

2007-2

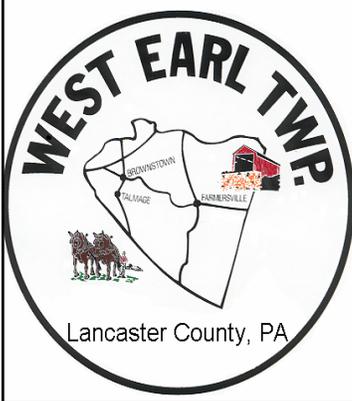
May 2007

Spring Newsletter

West Earl Township

157 W. Metzler Road, PO Box 787, Brownstown, PA 17508

www.westearltpw.org



Lancaster County Government Study Commission

The 11-member Lancaster County Government Study Commission is urging all residents of the County to get involved in offering input as they review county government structure. The Commission is holding a series of open forums around the county. Below is a list of locations where these forums are being held:

Tuesday evening, May 8, at Lititz Borough Office, 7 P.M.

Saturday morning, May 19, New Holland Borough Office, 9 A.M.

Tuesday evening, May 29, Manheim Township Municipal Building, 7 P.M.

Saturday morning, June 16, Elizabethtown Borough Hall, 9 A.M.

Tuesday evening, June 19, Franklin & Marshall College, Stager Hall, 7 P.M.

Check the Lancaster GSC website for further details at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/lancastergsc. The Lancaster County Government Study Commissioners are working toward an August deadline to determine if the structure of Lancaster County Government should be changed. Any recommended changes could be put on the ballot in 2008.

Refuse/Recycling News

Cardboard dumpsters are now available for West Earl Township Residents' use. Bring your flattened cardboard to the Township office located at 157 W. Metzler Road, Brownstown, for recycling.



Yard waste pick up began on April 10th. Yard waste includes, leaves, grass clippings, garden residue and sod. Brown Kraft Bags are required for yard waste. These biodegradable bags are available for purchase at the Township Office for \$1 each. Woody waste pick up also began on April 10th. Woody waste includes, shrubbery and tree trimmings. Each bundle of woody waste requires a green tag. Bundles should be no longer than 4 feet and no heavier than 25 lbs. **Please remember not to mix any trash with your yard waste.** Refer to your 2006-2007 Refuse/Recycling Schedule for specific dates when yard waste and woody waste will be picked up.

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Hydrant Flushing

The Water Department will be flushing hydrants Tuesday through Friday during the month of May. During the flushing, water may appear "milky" due to air in the system. This condition will dissipate over time. Any dirty or rust colored water should be reported to the Township.

2007 Road Work

The following is a tentative list of Township roads that are to be paved*:

Highview Drive	Butter Road
Bareview Drive	Saw Mill Road
Circlevue Drive	Sheaffer's School Rd

*The above list may change

New Township Employee

The Board of Supervisors would like to welcome Jim Houser to the Township. Jim comes to us from Upper Leacock Township with eleven years of experience working in their water department. He will now be serving as the Township's new Public Works Director. Welcome aboard Jim!

2007 Composting Workshops

The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) has scheduled several home composting workshops. Composting is an excellent way to recycle organic waste, such as, vegetable scraps, grass clippings, etc., and turn them into a useful and valuable product.

To help get home composting projects started, the LCSWMA is organizing free community workshops, where residents will learn how to recycle the “good garbage” that is typically put out with the trash. And to further encourage home composting in the County, the host municipality will provide free composting bins to a member from each family that attends a workshop.

Workshop pre-registration is required to ensure every family attending receives a home composting bin. Residents should register with the organization where the workshop is being held. **Workshops are limited to the first forty people to register for each venue.**

Workshops will be held at the following locations:

- **May 12** at the East Cocalico Township Municipal Building located at 100 Hill Road, Denver. To register, contact the East Cocalico Township Recycling Coordinator at (717) 336-1720 or email ecocalicotwp_recycle@dejazzd.com
- **May 19** at the Salisbury Township Municipal Building located at 5581 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gap. To register, contact the Salisbury Township Recycling Coordinator at (717) 768-8059 or email twp@comcast.net

The Penn State Master Gardeners of Lancaster County will conduct the workshops on the basics of composting, materials that should be used, the issues of temperature and moisture, etc. Activity books will be provided for children.

Please visit the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority’s website at www.lcswma.org.

Understanding Stormwater

When It Rains, It Drains

Understanding Storm Water and How It Can Affect Your Money, Safety, Health, and the Environment

What Happens When It Rains?

Rain is an important part of nature’s water cycle, but there are times it can do more damage than good. Problems related to storm water runoff can include:

- Flooding caused by too much storm water flowing over hardened surfaces such as roads and parking lots, instead of soaking into the ground.**
- Increases in spending on maintaining storm drains and the storm sewer system that become clogged with excessive amounts of dirt and debris.**
- Decreases in sportfish populations because storm water carries sediment and pollutants that degrade important fish habitat.**
- More expensive treatment technologies to remove harmful pollutants carried by storm water into our drinking water supplies.**
- Closed beaches due to high levels of bacteria carried by storm water that make swimming unsafe.**

We can help rain restore its good reputation while protecting our health and environment while saving money for ourselves and our community. Keep reading to find out how. . .

Test Your Storm Sewer System Savvy!

What does the storm sewer system look like in your community? See if you can identify which pictures are part of the storm sewer system. (Answers are on the back.)



Answers on page 3

Understanding Stormwater

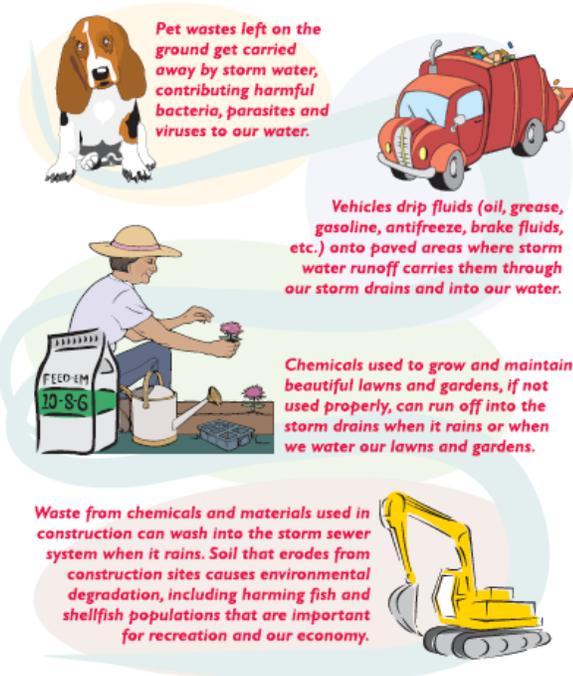
(cont. from page 2)

What is Storm Water?

Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called storm water runoff.

Why is Storm Water “Good Rain Gone Wrong?”

Storm water becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks. Storm water travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up storm sewer systems. It eventually flows directly to a lake, river, stream, wetland, or coastal water. All of the pollutants storm water carries along the way empty into our waters, too, because storm water does not get treated!



Restoring Rain's Reputation: What Everyone Can Do To Help

Rain by nature is important for replenishing drinking water supplies, recreation, and healthy wildlife habitats. It only becomes a problem when pollutants from our activities like car maintenance, lawn care, and dog walking are left on the ground for rain to wash away. Here are some of the most important ways to prevent storm water pollution:

- ◆ Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies and paint—never pour them down any part of the storm sewer system and report anyone who does.
- ◆ Use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff.
- ◆ Look for signs of soil and other pollutants, such as debris and chemicals, leaving construction sites in storm water runoff or tracked into roads by construction vehicles. Report poorly managed construction sites that could impact storm water runoff to your community. (See the back of this brochure for contact information.)
- ◆ Install innovative storm water practices on residential property, such as rain barrels or rain gardens, that capture storm water and keep it on site instead of letting it drain away into the storm sewer system.
- ◆ Report any discharges from storm water outfalls during times of dry weather—a sign that there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.
- ◆ Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess—in a backyard or at the park—storm water runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system to a stream.
- ◆ Store materials that could pollute storm water indoors and use containers for outdoor storage that do not rust or leak to eliminate exposure of materials to storm water.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
www.dep.state.pa.us

Answers to Test Your Storm Sewer System Savvy:

1. **Ditch**—Part of the storm sewer system. Most people think that the system is just a series of underground pipes. It can also include ditches used to convey storm water from the land to a receiving lake, river, or stream.
2. **Fire Hydrant**—Not part of the storm sewer system. Water sprayed from the fire hydrants is not storm water, but is allowed by law to enter the storm sewer system.
3. **Curb with Storm Drain Inlet**—Part of the storm sewer system. Many people do not realize that this is an opening leading to the storm sewer system. Anything going into this inlet (e.g., trash, leaves, improperly disposed of hazardous materials) travels directly to a receiving lake, river, or stream without being treated first. Many communities stencil storm drains with “Do Not Dump” messages to let people know.
4. **Storm Sewer Outfall**—Part of the storm sewer system. An outfall is where storm water drains from the storm sewer system into a receiving lake, stream, or river. If there is a flow from an outfall when it isn't raining there could be a problem with the system or someone has used a storm drain for illegally disposing of materials.
5. **Toilet**—Not part of the storm sewer system. Wastewater from sinks and toilets in houses and businesses travel through a sewer system constructed to carry sanitary wastes. In some instances, older communities may have a combined sewer system designed to carry both storm water and sanitary waste.
6. **Septic System**—Not part of the storm sewer system. Homeowners use septic tanks to manage sanitary wastes on-site. Improperly maintained septic systems can leak and contribute pollutants to the storm sewer system, as well as directly to lakes, rivers, and streams.
7. **Roads and Other Paved Areas**—Not part of the storm sewer system. Roads and other hardened surfaces such as parking lots and sidewalks can accumulate pollutants (e.g., oil, grease, dirt, leaves, trash, pet wastes) that storm water eventually washed into the storm sewer system.
8. **Storm Drain Inlet**—Part of the Storm sewer system. This is another example of what a storm drain may look like. Like the storm drain inlet shown in picture 3, anything that enters this drain will go directly to streams, rivers, and lakes without being treated first. It is important to recognize this as a storm drain to prevent it from being used as a trash can.

West Earl Township
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Brownstown, PA 17508

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Meetings

West Earl Board of Supervisors

Meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 7:00pm

West Earl Planning Commission

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm

West Earl Parks and Recreation Board

Meets the 3rd Monday of every month as needed at 7:00pm

West Earl Zoning Hearing Board

Meet 1st Wednesday of the month as needed at 7:30pm

West Earl Sewer Authority

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm

West Earl Water Authority

Meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00pm



Important Phone Numbers

- Municipal Office 859-3201
- Fax Number 859-3499
- Tax Collector 656-4075
- Water & Sewer Dept (after hours) 859-3725
- Police Department 859-1411
- Emergencies 911
- Police Dept Fax 859-3630
- Building Inspector 733-1654
- Zoning Officer 625-0444
- Sewage Enforcement 721-9008