

# WILLISTOWNE CRIER

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2024  
VOLUME 93



## FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK...

Longer days and warmer weather have arrived again in Willistown! This time of year brings annual projects throughout the Township to maintain and improve our infrastructure. The 2024 road resurfacing will include milling, base repair, and re-paving of just over two miles of roadway. Sewer main repair and replacement began in a few areas in the north of the Township in April.

Our Public Works crew has been working hard to get the parks ready for the summer season and has implemented some park upgrades, including the installation of an all-abilities accessible swing seat at Greentree Park. Speaking of Greentree Park, we hope to see you there this summer at one of the crowd-pleasing parties in the park!

Our younger residents should be sure to attend the *School's Out - Let's GO WilMa!* kickoff event on June 18th to sign up for the outdoor adventure program. Flip through the pages of this issue of the *Crier* to learn more about all the upcoming events and programs.

- Shanna Lodge,  
Township Manager



## MONUMENT ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND BIRD SANCTUARY

Additional open space will soon be added to the Willistown Township park and trail network! In February, the Board of Supervisors approved an Agreement of Sale to purchase two properties totaling over two acres along Monument Road in the northwest part of the Township. This new park will be located in a part of the Township not currently served by any other public open space. It has long been a goal of the Township Supervisors and Planning Commission to increase parkland in this part of the Township; a specific priority of the Township Comprehensive Plan, *Guidelines for Growth and Sustainability*, is to work toward providing every resident in the Township access to a park and/or recreation facility within one half mile of their home.

The new park will maintain the existing natural landscape which includes forested land, natural contours, and unimproved riparian buffer areas along the headwaters of Ridley Creek. The properties have also been identified as an "important bird area." The long-time owners spent many years documenting the numerous and multifarious species of birds that were observed there. These include the pictured Eastern Bluebird, Hooded Warbler, and Pileated Woodpecker.



In the coming months, the Township will begin planning and designing the needed improvements and upgrades that will transform the properties into a park. Stay tuned to the Township website and upcoming issues of the *WillisTowne Crier* for more details about improvements and eventual public access.  
*Photos by Tony Fernandes*

## 2024 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Chester County Solid Waste Authority has three upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collections scheduled in Chester County. Now is your chance to dispose of unwanted automotive, home maintenance, lawn, and pest control products.

**Friday, June 21 – Coatesville**  
**Saturday, August 24 – Oxford**  
**Saturday, October 5 – West Chester**

Pre-registration is required. For more information on accepted items and how to register, visit [chestercountyswa.org](http://chestercountyswa.org).

## CODE CORNER

*Open Burning in Willistown:  
Come on Baby, Light My Fire!*

We're here to answer your burning questions about the rules and regulations for... well... outdoor burning! Willistown Township adopted their original Outdoor Burning Ordinance in 1965. Since then there have been amendments based on the recommendations from the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) Model Burning Ordinance. Our current Ordinance can be found on our website under 'Township Code,' take a look... it's lit! In the meantime, there are some rules that we wanted to share with you.

- It is unlawful to burn 'waste material' (household trash and items required to be recycled) and 'brush or wood.'

But wait... that sparks a question... what can I burn? There are noted exceptions to the outdoor burning of brush or wood, but most of them involve getting permission from another entity to do it (contact the Zoning Dept. with questions). Ok... but this ignites another question... what about my backyard barbecue? Ah-ha! We are pleased to inform you that outdoor fireplaces, fire-pits or chimeneas, grills, smokers, and other outdoor cooking appliances ARE allowed.

Good news for you, bad news for those marshmallows. Even though this type of burning is permitted, you should still make sure to do so in a safe and controlled environment, and always make sure the fire is completely extinguished before you turn in for the night. And please be courteous to your neighbors... or else the next Codes Corner will be featuring the Nuisance Ordinance!

## WHEN WILLISTOWN WAS INVOLVED IN THE COLD WAR Brought to you by the Willistown Historical Commission

In the mid 1950's the US Army developed the Nike Missile system to protect the country from possible Soviet Union nuclear bomber attacks. The Nike batteries encircled major cities in the US with the Edgemont and Paoli locations protecting the western side of Philadelphia. The Edgemont site located at Delchester Road and West Chester Pike was in the SE part of Willistown and extended



*Stock photo*



*Penna Photo Archive*

across the pike into Edgemont township. In 1960 the Army passed the control of the missile batteries to the Penna. National Guard. The battery closed in 1964, fortunately without launching any missiles.

← 1958 aerial photo of Delchester Rd crossing West Chester Pike. The command and radar control is on the east side of Delchester Rd in the upper center. The Missile launchers are in the lower right corner on the east side of Delchester. West Chester Pike running diagonally is the approximate dividing line of the two townships.



*Penna Photo Archive*

← This enlargement shows the Command and Radar control on the east side Delchester Rd. Today all that remains is behind the vine covered fencing are the Concrete towers where the radar was mounted and a PENNDOT storage yard. Look closely and you can see the soldiers personal vehicles parked along the road.

This enlargement shows → the 6 Nike Missile launchers and their bunkers on the east side of Delchester Rd, in Edgemont Township. Today the location is the home of a US Army Reserve Center; there are no missiles at the location.



*Penna Photo Archive*

## WILLISTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Willistown Police Department's Officer of the Year Award is presented annually to the officer who has demonstrated exemplary service to their profession, their department, and to the community. The award is voted on by the officer's peers; every officer casts a vote for the officer they believe has distinguished themselves during the past year. The 2023 Willistown Officer of the Year is Tom Wooding.

Tom built a solid foundation over nine years working for Clifton Heights Police Department, where he ascended to the rank of Sergeant in 2018, Tom brought invaluable experience and leadership to our team when he joined our police force in March 2021.

His commitment to public safety extends beyond the badge; as a member of the West Chester Emergency Response Team, Tom consistently demonstrates his dedication to protecting and serving the community. Within our department, Tom is a cornerstone, actively contributing as one of our Field Training Officers and Firearms/Taser instructors.

Tom earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Penn State University and is currently pursuing a master's degree from Liberty University. Tom is widely respected by his peers and admired by those he serves.

Congratulations, Tom, on this well-deserved recognition as Officer of the Year. Thank you for your service and keeping the community safe.



# WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION



## GO WilMa! OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM

**GO WilMa!** stands for “Get Outside Willistown and Malvern” and combines outdoor recreation, health and wellness, summer reading, and FUN! Explore the natural and historic treasures in the Greater Willistown and Malvern community. There is no fee for *GO WilMa!* The program is funded and presented by Willistown Township.

Our adventurers follow clues to checkpoints, or Inspiration Stations (with etching plates), in parks, trails, historic and other special sites in and around Willistown Township, Malvern Borough, and *new this year*—four new locations in Easttown Township!

Find as many of the Stations as possible by following the clues in this Field Guide. **Turn to your Stamp Collection pages to “stamp” your Field Guide. Use a crayon or side of a pencil to rub the etching at the top of the post in the space provided.** Submit your collection to Malvern, Paoli, or Easttown Library—either as you go or when you have visited all the Stations you want to. To be entered into the raffle, submit your stamps no later than Saturday, August 17.



**Join in the Adventure!** Registration opens at our School's Out—Let's *GO WilMa!* Park Party on June 18, rain date June 20, from 5:30–8:00pm, and is ongoing throughout the summer at Easttown, Malvern and Paoli Libraries.

**This year's theme**, based on the National Collaborative Summer Reading Program theme of *Adventure Begins at Your Library* is... drum roll, please... ***Adventure Begins Outside!***

**More Information** – please visit [willistown.pa.us/GoWilMa](http://willistown.pa.us/GoWilMa)

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Learn more and register: [willistown.pa.us/SummerCamps](http://willistown.pa.us/SummerCamps)

### WILLISTOWN SUMMER FUN DAY CAMP

Willistown Township is pleased to offer the Summer Fun Camps once again at Sugartown Elementary School! Choose one week or all eight weeks. Under the leadership of Jump Start Sports, the weekly camps for children entering grades K-5 focus on summertime fun as well as cooperation, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

**June 17 – August 9 (8 Weeks)**

**CAMP LOCATION:** Sugartown Elementary School, 611 Sugartown Road, Malvern

**AGES:** For Boys and Girls Ages 5–12 Years Old

**CAMP TIMES:** Half-Day 9:00am–12:00pm • Full-Day 9:00am–3:00pm

Before Camp Care 8:00–9:00am

After Camp Care 3:00–5:30pm

**RESIDENT FEES\*:** Half-Day \$140 week / \$990 all 8 weeks

Full-Day \$200 week / \$1480 all 8 weeks

Before Care \$20/week • After Care \$30/week

**NON-RESIDENT FEES:** Half-Day \$150 week / \$1040 all 8 weeks

Full-Day \$210 week / \$1530 all 8 weeks

Before Care \$20/week • After Care \$30/week



### PHILADELPHIA UNION SUMMER SOCCER CAMP

Willistown Parks and Recreation is pleased to partner with the Philadelphia Union's youth soccer program for another four-day week of soccer camp this summer. The Philadelphia Union Youth training programs offer a variety of summer camps throughout the region for players ages 6 through 14 who want a fantastic camp experience, additional training outside of their club schedule, and to be part of the Philadelphia Union family. The unique camp programs are designed to enhance individual skill levels and allow players from different soccer organizations to come together to play the beautiful game. Coaching is delivered by the Professional Union Youth Coaching Staff.

**CAMP LOCATION:** Rita Reves Park, 1040 Garrett Mill Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073

**CAMP TIME:** Monday, July 22 – Thursday, July 25, 2024, 9:00am–12:00pm

*Friday, July 26 will be used in the event of a weather-related cancellation.*

**FEES\*:** \$229 Resident / \$249 Non-Resident

\*Willistown residents: Please email [parks@willistown.pa.us](mailto:parks@willistown.pa.us) with your address for resident verification to receive a discount code before registering.

## WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are located at Greentree Park, 21 Grubb Road, Malvern

### SCHOOL'S OUT—LET'S GO WilMa!

**JUNE 18 • 5:30–8:00pm • RAIN DATE 6/20**

Let's celebrate with our annual *School's Out—Let's GO WilMa!* This family-friendly event includes Puppets Pizzazz, pony rides, a kid's DJ, food for purchase, *GO WilMa!* sign up, and more!



### GREENTREE IN TUNE & ON TAP

Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a relaxing summer evening with music.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. *Please leave your four-legged friends at home.*

**JUNE 25: SUN BROTHERS • 5:30–8:30pm • RAIN DATE 6/27**

Enjoy covers from Steely Dan, Eagles, Stones, Doobies, Ray Charles, Elton John, The Beatles, Billy Joel, and much more!

**JULY 16: THE FRACTION • 5:30–8:00pm • RAIN DATE 7/18**

Classic rock including the Allman Brothers, Grateful Dead, Little Feat, The Band, Bonnie Raitt, Fleetwood Mac, CSN, and more.

### WILLISTOWN COUNTRY FAIR

**AUGUST 20 • 5:00–7:30pm • RAIN DATE 8/22**

Wrap up summer with a beach band, community booths, face painting, Bubbletopia, *GO WilMa!* prizes, and more.

## MAKE YOUR SUMMER SPECTACULAR AT PAOLI LIBRARY!

Summer Reading is here! Go Wilma is back! Begin your reading adventure starting June 18th. The Kick-Off Party is Tuesday, June 18th at 5:30 pm at Greentree Park. Join us for fun, food, games, and a head-start on summer! Make Paoli's weekly and monthly programs part of your schedule. With a regularly rotating calendar, there's always something for your family to do. Check out our event calendar online for events and registration at [tredyffrinlibraries.org](http://tredyffrinlibraries.org).

Now that the weather is nice, Thursday storytimes are back outside! Join Miss Sarah every Thursday at 11 am at Greentree Park (21 Grubb Rd) for stories, singing, and dancing before you play at the playground. Pack a blanket and a picnic lunch to make a day of it! For those with a later naptime, storytimes every Tuesday at 10:30 am are the perfect fit. Join Miss Sarah in the storytime room for a delightful selection of stories, finger plays, and songs. Don't worry about the weather, Tuesday storytimes are always indoors at the library.

Wednesdays are the perfect in-between with an alternating schedule of programs geared specifically for preschoolers and their grownups—look for fun programs such as Baby Block Party, Toddler Art, Preschool Prep, and more! Many exciting events are happening at Paoli for members of all ages this summer and, we encourage you to look online at [tredyffrinlibraries.org](http://tredyffrinlibraries.org) to stay informed!

Create lasting memories and foster your child's love of learning at Paoli's storytimes and programs. We look forward to seeing you there!



**BEST OF THE BEST**

Willistown Township was honored to win *Best Website* in the 2024 Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Communications Contest!

**CHECK IT OUT AT:  
WILLISTOWN.PA.US**

## MALVERN PUBLIC LIBRARY Same great location but all new inside!

Discover MPL's new collection of Playaway Wonderbooks and Launchpads this summer! Wonderbooks are print books with ready-to-play audiobooks inside. Kids simply press play to read along with their favorite book. Hearing and seeing words at the same time improves vocabulary and reading comprehension while keeping kids engaged. Our new Playaway Launchpads are preloaded with learning apps, videos, and games with an easy to use kid friendly interface. No need for wifi, and no download time. Just borrow and use!



### CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAMS SUMMER 2024

#### GO WILMA!

Go WilMa field guides are available at the library starting June 15. Grab a field guide and start exploring our local parks and open spaces this summer!

#### SUMMER READING AND ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Read and get moving to be eligible to win one of our "Fun in the Sun" raffle baskets. Summer reading logs and activity logs will be available the third week in June.

MPL's summer calendar is full of events, and live performances designed to keep your kids busy, entertained, and learning throughout the summer. For more details and a complete list of children's programs, please visit our calendar at: [www.malvern-library.org/calendar](http://www.malvern-library.org/calendar).

#### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

##### JUNE - CREATING A SAFE COMMUNITY FOR EVERYONE!

###### Ally Is a Verb, Not A Noun

June 13 • 5:30pm (Hosted by the Eastern Pennsylvania Trans Project)

###### Being There: Supporting Coming Out Journeys

June 28 • 6:00pm

##### JULY - CELEBRATING AMERICA'S BEGINNINGS!

###### The Siege of Boston Presentation

July 9 • 5:30pm

###### Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation Comes to Valley Creek Park

July 30 • 11:30am (In Partnership with East Whiteland Township)

##### AUGUST - KEEPING COOL WITH INDOOR GAMES!

###### Improv Games with Darryl Spencer

August 9 • 6:00pm

###### Tabletop Game Night

August 15 • 6:00pm

We hope to see you this summer at the newly renovated Malvern Public Library!

## THE 75TH ANNUAL GOSHEN COUNTRY FAIR

Yes, that's right, this is our 75th year. This year's fair runs from Monday 7/29 through Saturday 8/3. No, we don't have a fire engine made out of butter, but we do have judged competitions for livestock, agriculture, arts and crafts, baked goods, pets, and even Lego. Rides, great food, games, bingo, vendor booths, live entertainment, world-famous Goshen Donuts, and of course the nightly firefighter tug-o-war. Free parking, free admission. Unlimited ride wristbands are \$37.00 and our chicken barbeque is Saturday.



The fairgrounds open at 6 PM (5 PM on Saturday), 1320 Park Avenue, West Chester. The fair is our single largest fundraiser and is organized and staffed by dedicated volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please email [President@goshencountryfair.org](mailto:President@goshencountryfair.org).

More information is available at [www.goshencountryfair.org](http://www.goshencountryfair.org).

## TOWNSHIP-WIDE STORMWATER STUDY AND MASTER PLAN

Last year, the Township's stormwater engineer, HRG, Inc., began a comprehensive, Township-wide stormwater study in an effort to develop a Stormwater Master Plan. Members of the Township Public Works and Planning departments, along with the Township Manager, worked with HRG to conduct field work, identify areas of existing resident concerns, and prioritize projects based on a number of criteria including budget, feasibility, and flood mitigation benefit. The goal of this effort was to identify stormwater and flooding issues in the Township, create a priority list of areas that have project potential, and provide a framework for program efforts and mitigation projects that can be implemented by the Township.



The study included extensive field work to identify and assess the condition of stormwater infrastructure. Both a Stormwater GIS (mapping) Database and a Hydrologic & Hydraulic Model of storm sewer drainage areas were developed for continued use to log and model future areas of concern. Problem Areas were identified and ultimately, Mitigation Solutions were modeled for the Highest Priority Areas. The projects and recommendations provided by HRG offer a strategy for addressing stormwater issues in the Township in a way that will provide long-term, tangible results. Visit [willistown.pa.us/stormwater](http://willistown.pa.us/stormwater) to learn more and view the full Willistown Township Stormwater Master Plan.



**PAOLI FIRE CO.  
OPEN HOUSE**

- Safety demonstrations
- Hands-on activities
- Moon bounce
- Light refreshments

**June 1  
1-4 PM**



**69 DARBY ROAD, PAOLI  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## HISTORIC SUGARTOWN NEWS

Visit [historicsugartown.org](http://historicsugartown.org) for event information and to register.

### WEEKEND TOURS

#### May–November

Guided tours of Historic Sugartown will return Sundays in May! Hear about the families, businesses, and stories of Sugartown's past from our knowledgeable team of guides. Get your tickets at [historicsugartown.org](http://historicsugartown.org).

### TICKETS THROUGH TIME

This summer Historic Sugartown is partnering with Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation and Historic Waynesborough to offer combined discounted tickets to all three sites! Tickets will be available June 1 through September 1. Go to [historicsugartown.org](http://historicsugartown.org) for more details.

### BOOKBINDERY WORKSHOPS

Our Bookbinding workshops are booking up quickly. Be sure to get your tickets for classes on bookbinding, paper marbling, book restoration, and more!

### SUMMER BIERGARTENS

**May 16, June 20, August 15** TIME: 5:00–8:00pm

Join us for fun evenings of music, food, drinks, and community! Enjoy drinks from Locust Lane Brewery & Chaddsford Winery, food from local food trucks, and activities for the whole family. Tickets are \$10 in advance at [historicsugartown.org](http://historicsugartown.org) or \$15 at the door.

## WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST EVENTS

Please register in advance and bring a friend at [wctrust.org/calendar](http://wctrust.org/calendar). Donations to support our efforts are always welcome. No dogs please.

### LEAF YOUR WORRIES BEHIND: NATURE WALK WITH GRETCHEN

**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**

TIME: 12:00–1:00pm COST: FREE

LOCATION: Kirkwood Preserve

Please join Gretchen Groebel, Director of Community Engagement at Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) for a casual nature walk at Kirkwood Preserve. During the walk we will take time to observe native plants (probably a few invasives) and trees we see, water features, grasslands, discussing their benefits to the natural ecosystem and wildlife. Please dress for the weather, wear hiking or walking shoes that you don't mind getting dirty. Rain or shine, unless severe weather is in the forecast.



### DISCOVERING A NATIVE WILDFLOWER MEADOW

**Wednesday, July 24, 2024**

TIME: 5:30–7:30pm COST: \$35

LOCATION: Hartman Meadow at Willistown Conservation Trust Offices  
925 Providence Rd, Newtown Square, PA 19073

With over 48 million acres of traditional lawn in the U.S. today, it is clear that many of us have an untapped opportunity to contribute to conservation in a meaningful way. By conscientiously choosing plants in our landscapes that are native to our region, we can begin to reverse some of the habitat loss that imperils ecosystem function and food webs. Our yards can effectively become sources of biodiversity! Join Stewardship Manager John Holback on an in depth tour of our one-acre wildflower meadow; we'll identify plant species and learn about some of the pollinators, insects, and birds that depend on this habitat. Students will learn tips on how to start a meadow of their own, no matter how small.

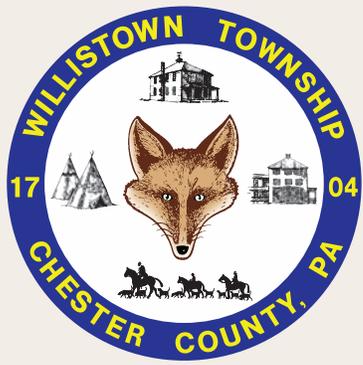


## MALVERN FIRE COMPANY NEWS

Malvern Fire Company would like to offer the following safety tips that can make your summer a safe and enjoyable one. First, don't forget to clean out your dryer vents as part of your spring or summer cleaning routine (this should be done at least once a year). Be sure you are always checking your electrical cords for any frays and ensure that all your electrical equipment is in working order. For all of our grill masters out there, be sure to inspect your grill to ensure that there are no worn parts or leaks. Lastly, be sure to replace your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries, as this should be done twice a year; make certain you are testing your alarms monthly.

Save the date for the annual Fire Company Fair. This year it will be held from July 16th – 20th at the Malvern Memorial Grounds on Monument Avenue. Fireworks will be on Friday 7/19, with a rain date on Saturday. Visit [malvernfireco.com](http://malvernfireco.com) for more details.

We are continually accepting members to assist in all facets of our operations including emergency responders and administrative personnel. Interested? Email us at [info@malvernfireco.com](mailto:info@malvernfireco.com).



Willistown Township  
Charles E. Coxe Memorial Campus  
688 Sugartown Road  
Malvern, PA 19355

Presorted  
Standard Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 50  
West Chester, PA

## WILLISTOWNE CRIER

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2024 • VOLUME 93



### WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP

Coxe Memorial Campus  
688 Sugartown Road, Malvern, PA 19355  
**Phone:** 610-647-5300  
**Email:** [comments@willistown.pa.us](mailto:comments@willistown.pa.us)

### Board of Supervisors

Robert T. Lange, *Chair*  
William R. Shoemaker, *Vice Chair*  
Molly H.B. Perrin, *Member*

### Township Manager

Shanna P. Lodge

### Chief of Police

Robert P. Klinger

### Summer Administration Office Hours

*Effective May 31 – August 30*  
Monday – Thursday: 9:00am–5:00pm  
Friday: 8:00am–12:00pm

### Police Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:00am–4:00pm

### Keep in Touch!

Facebook: @willistowntwp  
 Instagram: @willistowntwp

Township Updates: [willistown.pa.us/NotifyMe](http://willistown.pa.us/NotifyMe)

[willistown.pa.us](http://willistown.pa.us)

## WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BULLETIN BOARD

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS:**  
June 17, July 15  
and August 29  
at 7:00pm

**SCHOOL'S OUT - LET'S GO WilMa! PARK PARTY**  
Tuesday, June 18  
5:30pm–8:00pm  
(rain date 6/20)

**GREENTREE IN TUNE & ON TAP**  
Tuesday, June 25  
5:30pm–8:30pm  
(rain date 6/27)

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**  
July 4 & 5  
Township Offices Closed

**GREENTREE IN TUNE & ON TAP**  
Tuesday, July 16  
5:30pm–8:00pm  
(rain date 7/18)

**WILLISTOWN COUNTRY FAIR**  
Tuesday, August 20  
5:00pm–7:30pm  
(rain date 8/22)

**WIPES CLOG PIPES**  
  
Keep your plumbing - and the Township sewer system clear:  
**DO NOT flush "flushable wipes."**



For a full calendar of events, visit [willistown.pa.us/calendar](http://willistown.pa.us/calendar)