howl Pet Parade
2 - 4 pm

November 4

General Election - Vote!

Willistownparks.org Launched on Web!

In an effort to better serve our residents, the Willistown Parks and Recreation Department has launched its new Website—www.willistownparks.org. With just a click, you'll find information about our township parks and preserves, news and events, community groups, and environmental stewardship. In addition to text, a multitude of photographs document the beauty and features of our park system as well as our events. We've worked hard to create an easy-to-navigate, visually appealing, fun-to-use, and educational site for you to explore.

We hope that those interested in outdoor recreation, nature, environmental stewardship, or the local community will visit the site and give us your feedback. We want it to serve the needs of township residents and help them enjoy the benefits of our parks and programs. Thank you for your support. ■



Willis Towne Crier



THE NEWSLETTER OF
WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP

WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Norman S. MacQueen, III
William R. Shoemaker
Robert T. Lange

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Hugh J. Murray, Sr.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief John M. Narcise

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 am - 12:00 noon, 1pm - 4pm
Monday through Friday

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 688 Sugartown Road
Malvern, PA 19355
Telephone: (610) 647-5300
Fax: (610) 647-8156
www.willistown.pa.us

THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor.....Mary McLoughlin

Contributing Editor.....Jim Tate

Design.....Watson Design Inc.

