

2007-4

December 2007

Winter Newsletter

West Earl Township

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

www.westearltwp.org



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Snow Removal Procedures



As the winter season approaches, the Road Department would like to remind you that the Township does have a general policy for snow removal. However, each storm event may be a cause for change.

The major collection streets and roadways are attended to first followed by the residential streets. Salt material is spread on the road at the start of a storm and when the snow starts to accumulate, the roads will be plowed with one single pass in each direction and on each street. After the initial plowing, the plow will return to widen the cleared area as much as possible. Please keep in mind when clearing driveway entrances, the plow will be returning again and may block the driveway with additional snow.

In our attempt to remove snow from the roads, plowed snow sometimes damages mailboxes. Wet, heavy snow increases the chance for damage to mailboxes. To reduce the potential for damage, make sure your mailbox is secured tightly on a sturdy post. The Township crew makes every effort to avoid causing damage to mailboxes.

Some additional reminders during snow events:



- Do not push or throw snow into roadways. This creates hazardous driving conditions.
- Drive carefully at a minimum speed.
- Keep parked vehicles off the street whenever possible.

LOST AND FOUND

If you've lost anything in one of the Township's parks it may be in the lost and found. The items in the lost and found will be disposed of after one year.



Refuse/Recycling News

To all Residents on the Township's Refuse/Recycling Program

Christmas tree pick-up will be on Saturday, January 13th, 2008. As with your trash and recycling the hauler can begin as early as 5:00 a.m., so please place your tree at the curb the night before. Please remove all decorations, including lights, tinsel, garland, etc. before placing your tree at the curb. Do not place the tree in a bag or wrap it in any other material. Christmas trees that are placed at the curb for pickup any time other than Saturday, January 12 will require a \$4.00 oversized item tag. Extra service tags are available for purchase at the Township office located at 157 W. Metzler Road, Brownstown.



This year Christmas falls on a Tuesday, so your pick up for that week will be on Saturday, December 29th, 2007. As with your regular pick up, please place your trash at the curb the night before.

Holiday Safety Tips From the West Earl Township Police

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love holidays as much as everyone else, mostly because it is an opportunity for crime.

If you are going out for the evening

- ◆ Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone is home.
- ◆ Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if only for a few minutes.
- ◆ Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

Tips for Safe Holiday Shopping

- ◆ Keep track of your bags and other packages. If you leave something behind, it could get stolen or discarded.
- ◆ Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package.
- ◆ Be sure not to buy more than you can carry. If your packages are making it hard for you to walk upright or see, ask a store employee to help you carry them to your car.
- ◆ Check receipts to see whether your full credit card number appears. If a receipt has your full number on it, take a pen and thoroughly scratch it out.
- ◆ Double check that you have your credit cards and check book after you pay for your items.
- ◆ Ensure that any children with you know your cell phone number. Give cards with contact information to any who don't.
- ◆ Make a plan with children in case you get separated. Have a central meeting place, and review with your children who they can turn to for help if they find themselves alone.
- ◆ Go over the dangers of strangers with them so that they know who not to talk to or follow.



Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody—**EXCEPT THE CRIMINALS!**

2008 Budget Highlights

2008 will see some Township residents experience a significant increase in their street light tax bill. The increase is due to a restructuring of the street light tax rate and substantial increases in energy costs from PPL. Street light tax increases will vary depending upon location and type of street light. In addition, those residents paying a special hydrant tax will see an increase of \$.01 per front foot. The increase in the special hydrant tax will help to offset the increased cost of hydrant service from Upper Leacock Township.

The West Earl Water Authority will undertake a project to clean and line the water main in the Conestoga View area. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin in the spring. Water rates for 2008 will remain steady.



Roads scheduled for paving in 2008 include Peach Road, Cider Mill Road, Pool Road and Pearl Avenue. Peach Road and Cider Mill Road will also be widened. Real estate tax rates for 2008 will remain steady.

New Zoning Officer

West Earl Township would like to welcome Sherry Myers as the new Zoning Officer. Sherry has over eighteen years of experience in zoning and code enforcement. Sherry's office hours are Wednesday from 9:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



New Compost Facility Hours

In an effort to prevent dumping, the compost facility will now be closed from dusk to dawn. This change will be effective January 1, 2008.

Keep Lancaster County Beautiful

Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority is leading the *Keep Lancaster County Beautiful (KLCB)* program. KLCB is officially certified as both a Keep America Beautiful and a Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful affiliate.

The focus of KLCB is to educate the public on the environmental benefits of litter prevention, recycling, reusing, and waste reduction.

Tips for Preventing Litter in Our Community

"Litter-known" Facts

Motorists and pedestrians are often blamed for litter. There are actually seven primary sources:

- * Household trash handling and its placement at the curb for collection
- * Dumpsters used by businesses
- * Loading docks
- * Construction and demolition sites
- * Trucks with uncovered loads
- * Pedestrians
- * Motorists



Litter is blown about by wind and traffic or carried by water. It moves until trapped by a curb, building or fence. Once litter has accumulated, it invites people to add more.



Litter and Your Taxes

Litter is a costly problem. Highway departments spend millions of tax dollars and many hours annually picking up litter—money and time needed for more important services. Local, state, and federal governments also spend money removing litter left by careless park visitors. Clean communities also have a better chance of attracting new businesses than those where litter is common.

What Can I Do?



- * Set an example for others, especially children, by not littering.
- * Carry a litterbag in your car.
- * Make sure trash cans have lids that can be securely fastened. If you have curbside trash collection, don't put loose trash in boxes.
- * Tie papers in a bundle before placing them in a curbside recycling bin.
- * If you own a business, check dumpsters daily to see that top and side doors are closed.
- * If you or a member of your family is involved in a civic group, scouting, or recreational sports program, encourage the group to "adopt" a spot in your town and maintain it on a regular basis.
- * Make litterbags for your bicycle, and give them to your friends, too.
- * Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage and debris to your local highway, public works, or conservation office, and ask that the material be removed.
- * Volunteer to help organize a cleanup.
- * Be a part of the Township's Adopt a Highway Program.



To find out more about how you can help prevent litter, visit the Keep America Beautiful Website at www.kab.org.

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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