

## Chapter Six

# **COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES INVENTORY**

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Community facilities are the buildings and structures owned and operated by governmental or quasi-governmental entities for various public purposes. Community services include activities ranging from police and fire protection to libraries and recreation programs that are intended to address local needs and protect the health, safety and welfare of residents. The extent to which community facilities and services are available in a particular municipality depends on factors such as population, tax base, regional amenities, and overall demand.

Community services can be provided in a number of ways. Municipalities can directly fund and provide necessary services, contract with private or quasi-public entities to provide the services, or cost-share with other municipalities. The option of contracting with outside entities or providing services through cooperative arrangements with neighboring municipalities is a particularly attractive alternative for rural municipalities with lower populations.

The purpose of this chapter is to describe community facilities and services existing in West Pikeland Township and to identify present and future needs. The planning implications of the following analysis are found at the end of this chapter.

### **TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

West Pikeland Township is a township of the second class as defined by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth provides for two classes of townships, with those of the first class defined as having at least 300 persons per square mile. All others, with the exception of home-rule townships, are townships of the second class, and are thus subject to the provisions of the Second Class Township Code (Act 60 of 1995). A board of three supervisors generally governs townships of the second class. The electorate may increase the number of supervisors from three to five upon approval. The term of office for a supervisor is six years.

The Second Class Township Code charges the board of supervisors with general governance of the township including fiscal management, maintenance of records, maintenance of property and equipment, and the administrative power to secure the health, safety and welfare of the residents. The board of supervisors is authorized to appoint a secretary and a treasurer, to hire staff and to appoint boards and commissions to act in an advisory capacity.

#### **Board of Supervisors**

West Pikeland Township is governed by a board of three supervisors, one of whom serves as chair. As authorized, they have appointed both a secretary and a treasurer to serve on a part-time basis. The secretary also serves as a general administrator. The board of supervisors is required to meet at least monthly. Meetings are subject to notice as stipulated by the Sunshine Act (Act 84 of 1986). The powers vested with the board of supervisors include adoption of ordinances, by-laws, rules, and regulations necessary for the effective administration of the Township. One of the most critical of these powers is the authority to plan for land development through comprehensive planning, zoning, and subdivision and land development regulations as authorized by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247 of 1968).

### **Advisory Bodies**

The Second Class Township Code (Act 60 of 1995) grants the board of supervisors the authority to appoint boards and commissions to act in an advisory capacity. West Pikeland Township has established the following boards and commissions to assist in administering the specific functions defined. In addition, the board of supervisors is authorized to establish ad-hoc committees to undertake special activities for the Township. The task force to prepare the Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan (1992) was established under this authority, as was the task force to update the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **Commissions**

Planning Commission: Primary responsibilities include developing and maintaining the comprehensive plan, preparing zoning, and subdivision and land development ordinances and amendments, reviewing subdivision and land development proposals and preparing recommendations for the board of supervisors. The planning commission consists of seven members that serve four-year terms. It meets once a month.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Responsibilities include overseeing the administration of the parks system and advising the Board of Supervisors on implementing the Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission consists of seven members that serve four year terms. It meets once a month.

#### **Boards**

Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB): Primary responsibilities include making recommendations on the appropriateness of construction, alteration, restoration or demolition proposed for historic resources located in the Chester Springs Historic District. The historical architectural review board currently consists of three members that serve five-year terms. It meets on an as-needed basis.

Zoning Hearing Board: Primary responsibilities include hearing challenges to the zoning ordinance, make determinations on requests for variances and special exceptions, and reviewing, as needed, the interpretations issued by the zoning officer. The zoning hearing board is judicial and decisions are not subject to the approval of the board of supervisors. The zoning hearing board is a three member, quasi-judicial board with one alternate. Members serve for three-year terms. It meets on an as-needed basis.

Library Board: Primary responsibility is to oversee the general operation of the Chester Springs Library. The Library Board consists of nine members each serving three-year terms. Of the nine members, three are appointed by the West Pikeland board of supervisors. It meets once a month.

### **Municipal Administration**

Since West Pikeland Township is rural in nature with a low population density, the number of staff is quite limited. The supervisors themselves perform many of the administrative functions of the Township. The Township secretary serves as a general administrator, but on a part-time basis. The zoning officer and building inspector are part-time positions contracted on an annual basis. The Township contracts with two engineering firms to review subdivision and land development applications, and to advise on Township sponsored maintenance and infrastructure improvements. Legal assistance is contracted as well. West Pikeland also employs a part-time police force.

**Municipal Finance**

The collection and expenditure of municipal revenues are specified in the Second Class Township Code. A Township of the second class may collect a maximum of 14 mills. Both real estate and earned income taxes may be collected and townships have broad authority as to the allocation and expenditure of these revenues. If no specific authority is given for the payment of costs incurred in the exercise of any power contained in the act, the expenses may be paid from the general fund. Expenditures vary according to the population, level of services, and extent of infrastructure.

**Revenues**

In 1998, the Township millage rate in West Pikeland Township was 0.125 mills and the County rate was 2.348. The assessed valuation of real estate for 1999 as reported by the Chester County Assessment Office was \$319,789,940. Although the method of tax assessment in Chester County changed in 1998, the actual tax assessed in West Pikeland has remained unchanged for over two decades. The Township charges a real estate tax, an earned income tax, and a real estate transfer tax. As expected, the largest percentage of revenues is obtained from earned income and real estate transfer taxes. This income category increased between 1993 and 1998 due likely to the increase in population. The 1993 budget relies on a reserve, but also shows a transfer to a Township improvement fund. Other income categories remained consistent.

It should be noted that not all intergovernmental revenues are indicated in these budgets. The liquid fuels funds, which are distributed to all municipalities by formula based on population and number of municipal miles, are not included in this line item. These funds may only be used for road and bridge maintenance and improvements, and for equipment and service costs associated with these activities. Revenue sources as contained in West Pikeland Township's 1998 budget are found in Table 6-1.

**TABLE 6-1  
GENERAL FUND INCOME  
Percentage of the West Pikeland Township Budget (1993 and 1998)**

ACCOUNT TITLE	1993 BUDGET	1998 BUDGET
Taxes (Real Estate)	7%	4%
Taxes (Local Enabling)	76%	88%
Cable TV/Road Encroachment	1%	1%
Fines	1%	1%
General Fund Interest	1%	1%
Intergovernmental Revenues	1%	1%
Charges for Services	9%	4%
Reserve	4%	----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: West Pikeland Township Budget (1993 and 1998)

**Expenditures**

The 1993 and 1998 budget expenditures are found in Table 6-2. In comparing the two time periods, the overall percentages appear to be consistent with no large shifts shown. The Legal, Engineering, Police and Fire Protection line items were slightly higher in 1993 than in 1998, probably because these line items are professional services and thus fixed costs. The only line item that increased substantially between 1993 and 1998 was highway maintenance. This was likely due to the significant increase in road miles as a result of new development. Variations in annual snowfall also impact this line item. The Township increased its financial support to the Chester Springs Library in 1998 to help support a one-time capital improvement. This type of support for libraries is important due to the overall lack of other funding sources for library operations. Both 1993 and 1998 show an excess transferred to a Township improvement fund.

**TABLE 6-2  
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES  
Percentage of the West Pikeland Township Budget (1993 and 1998)**

ACCOUNT TITLE	1993 BUDGET	1998 BUDGET
General Government	4%	5%
Tax Collection/Financial Administration	2%	3%
Legal	8%	4%
Secretary-Treasurer	5%	3%
Engineering	10%	7%
Township Building	1%	1%
Police/Police Cars	15%	10%
Fire Protection/Ambulance	8%	5%
Code Enforcement	3%	2%
Planning and Zoning	2%	*
Emergency Mgt./Snow/Ice Removal	7%	7%
Health and Welfare	1%	1%
Traffic Signals/Signs	1%	1%
Highway Maintenance	15%	28%
Library/HARB/Open Space/Recreation	2%	5%
Transfer to Township Fund	16%	18%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Less than 1%

Source: West Pikeland Township Budget (1993 and 1998)

**Reserves**

The Township has no debt and is in sound financial condition. It has a significant reserve on-hand for Township improvements. Most of this reserve is informally earmarked for acquisition of open space and development of the park system. Several key parcels have been either acquired or devel-

oped in the past decade. A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) would allow the Township to effectively plan for such acquisition and development while maintaining emergency reserves.

### **Municipal Buildings**

West Pikeland Township owns and maintains the municipal building located on the east side of Route 113 south of the intersection with Yellow Springs Road. It is physically located next to the West Pikeland post office. The Township purchased the present municipal building for a nominal amount in 1964. It has been used for municipal purposes since that time. Improvements were made in 1998 at a cost of \$25,000. The main floor contains two offices and a meeting room that seats approximately fifty. Large meetings may be held at the Montgomery School. The upper floor is devoted to police offices. In addition, the Township owns two barns, two houses and a concrete outbuilding. These buildings are located on land the Township has acquired for park purposes. They are not used for municipal purposes at this point but do have the potential for such use in the future. The Township does not own a garage or maintenance building since services such as road maintenance and snow removal, are contracted to outside entities. The location of the Township Building, along with other community facilities is indicated on Map 6-1.

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<b>SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL</b>
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The Solid Waste Management Act (Act 97 of 1980), provides for the planning and regulation of solid waste and requires municipalities with a population density of over 300 people per square mile to prepare and submit solid waste management plans. A second law, the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101 of 1988) was passed to supplement Act 97 in an effort to promote recycling and reduce the volume of solid waste. It requires that a source separation and collection program be established in Townships that have at least 5,000 in population and a density threshold of 300 persons per square mile. West Pikeland Township does not presently meet these thresholds since the 1990 census reports the Township population at 2,323 with a density of approximately 232 persons per square mile. The 1996 population, estimated at 2,660, is still below the threshold. This number will likely increase when the next census is completed. At present, however, the Township is not subject to the requirements of these laws and has not drafted a plan. There are no recycling drop off centers located in the Township, however, several waste haulers do offer curbside pick-up of recyclables.

Each household is responsible for contracting for solid waste collection. West Pikeland does not require that haulers be licensed at the municipal level to operate in the Township. Waste haulers are, however, required to meet minimum criteria and to be licensed at the County level in accordance with Chester County's Flow Control Ordinance. The licensing requirement is applicable to haulers of household waste as well as those that haul construction and demolition debris. In 1998, Chester County licensed approximately eighty-three (83) private contractors. Of these, an estimated thirty (30) contract for household waste pick-up. York Disposal, Browning-Ferris (BFI), KDI Disposal and Blosenski Disposal are the haulers that serve the most significant percentage of the Township.

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<b>WASTEWATER FACILITIES</b>
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Each municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is required to plan for sewage disposal needs in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537 of 1966). The purpose of the plan is to identify future sewage disposal needs based on growth projections, and to delineate policies to address

these needs. The same policies contained in the Sewage Facilities Plan should be reflected in the comprehensive plan and vice versa, in order to avoid conflict in terms of future land use and development expectations. The planning mandated by the Sewage Facilities Act may be met by adopting an individual Sewage Facilities Plan (typically referred to as the 537 Plan), or by adopting the Countywide plan when it is not feasible to prepare a municipal plan. Planning modules are required to be submitted when new development is proposed.

West Pikeland Township does not have an individual Sewage Facilities Plan but instead operates in accordance with the Chester County Master Sewer Plan (1970). At the time this plan was developed, sewage disposal in West Pikeland was envisioned to be addressed by on-lot systems. Developing a municipal sewage disposal plan would allow the Township to develop a hierarchy of preferred methods and to direct new development to locations that can environmentally support those methods.

### **Inventory**

The method of sewage disposal used for a development type is dependent on factors such as population, density, and individual site characteristics. Municipalities, municipal authorities or private entities including individuals, corporations, or homeowners associations, can own and operate sewage disposal facilities. In Chester County, sewage disposal facilities and systems can be classified in four ways:

**Public Systems** are centralized systems for sewage collection and treatment. These are commonly referred to as public sewers and these can be either publicly or privately owned, with most being public facilities.

**Community Package Plants** are smaller facilities that usually serve only one development or commercial facility. Treatment takes place through a mechanical or chemical process with the final step dependent on stream discharge.

**On-Lot Systems** are individual systems that are built to accommodate a single dwelling unit. These systems vary, ranging from simple to highly engineered, based on soil characteristics at the site. On-lot systems designed to accommodate one or more dwelling units are known as community on-lot disposal systems. These systems can serve multiple dwelling units (such as a mobile home park) or commercial or industrial type flows. Most on-lot systems are privately owned.

**Spray Irrigation Systems** are a disposal technique in which treated sewage effluent is sprayed on fields as the final step in the treatment process. Primary and secondary treatment is accomplished through lagoons or through mechanical or chemical means. These systems usually serve a single development and can be either publicly or privately owned.

All of West Pikeland Township is served by individual on-lot sewage disposal systems with the exception of two locations that rely on community disposal facilities. Both systems are privately owned and are further described in Table 6-3.

**TABLE 6-3  
PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES  
West Pikeland Township**

<b>SYSTEM NAME AND /OWNER</b>	<b>TYPE OF SYSTEM</b>	<b>TYPE OF FLOW</b>	<b>CONNECTIONS</b>
<b>Twin Hills</b> Twin Hills Homeowner Association	Aerobic Tertiary Treatment with Drainfields	100% Residential	250 (Residential)
<b>Historic Yellow Springs</b> Property Owners Assoc.	Septic Tank with Drainfields	60% Residential 40% Commercial	10 (Residential) 4 (Commercial)

Source: Chester County Sewage Facilities Inventory (1991), Chester County Health Department (1998), West Pikeland Township (1999)

<b>WATER FACILITIES</b>
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The County’s water supply is obtained from both surface sources and from wells. Water facilities consist of private domestic wells, community and non-community water supply systems and public water supply systems. These systems vary in size and can be either publicly or privately owned and operated. The largest water supply company in Chester County is the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company (PSW). It is continuing to expand through the purchase of both private and municipal systems. It is the only public supplier serving West Pikeland Township. The PSW purchased the previous supplier, Uwchlan Township Municipal System, in December of 1992.

**Inventory**

With the exception of three residential developments, all of West Pikeland is reliant on domestic wells for its potable water supply. The groundwater yields in West Pikeland so far have been sufficient to accommodate the low-density development that has occurred to date. The water supply is a concern; however, because the Township’s underlying geology may not yield sufficient groundwater needed to support higher (gross) density development. A thorough analysis of the groundwater availability may need to accompany all new development proposals submitted to the Township, particularly if they propose higher (gross) density development. Thus far, the incidence of dry wells has not been prevalent but dry wells have been reported sporadically throughout the Township. Since some areas Township have experienced water supply reductions, new development should be focused in those areas that are not constrained in terms of groundwater supply or those areas served by public systems with expansion capability.

Three residential developments and several commercial and institutional facilities rely on some form of privately owned public water system. A public water system is defined as one that provides 15 connections or serves 25 persons for at least 60 days per year. A public water system is further classified as either a community or non-community water systems. These are defined as follows:

**Community Water Systems** provide for 15 connections or serve 25 persons on a regular basis throughout the year. This can include water companies, authorities, multi-family complexes, and certain institutions.

**Non-community Water Systems** are classified as non-transient, non-community systems consisting of 25 of the same persons at least six months per year and include facilities such as schools and campgrounds. Other systems such as those providing services to restaurants, businesses, and churches would also qualify as non-community water systems.

The public and community water systems are identified in Table 6-4.

**TABLE 6-4  
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS  
West Pikeland Township**

<b>WATER SYSTEM</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT NAME</b>	<b># DOMESTIC CONNECTIONS</b>	<b>#COMMERCIAL / INSTITUTIONAL CONNECTIONS</b>
Philadelphia Suburban Water Co.	Twin Hills Development	250 Connections	
Philadelphia Suburban Water Co.	Fairfield Development	71 Connections	
Philadelphia Suburban Water Co.	Bridlewood Development	62 Connections	
Private/non-community	Gourmet Productions		1 Commercial
Private/non-community	Montgomery School		1 Institutional
Private/non-community	Bean and the Bakers		1 Commercial
Private/non-community	Cullens Country Cupboard		1 Commercial
Private/non-community	Inn at Yellow Springs		1 Commercial

Source: Chester County Water Facilities Inventory (1991), Chester County Health Department (1996), Philadelphia Suburban Water Company (1998), West Pikeland Township (1999)

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

The Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (Act 167 of 1978) delineates stormwater management responsibilities. Provisions addressing stormwater management should be adopted at the municipal level to control runoff and reduce soil erosion. Municipalities throughout Chester County are updating existing stormwater management ordinances to emphasize a more environmentally sensitive approach that promotes the use of natural site features as opposed to the use of man-made structures. This is often accomplished by incorporating Best Management Practices into municipal ordinances. The publication entitled Pennsylvania Handbook of Best Management Practices for Developing Areas provides important guidance in this area and includes a sample municipal ordinance.

West Pikeland Township addresses stormwater management in its subdivision and land use development ordinance. It requires that there be no increase in quantity or velocity of stormwater runoff as the result of new development. Although standards are not specified in the ordinance, calculations illustrating compliance must be submitted as part of the land development process. The ownership of existing

stormwater management systems varies among the Township, individual landowners, and homeowners associations. Effective stormwater management provisions are becoming an increasingly critical component of subdivision and land development process, particularly in municipalities such as West Pikeland that have a more varied topography. Ensuring that stormwater management is addressed as part of the land development review process can help prevent environmental degradation in the future.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Parks and recreational facilities are developed and administered by different governmental entities based on their function and purpose. State and regional parks are usually large in scale and draw from a wide area, while community and neighborhood parks are smaller and intended to serve local needs. The West Pikeland Township Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan (OSRERP) (1992) describes this hierarchy of parks and recreational facilities and discusses each type in detail. The following section identifies the general facilities available but does not attempt to reiterate the inventory contained in the OSRERP. More information, including a description of each facility, can be found in that document.

### **Regional Parks**

Regional parks are large scale and usually extend beyond municipal boundaries to serve regional populations. They include park and recreational lands provided by federal or State governments and generally promote passive use. The Chester County Open Space and Recreation Study (1982) (CCOSRS) suggests that regional parks be at least 1,000 acres in size. It further suggests that 20 acres of regional parks be available for each 1,000 individuals within 30 miles. Regional parks include Marsh Creek State Park and Valley Forge National Historical Park. Additional information on regional parks can be found in the West Pikeland Township OSRERP.

### **Sub-regional Parks**

Sub-regional parks tend to be large tracts of open space at least 400 acres in size and are intended to fill the gaps between regional and community parks. They are usually parks provided by a county government and provide for both active and passive uses. The CCOSRS suggests 8.5 acres of sub-regional parklands for 1,000 in population with a 7.5 miles service radius. According to the Township's OSRERP, there are no sub-regional parks serving West Pikeland Township, however, Warwick County Park is located just outside the suggested service area.

### **Community Parks**

These parks tend to be municipal parks at least 20 acres in size accommodating both active and passive uses. They often have specialized facilities such as tot lots, handicapped trails, or event facilities. A service radius of 2.5 miles is suggested by the CCOSRS. The Township owns several parcels of land, most of which are in a natural state and currently undeveloped. Ballfields comprise a portion of the West Pikeland Park located off Route 113 and other parcels may be developed as well. The Township's newly formed Park and Recreation Commission in accordance with the OSRERP is undertaking planning for present and future parks. Community parks in West Pikeland are listed in Table 6-5.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Also municipal parks, neighborhood parks are intended to serve residents within a half-mile radius.

Although they are usually designed for active recreational activities and provide ball fields, jogging trails and play apparatus, they may be more passive as well. It is suggested that 6 acres of neighborhood parks be provided for each 1,000 in population. In West Pikeland, the neighborhood parks are those set aside as part of the subdivision development. These parklands are owned and managed by the homeowners association. Neighborhood parks in West Pikeland are listed in Table 6-5 and indicated on Map 6-1.

**Recreational Facilities and Programs**

Recreational facilities include the ballfields, swimming pools, tennis courts and similar facilities designed for active recreational pursuits. Recreational programming is usually done at the municipal or county level and is the process of organizing and leading recreational activities or events. One of the most important regional facility that passes through West Pikeland Township is the Horseshoe Trail. It traverses the north central region of the Township for three, uninterrupted miles. More information on the trail, as well as on other recreational facilities and programs that serve West Pikeland Township can be found in the OSRERP.

**TABLE 6-5  
PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES  
West Pikeland Township**

<b>PARK/RECREATIONAL SITE</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>ACREAGE</b>	<b>PRIMARY FACILITIES</b>
Pine Creek Park	Township	73 Acres	Multi-Purpose Field, Picnic Areas, Tot Lot
Ostrander Natural Area	Township	17 Acres	Natural Area
West Pikeland Fishing Park	Township	86.4 Acres	Passive Recreation
Dunsinane Hill Natural Area	Township	31.9 Acres	Natural Area
Pine Creek Road Natural Area	Township	53.9 Acres	Natural Area
Davis Road Natural Area	Township	5.1 Acres	Natural Area
Sycamore Lane Natural Area	Township	24.5 Acres	Natural Area (no access)
Meadow Creek Natural Area	Township	20.2 Acres	Natural Area
Montgomery School	Private	43.9 Acres	Multi-Purpose Fields
Twin Hill Open Space	Private	100.0 Acres	Natural Area
Fairfield Open Space	Private	19.6 Acres	Natural Area
Popular Hill Open Space	Private	7.0 Acres	Natural Area

Source: West Pikeland Open Space, Recreation, and Environmental Resources Plan (1992), West Pikeland Township (1999)

The West Pikeland Township Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan contains a full inventory of land, facilities and programs, along with an analysis of future needs. The Plan also contains a full set of recommendations to address needs. Implementing the Plan is a priority of the Township as evidenced by the creation of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>
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Emergency services consist of police, fire, and ambulance services. West Pikeland Township has its own part-time police force. Fire protection is handled by three volunteer fire companies, and ambulance service is provided by three emergency services companies.

### **Police Protection**

West Pikeland Township's police force consists of six police officers. The chief of police administers the force with the assistance of the corporal. All officers are part time and each average sixty to eighty hours per month. There is one officer assigned per shift and two, eight-hour shifts per day. Coverage equates to approximately sixteen to eighteen hours per day, seven days per week. The State Police provide back up from the Embreeville location. In 1998, officers responded to 1,544 calls, issued 229 citations (traffic and non-traffic), and made arrests for activities ranging from DUI to assault.

The police force is physically located in the Township municipal building. It owns and operates two vehicles, a 1995 and a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria. All are equipped with radios and on-board computer systems. An average of 3,400 miles per month is logged for the two vehicles.

### **Fire Protection**

Three fire companies serve the Township. Lionville Fire Company provides service to the southern region. It is located on Village Avenue in Lionville and is supported by approximately 60 active fire fighters. The Kimberton Fire Company serves the northern region of the Township. It is located on Kimberton Road in Kimberton and is supported by approximately 40 active fire fighters. The line between the two main service areas roughly parallels Yellow Springs Road. Ludwigs Corner Fire Company serves a small section of the west central half of the Township. This company is located in Glenmoore and consists of approximately 20 active fire fighters. The current inventory of fire fighting equipment is shown in Table 6-6.

**TABLE 6-6  
FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT  
Regional Fire Companies**

<b>LIONVILLE FIRE CO.</b>		<b>KIMBERTON FIRE CO.</b>		<b>LUDGWIGS CORNER FIRE CO.</b>	
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
1994 Pumper	1,500 GPM	1987 Pumper	1,500 GPM	1974 Pumper	1,000 GPM
1985 Pumper	1,250 GPM	1976 Pumper	1,250 GPM	1984 Pumper	1,250 GPM
1977 Autocar	35,000 Gal.	1968 Pumper	750 GPM	1980 Tanker	4,000 Gal.
1988 TeleSquirt	55 Ft. Ladder	1970 Pumper	7,000 Gal.	1974 Brush Truck	
1997 Field Truck		1977 Rescue Unit		1984 Squad Truck	
1998 Rescue Unit		1972 Field Truck			

Source: Lionville Fire Company (1999), Kimberton Fire Company (1999), Ludwigs Corner Fire Company (1999)

West Pikeland Township also participates in mutual aid fire services, whereby municipalities that require assistance with fires can contact nearby communities for such services.

**Emergency Medical Services**

The provision of ambulance service in Chester County is undergoing changes. Until 1997, municipal officials assigned ambulance response areas. Due to changes in Title 28, the Pennsylvania Health and Safety Code, pertaining to the provision of emergency medical services, this responsibility was shifted to the newly established Regional Emergency Services Councils. In Chester County, the Regional Emergency Services Council operates at the County level. Most municipalities believe, however, that designation of these territories is a municipal responsibility authorized by the Second Class Township Code and as a consequence, the implementation of the new law is under challenge.

Three entities provide ambulance service to West Pikeland Township. The West End Fire Company is located in Phoenixville and services the northern region of the Township, the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps is located in Uwchlan Township and provides service to the southern region while East Whiteland Fire Company, located in Frazer, serves a small region in the eastern part of the Township. The Uwchlan Ambulance Corps has expressed concern about the traffic on Route 113 as it effects response times. These concerns should be evaluated to determine if changes need to be made. Although the West End and East Whiteland companies provide both fire and ambulance service, they provide only ambulance service to West Pikeland Township. Most medical emergencies are directed to the Phoenixville, Brandywine, Paoli, and Chester County hospitals.

<b>EDUCATION</b>
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There are thirteen school districts in Chester County. West Pikeland Township is part of the Downingtown Area School District which encompasses the central area of the County and incorporates the Borough of Downingtown and the Townships of East Caln, East Brandywine, Wallace, Upper Uwchlan, Uwchlan, West Bradford and West Pikeland. The district is administered by an elected School Board consisting of nine members. The total district enrollment for 1998-1999 is 10,083. Facilities include nine elementary schools, two middle schools, a ninth grade center and one senior high school. Data pertaining to individual schools is found in Table 6-7.

**TABLE 6-7**  
**DOWNINGTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Size and Enrollment (1999)**

<b>PUBLIC SCHOOL</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>ENROLL- MENT</b>	<b>CAPACITY</b>	<b>GRADES</b>	<b>PROFF. STAFF</b>
Beaver Creek Elementary	Downingtown Borough	534	600	K-5	37
Bradford Heights Elementary	West Bradford Township	551	650	K-5	39
Brandywine-Wallace Elementary	Wallace Township	570	600	K-5	37
East Ward Elementary	Downingtown Borough	573	650	K-5	39
Lionville Elementary	Uwchlan Township	607	700	K-5	35
Pickering Valley Elementary	Upper Uwchlan Township	512	500	K-5	32
Shamona Creek Elementary	Uwchlan Township	623	650	K-5	36
Uwchlan Hills Elementary	Uwchlan Township	540	675	K-5	36
West Bradford Elementary	West Bradford Township	543	600	K-5	36
Downingtown Middle School	Downingtown Borough	1,222	1,439	6-8	96
Lionville Middle School	Uwchlan Township	1,102	1,439	6-8	95
Ninth Grade Center	Downingtown Borough	723	NA	9	61
Downingtown High School	Downingtown Borough	1,983	1,604	10-12	148

Source: Downingtown School District Administration (January 1999)

As indicated by the table, there are no public schools physically located in West Pikeland Township. Students in West Pikeland attend Pickering Valley, Lionville and Uwchlan Hills Elementary Schools, and the Lionville Middle School. All public school students in the district attend the ninth grade center and then the Downingtown High School.

One independent school, the Montgomery School, is located in the Township. The 42-acre facility is located on Route 113 north of Route 401. It offers traditional, structured educational programs for grades K-8. A pre-school program is available as well. The Montgomery School was established in 1915 as a boy's preparatory school serving grades 1-12. It became a co-educational elementary and middle school in 1943. It was originally located on Montgomery Avenue in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania and derived its name

from that first address. It relocated to West Pikeland Township in 1988.

### **Libraries**

There are seventeen libraries in the Chester County Library System. This includes the Chester Springs Library located in West Pikeland Township. Libraries are associated with the County on a contractual basis and this affiliation allows patrons to access all resources and materials available within the system. Four other libraries, Downingtown, Chester County (Exton), Phoenixville and Spring City, are located within a ten mile radius. Through the County system, residents have access to materials in other libraries in Pennsylvania through a statewide access program available at any of the facilities.

The Chester Springs Library is located on Art School Rd. near the intersection of Route 113 and Yellow Springs Road. It was established in 1976 and along with West Pikeland, serves West Vincent and East Nantmeal. It houses 13,000 volumes including a substantial children's' collection. The Library emphasizes programming for children. There are three part-time employees, one of whom is a librarian. Staffing of the Chester Springs library is heavily supplemented by a corps of approximately 40 dedicated volunteers serving in various capacities. Volunteers log an average of 200 hours a month. Circulation is not yet automated; however, the collection is currently being prepared for automation.

<b>HEALTH CARE</b>
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West Pikeland Township residents have access to a wide range of medical facilities within the region. There are nine major health care facilities in Chester County. According to the Community Facilities Inventory (1988), these facilities consist of five public hospitals, one private hospital, one federal veteran's hospital and two medical centers. In addition, there are private health care facilities, clinics, and offices in proximity to population concentrations. A wide range of human service facilities is available as well.

### **Hospitals and Medical Centers**

Four hospitals are located in Chester County within thirty miles of West Pikeland Township. Residents are also in proximity to the major health facilities in other parts of Chester County, Montgomery County, Wilmington, Delaware, and the greater Philadelphia metropolitan region. There are several medical centers, outpatient facilities, and medical offices located throughout central Chester County. The hospitals located in Chester County within thirty miles of the Township are listed in Table 6-8.

**TABLE 6-8  
REGIONAL HOSPITALS  
Size and Location**

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>NUMBER OF BEDS</b>
Brandywine Hospital and Trauma Center	201 Reeceville Road Downingtown, Pennsylvania	215
Chester County Hospital	701 Marshall Street West Chester, Pennsylvania	234
Paoli Memorial Hospital	255 West Lancaster Pike Paoli, Pennsylvania	208
Phoenixville Hospital	140 Nutt Road Phoenixville, Pennsylvania	147

Source: Brandywine Hospital and Chester County Hospital (1996), Paoli Memorial Hospital (1997), Phoenixville Hospital (1999)

**PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- Police, fire and ambulance services appear to be adequate in light of the current level of population. These services should continually be monitored by the Township to ensure that coverage continues to be sufficient and that the quality of service is high. Concerns should be investigated about possible delays experience due to traffic on Route 113. The sharing of personnel and resources through multi-municipal efforts should also be explored.
- Recycling is an important component of an overall waste reduction effort. Although the Township is not required to recycle at this time, supporting a drop off center could encourage recycling among residents. Sponsoring other recycling events, such as a hazardous waste collection, could also be considered to reduce the potential for environmental contamination resulting from illegal dumping, a common problem in rural areas.
- Stormwater management is a critical issue that is regulated by the subdivision and land development ordinance. The current regulations appear to be minimal and could be strengthened to provide more direction to developers in designing stormwater management systems. The Best Management Practices philosophy for stormwater management planning should be considered for incorporation into existing regulations.
- The underlying geology of the Township does not yield substantial amounts of groundwater. Each new development proposal should be carefully evaluated to ensure that there is sufficient water available to accommodate the new units proposed without jeopardizing existing wells.
- The Chester Springs Library is not only a community facility, but an important cultural resource as well. The Township recognizes the Library’s unique role as one of the few community facilities in the Township and provides important financial support. The Township should continue this assistance and through the Library Board, explore ways to further support the activities of the Chester Springs Library.

- ❑ The Township currently relies on the County’s Sewage Facilities Plan to meet the planning obligations associated with sewage disposal. With development increasing, the Township should consider developing its own Sewage Disposal Plan to define preferred system types and locations. Consideration should also be given to providing educational information on maintaining on-lot systems.
  
- ❑ The Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resources Plan (1992) contains an inventory, analysis and recommendations for developing the Township’s park and open space system. The newly established Park and Recreation Commission should use this document to guide park development. Implementing the Open Space Plan will also help the Township to address resource protection goals as well.