



157 W. METZLER RD.  
PO BOX 787  
717.859.3201

# West Earl Township

SUMMER

JUNE 2015

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## REFUSE/RECYCLING NEWS

**ATTENTION RESIDENTS WHO USE THE TOWNSHIP'S CONTRACTED HAULER—Please note two changes to the**

**trash/recycling collection schedule for the first and second week in September.** Trash & recycling will be collected on Tuesday September 1, 2015 (instead of Wednesday, September 2nd). The following week, the Labor Day Holiday will push back trash & recycling collection to Wednesday, September 9, 2015 (instead of Tuesday, September 8th). The collection schedule for the remainder of September will remain unchanged. Visit the Township's website to download a copy of the schedule at [www.westearltwp.org](http://www.westearltwp.org).

### Yard Waste

Yard waste pick up began on April 14th and will continue through September 22nd. 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 14th. 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 2015 Refuse/Recycling Schedule for specific dates when yard waste and woody waste will be picked up. As always, residents may also take their yard and woody waste to the compost site free-of-charge.



## COMPOST FACILITY

**A reminder to residents using the Township's Compost Facility**

Please do not allow children to stand or climb on the piles of mulch or yard waste at the compost site. It can be very dangerous and may result in injury.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## HYDRANT FLUSHING

The West Earl Water Department will be flushing hydrants from June 1st through June 30th. During the flushing, water may appear milky due to air in the system. Please report any brown or rust-colored water to the Township office at 717-859-3201.





# Ordinance Changes

The Board of Supervisors, at its June 8, 2015 meeting, will consider the enactment of three Ordinances governing the regulations for fences, sidewalks and outdoor burning. The Board has discussed and carefully reviewed these three Ordinances at recent regular and special meetings. The Ordinances have been properly advertised in the local newspaper.

## Ordinance Summaries

**Fences** - This Ordinance will amend Chapter 184—Zoning, of the Township’s Code of Ordinances. In order to maintain safe visibility at intersections, fences or walls within a property’s front yard setback should not exceed three feet in height along the street of address or six feet in height along any other street frontage.

**Sidewalks** - This Ordinance will amend Chapter 152—Streets and Sidewalks, of the Township’s Code of Ordinances. As some residents may know, the Township has not had any regulations relating to the installation and the repair and maintenance of sidewalks. With existing sidewalks in the Township and the potential for the installation of new sidewalks, the

Township felt it was important to establish these regulations. Please stop by the Township Office to review this Ordinance.



**Outdoor Burning** - This Ordinance will amend and restate Chapter 67—Burning, Outdoor. It includes the definition and regulations for a “recreational fire”. Only charcoal, LP gas or untreated wood may be used to fuel recreational fires. A recreational fire should not be kindled or maintained within 10 feet of any building and 20 feet of any property line.

To review or obtain copies of these Ordinances in their entirety, stop by the Township Office at 157 W. Metzler Road, Brownstown.

# Bridge Replacement Project



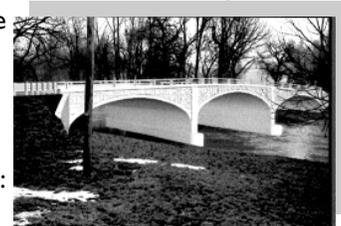
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is preparing engineering plans for the replacement of the Farmersville Road Bridge over the Conestoga River near East Main Street and Turtle Hill Road in Brownstown. The existing bridge will be replaced on a slightly shifted alignment. The proposed bridge will provide a wider bridge deck, a 10 foot travel lane and a 4 foot wide shoulder in each direction.

Farmersville Road traffic will be detoured during construction. The project is scheduled to be bid in late 2016 and constructed in 2017.

A large-scaled project map of the proposed work is available for public viewing at the West Earl Township building at 157 W. Metzler Road, Brownstown, during normal business hours until June 23, 2015.

If you have questions or would like more information about this project, please contact:

PennDot Engineering District 8-0, 2140 Herr Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103. Attention: Benjamin Singer, P.E., Project Engineer. Phone: 717-787-6690 or email [besinger@pa.gov](mailto:besinger@pa.gov).



*Proposed Bridge Rendering*

# Reducing Stormwater Runoff

## *Creating Stormwater-Friendly Lawns & Gardens*

When the amount of rain falling exceeds the land's ability to absorb it, the result is stormwater runoff.

Without treatment, stormwater that runs from the land into our waterways can be unhealthy for people and bad for the environment. Runoff can carry chemicals, metals, bacteria, viruses, organic compounds, and other pollutants directly into creeks, lakes, rivers, and streams. Runoff can also cause severe erosion and flooding—even during a typical Pennsylvania storm.

Clearly, then, what we do on the land impacts the quality of our water. That means everyone, not just government, plays a role in protecting this valuable resource by reducing runoff and the pollutants it carries.

This summer, homeowners can take steps to help with the effort by making sure their gardens and lawns are “stormwater-friendly.”

### **The stormwater-friendly garden**

Home gardens can contribute considerable nutrients and other pollutants to waterways if not cared for responsibly. This mainly applies to fertilizers and pesticides.

- ◆ **Fertilizers:** Instead of using chemical fertilizers, give organic alternatives, such as compost and manure, a try. Compost, a “do-it-yourself” fertilizer that can be created from such things as vegetable scraps and garden clippings, contains the nutrients that help your vegetables grow. When using organic fertilizers, be sure to apply them directly to the ground before planting the vegetables to prevent runoff.
- ◆ **Pesticides:** Many insects are harmless to people and play an important role in maintaining a healthy lawn or garden ecosystem. If one is posing a problem, however, identify the exact pest you have and research the non-chemical alternatives to controlling it. Pesticides should be a last resort because they could infiltrate groundwater, possibly contaminate drinking supplies, and hurt downstream ecosystems.

### **The stormwater-friendly lawn**

The following lawn-care steps will not only help to protect local streams and rivers but also result in cost savings for homeowners.

- ◆ **Set your mower height to 3 inches or higher.** Taller grass slows the runoff and produces a deeper and denser root system, which absorbs more water and prevents erosion. Deeper roots also reduce the need for watering during droughts and suppress weeds from growing up around them.

- ◆ **Keep grass clippings and chopped leaves on your property.** A mulch-mower is ideal for retaining and spreading clippings on your lawn. The clippings decompose quickly, provide important nutrients for your lawn, and settle to create an organic layer on the soil that encourages stormwater infiltration. Using this mulch may also reduce or eliminate the need for nitrogen fertilizers.
- ◆ **Figure out if you really need to fertilize your lawn.** Foregoing fertilizer is ideal for the health of local waterways and ecosystems. However, if your lawn is thin or has bare spots, you may not have a choice since a dense, vegetated cover is the most stormwater-friendly lawn. There are no one-size-fits-all guidelines when it comes to fertilizer. Homeowners' needs vary drastically based on the soil texture and pH and nutrient levels. In fact, soil tests may reveal that your lawn is suffering from “micronutrient deficiency,” a problem that standard chemical fertilizers may not alleviate. Identifying your lawn's needs first will reduce unnecessary applications, create a healthier lawn faster, and reduce your long-term costs.
- ◆ **If fertilizer is needed, maximize the benefits of slow-release nitrogen and minimize the number of chemical applications.** Typically called “water insoluble nitrogen,” or WIN, on fertilizer bags, slow-release nitrogen limits nutrient runoff and exportation. This type of fertilizer should be applied to your lawn in the spring, instead of the fall, to provide a steady source of nutrients throughout the growing season.
- ◆ **Do not fertilize or use pesticides within 15 to 20 feet of a stream.** Keeping this distance will help keep chemicals out of waterways. Also, when you're done applying fertilizer, immediately sweep any granulated chemicals off hard surfaces and back onto your lawn. Your walkway, driveway, patio, or local road is often a quick route to the drainage pipes that discharge into local streams.

In the long run, little actions, such as taking a stormwater-friendly approach to your garden and lawn, will have a big impact as all of them work together to protect our water's quality.

For more information about stormwater runoff and what you can do to help, visit the Township's website at [www.westearltpw.org](http://www.westearltpw.org) and click on **Stormwater Runoff Resources**.

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PO BOX 787  
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  
7:00pm*

### 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 656-7522
- Water & Sewer Dept  
(after hours) 859-3725
- Police Department 859-1411
- Emergencies 911
- Zoning Officer 859-3201  
(hours vary—check Twp website.)
- Sewage Enforcement 989-8439

## Email Addresses

- Public Works Dept [sfisher@westearltpw.org](mailto:sfisher@westearltpw.org)
- Water Dept [waterdept@westearltpw.org](mailto:waterdept@westearltpw.org)
- Sewer Dept [bhershock@westearltpw.org](mailto:bhershock@westearltpw.org)
- Township Manager [cjohnson@westearltpw.org](mailto:cjohnson@westearltpw.org)
- Administrative Office [datadept@westearltpw.org](mailto:datadept@westearltpw.org)
- Zoning Office [tzorbaugh@westearltpw.org](mailto:tzorbaugh@westearltpw.org)