

WillisTowne Crier – eNews Edition

November 2021

Happy Thanksgiving

Willistown Township and Willistown Police Department would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. The Township offices will be closed Thursday, 11/25 and Friday, 11/26. There are secure drop boxes located beside the front and rear doors at our Administration Building at 688 Sugartown Road for residents to drop off any correspondence or sewer payments while we are closed.



Willistown Township Proposed 2022 Budget

The Board of Supervisors will consider the 2022 budget for approval at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 13 at 7pm. [View the 2022 budget and presentation.](#)

Corporal Mike Kushner to Retire 12/31

The Willistown Police Department would like to announce that Corporal Michael R. Kushner "Kush" will finish his final tour of duty with the Department on December 31, 2021, having given over 31 years of dedicated service to our community.

All of us at Willistown Police and Willistown Township wish Corporal Kushner the very best in his retirement, extending our sincere gratitude for his 31 years of professionalism and devoted service to protecting and serving the residents and visitors of Willistown Township. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done Kush!





Ready ChesCo

Sign up for the latest weather alerts and other important updates through ReadyChesCo, the official emergency alert system of Chester County.

Alerts can be customized in many ways:

- Citizens choose how they receive information (email, cell phone, home phone etc.)
- Citizens choose what areas they receive information about (where they work, live, areas frequently visited)
- Citizens choose what types of information they want to receive (County-wide alerts, road closures, weather emergencies, etc.)
- If a citizen does not want to receive some types of information during the overnight hours, they can establish a “do not disturb” time frame

Volunteers Needed!

Willistown Township is seeking two residents to fill two vacancies and serve on the [Malvern Library Board](#). The Malvern Library Board is comprised of seven members, two of whom are from Willistown. The Board is responsible for stewardship, long-range planning, and promoting and advocating for the library in the community. The Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Learn more and apply on our [Volunteer Information Page](#).



Slow Down in Willistown

Willistown motorists share our roads & our beautiful open space with wildlife & recreation enthusiasts, including equestrian riders. Below are a few facts to keep in mind when approaching a horse & rider on the road or trail.

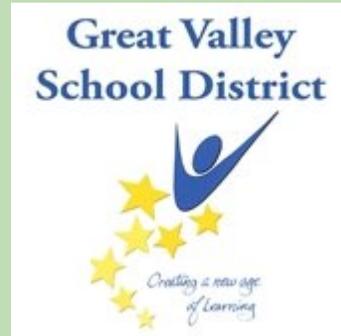
1. How should motorists drive past horses safely? *Slow down and act like you are passing a cyclist or pedestrian on the road. Approach slowly and use caution. Proceed carefully until you have passed the horse.*
2. What is the safe distance a driver should allow next to horses who are traveling along the road? *At least 6 ft. Please pass wide and slowly!*
3. Who has the right of way? *Both horses and automobiles have the right to use the roads. We need to share the road. Horses should cross carefully only when it is safe to do so.*
4. What to do if you see a loose horse while driving? *Contact the Willistown Police Department Dispatch Center at (610) 647-1440. The Police Department knows what to do to get the horse safely back to the rightful owner.*
5. How should I behave when I encounter a horse on a trail while hiking? *If possible, avoid startling the horse by appearing too suddenly. Approach slowly, and say*

something, such as “Hello, Horse,” when first sighted, which helps him understand that you are a human. If the horse is panicking, move in a direction away from him. Keep leashed dogs close and controlled. Step downhill off the trail and let the horse have the uphill side to pass you or be passed.

Great Valley School District News

Tax Rebate Available to Volunteers

In exchange for volunteer service in the Great Valley public schools, residents aged 60 or older can receive a rebate on their property taxes. The Great Valley School District offers this program to provide senior citizens with property tax relief while also engaging our seniors in the public schools. For additional information, please visit the [Great Valley School District website](#).



Willistown Parks & Rec News



Okehocking Preserve Water Sampling Contributes To Delaware River Watershed Conservation Efforts

Willistown Parks and Recreation is a sampling partner in [Willistown Conservation Trust's](#) (WCT) water quality research program. WCT has been collecting baseline water quality data in the main stem of Ridley Creek at Okehocking Preserve since 2018. Okehocking is one of ten WCT water chemistry sampling sites in the headwaters of the Ridley, Crum, and Darby watersheds. Sample results are sent to the Academy of Natural Sciences to test for the presence and concentration of nitrogen, phosphorus, and total suspended solids. The data is then used by the [Delaware River Watershed Initiative](#) (DRWI) for their conservation efforts. The DRWI collaborates with conservation organizations across the four states of the Delaware River watershed to monitor water quality at over 300 locations across the basin. WCT's ten-site monitoring program began with funding provided by the [William Penn Foundation](#) in affiliation with DRWI. They also survey for macroinvertebrates (water organisms without backbones) which are indicators of stream health—they vary based on the pollution levels of the water. Read WCT's *A Macroinvertebrate's Thanksgiving Feast* article [here](#).

WCT reports that the section of Ridley Creek running through Okehocking Preserve is fairly healthy. It is impaired by elevated temperature, the summer temperatures getting high enough to stress sensitive aquatic organisms. Dissolved oxygen levels, however, remain high enough to support many aquatic species. The creek is slightly basic and has a highly variable pH that ranges from 7.35 to 8.92, barely remaining within the range of 6.0 - 9.0 deemed safe for aquatic life. Chloride levels are elevated above natural background levels throughout the year indicating that road salts applied in the winter impact the stream throughout the entire year. Nutrients, which can enter streams through fertilizer runoff and

leaky sewer and septic systems, are elevated above natural background levels as well. WCT is working on a detailed report that will be posted on the Okehocking page at Willistown.pa.us. Willistown Parks and Recreation thanks Willistown Conservation Trust for their continued monitoring of Ridley Creek!

Willistown Summer Fun Camps to Return in 2022



Willistown day camps will be returning for grades K - 5 to Sugartown Elementary School for 8 fun-filled weeks starting June 20, 2022! Stay tuned for more information in our December newsletter. Registration will open January 1, 2022



Paoli Library & Willistown Parks Present: *Stories & Songs Go On...(Weather Permitting)*

By popular demand...stories and songs in the park will go on! Join in the joy on Thursdays in Greentree Park at 11AM through December while the weather cooperates. Note: In the event of inclement weather, the songs and stories will go on via Zoom. Special thanks to Miss Stephanie from Paoli Library for sharing her joy! [Register here.](#)

Assessing Okehocking Preserve's Ridley Creek- Thanks, Drexel University Environmental Science Majors!



On a cold but sunny November morning, Beth Watson, Ph. D., brought her students from *The Watershed Approach* course of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University to Okehocking for some field study. Mary, our Director of Parks and Recreation, began the day with a stream observation walk, taking the Environmental Science majors to different sections of the main stem of Ridley Creek and visually assessing nature's clues—the conditions there. She spoke of the importance of observation, both visual and quantifiable, in discovering the story of a stream. A component of *The Watershed Approach* course is for students to gain field experience learning how to assess the physical properties of a stream, measure and monitor water quality, and sample invertebrates and vertebrates (the stream's critters). At Okehocking, the students are surveying changes in the stream channel width and depth over time to help understand the dynamics of the stream. This research will contribute important intel for future stream corridor management projects. Assessment results will be posted on Willistown.pa.us on the [Okehocking page](#) as it becomes available.

Community News

Historic Sugartown

Holiday Biergarten, Craft Market & Art Sale at Historic Sugartown
Saturday, December 11 | Noon - 4 PM | Tree & Village Lighting at 4 PM

Get into the holiday spirit at Historic Sugartown at a Holiday Market featuring 10+ local crafters and artisans, and a Fine Art Sale by LandArt Events. Sip 'n' Shop with beverages or purchase gifts from Locust Lane Craft Brewery, Chaddsford Winery and Manatawny Still Works. Santa will greet shoppers. There will be make & take crafts for kids too! The day will end at 4 PM with the official lighting of the village and Sugartown's tree on top of the c. 1860 Sharpless Worrall House.

[Admission is free, but advance registration is required.](#)

Paoli Public Library

Paoli Library is now fully open to the public, and is also continuing their popular new services and resources added in response to pandemic restrictions. These include curbside pickup, virtual programming, and an expanded collection of downloadable e-books and e-audiobooks.

If you're looking for something to read and can't make it in to the library, there is a [virtualNew Book Shelf](#) on the library website. Click on an interesting-looking cover and you'll go straight to the library catalog, where you can read reviews and place a hold for pickup. Or you can request a [Book Bundle](#) for pickup, with titles selected especially for you by one of our librarians.

Paoli Library programs for children and teens now often combine curbside pickup of materials with virtual meetings or instructions. For teens there are Game Nights, a Graphic Novel Book Club, and Book Boxes. Book Boxes include a book to keep, a (library) book to return, and snacks to eat while reading. Elementary school students can pick up STEM kits and follow print or video instructions to perform science experiments. And preschoolers can pick up materials for craft projects, following the librarians' instructions on YouTube. View the [schedule of events](#) for all ages on our website.

The library is open Monday–Saturday for in-person browsing, computer use, and holds pickup. Up-to-date hours are posted on the library website, tredyffrinlibraries.org.

Willistown Conservation Trust

Rushton Farm to Field Feast - Thursday, December 9, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Join us and enjoy a festive holiday meal at our field-to-feast dinner featuring Chef Donna Laveran of Lazy Susan Kitchen. While things are quiet on the farm, we'll have the opportunity to gather around the bar at the Ruston Conservation Center for a cozy evening to discuss the importance of regenerative farming and enjoy a savory early winter menu including items preserved from the last harvest at Ruston Farm. This event is BYOB with limited space available. [For more information and buy tickets.](#)

CRC Watersheds

[Berries, Bark and Buds Winter Walk at Little Crum Creek Park](#)

Sat. December 11, 11:00 - 12:30 pm Little Crum Creek Park, 107 Yale Ave, Swarthmore

Come to “Berries, Bark and Buds Winter Walk” and enjoy a wintry mid-morning walk at Swarthmore’s Little Crum Creek Park on Saturday, December 11th at 11 a.m. This walk is co-sponsored by the Friends of Little Crum Creek Park (FoLCCP) and the Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watersheds Association. Andrew Bunting, Vice President of Public Gardens and Landscapes at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and Sheila Magee, an alumna of Swarthmore College who spent 10 years as a gardener on the College Grounds Crew, will lead the walk. Sheila is Vice President of the Board of FoLCCP, of which Andrew is also a member.

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