



# WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

December 2022

*Mission: The West Chester Green Team is a civic organization in West Chester, PA, that works to educate the local public and to establish and nourish green initiatives in the community in harmony with nature and each other, promoting the health of all living things and of planet Earth.*

## Inside:

A new contest, Remarks from an award winner, Crebilly Farm preserved, Pollinator license plates, Bondsville has daffodils, News from WCU, Will we have rail service? and our very special December event!



# WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

## When – What – Where.



**December 13 at 5 pm:** Celebrating a Green Holiday--Prof. Ashlie Delshad and Prof. Megan Schraedley. Come and enjoy some holiday spirit and make an item to take home. More details on page 3.

**December 15 at 7 pm:** Dark Sky Committee, Zoom link: <https://wcupa.zoom.us/j/5799570730> Update on the group's activities this fall, and selection of a chair/co-chairs for the committee to start Jan. 1. If you'd like to suggest an agenda item, or a priority for next year, please let Marc Gagne know ([mgagne@wcupa.edu](mailto:mgagne@wcupa.edu))

### Related groups and committees:

**4th Monday of every month:** East Bradford Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), 7 – 8:30pm, East Bradford Township Bldg, 676 Copeland School Rd.

**4th Monday of every month:** East Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 7 – 8:30pm, East Goshen Township Bldg, 1580 Paoli Pike

**4th Tuesday of every month:** West Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6 – 8 pm, West Goshen Township Bldg., 1025 Paoli Pike

**4th Tuesday of every month:** Westtown Environmental Advisory Council, 7 – 8:30pm, Westtown Township Bldg., 1039 Wilmington Pike (Rt. 202)

**4th Thursday of every month:** West Chester Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6:30 – 8 pm, Room 240, Borough Hall, E. Gay St.

Be sure to visit our Web site at <https://wcgreenteam.com/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WCGTeam/> (all are welcome to post environment- and sustainability-related items there). If you wish to support our work, please donate here: <https://wcgreenteam.com/contact-2/>

**NOTE:** Deadline for the January issue is December 31! We welcome contributions and suggestions from our readers for possible inclusion in a future issue. E-mail your ideas to Dianne Walsh at [LDwalsh318@gmail.com](mailto:LDwalsh318@gmail.com).

# ***This and That***

## **More Coming Attractions:**

**What:** Sustainable Holidays crafting workshop. Come join the West Chester Green Team to learn how to celebrate your holiday more sustainably! We'll weave Danish heart baskets, make holiday critters, ornaments, wreaths, and Hanukkah menorahs out of reused and natural materials (toilet paper rolls, acorns, seed pods, pinecones, holly, etc.). We'll also make a reusable bag from a tee shirt. In addition, Drs. Megan Schraedley and Ashlie Delshad will discuss how to shop or seek gifts locally to minimize consumption, pollution, and harm to the planet. The event is open to all! Light refreshments available (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, light snacks).

**When:** December 13th from 5-7PM

**Where:** Sykes Student Union of West Chester University, 110 W. Rosedale Ave, West Chester PA 19382. Meet in Ballrooms A & B on the main floor.

**Who:** Families, friends, and kids of all ages are welcome!

**Cost:** FREE!



**TIPS FOR A GREEN HOLIDAY**

Ballrooms A&B, Sykes Union,  
110 West Rosedale Ave.,  
West Chester 19382  
5-7 PM  
Free & Open to All

Get in the spirit with:

- Make & take holiday gifts
- Museum style "critters" crafted from natural materials
- Candy filled, Danish heart-style woven baskets
- Visits from Green Santa and his elfin assistant

Hosted by Profs Ashlie Delshad and Megan Schraedley  
More info: [mhudgetings@gmail.com](mailto:mhudgetings@gmail.com)



As always, see updates and other events in our website calendar at the bottom of our homepage at <https://wcgreenteam.com>



# A New Contest: The Cassatt Alley Awards

In May of 2022, the GT collaborated with the West Chester BID in beautifying our alleys by planting them with native flowers. The first project was at the Chestnut Street garage which set the standard for alley beautification. The Green Team has done small projects here and there and a major one at CC Art Association. Next year, 2023, borough residents will have a chance to show off their own talents in alley design and landscaping, encouraging beautification borough-wide.

Welcome to the Cassatt Alley Awards contest. There are two categories of awards: residential property and alley cat of the year. You must be nominated to be judged, and people may nominate their own properties or those of neighbors. The awards will be judged by a 5-judge panel of horticulturalists and landscape architects with awards presented on Saturday, August 26, at a banquet.

Extra credit will be awarded for the use of native plants. Each alley will be judged on its overall design, its friendliness and welcoming nature as well as its use of plant materials and overall appeal. The alley cat award will go to the person or persons who have worked most successfully in bringing attention to the importance and potential of West Chester's alleys.

The Cassatt Alley contest opens on June 1, and judging will continue during the months of June and July. Winners will be notified on August 1 with prizes awarded on August 26. Application forms will be available online and through the WCGT website beginning May 20. Multiple prizes may be awarded in each category.



Before and after shots of your alley would be helpful to the judges who will also do site visits. Thomas Dougherty, architect and alley expert, will be one of the judges.

Meanwhile, the borough has been informed of speeding in the alleys and asked to enforce the 15 mph speed limit. Patrick McCoy, Borough Council representative in Ward 1, has been notified of these alley issues and is helping out. With the Green Team's increased focus on water quality issues as highlighted by our November Water Panel, we are working at assessing and decreasing the use of salt in alleys this winter so our beautiful plants will not be poisoned.

May the best gardeners win!

# Philip Jamison Art & Nature Award

## Remarks by Beth Clark, Winner of this year's award

To honor the Green Team's friendship with Chester County artist Philip Jamison and to celebrate his life and art, illustrating the beauty of the Chester County countryside, the West Chester Green Team established an Art and Nature Award in his memory this year. The award was given for the first time on November 15 at a ceremony at West Chester University. The award was presented by GT leader David Wickard and Philip Jamison, Jr. to West Chester artist Beth Clark. Her remarks follow:



I have been fortunate to have lived most of my life in Chester County, my childhood home a stone's throw from the Stroud Preserve. I grew up knowing three artists, who shall we say, were from this side of the Brandywine.

I clearly remember when I was six, Tom Bostelle coming around to our kitchen door, never the front door, to begin my portrait – the last of the six Clarks he painted. There were wonderful visits to his various studios at various stages of my life, lastly at the Aeolian Palace. The smell of the oil paint was always infectious and his insights on EVERYTHING were thought provoking. I kept in touch with him until his passing in 2005. I recall a favorite quote of his “Chester County grew up in me.”

When I was 12, through my brother Michael, I met Dennis Haggerty. We became friends and I, a yearly Brian's Run participant, always made sure his Chili party was a part of that day. He was a strong supporter of my work and I was invited to visit him in Taos NM, where we painted the landscape together, giving me insight into his approach and process.

I was 19 when I studied landscape painting with Bill Freeland through a Moore College of Art summer school class. It was my first serious painting class and a truly transformative experience. Six hours a day. Three days a week. Six weeks. Outside. He would share his Bostelle painting escapades with me and became a mentor and dear friend and was always happy to give me a welcome, if impromptu, critique.

But I never met Phil Jamison until, about 10 years ago, I had 2 small paintings in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Alumni show. The gallery director called and said “A Mr. Philip Jameson has bought one of your pieces. I see you both live in West Chester. Do you think you could drop off his piece?” Knowing Phil's reputation as a collector I thought this was pretty cool to say the least. I contacted Phil and we agreed on a meeting time at his place on Price St. He answered the door wearing one of his iconic plaid short sleeved shirts. Entering the house, he showed me where my piece would be hung and said, “You are really good – where have you been?” Over the past decade we stayed in touch: his visits to me on the Chester County Studio Tour, me to his exhibitions, and my visits several times to see his impressive art collection at his home.

I thank the Green Team for this truly humbling and unexpected award, and I will always think of Phil when outside painting the landscape. A line from my artist statement succinctly sums up my philosophy: “the same location is always a new place” I think Philip Jamison would agree.

# Crebilly Farm Preserved!

*By Jim Wylie*

Westtown voters just preserved a piece of our past and gave a present to future generations. Residents had their chance to speak up, and speak up they did.

It's tough not to get choked up after six years of working to save Crebilly Farm. In the early days of the fight, things looked bleak. Many a night, we looked across the auditorium at Toll Brothers' army of consultants and attorneys and felt overwhelmed. "Look at all those tailored suits. Look at all those \$500 shoes. Look at all those Rolexes!"

We were every bit the underdog, but those of us involved on the ground knew that we had a weapon Toll Brothers didn't have: massive public support for saving Crebilly and an army of our own willing to work to save this iconic farm. That army showed up in force over the past several months and fought to make yesterday's overwhelming result possible. A beautiful place got saved. Those who made sacrifices on September 11, 1777, got honored. Our posterity got a bequest. We got an amazing new park.

We can't just thank the army of supporters, though. "YES" prevailed in every precinct and garnered nearly 70% of the vote overall because people intuitively understand the value of preserving open space. It's not all dollars and cents to most people. It's the intangibles like our legacy, our desire to give back, our selfless instincts. Residents asked and answered "what are we leaving behind?" "What kinds of citizens do we want our kids to be?" "What can we do for our country?"

With this huge step in the process under our belt, the grant money will hopefully follow and the process of turning Crebilly into a public preserve will begin. So it's with an all-consuming gratitude that we say thanks to all the people over the past six years who saw the possible and were willing to work to make it happen.





# Pollinator Conservation License Plate & Program

*From Sen. Carolyn Comitta's office:*

Want to show your support for protecting pollinators? You'll soon be able to – on your license plate!

[Act 112 of 2022](#), a new law based on legislation that state Sen. Carolyn Comitta introduced with state Rep. Kristine Howard, establishes the Pollinator Conservation Registration Plate and the Pollinator Habitat Program Fund. Sales of the specialty license plates will support a new program to support the migration of pollinators by creating native grass and perennial wildflower-filled habitats along our state highways.

Pollinators are vital to environmental health, public health, and our very way of life. By cultivating new pollinator habitats, we are not only supporting these animals, but also our food supply, our agriculture industry, and our economy as a whole. [Watch.](#)

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will release additional information on the design of the new Pollinator Conservation plates and how to purchase one in the next several months. [Read More.](#)





# Dispatch From Bondsville: Daffodils and More Daffodils

Our friends at Bondsville are taking on a big meadow project. Here's what's happening:

Daffodil bulbs. David Culp threw 15,000+ bulbs here and there in the garden. The gardeners and friends have been working overtime to get them in the ground. There's a design but we won't see it until spring when the daffs begin blooming. One species, 'Queen of the North', will ribbon through the area while 'W.P. Milner' will bloom a week or two later and buffer the design.

These are Heirloom Daffodils: Narcissus 'Queen of the North' dates back to pre-1908. The Narcissus 'W P Milner' is as old as the Mill dating back to 1869. It was distinctive enough to win an award of Merit.





# News from WCU

By Emily Miller, GT Intern

## Climate Anxiety Program:

On November 30, the West Chester University Sustainability Peer Educators hosted a Climate-Anxiety themed event for students and staff alike. The goal of the event was, as self-described by the flyers, "to provide students and staff a way to relax and confront their personal climate anxieties". Refreshments were served, and succulents, flowerpots for painting, and other crafts were all provided. From 5-7pm, any personnel in Sykes could stop by and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere, and truly understand what it means to be climate-anxious.



Climate anxiety is, in general, a large issue that lacks prominence in the media but affects nearly everyone. A survey of 10,000 citizens across the globe, conducted by *Nature.com* in 2021, found that a stunning 95% of young people feel at least a little worried about the current climate of Earth. Nearly 50% were either moderately or extremely worried and provided testimony to the surveyors about how much anxiety the state of the Earth's climate gave them. Having an event like this one at West Chester University helped reduce this anxiety and allowed students to voice their worries in a supportive, productive, environment. One student even stated that, "It was an immense relief to have other students who felt the same way as I do."

For information on further events, follow @wcu\_spe on Instagram!

## VegOut Thanksgiving:



In mid-November, West Chester University's own vegan organization, VegOut, hosted a fully vegan thanksgiving in Sykes Student Union. The club--which is the largest vegan organization in the state of PA--was excited to have their Vegan Thanksgiving event back after COVID-19. From 2020-2021, almost all food-related events were barred from West Chester University, and it was a welcome relief to have the community rejoin for Thanksgiving again. Foods included vegan mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, sweet potato pie, and much more.

The event was crowded thanks to a very large turnout. Organizers believed the prominence was helped by the appearance of the therapy dogs outside, which were coincidentally scheduled at the same time as the event. Students spilled out of the Sykes ballrooms, brought food, and got to connect with fellow vegans in the West Chester University community. Even after the event was officially over, many stayed to talk and discuss what it means to be vegan on a budget--in a place where accessing a kitchen can be difficult.

Organizers are hopeful that in the future the VegOut community can continue to grow and develop further bonds within both the WCUPA community and beyond. For future information on VegOut's events and updates, follow @vegout\_wcupa on Instagram.

# Rail Service for West Chester?

*By Jordan Norley*

***Join us on December 20th to voice your support for green, affordable passenger rail service.***

In 2014, to address the growing need to reintroduce passenger rail for West Chester residents, Borough Council created an ad hoc committee to re-establish rail service to the Borough.

Now, thanks to the innovative work of RDC and Pop-Up Metro, we may have the capacity to utilize our old rail lines to serve their original purpose: passenger rail to Philadelphia. Pop-Up Metro is built from the ground up to utilize one of the United States's least utilized infrastructure systems - old rail lines. To do so, the company upcycles older passenger train cars, modulating them with full safety standards and creating a green-focus through battery-powered engines.

The result ends in a safe, accessible, green, and cost-effective way to reintroduce rail lines which can take us from West Chester to Philadelphia in under an hour.

There is an astounding amount of interest in passenger rail service from you. With your voice, support and engagement we can have green and affordable passenger rail service. **Please come to the next Borough Council meeting *at Borough Hall at 6:30pm on Tuesday December 20th and make your remarks during public comment.***

***For questions, involvement, or to stay informed please email [RAIL@WEST-CHESTER.COM](mailto:RAIL@WEST-CHESTER.COM) . To learn more there is great content on our webpage at <https://west-chester.com/430/Rail-Service-Restoration> . Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/westchesterrail>***

## ***REESTABLISHING THE LINK***



## **Restoration of Rail Service to West Chester**



WEST CHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Committee to Reestablish Rail Service to West Chester



## Interested in the Sustainability Advisory Commission?

West Chester Borough Council is accepting applications for volunteer appointments to various boards and commissions, including the Sustainability Advisory Commission, which advises the Borough Council on sustainable practices, and monitors Borough's carbon footprint, and stormwater quality matters.

SAC is of great importance to the WC Green Team and its mission! If you are interested in being considered, please submit a letter of interest and a copy of your resume or biography to Dana DiDomenico, via email [danad@west-chester.com](mailto:danad@west-chester.com). Please use for subject line: Resume for Vacancy. Interested individuals will be contacted to schedule an interview. Deadline for submission is December 7, 2022./

See more about SAC at <https://west-chester.com/471/Sustainability-Advisory-Committee/>.

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*From all of us to all our wonderful supporters . . .*



*Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Healthy and Joyful New Year!*