

Willis Towne Crier

In Willistown, nearly everybody reads the Crier!



VOLUME 42 • JANUARY 2008

Why Focus on Stormwater?

In March 2003, Willistown Township began a comprehensive stormwater management program mandated by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and monitored by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Any municipality with a population of at least 5,000, including counties, must comply with the program. Willistown Township, falling within this guideline, was required to get a federally authorized, state issued permit to discharge its stormwater. The program is designed to literally "manage" stormwater, both by protecting water quality and by preventing high volumes of runoff from causing flooding in developed areas.

As authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating "point sources" that release pollutants into waters of the United States, including all rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, etc.. Point sources can be pipes or man-made ditches that carry stormwater from the street level to the nearest stream. Water pollution degrades surface waters, making them unsafe for drinking, fishing, swimming, and other activities.

Because Willistown Township owns the stormwater conveyance system within the municipal boundaries, it's the township's responsibility to ensure that any water pollution entering the system is minimized to the fullest extent possible. This effort to protect water quality is two-pronged: through education of residents, businesses, developers, and its own staff, and through the use of technical implements to reduce the discharge of pollutants into streams. For instance, a large component of the program is the requirement that the township screen its stormwater outfalls for potential

conditions of pollution and take corrective action in the event a pollutant source is found.

Another major component of the program requires an effort by the township to increase citizen participation and awareness. It is important for Willistown's residents and businesses to be aware that increased stormwater runoff and pollution can occur from many different sources and can cause a number of problems. You'll note that in virtually every *Towne Crier* we include an article regarding stormwater, often addressing what residents can do to assist in protecting our water resources.

Concentrated development in urbanized areas substantially increases impervious surfaces such as streets, driveways, and parking lots. These surfaces are the primary collector of pollutants until rain washes them into nearby storm drains. Common pollutants include pesticides, fertilizers, oils, salt, litter, and sediment. Storm drains do not run to treatment plants. They empty directly into waterways. When left uncontrolled, these discharges can result in fish kills, destruction of wildlife habitats, and contamination of drinking water and recreational waterways. Sediment from yard debris and construction sites can cause stream bank erosion, vegetation destruction, and flooding. It is therefore extremely important to recognize that individual actions can multiply the effect on water quality.

Please see the township website, willistown.pa.us, for further information, including pollutant contact numbers. Also visit the DEP website, depweb.state.pa.us, and click on "Water Topics" at the top of the page, then on "Stormwater Management" for further information on this important topic. ■

Help manage stormwater by planting a rain garden.

See article at right •➔



Rain Gardens and More

Penn State Brandywine

Saturday February 9th • 10 am

Willistown Township will cover the cost of this event for Willistown residents in our effort to minimize stormwater runoff and pollution.

Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association (CRC) and Habitat Resource Network of Southeastern PA are co-hosting Rain Gardens and More at the Penn State Brandywine campus (formerly the Delaware County campus) on Route 352 in Media, Middletown Township. The program, to begin in the main athletic building, features a one-hour lecture on rain gardens by Catherine Renzi, owner of Yellow Springs Nursery and landscape designer, who lectures frequently on the subject. Rain gardens are a way for homeowners as well as businesses to participate in the reduction of polluted runoff, simply by planting a specialized garden.

A rain garden is a man-made depression in the ground that is used as a landscape tool to improve water quality. The rain garden forms a "bioretention area" by collecting water runoff and storing it, permitting it be filtered and slowly absorbed by the soil. The site for the rain garden is strategically placed to intercept water runoff. The first flush of rain water is captured in the depression of the rain garden, and contains the highest concentration of materials washed off impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, and parking lots. A nutrient removal or "filtering" process takes place as the water comes in contact with the soil and the roots of the vegetation. This process accounts for the improved water quality.

After the rain garden discussion, Vivian Williams of Stroud Water Research will give a brief talk about practical considerations on siting and caring for rain barrels—an innovative way to capture runoff for reuse. This will be followed by a review of the design of the newly installed naturalized stormwater detention basin on the Penn State campus and a visit to the site. At the conclusion of the program (at about 11:30 am), there will be an optional site visit to the Toft Woods rain gardens, rain barrel installation, and retrofitted stormwater detention basin in Upper Providence Township.

Admission is \$5 per person; however, Willistown Township will cover the cost of Willistown residents who attend this event as part of its efforts to educate residents on the management of stormwater runoff. Participants are requested to pre-register with CRC at crc@nni.com or by calling CRC at 610-892-8731. Participants may also register the day of the event by arriving by 9:45 am. More details are available on CRC's web site: www.crcwatersheds.org. ■



Hollywood in Willistown

In October 2007 Hollywood came to Willistown's Bryan Avenue neighborhood to film portions of *The Lovely Bones*, an adaptation of the Alice Sebold best-selling novel. *The Lovely Bones* is a novel set in 1970s rural Pennsylvania and tells the story of 14-year-old Susie Salmon. She is murdered but continues to observe her family after her death. Published in 2002, the book was Alice Sebold's second novel and has sold over ten million copies worldwide. It remained on the *New York Times* hardback bestseller list for over a year.

In 2003 Sebold won the Book of the Year Award for Adult Fiction from the American Booksellers Association. Alice grew up near Great Valley High School, so it seems fitting that the American film studio DreamWorks and director Peter Jackson came to this neck of the woods to film the story. Filming wrapped in Willistown in mid-December and is scheduled to resume in New Zealand in January.

The Lovely Bones will be distributed by Paramount Pictures worldwide and will be released in the US on March 13, 2009. Just prior to the release, the *Towne Crier* will be publishing articles from its interviews of Willistown residents cast as extras and those whose homes were used as sets.

Peter Jackson is one of today's most successful filmmakers, having directed, written, and produced *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, which grossed almost \$3 billion. The trilogy was nominated for 30 Academy Awards and won 17 Oscars, including Best Picture for the third film, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. Jackson personally took home Oscars for his direction and writing in *The Return of the King*, as well as for Best Picture. In 2005 he directed, wrote, and produced *King Kong* for Universal. The film grossed over \$500 million and won three Oscars. ■

Star Spotting

A list of *The Lovely Bones* characters and the actors who played them:

Characters (listed alphabetically)	Cast
Abigail Salmon	Rachel Weisz
Buckley Salmon	Christian Ashdale
Clarissa.....	Amanda "AJ" Michalka
George Harvey	Stanley Tucci
Grandma Lynn	Susan Sarandon
Holly	Nikki SooHoo
Jack Salmon.....	Mark Wahlberg
Len Fenerman	Michael Imperioli
Lindsey Salmon.....	Rose Mclver
Ray Singh	Reece Ritchie
Ruth Connors.....	Carolyn Dando
Samuel Heckler	Andrew James Allen
Susie Salmon	Saoirse Ronan

In the next *Towne Crier*. Hear from Willistown residents who were cast as extras as well as from those whose homes were used in *The Lovely Bones*.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE PROGRAM

Lenape Lifeways

Willistown's Towne Hall

Saturday, February 16th • 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm



Willistown Township is rich in Native American history and culture. A significant landscape of the Okehocking band of the Lenni Lenape is

protected in perpetuity as Willistown Township's Okehocking Preserve. We have celebrated native culture through the Township's Okehocking Powwow and now invite you to learn more about those who settled here before us. Native American Heritage Programs will present *Lenape Lifeways*, an introduction to the Lenni Lenape culture and history. The program will cover family life, clothing, hunting, gardening, and much more including a hands-on exhibit of Native American objects.

Willistown Parks and Recreation thanks Pennsylvania Humanities Council for sponsoring this event. The program is tailored for ages 3 years and up and makes for a great family outing. **The event is free, but pre-registration is necessary.** Please call 610-647-5300, ext. 286, or email kdecurtis@willistown.pa.us and provide your name, phone number,



address, email and the number of attendees.

We will be gathering at Willistown's Towne Hall, 688 Sugartown Road, Malvern. If the program is postponed due to weather, an announcement will be left at the above phone number at 10 am on February 16. Snow date: Saturday, March 1, 2008, at 1:30 pm.

Native American Heritage Programs is run by Carla and Allan Messinger and is based in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The mission of Native American Heritage Programs is to present, preserve, and perpetuate the history and cultural heritage of the Lenni Lenape (who originally lived in eastern Pennsylvania, southern New York State, western New Jersey, and parts of Maryland and Delaware) and other Native American groups. Carla Messinger is the author of the children's book *When the Shad Bush Blooms*. The book is about tradition and change and is told in the voices of a

For excerpts, illustrations, and reviews of *When the Shad Bush Blooms*, go to www.lenapeprograms.info/news/new_book.htm

"Traditional Sister" and a "Contemporary Sister," each from her own time. The book is available at the organization's website (www.lenapeprograms.info), and a limited number of books will be sold at the event and signed by the author. ■

2007 Annual Coat Collection

Our thanks to Willistown Cub Pack 98 and Willistown resident Alice Heiman-Dowd for conducting another successful coat collection program for the needy. A full report on the number of coats and the organization to whom they were donated will be provided in the next issue of the *Towne Crier*.



RECYCLING ROUNDUP

Recycling Works!

The Proof Is in the Pudding

This year marks the 20th anniversary of curbside recycling in Pennsylvania. Since the program was signed into law in 1988 by Governor Robert Casey, more than nine million residents in 1,364 municipalities have participated. Recycling has become a household habit for many of us.

The public and private investment in our recycling programs in Pennsylvania is huge:

- More than \$48 million in grants is provided each year to set up and support community recycling programs.
- More than 3,200 businesses and organizations recycle and use recycled materials in manufacturing, generating in excess of \$18 billion in gross annual sales.

- Amazingly, 81,000 workers are employed in the recycling industry just in Pennsylvania! These businesses paid more than \$305 million in taxes to the state in 2006, according to DEP.
- Nearly five million tons of material that otherwise would be dumped in landfills is recycled annually.
- Roadside littering of beverage containers, now collected in recycling programs, declined 64 percent between 1988 and 1999 alone.

Recycling makes sense and cents. Make it a habit and oh, when someone scoffs at your passion for recycling, just roll out some of these facts. Then urge your friend to "catch the recycling wave."

Annual Dropoff Recycling Program

Organized by the Willistown Recycling Committee, our very popular annual dropoff program will take place in April. Specific dates will be provided in the next issue of the *Towne Crier*.

The Ubiquitous Plastic Bag

"Ubiquitous: It's everywhere." The formerly ubiquitous paper bag has been superseded by the ubiquitous plastic bag. Is there anyone who would disagree? And what is so maddening is that if one buys a small container of dental floss, for example, it is quickly tossed into a plastic bag—sometimes, a large one—and handed to you at a checkout counter. Think about how many plastic bags you lugged home during the past holiday season. Amazing, isn't it? Barring a direct hit on Mother Earth by an asteroid, the plastic bag craze by retailers will not stop.

So...how do we turn this lemon into lemonade? **R-E-C-Y-C-L-I-N-G**, that's how! Yes, rather than toss empty plastic bags into a trash container, please store all your empties in an empty plastic bag (what else?) and take them to a food market—Acme, Genuardi's, or Giant, for example. Walmart too. At the entrances to these stores are barrels in which you may deposit your plastic bags. All gain and no pain!

Not only are retailer-used plastic bags recyclable, but so are those plastic sleeves in which your morning newspaper is delivered. Also recyclable are dry cleaner garment protectors; new-garment plastic sleeves, bread wrappers; and large, clear sheets of plastic wrap. Not recyclable are Saran Wrap, plastic bags/sleeves that are soiled, and rigid plastic protectors used over foods and other items.

So get in the "lemonade" groove and take your plastic bags with you when you head out to food shop. Or better yet, take canvas bags with you instead—avoid the ubiquitous plastic bag altogether! ■

About 100 billion plastic bags are distributed annually worldwide...

It takes an estimated 1,000 years for a plastic grocery bag takes to decompose!



POLICE UPDATE



From the Chief

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on changes within our police department. During the awards ceremony at our November monthly meeting, Officer Michael J. Lapira

was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Sergeant Lapira started his career with the Wilmington (Delaware) Police Department. Mike came to our department in 1995 and has been instrumental in many of our training programs. Sergeant Lapira has been a great asset to our department, and we congratulate him on his promotion.

We are also proud to announce that we have been approved to receive a grant to initiate the "Smooth Operator Program" in Willistown Township. This program is a public safety initiative that aims to provide education, information, and solutions regarding the problem of aggressive driving. Law enforcement agencies, trauma experts, government officials, and other professionals have partnered together to educate motorists on the risks involved in aggressive driving and to stigmatize aggressive driving behavior.

Aggressive driving is defined as a combination of unsafe and unlawful driving actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety. It includes such offenses as tailgating, unsafe lane changes, speeding, running red lights and stop signs, following too closely, improper passing, and failing to yield the right of way. Officer Luis Bills is organizing Willistown's Smooth Operator Program and has the full support of our department.

Some Safety Tips:

- Residents are urged to lock their residence and car doors and store valuables out of sight and in a safe place.
- We have received information about an identity theft scheme. This scheme involves thieves placing a device near or around an ATM machine. This device is designed to capture your personal information. Once the thieves have your information, fraudulent cards are being made and used. Please be aware of your surroundings, and if you detect anything suspicious, contact the Willistown Police Department. If you become a victim, refer to our website under the "Identity Theft" tab (www.willistownpolice.org).

Driving Safety Tips:

- Please remember to remove snow and ice from your vehicle. We have seen many vehicles on the roadways that have not been properly cleaned off, and this creates a potentially hazardous condition for you and other motorists.
- Pennsylvania law requires motorists to turn on their lights when their windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to rain, snow, sleet or mist. This not only includes regular daytime running lights; but all lights.
- Many emergency workers are struck and injured each year while conducting business. Pennsylvania law requires that when an emergency vehicle is stopped by the side of the road, unless otherwise directed by an emergency service responder, you should pass in a lane not adjacent to that of the emergency response area. If passing in a non-adjacent lane is impossible, illegal, or unsafe, then pass the area at a careful and prudent, reduced speed reasonable for safety.

This law is very important for the safety of our officers. Please help us while we are helping others!

- Since this is the season when roadways become icy, please be careful as we respond to the many accidents that are weather-related.
- As always, we are here for you. If you see something suspicious, please don't hesitate to call. Many times we receive calls a few days later that something was observed. Don't wait—please contact us as soon as possible. Remember, it's better to be safe than sorry!

Thank you for your support—we will continue to work hard at keeping you safe.

Have a Happy and Safe 2008!

John M. Narcise

Chief of Police



From L to R: Sergeant Michael J. Lapira, Chief John M. Narcise, and Lieutenant Robert "Max" Klinger.



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THE NEWSLETTER OF WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 9

Rain Gardens and More
Penn State Brandywine, 10 am

February 16

Native American Heritage Program
Lenape Lifeways
Towne Hall, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

February 18

President's Day
Township Administration Closed

March 9

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 20

First Day of Spring

March 24

Last day to Register to Vote,
Change Party Registration,
or Change Address

April 22

Primary Election Day
Earth Day

May 3

Fresh Air Friends Stewardship Event
Okehocking 9 am – 11:30 am

Willistown Volunteers

Welcome to "Willistown Volunteers", a new segment of the *Towne Crier* which highlights the different volunteer advisory boards of the township. Each board is made up of Willistown residents willing to give their time to their community. A big "Thank you!" to all of these generous residents!

Willistown Township Planning Commission



Under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code of 1969 as amended, the Willistown Township Planning Commission acts as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors. Specific duties are required of the commission, including the writing of the Comprehensive Plan, the preparation and amending of the Zoning Ordinance, and the preparation and administration of, and making recommendations regarding, subdivision and land development regulations.

The Planning Commission consists of seven members, who must be residents of the township. The members meet twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays, to hear applicants who wish to subdivide or develop their properties or require recommendations to the Zoning Hearing Board or the Board of Supervisors regarding their properties.

From L To R: Planning Commission members Frank Houder, Dave Watt, Bill Bowers, Rita Reves, and Art Newbold. Not pictured: Gerry Bucaccio and Bill Shoemaker.



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

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