



# WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

May 2025

*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:

Porchfest is here, Volunteer of the month, Planting at the Justice Center, A look back at Earth Day, Household Waste events, Chickens in your yard?, Tree Cove Map, Our Air Pollution Grade, and Radical Gardening!



# WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

## When – What – Where.



**Saturday, May 3, 9:00-11:00 AM.** Plant a pollinator garden at the Chester County Justice Center. Details on page 3.

**Saturday, May 17: 1:00-7:00 PM, PORCHFEST.** See pages 4-5 for details

**Saturday, May 17: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM,** Chester County Sustainability Summit and Expo, West Chester University. Details on page

**For details on other May and later events, see listings beginning page 3.**

### 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, 401 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 June 2025 issue is May 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).**

# WE NEED YOU!

The West Chester Green Team is seeking interested individuals to fill several Board vacancies. If you are interested in joining our Board to help us carry on our mission of educating the local public and establishing and nourishing green initiatives in the community in harmony with nature and each other, please contact Karen Slossburg at [karenslossburg@gmail.com](mailto:karenslossburg@gmail.com) or Chris Pugliese at [chrispugl@gmail.com](mailto:chrispugl@gmail.com).

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. —Margaret Mead*

## *This and That*

### More Coming Attractions

Saturday, May 10, 10 M – 2 PM: Repair Cafe in Downingtown



## REPAIR CAFE

### DOWNINGTOWN

May 10th, 2025 10am -2pm

Central Presbyterian Church  
100 W. Uwchlan Ave. Downingtown, PA 19335

Bring Your Beloved  
But Broken Items and  
Get Them Fixed... for FREE\*

Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a Downingtown resident.

**AVAILABLE REPAIRS**  
Soft Toys - Dolls & Stuffed Animals  
Computers & Electronics  
Jewelry  
Sharpening  
Mechanical & Electrical  
Things Made of Wood  
Clothing & Textiles  
Bikes

Limit TWO items per person!  
\*Lamp and bike parts available for purchase at our cost

**MORE INFORMATION**



 [repaircafedowningtown.com](http://repaircafedowningtown.com)  
 [repaircafe165@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafe165@gmail.com)  
 @RepairCafeDowningtown



Thursday, May 15, 7:00 PM: Free Webinar

*Join us for a free webinar on:*  
**MICROPLASTICS' IMPACT ON THE BRAIN & HEART**

 **Thurs, May 15, 2025**  
**at 7:00 PM ET US**

 **Register now at:**  
<https://bit.ly/microplastics-brain-heart>  
or scan the QR code below



**With Sanjay Rajagopalan, MD and  
Marcus Garcia, PharmD, RPh**

**Hosted by:**   

**Saturday, May 17, 1:00-7:00 PM: PORCHFEST!** Spend a musical afternoon in the southwest quadrant of West Chester Borough--from Church Street to Bradford Avenue and Miner to Price Streets. Music, food, kids' activities, fun—and it's all free!

Event goes on rain or shine. Bring your own lawn chair if desired. T-shirts and posters will be available for purchase as well as food and drink from assorted food trucks

For a reminder, print and save the poster on the next page.





WEST CHESTER

4TH ANNUAL

# PORCHFEST

MAY 17

1-7PM



DESIGNED BY BREE DILLON

**SOUTHWEST QUADRANT  
WEST CHESTER BOROUGH**

SPONSORED BY:

THE WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM

ATTEND | HOST | PERFORM  
SPONSOR | VOLUNTEER

**20  
25**

LIVE MUSIC | FOOD TRUCKS  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

[WESTCHESTERPORCHFEST.COM](http://WESTCHESTERPORCHFEST.COM)

**Saturday, May 17 from 10 AM to 2 PM**  
**West Chester University Sciences and Engineering Building**



To provide the best information on what residents, homeowners, and owners of small businesses can do to be more environmentally sustainable, Chester County is hosting a [Sustainability Summit & Expo](#). This FREE event will feature:

- Presentations by local experts on topics like heat pumps, solar power, rain gardens and backyard habitat programs
- Opportunities to chat with neighbors who have solar panels, heat pumps, electric vehicles, rain gardens, and more
- A Sustainability Expo to learn about companies who offer sustainable services like solar installers and ecological landscapers, as well as the organizations spearheading sustainability efforts in our communities
- And more!

The Green Team will be there. [Sign up today!](#)

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### **Saturday, June 7: Gardeners and Garden-lovers Outing**

Please join the West Chester Green Team for an unusual opportunity: a visit to [Backyard Nature Preserve](#) in Chester Springs (about 30 minutes north of West Chester) on Saturday June 7, 10:00 to 11:30am.

Hosts Donna and Dave Delany have made their farm into a showcase of native plants suitable for various habitats, stressing symbiotic relationships between plants, pollinators, birds and the rest of the local environment.

We will meet at the Preserve, discuss your choice of highlights for the tour (such as flowers, vegetables, sun, shade, borders, water runoff and planting native), and embark on a guided tour. Rest facilities are available, as well as native plants for purchase. For those who wish, nearby [Butterscotch Pastry](#) in Birchrunville serves lunch, and also nearby [Bryn Coed Preserve](#) beckons for an afternoon hike.

Space is limited. To sign up, please email [nathanielbsmith@earthlink.net](mailto:nathanielbsmith@earthlink.net) to get on the list and receive directions and parking info. We can help arrange carpooling for those who wish.



## Volunteer of the Month: Stephen Marvin

Stephen moved from Puerto Rico to Philadelphia in the late '70's. He is a librarian and worked in several local libraries for community and business development in Ridley Township, Chester County, as director of the Dr. Michael Margolies Coatesville Area Public Library, and is an emeritus professor at West Chester University. After being misdirected on a return trip to connect to the turnpike weaving through unpromising local roads, he stopped at a gorgeous book barn and was directed to follow a path through West Chester. He fell in love on the spot. Finally, Stephen moved to West Chester in 1991 from Downingtown. Some of his happiest memories include being involved with the Chester County Tricentennial, Salute to Small Business, and Chester County Flag. He continues community participation with the West Chester Green Team, local groups honoring history, scholarship application reviews with West Chester University, the upcoming 250th celebration of the Constitution, and he hopes to follow the example set by our honorable state senator Carolyn Comitta by serving as a member of Borough Council in the Fifth Ward. He also hopes to re-stimulate outside pleasure and recreation with more safety measures in our local parks.

After retiring in 2019, Stephen is dedicating more time to painting. He sees art as part of a broader culture and community of communication. He is consumed by art, the art world, and hopes to convey the spirit in his compositions. He has had pieces exhibited by the Chester County Art Association, Wayne Art Center, Pottstown, Aston, Oxford and GoggleWorks. He enjoys submitting his pieces for raffles with the West Chester Green Team and looks forward to continuing support for community programs such as Porchfest and other gatherings promoting environmental safety.

Congratulations, Stephen!

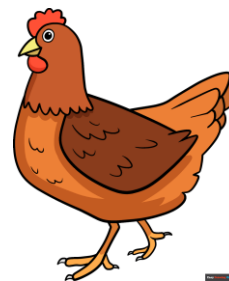
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## Chickens in your Backyard

Are you thinking of raising chickens in your yard? Around 13% of U.S. households have chickens, with an estimated 85 million birds among them. All those fresh eggs are nice, but there's a lot to know before starting your own flock. Here's an article that will fill you in on the basics:

<https://countylinemagazine.com/article/birds-of-a-feather/>

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## Green Your Yard

From landscaping to sustainable materials, here are some ideas for eco-friendly ways to transform your outdoor spaces. Have you tried a saltwater swimming pool?

<https://countylinemagazine.com/article/green-your-yard/>





## A Look Back at This Year's Earth Day Celebration



A presentation celebrating women who made a difference.

Dinner is served!  
Wonderful food from the Mediterranean Restaurant was dished up by Bruce Harrison. Tabouli and baklava were favorites.



Dr. Sa'ed Atshan of Swarthmore College spoke on being hopeful in challenging times.





David Wickard (Left),  
Nathaniel Smith (center)  
and Margaret Hudgings  
(right)

Margaret Hudgings  
introduces Dr. Atshan to  
Nancy Wilson and Mary  
Wolters.



## Radical Gardening

*By Nathaniel Smith*



Sa'ed Atshan's talk at the Green Team's April 26 annual dinner offered us, very appropriately, the term "radical hope." Hope is what keeps us going in hard times, a realm of calm where we can recharge our optimism and love of life.

What often keeps me going is what I think of as radical gardening. Long ago when I lived elsewhere in West Chester, I came up with a theory that whatever can be seen from the sidewalk belongs to the people that see it. Not that it is physically their property, but that they have the right to improve the esthetics and the horticultural statement.

So, some of us began weeding and planting in areas that needed better plants than the owners seemed capable of providing. That may have been a marginal idea, but no one ever objected, and it improved the streetscape. It is, in a way, what the Green Team is doing now, in its plantings to improve areas visible to the public, except that the Green Team has permission.

I do think that we all have a duty to beautify that part of our surroundings that can be seen by passers-by. And they are appreciative. When I'm out tending to our banks sloping down toward the street and our plantings that go right up the street because we don't have a sidewalk, people walking by often offer their appreciation, and that makes the labor even more worthwhile than the meditative peace that the gardener derives from the gardening. So, to me, radical gardening is a form of hope: a spiritual uplift as well as a community value.

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## Planting at the Justice Center

Ollie Finneran, age 12 and a sixth grader at Pierce Middle School, joined the West Chester Green

Team volunteers on Saturday morning May 3 as they planted a pollinator-friendly garden of native plants at the Chester County Justice Center.

Ollie commented, "I think that the garden makes the building look better, and it helps the insects who make oxygen for us to breathe and gives homes to animals such as butterflies and bees." This summer, Ollie plans to intern with the Green Team, helping with outdoor activities such as canoeing at Westtown Lake. His work with the Green Team counts toward his Boy Scout volunteer hours.

Ollie and his mom Courtney with about twenty other volunteer planters from the local community gave their time to beautify the Justice Center. Joining the planting efforts were Molly Hanford, the head of the Green Team's Porchfest Committee and Brian Egan who is in charge of finances for the event. Sue Patterson from the West Chester Cooperative which is opening a



Chris Pugliese at far right and Ollie in the orange tee shirt.



grocery store across from the Justice Center lent a hand as did long-time local gardener Jim Hines who donates produce to the Food Cupboard and artist and gardener Mandy Stadtmiller. Susan Silverstein, who also volunteers at the Chester County Intermediate Unit Horticultural program, attended with one of her students. "We're planting paradise at the Justice Center," she quipped.

West Chester Green Team vice president, Chris Pugliese, designed the garden and supervised its installation, and Chester County Sustainability Director Rachael Griffith guided it through the approval process at the county. Griffith commented, "We're so thankful for the Green Team expertise leading this important project. The garden is going to be beautiful, and I hope it will spark interest in new gardens at other county facilities."



Molly Hanfod in this year's Porchfest t-shirt.



Sue Patterson on far right digging in.

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## How Many Trees Does Your Town Have?

How does your area compare with others when it comes to tree cover? Try this interactive map and find out. Search for a city nearest to you (for most of us this will be Philadelphia) then move your cursor over your location to see the amount of tree cover. Very informative—and fun!

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2025/tree-friendly-cities-urban-forests/>



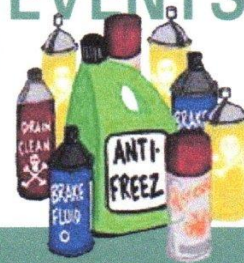


Print and save!

# 2025 SOUTHEASTERN PA REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Visit the host county websites below for registration information and event details. No Electronics Accepted. No businesses or contractors, household material only.

Events are open to residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties and Philadelphia regardless of the host county.



DATE	DAY	COUNTY	LOCATION
April 5, 2025	Saturday	Bucks	Bucks County Community College, 275 Swamp Road, Newtown
April 5, 2025	Saturday	Philadelphia	Streets Dept. Training Center, 8401 State Road at Ashburner Street, Philadelphia
April 12, 2025	Saturday	Chester	Technical College High School, 1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville
April 12, 2025	Saturday	Delaware	Emergency Services Training Center, 1600 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill
April 26, 2025	Saturday	Montgomery	Indian Valley Middle School, 130 Maple Avenue, Harleysville
May 10, 2025	Saturday	Philadelphia	1st District Highway Yard, 4800 Parkside Avenue, Philadelphia
May 10, 2025	Saturday	Delaware	Rose Tree Park, 1671 North Providence Road, Media
May 31, 2025	Saturday	Bucks	Upper Bucks County Area Vocational Technical School, 3115 Ridge Road, Perkasie
June 7, 2025	Saturday	Montgomery	Temple University–Ambler Campus, enter on 1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler
June 14, 2025	Saturday	Philadelphia	Northwest Transfer Station, 320 Domino Lane, Philadelphia
June 20, 2025	FRIDAY	Chester	Coatesville CCIU Center, 1635 E. Lincoln Highway, Coatesville
June 21, 2025	Saturday	Montgomery	Norristown Area High School, 1900 Eagle Drive, Norristown
June 28, 2025	Saturday	Montgomery	Abington Middle School, enter on 2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington
June 28, 2025	Saturday	Bucks	Central Bucks South High School, 1100 Folly Road, Warrington
July 10, 2025	THURSDAY	Philadelphia	Streets Dept. Training Center, 8401 State Road at Ashburner Street, Philadelphia
August 9, 2025	Saturday	Bucks	Bucks County Technical School, 610 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills
August 23, 2025	Saturday	Chester	Oxford School District Administration Building, 125 Bell Tower Lane (Route 10), Oxford
September 6, 2025	Saturday	Delaware	Emergency Services Training Center, 1600 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill
September 13, 2025	Saturday	Philadelphia	3rd District Highway Yard, 2121 W. York Street, Philadelphia
September 20, 2025	Saturday	Montgomery	Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center, 400 South Lewis Road, Royersford
October 5, 2025	SUNDAY	Chester	Downingtown Middle School, 115 Rock Raymond Road, Downingtown
October 11, 2025	Saturday	Delaware	Upper Chichester Township Municipal Building, 8500 Furey Road, Upper Chichester
October 11, 2025	Saturday	Philadelphia	Streets Dept. Facility, 3033 South 63rd Street–Northwest of Passyunk Avenue, Philadelphia
October 12, 2025	SUNDAY	Montgomery	Lower Merion Transfer Station, 1300 N. Woodbine Avenue, Penn Valley
October 25, 2025	Saturday	Bucks	Strayer Middle School, 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown, Richland Township
November 1, 2025	Saturday	Philadelphia	Streets Dept. NE Facility, 3901 N. Delaware Avenue, (Allegheny Exit of I-95), Philadelphia

## For additional information:

Bucks County	215-345-3400	<a href="http://buckscounty.gov/recycling">buckscounty.gov/recycling</a>	Visit website for event hours
Chester County	484-796-4041	<a href="http://chestercountyswa.org">chestercountyswa.org</a>	Visit website to preregister
Delaware County	610-892-9627	<a href="http://delcoswa.org">delcoswa.org</a>	Visit website to preregister
Montgomery County	610-278-3618	<a href="http://MontcoPARecycles.org">MontcoPARecycles.org</a>	Visit website to preregister
Philadelphia	215-686-8686	<a href="http://phila.gov/streets">phila.gov/streets</a>	Visit website for event hours





Print and save!

# 2025 SOUTHEASTERN PA REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

## ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

PAINT PRODUCTS	OUTDOOR PRODUCTS	AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	HOUSEHOLD OTHER
Turpentine	Swimming Pool Chemicals	Grease & Rust Solvents	Kerosene	Acids, Caustics, Solvents
Paint Thinners	Weed Killers	Fuel Additives	Rug Cleaners, Drain Openers	Flammables
Strippers & Removers	Septic Tank Degreasers	Carburetor Cleaners	Wood & Metal Cleaners	Oxidizers & Reactives
Oil-Based Paints	Asphalt Sealers	Transmission/Brake Fluid	Mothballs/Flakes	Aerosols
Stains, Varnish, Shellac	Roof Cements	Antifreeze	Adhesives/Solvents	Lead
Spray Paint	MINI Propane Tanks (No BBQ Tanks)	Car (lead-acid), Truck, Motorcycle & Marine Batteries	Rechargeable Batteries, Lithium, Ni-Cad, Button, Lead Acid	Mercury (Thermostats & Thermometers)
Solvent-Based Paint Products	Pesticide	Gas, Oil, Gas/Oil Mixture	Spot Removers, Dry Cleaning Fluid	Fluorescent Tubes & CFLs
Wallpaper Cement	Chemical Fertilizer	Road Flares (No Marine Flares)	Fire Extinguishers	Ballast (must be removed from light fixture)

## UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

Explosives, Ammunition, Marine Flares	Electronics	Asbestos	Appliances/White Goods
Infectious or Medical Waste	Prescription Drugs	Radioactive Waste	Refrigerants, Freon Appliances
Tires	20 Lb. BBQ Propane Tanks/ Helium Tanks	Unidentified Waste	25- or 50- Gallon Drums
Latex Paint* (Water-Based)	Gas Cylinders	Alkaline Batteries (Trash)	Smoke Detectors

\* Take off lid, dry out paint, discard can without lid; or pour paint into plastic bag with absorbent material (clay based kitty litter, saw dust, rags) place bag and can without lid, in trash. Paint hardener can also be purchased at hardware stores.

## DROP OFF GUIDELINES

- NO TVs, electronics, or appliances will be accepted.
- Event workers will unload your materials so please remain in your vehicle.
- BUSINESSES AND CONTRACTORS WILL BE TURNED AWAY, no commercial/industrial waste accepted.
- Bring all substances in original containers with labels. Items must be identifiable. Do not mix materials.
- Gas containers returned upon request. Please attached a note to your container if you want it back.
- Tighten lids on all containers. If containers are leaking, pack in larger container with newspaper to soak up leaks.
- Maximum amount accepted per vehicle is 25 gallons total volume or 220 pounds total weight.
- No 25- or 50-gallon drums. 5-gallon buckets are the largest container accepted.
- There are no permanent drop off locations in the region for household hazardous waste, only the listed collections.

## 18 PA Counties Get 'F' Grade For Pollution, New Analysis Says

by Kara Seymour in [West Chester Patch](#) (5/2/25) gives us the bad news from the American Lung Association's [State of the Air 2025 Report](#).

According to that 155-page analysis of the latest available figures:

HIGH OZONE DAYS 2021–2023: Chester County earned a C

HIGH PARTICLE POLLUTION DAYS 2021–2023: Chester County earned an F

Those ratings are based on the number of days a year when the indicated pollution type fell in the range from Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups up to Very Unhealthy or Hazardous.

This is a warning for people living in Chester County, because "Particle pollution – also known as particulate matter or soot – is a deadly and growing threat to public health in communities around the country. The more researchers learn about the health effects of particle pollution, the more dangerous it is recognized to be."

Studies have shown that particle pollution contributes to a host of problems including heart disease, lung cancer, and premature death. And those in turn drive up illness, disability, health insurance costs, and household medical expenses.

And as the Patch article says: "The report noted that the burden of living with unhealthy air is not shared equally and that communities of color are disproportionately exposed to air pollution."

Public officials at all levels can improve air quality... if they can find a way to take the necessary measures.

Nationwide, high particle pollution has unfortunately been worsening for the past 20 years:

