**Community Profile: West Nottingham Township**

By David R. Ross

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West Nottingham Township is a predominantly rural community located in the southwest corner of Chester County in southeastern Pennsylvania. Because it is roughly 50 miles from three major metropolitan regions (Philadelphia, Baltimore and Harrisburg), it faces significant suburban development pressures. While agriculture remains the dominant land use, most residents commute to jobs in nearby areas of Delaware, Maryland and the inner suburbs of Philadelphia (ORMCP 2012).

The 2010 population was 2722, with a median age of 40 (Census 2010). Some 57% of households are located in detached, single-family homes; 38% in mobile homes (Census 2008-12). Over 90% of residents are white. Approximately 6% of families fall below the poverty line and median family income has been estimated at just over $53,000.

Most of the Township’s 14.1 square miles consists of farmland or undeveloped open space (ORMCP 2012). The modest commercial heart of the community, the village of Nottingham, lies at the intersection of Baltimore Pike and State Rt. 272 near an exit from the US Rt. 1 Bypass. Herr Foods is the single largest employer. Oxford Borough, some 4 miles to the northeast, is the regional urban center.

Virtually all of the Township lies in the Octoraro River Watershed; with all storm water eventually feeding into Chesapeake Bay. In addition to significant prime agricultural soils, the Township contains part of the largest serpentine barrens in the Eastern United States – a unique ecology so high in chromium and nickel that ordinary plants will not thrive there (Nature Conservancy 2011).

The Township is governed by a three-member of Board of Supervisors (West Nottingham 2011). It is part of the Oxford Area School District and is located within the 16th Congressional District, the 9th Pennsylvania Senate District and the 13th District of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (Project Vote Smart 2010).

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