

# South Coventry News

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## Helping to Keep the Dark Skies Dark



South Coventry Township was awarded Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council's Night Sky Conservation Award at the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 5, 2015. The Township was given this award in recognition of its ongoing positive efforts to protect the Hopewell Big Woods night sky.

The Hopewell Big Woods is the last largest unbroken forest left in southeastern Pennsylvania. Covering over 73,000 acres, the Hopewell Big Woods is home to hundreds of plant, bird and animal species. The majority of South Coventry Township is part of the Hopewell Big Woods area.

Why are dark skies so important? Excessive and improperly installed lighting can disturb people's sleeping patterns, interrupt the life cycles for many species of birds, animals, insects and plants, and wastes energy. Dark skies also allow for clearer viewing of the stars!

Stan Stubbe, a member of the PA Outdoor Lighting Council, encourages residents to help protect the dark skies of the Hopewell Big Woods, "Outdoor lighting that is excessive, improperly aimed, unshielded or on when not needed is bad for the environment, bad for our wallets, bad for our neighbors, and spoils the natural beauty of Pennsylvania's night sky."

For more tips on how you can help protect our dark skies and answers to some common lighting myths, turn to page 3.

## Thank you for Your Donation!



The Board of Supervisors would like to thank all South Coventry residents who participated in the Toys for Tots toy collection.

Over 160 toys were collected for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign! The residents of Bucktown Crossing banded together and donated 47 of the toys given by South Coventry residents!

### What's Inside

<i>Upcoming Events</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>HHW Collection Dates</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Protect Dark Skies</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Lighting Myths</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Meeting Schedule</i>	<i>Page 4</i>



## Upcoming Events

### **Municipal Primary**

May 19, 2015 - OJR Middle School  
For more info, contact Chester Co.  
Voter Services at (610) 344-6410

### **Warwick Park Community Day**

Sept 26, 2015 - Warwick Park  
Visit [www.chesco.org/parks](http://www.chesco.org/parks)  
for more information

## **Save the Date for Community Day!**

Be sure to mark your calendar so you can join us at Warwick County Park on Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10:00am to 2:00pm for Community Day!

Last year's Community Day, co-sponsored by South Coventry, Warwick and East Nantmeal Townships, was the first held at Warwick County Park and had over 1,200 people in attendance.

Mark your calendar so you can join your neighbors and a host of organizations that will be celebrating our community. Come and explore the multitude of services and recreational opportunities offered locally and beyond.



## **2015 Chester County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events**

Saturday, April 25, 2015 - 9AM—3PM  
Octorara High School  
226 Highland Road, Atglen PA

Saturday, May 16, 2015 - 9AM—3PM  
Owen J. Roberts MS Parking Lot  
981 Ridge Rd, Pottstown PA

Friday, June 26, 2015 - 9AM—3PM  
Coatesville Learning Center  
1425 E. Lincoln Highway, Coatesville PA

Saturday, September 12, 2015 - 9AM— 3PM  
Oxford School District Admin Building  
125 Bell Tower lane, Oxford PA

Saturday, October 10, 2015 - 9AM—3PM  
Government Services Center  
601 Westtown Rd, West Chester PA

### **NO ELECTRONICS will be accepted at 2015 HHW collection events.**

Some household products that are accepted at HHW collection events include turpentine, oil-based paint, car batteries, antifreeze, swimming pool chemicals and pesticides.

For more information about these and other regional events or a full listing of acceptable and unacceptable items, please visit [www.chestercountyswa.org](http://www.chestercountyswa.org) look for Household Hazardous Waste under the Waste Disposal heading or call (610) 273-3771.

## **Comprehensive Plan Update**

The Comprehensive Plan Taskforce is continuing their work on the South Coventry Township Comprehensive Plan Update. The Plan Update is discussed on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30pm during the Planning Commission's regular meetings. These meetings are open to the public.

The Comprehensive Plan Update Timeline with meeting dates and topics to be discussed can be found on the Documents & Permits page at [www.southcoventry.org](http://www.southcoventry.org).

# How Can You Help Protect Dark Skies?

Have you ever had an oncoming driver leave their high beams on? The glare blinding you as you try to stay in your lane? Your outdoor lighting may be causing the same nuisance to your neighbors. Residents and business owners play a very important part in helping to protect dark skies. By taking some very basic steps, you can help preserve and protect our environment and conserve energy!

1. Shut off lights when they are not needed - Using timers or motion detectors will help ensure lights are only on when needed!
2. Replace high wattage bulbs with a lower wattage - 15 or 25 watt incandescent bulbs or 7 or 9 watt CFL bulbs provide enough light to see and reduce unnecessary glare.
3. Aim flood lights down to at least 45° to keep light on the ground and out of the sky - You can purchase a Parshield to clip on your floodlight to prevent light from going upward.
4. If you are changing or replacing an outdoor lighting fixture be sure to use downlighting or a properly shielded fixture.

For more information on light pollution, proper lighting fixtures, and additional educational materials visit [www.policouncil.org](http://www.policouncil.org) or [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).

## Lighting Myths: Fact or Fiction?

### Brighter is Better

The more light that shines, the more a person can see, right? Not always, especially with outdoor lighting! Improperly angled and unshielded light can create glare and shadows which can actually reduce a person's vision.



See the difference between a unshielded (left) and shielded light (right).



### Light pollution only affects astronomers.

Light pollution does make it difficult for everyone to enjoy the night sky but light pollution also affects the circadian rhythm of people and wildlife, can affect plants' growing cycles and disrupt the feeding, reproduction and migration of many mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles.

### It's too late to do anything about light pollution, there are just too many lights.

Light pollution is an enormous problem, and growing in many areas, but that doesn't mean that every property owner can't do their part to help! Take a good look at your outdoor lighting and follow the tips listed above to help reduce the light that trespasses into our dark skies. Every properly shielded light helps to reduce light pollution!

Education is the most important step in protecting dark skies. Be sure to talk to your family, friends and neighbors so they can correctly select, install and use lighting so it will not negatively impact our homes, wildlife and skies!



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South Coventry Township  
1371 New Philadelphia Road  
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## ***South Coventry Township Upcoming Meetings***

### **Board of Supervisors - 7:30 PM**

Monday, May 4, 2015  
Monday, June 1, 2015  
Monday, July 6, 2015

### **Board of Supervisors - 7:30 AM**

Friday, May 1, 2015  
Friday, May 29, 2015

### **Historic Commission - 7:00 PM**

Monday, May 11, 2015  
Monday, June 8, 2015  
Monday, July 13, 2015

### **Planning Commission - 7:30 PM**

Monday, May 18, 2015  
Monday, June 15, 2015  
Monday, July 20, 2015

### **Open Space, Recreation & Environmental Oversight Board - 7:00 PM**

Monday, June 22, 2015  
Monday, July 27, 2015