



Inside this issue:

Recycling at the Township Building	1
Well Water Treatment Update	1
News for Residents on the Township's Trash Program	2
Building/Zoning Permit FAQs	2
Home Composting Workshops	3
USDA Housing Repair Program	3
Annual Leaf Collection	3

West Earl Township

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

www.westearltpw.org

Recycling at the Township Building

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)



CFLs have become a popular, energy saving alternative to regular light bulbs. Because CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, they should be handled properly, which means taking them to a proper recycling facility instead of placing them into your regular trash. The Township offers its residents the option of bringing their burnt-out CFLs to the Municipal Building at 157 W. Metzler Road for recycling. For further information about CFLs, please visit www.energystar.gov.

Cellular Phones

The Township is participating in a cell phone recycling program sponsored by Sprint. Bring your old, used cell phones to the Township office. Please remember to erase all personal information from the cell phone before recycling.



Waste Oil

Used engine oil can be recycled at the Township building. Engine oil only, no anti-freeze or other types of liquid can be placed into the recycling receptacle.

Corrugated Cardboard

Flattened, corrugated cardboard may be brought to the Township building for recycling.

If you have any questions about recycling any of these items, please contact the Township office at 859-3201.

Well Water Treatment Update

Treatment of the water from our well involves several steps. One of these steps is water softening. The water softening process at our water treatment plant is similar to a home water softener, but on a much larger scale. A recent evaluation of the water treatment plant indicated that major improvements would need to be made to the water softening equipment.

As part of a cost-benefit analysis of the water softener improvements, Township staff tested several water samples taken throughout the water distribution system. An analysis of the samples revealed that currently only a small percentage of water system customers actually receive soft water. In this case, the cost-benefit analysis showed that it would not be economically sound to improve the water softening equipment and continue water softening.

Therefore, the Township will, most likely, discontinue water softening effective January 1, 2009. Questions regarding discontinuation of water softening, or water treatment questions in general, may be directed to the West Earl Water Department, or to Public Works Director Jim Houser.

Reminder!

All payments for utility bills must be received in the Township office or drop box by 4pm on the due date in order to avoid late charges.

Thank you.

News for Residents on the Township's Trash Program

The new Refuse/Recycling calendars for September 2008 through August 2009 will be included with your next bill. If you have not received your calendar, please call the Township office at 859-3201. On your next trash bill you will have the option of paying annually or semi-annually. Annual payments are \$182 and semi-annual payments are \$93. All payments must be received in the Township office or in the drop box, which is located to the right of the front doors of the Township building, by 4pm on the due date in order to receive the annual or semi-annual discount.

A reminder about recycling corrugated cardboard.

If you would like to place your corrugated cardboard out for curbside collection, it must be placed into your regular trash. Cardboard should not be placed into your recycle bin for curbside collection. However, you can bring your flattened, corrugated cardboard to the Township building for recycling.

**Don't forget
to place
your trash
curbside on
Monday
night for collection
Tuesday morning.**



Building/Zoning Permit FAQs

DO I NEED A ZONING PERMIT FOR.....?

- **A FENCE – No.** Although the Township regulates where you may place fences, unless you are constructing a required swimming pool fence, no permit is needed. All fences over six feet high, however, do require a building permit, because they are covered under the Building Code and must be engineered for wind load. Zoning allows only a 3' high fence in the front yard, but side and rear yard fences may be up to 6'. Fences are not permitted in utility easements or rights-of-way or in storm water easements. These areas must remain free of all obstructions, including fences.
- **A PATIO – Yes.** A zoning permit for location is required because setbacks from the property line apply. No building permit or inspections are required. However, if you plan to use the patio as a foundation for a room addition you will need a permit. The footing inspection will prove that your patio is anchored down at the frost line and not just a "floating slab."
- **A BARN – Yes.** A zoning permit is required because setbacks from the property line apply. However, all agricultural buildings are exempt from building permits (building codes).
- **REPLACEMENT ROOF - Yes,** if you have a dwelling and are changing the slope of the roof or adding dormers (windows). **No,** if you have a dwelling and just replacing shingles (re-roofing) or applying a rubber roof. **Yes,** if it is a non-residential building.
- **HOT TUB/SPA – Yes.** Hot tubs and spas are covered under the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code and require a building permit and inspection.
- **A UTILITY SHED – Yes.** Any residential accessory building under 1,000 sq. ft. requires a zoning permit only. Setbacks from the property line apply. A shed up to 12' x 24' x 8' may be as close as 4' from the side and rear property lines. Larger sheds require a greater setback, usually at least fifteen (15) feet. Accessory buildings larger than 1000 sq. ft. will also require a building permit and construction inspections.
- **FINISHING A BASEMENT – Yes.** A zoning permit is required to finish an area in the basement as a room addition. If the area includes a bedroom, an egress (escape) window or door to the outside is required. Any structural alteration to the dwelling for an egress requires a building permit and inspections.
- **A DECK – Yes.** If the deck, at any point is more than 30" above the ground, a zoning and building permit (inspections) are required. Less than 30", just a zoning permit is required for location on the lot with respect to setbacks.
- **A WALK (SIDEWALK) – No.** Generally, private walkways from the house to the driveway or from the house to the front or rear yard do not require permits. These are usually only 24" in width and have no impact on storm water management. Public pedestrian sidewalks do require a permit, since they must be constructed to a certain standard.
- **REPLACEMENT WINDOWS/DOORS – No.** If the opening in the wall is not enlarged, no permit or inspection is required. **Yes.** If you are making an opening where there was none before or making an existing opening larger, a building permit is required.

Home Composting Workshops

LANCASTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY TO SPONSOR

HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

Lancaster County residents are invited to attend any one of the home composting workshops scheduled for this fall. All workshops are listed below and will be on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Workshop pre-registration is required to ensure every family attending receives a home composting bin. Residents should register with the municipal recycling coordinator where the workshop is being held. **Workshops are limited to the first forty people to register for each.**



- **September 20th** at Little Chiques Park, entrance located on the 200 block of Park Avenue, between East Main Street and North High Street, Mount Joy. To register, contact the Mount Joy Borough Recycling Coordinator at (717) 653-2300 or email lindsey@mountjoyopa.org.
- **September 27th** at the Manheim Township Compost Park located at 2775 Oregon Pike, Lititz. To register, contact the Manheim Township Recycling Coordinator at (717) 569-6406, ext. 129 or email wherr@manheimtownship.org.
- **October 4th** at the West Cocalico Township Municipal Building located at 156 B West Main Street, Reinholds. To register, contact the West Cocalico Township Recycling Coordinator at (717) 336-8720.
- **October 11th** at the Warwick Township Municipal Building located at 315 Clay Road, Lititz. To register, contact the Warwick Township Recycling Coordinator at (717) 626-8900 or email bkreider@warwicktownship.org.



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, so this can be a family educational event.

Annual Leaf Collection

Leaves will be collected beginning **Monday, October 13th** and continue through **Thursday December 19th**.

Leaves will not be collected December 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

To prepare leaves for collection:

- Rake leaves into a row (not a pile) along the front edge of property onto the roadway.
- Do not cover leaves or park vehicles over them.
- Do not mix other yard waste or trash with the leaves.



USDA Housing Repair Program

Loans and grants are available for very low income homeowners through the USDA Rural Development housing repair program.

Loans up to \$20,000 with a 1% interest rate and a 20 year term are available. Grants up to \$7,500 are available to homeowners over the age of 62.

The funds may be used for such things as replacing doors and windows, upgrading or replacing heating systems, roof repair and replacement, exterior siding repair and replacement and water or sewer line hook-ups. Funds may also be used for repairs to remove health and safety hazards in your home.

Contact the local Lebanon office of USDA Rural Development at (717) 272-3908, extension 6, for additional information and applications.



West Earl Township
PO BOX 787
Brownstown, PA 17508

Presorted
First-Class Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Brownstown, PA
Permit No. 1

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 431-3739
- Sewage Enforcement 721-9008