

WEST GOSHEN CITIZENS FOR LIBRARY FUNDING

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November 18, 2009

To West Goshen Township Supervisors

We are West Goshen Township residents who use the West Chester Public Library, and who are urging the West Goshen Board of Supervisors to make an allotment to the West Chester Library in the Township's 2010 budget.

Across Pennsylvania, the recommended township allotment to libraries is \$1 per resident per year, little enough for the valuable services that libraries provide.

Two other townships in the WCPL service area already make such allotments, and we are asking that the WGT resume the allotments that were made in the past but which were deleted from the Township budget in 2007, 2008, and 2009. The Township has not made allotments to other libraries either during these years, despite cash reserves for future year's use in the general fund budget of \$6,338,910 in 2007 and \$8,661,930 in 2008.

Approximately 31 percent of the West Chester Library cardholders are West Goshen residents. Twenty-three percent of the children in the 2009 summer reading program of the WCPL were WGT residents. Two members of the WCPL Board of Directors reside in WGT. It cannot be denied that West Goshen citizens feel the library in the borough is an important resource, and that they are taking advantage of its offerings.

In light of reductions in state funding for libraries in the 2010 budget year, assistance from boroughs and townships is more important than ever.

The absence of funds from WGT has a direct effect in limiting what the West Chester library can provide in staff, hours, and books, and it also has an indirect effect since funds from the State of Pennsylvania are partially allocated on the degree of support from local municipalities. When the WGT withholds an allotment, that reduces the contribution from the Commonwealth.

The demands for library services are always higher during a recession, proving the wisdom of the old adage, "Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries."

Please restore an allotment for the West Chester Public Library at the recommended rate of \$1 per citizen per year for 2010.