



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

January 2023

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: Updates on our auction, our 2023 initiatives, Mary Cassatt Alley Awards, what's happening in northern Chester County's OJR School District, a linear garden for West Chester, we need a Garden Program Manager, New Year's resolutions, and did you know about textile waste?



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

When – What – Where.



Jan 10th at 7pm: Porchfest meeting. A Zoom link will be available. Email Rani Norley (raninorley@gmail.com) for details.

January 24 at 7 pm: Green Team Board meeting. Email Courtney Finneran courtney.marm@gmail.com for details.

January 25 at 6:30 pm: Join us for our first Living Landscapes subcommittee meeting of the new year. We are seeking volunteers to help coordinate projects and strategize our priorities. We will offer a "hybrid" meeting, with an in-person option and a Zoom option for those who prefer to

participate virtually. Please RSVP via email to courtney.marm@gmail.com for the in-person location and/or the Zoom link.

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 February issue is January 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.

This and That

Errata: In our December issue, we misidentified the author of the Crebilly Farm article as Jim Wylie. It was actually written by Ken Hemphill. We sincerely regret the error and wish to set the record straight. For the latest on Crebilly Farm from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, see: <https://www.westtownpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/12.29.22-DCNR-LWCF-grants.pdf>

More Coming Attractions:

January 14, 2023, 7:30pm at Align Space



Come out on 1/14/23 for a fun evening to help raise awareness and funds for the Goose Creek Alliance, at Align Space, 2 W Market St, West Chester. Suggested Donation for this free event.....\$15. Contact mike@goosecreekwc.org to RSVP or for more information. The Goose Creek Alliance is a local nonprofit dedicated to the meaningful restoration of Goose Creek, a local watershed spanning West Goshen, West Chester, and Westtown. Through a combination of addressing ecological stormwater, educational and environmental justice issues we hope to promote a sustainable future for this troubled watershed.

April 21, 2023, at West Chester University: Doug Tallamy sign dedication in cooperation with Brad Flamm and the Sustainability Office. The WCGT will also honor three long time members.

April 22, 2023 (Earth Day), Unitarian Congregation, High St., West Chester: Green Fair. Watch for more details to come.

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

WCGT Board News and Initiatives for 2023

We are looking to expand our activities into West Whiteland and are planning a meadow—to be planned by Mike Dunn, GT board member. Also, we are planning to hold a Repair Cafe in West Whiteland modeled on those done in Phoenixville. This will be organized by Ginny Kerslake, also a new board member from West Whiteland.

Our other new board member, Renee Perna, is working on lining up bands for Porchfest. Joining the board in January as a new Dark Sky leader is Tim Lawlor, physics and astronomy professor at Penn State Brandywine and WC borough resident.

Update: The Mary Cassatt Alley Awards

Last month we announced the creation of a new program: the Mary Cassatt Alley Awards. There have been some changes and updates to our original plans and we thought you'd want to know. Here's what's new:

- We have decided to proceed with the BID on the Mary Cassatt Alley Awards. Award design is under discussion.
- Awards will be presented in three categories--business, homeowner, and leader (the Alley Cat Award).
- Awards will be presented on August 26, 2023, at the Chester County History Center
- Doug Tallamy will be the keynote speaker.
- Tickets will be required for the event and GT members will receive a discount on the price. We will plan for 120 attendees this year and will sell plants on the History Center front porch as we did last year.

Keep watching for more news as this program develops and let's start thinking about how we can beautify our West Chester alleys.

2022 Seasons Greenings Auction Wrap-up

It was another successful online auction for the WCGT as we generated approximately \$10,000 in proceeds. We are grateful to everyone who participated—to those who donated items and to those who bid on—and hopefully won—an item or two. The funds raised will go towards our programs for the year including the new Mary Cassatt Alley Awards, Porchfest, and our children's educational programs, just to name a few.



A few items that were not sold will be sold in other ways, including at our popular musical event, Porchfest, on May 20, 2023. Come, enjoy the music, and maybe take home a bargain!

Save the Date: Porchfest 2023



The second annual Porchfest will be held Saturday, May 20 (Rain date is the following day, May 21). This year's committee consists of Rani Norley, Renee Perna, Miggy Mason, Molly Hanford, Whitney Pfeffer, Lillian DeBaptiste, Shruti Malelo and Margaret Hudgings. The southwest quadrant of West Chester is our location again. More details will be forthcoming.

What's Happening in Northern Chester County

The Owen J. Roberts (OJR) School District and its partner, Chartwells, are working together to make food service operations more sustainable and eco-friendly for our community. Some of the highlights of this initiative include:



Community Garden Program Manager Needed



For the past two years, the Green Team has matched up residents who would like free garden space with community garden plots that are kindly opened to us for this purpose. Our garden plots are usually 4 X 4 or 4 X 8 feet.

We again plan to team up with Barclay Friends on N. Franklin. St. in West Chester Borough. What we need is a volunteer to help organize applications, work through any details with the Barclay, and see that all is going well during the growing season.

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Garden Program Manager Con't.

In the photo: beds at the Barclay as originally constructed, before planting. Lots of potential! Half the beds have been used by Barclay staff and half by people signed up through Green Team.



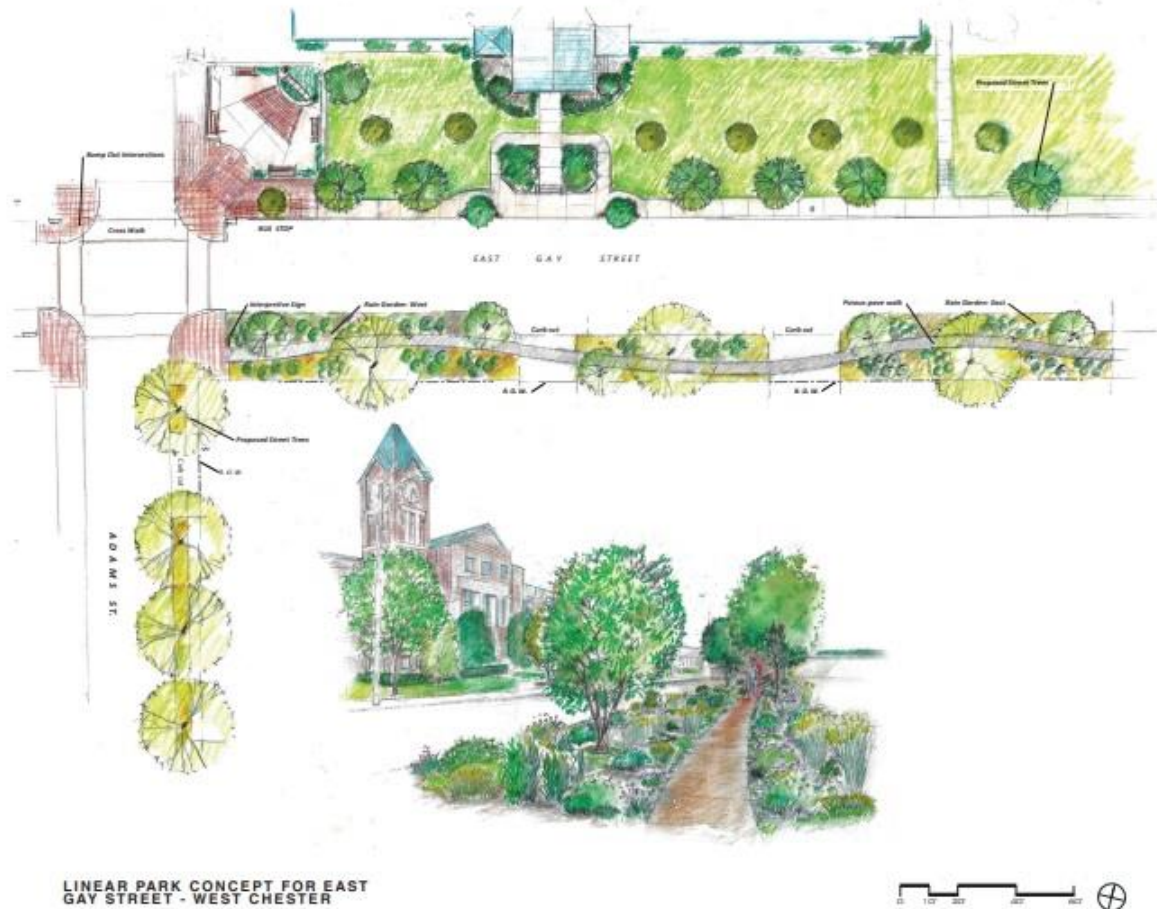
We particularly want to help area residents who wish to grow some healthy food, for themselves or to donate, but who lack space of their own. Children are very welcome to join family members in the garden areas. Gardeners are expected to use natural growing methods and use no pesticides, herbicides, or other chemicals.

The West Chester Green Team believes that gardening and growing food offer us all good ways to get in touch with the natural world, give us a feeling of acting for the good, and are educational to all concerned.

If you'd like to volunteer to manage this project, please email nathanielbsmith@earthlink.net. We expect to have one or two other locations as well, but this position is only for Barclay Friends.

A “Linear Park” for West Chester?

On E. Gay Street in West Chester, directly across the street from Borough Hall, sits an empty lot that can best be described as an eyesore. While it sits empty most of the year, it occasionally accommodates Christmas tree lots, vegetable stands and even fireworks tents. It may eventually be developed, but right now it is not a welcoming sight for people driving into town. But . . . what if there were a long but narrow “linear park” built there? The park would not only look much better but also would provide a pleasant walkway for pedestrians. Here’s a proposed sketch of what it might look like:



Sketch by Chris Pugliese

The landscaped area is entirely within the right of way, so would have little effect on future development. The plan does show expansion into the parking lane for the rain gardens. Like all such projects, this one will depend upon receiving funding, but what a nice addition to the Borough this would be!

Did you know...Almost all clothing goes to waste?

From *Earthday.org*

Today, [the majority of our clothes](#) – 87% – end up in landfills or incinerators. Those that are left over are sent to foreign countries and 40% of those clothes will end up in a landfill. **In short, almost all clothing is wasted.**

What many people are unaware of, however, is the enormous waste generated by the industry itself in manufacturing processes. According to [Reverse Resources](#), a tracking and trading platform for textile fabric, of the 37 million tons of fiber used by the industry, 25% of it is recyclable waste – about 9 million tons of waste globally. Some of this waste does find its way into other uses – but not all. About 30% of this “post-industrial” still-recyclable, useable waste is destroyed.

Just like pre-used clothing, leftover “post-industrial” materials from garment manufacturing is a resource to be tapped. To disrupt fashion's take-make-waste business model, we need to find as many ways as possible to keep resources alive and part of a circular world.



zero waste daniel clothing

Designer Daniel Silverstein, the founder and creator of the amazing fashion brand Zero Waste Daniel, makes beautiful clothing out of scraps! All of the Zero Waste Daniel garments are made from 100% pre-consumer cutting room scraps, design room leftovers and discarded materials. This means unused fabric that would normally be sent to landfill or incinerated before ever turning into clothing. Fabrics never previously used, washed or worn become beautiful, chic, well-made clothes for everyday wear or special occasion wear, and are in every case – unique! View Silverstein's clothing line here: www.zerowastedaniel.com

From Environmental Action (<https://www.environmental-action.org/blog/5-tips-to-reduce-clothing-waste/>), here are five tips you can try to reduce textile waste:

1. Buy less and keep clothes longer.
2. Buy second-hand.
3. Invest in sustainable brands if you can.
4. Stay away from big oil's fabrics.
5. Repurpose old clothes.

Brock University has more suggestions (<https://brocku.ca/sustainability/2020/02/20/4-ways-to-reduce-textile-waste/>):

1. Donate your clothes.
2. Upcycle your clothing.
3. Repair (or have someone repair) your clothing.
4. Resell your clothes to consignment stores.

Leaving you with some New Year's Resolutions to consider:

2023 RESOLUTIONS

I will plant flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees native to my region and avoid cultivars

I will minimize turf lawn to what is needed for human recreation, not an imposed aesthetic

I will refrain from the use of high emission and noise-polluting garden equipment

I will provide leaf litter, stems, twigs and logs to support overwintering moths, butterflies and nesting bees

I will not use pesticides and herbicides

I will remove and manage invasive plants

I will kindly help educate my neighbors and friends

I will freely share native grown plants and seeds from my garden

