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West Earl Township

SUMMER

JULY 2016

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2015 Water Quality Report

The 2015 Water Quality Report for West Earl Township is available for viewing. The report was mailed to all water customers of the Township and will also be available on our website at www.westearltp.org. If you are not a water customer of the Township but would like a copy of this report mailed to you, please call the Township office at 859-3201.



RECYCLING NEWS

ATTENTION RESIDENTS WHO USE THE TOWNSHIP'S CONTRACTED HAULER—You should have recently received a new, 32-gallon recycling bin. By offering this larger recycling container the contracted hauler hopes to reduce the amount of recyclable materials that are put into the regular trash and increase recycling by our customers. The use of this larger bin is optional. If you prefer, you may continue using the smaller, green bins.

Acceptable items to recycle.

- ♻️ **Metal** - aluminum and steel beverage and food cans, aerosol cans and paint cans.
- ♻️ **Glass** - clear, brown, blue, and green glass food & beverage containers.
- ♻️ **Plastic** - #1 through #7 (*all materials must be thoroughly cleaned*).
- ♻️ **Paper, paperboard & cardboard** - cardboard boxes (all sizes, flattened), clean pizza boxes, food boxes (i.e. cereal & gelatin boxes), empty paper towel & toilet paper rolls, paperboard packaging (i.e. tissue boxes), office paper (any color), newspapers and inserts, magazines, catalogs, brochures, junk mail, envelopes, paper bags, phone books & other soft cover books and food and drink cartons.

Remove all packaging such as styrofoam peanuts and plastic bubble wrap. Flatten all boxes and bundle any boxes that won't fit into the recycle bin. Cover loose paper with heavier items to prevent it from blowing away. If the weather forecast calls for high winds or rain then please keep your paper recyclables until the next pickup day. Wet paper products are difficult to process.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN.

- ♻️ Syringes and medical waste
- ♻️ Broken glass
- ♻️ Windows, mirrors & ceramics
- ♻️ Drinking glasses
- ♻️ Aluminum foil
- ♻️ Scrap metal
- ♻️ Clothing hangers
- ♻️ Shredded paper
- ♻️ Plastic bubble wrap
- ♻️ Food waste
- ♻️ Electronics or E-waste
- ♻️ Televisions
- ♻️ Styrofoam
- ♻️ Light bulbs



For a complete list please visit the Township's website at www.westearltp.org.

Inflatable Pool Guidelines



An inflatable swimming pool is a popular way to cool off in your backyard. A storable pool such as this is easy to set up and take down and relatively inexpensive to purchase. However, the manufacturers took the "kiddie pool" concept a step further and designed inflatable pools that can be up to 48 inches high and hold the whole family!

What you should know before you purchase an inflatable pool is that it will require a zoning/building permit, an inspection for the electrical connection of the filter, and a fence with a self-latching gate around it.

The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, adopted and implemented in July 2004, includes Appendix G, which covers all swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs designed to hold more than 24 inches of water. Generally any pool with a filter holds at least 24 inches of water. That puts inflatable (storable) pools in the same category as above-ground pools. All above-ground pools require electrical inspections and barrier (fence/gate) inspections.

Under Section 184-30 of the West Earl Township Zoning Ordinance, private, noncommercial swimming pools (whether above or below ground) which are designed to contain a water depth of 24 inches or more must be located in a rear or side yard only, be entirely enclosed with a permanent fence not less than 6 feet in height and have a self-locking type gate. Should be at least 15 feet from side yard and rear yard property lines and not occupy more than 25% of the minimum required yard.



Due to State Regulations, the Township can no longer accept drain oil. The nearest locations for recycling drain oil include Advanced Auto Parts and Auto Zone. Please visit www.Earth911.com for a complete list of locations.

The Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater

Healthy Lawn Care Practices

Lawns make up a significant portion of individual properties and have been shown to produce more runoff than their forested counterparts. A recent research report by the Chesapeake Bay Program recommends practices that can make your lawn more Bay-friendly.



- ◆ **Retain a dense vegetative cover of turf grass to reduce runoff, prevent erosion, and retain nutrients.** Dense grass or plant cover helps to reduce surface runoff which can be responsible for significant nutrient loss from the lawn, regardless of whether it is fertilized or not. Lawns with poor turf cover have a high risk for nutrient loss, especially if soils are compacted or slopes are steep. Any bare spots or eroding areas should be re-seeded, and may require some soil amendments, spot fertilization and, in extreme cases, stabilized with a biodegradable erosion control cover.
- ◆ **Fertilizer application strategies.** Choose to fertilize, or adopt a Reduce Rate/Monitor Strategy, or apply less than a pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per each individual application. The easiest strategy is to not fertilize at all, which makes sense for lawns that are relatively flat and mature, and have a dense grass cover. This strategy relies on soil mineralization, lawn clippings and atmospheric deposition to supply the nutrients needed for growth, but should NOT be used on lawns that have poor turf cover or exposed soils. The reduced rate and monitor fertilization approach would include applying 1/3 to 1/2 of the recommended application rate on the fertilizer bag label, and then monitor how your lawn responds over the next couple weeks. The third strategy is to fertilize at the recommended nitrogen fertilization rate but split it into 3 or 4 small doses during the growing season. Individual application rates should be no more than 0.9 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn.
- ◆ **If you choose to fertilize, the following practices can further reduce the risk of the fertilizer reaching the Chesapeake Bay.** Do not apply fertilizers before spring or after the grass becomes dormant. The highest fertilizer loss occurs in the winter when grass is dormant. Maximize use of slow release nitrogen fertilizer. The risk of nutrient loss during the growing season can be further reduced if you buy slow release fertilizer products. Immediately sweep off any fertilizer that lands on a paved surface in order to prevent it from being washed away in the next storm. Never apply fertilizer within 15 to 20 feet of any water feature and manage this zone as a grass, meadow, or forest buffer. The risk of nutrient loss is also high when fertilizer is applied close to water features such as swales, drainage ditches and streams. It's a good idea to create a "fertilizer-free" buffer zone around these water features to avoid contamination.
- ◆ **Keep clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn and keep them out of streets and storm drains.** Lawn clippings are an important nutrient and organic matter source which can enhance the health of your soils and your lawn. Using a composting lawn mower to keep the clippings on your lawn adds about one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of natural fertilizer to your lawn each year.
- ◆ **Set mower height at 3 inches or taller.** Maintaining taller grass produces a deeper and more extensive root system, which in turn, increases nutrient uptake and reduces lawn runoff volume. The deeper roots also reduce the need for supplemental irrigation during times of drought and will suppress weeds and increase turf density.
- ◆ **Use other practices to increase the porosity and infiltration capability of your lawn to treat stormwater.** Disconnecting your downspouts and installing practices like rain gardens have been shown to increase your lawn's ability to retain and manage stormwater on-site.
- ◆ **Consult with your local lawn care company to get the best advice on how to have a Bay-friendly lawn, which might involve a soil test analysis.** Many lawn care professionals can help you get a good looking and Bay-friendly lawn, given your type of grass, soil conditions, shading, and your landscape preferences.

For more information about stormwater please visit the Township's website at www.westearltpw.org.



The Township would like to thank Linda Hoffman for giving this fire hydrant an adorable paint job.



Earth Day Cleanup



On April 22nd students from the Conestoga Valley High School and Elementary School participated in a river cleanup and beautification project at the Community Park in Talmage for Earth Day 2016. We would like to thank the students for their hard work and for doing a wonderful job.



Pennsylvania Leads Nation in Lyme Disease Cases

Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed cases of Lyme disease for three straight years, and for the first time, deer ticks have been found in all of its 67 counties, the State Department of Health reports.

The great imitator

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that affects people of all ages and any organ of the body, including the brain and nervous system, muscles and joints, and the heart. It is called "The great imitator" because its symptoms mimic many other diseases such as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, and various psychiatric illnesses, including depression.

Testing for Lyme

Diagnostic testing is unreliable in the early stages of the infection, often giving false negatives. However, treatment should not be delayed pending a positive test result if the suspicion of Lyme disease is high. If Lyme disease is not diagnosed or treated early, the bacteria can spread and may go into hiding in different parts of the body. Weeks, months, or even years later, patients may develop problems with the brain and nervous system, muscles and joints, heart and circulation, digestion, reproductive system, and skin. Symptoms may disappear even without treatment, and different symptoms may appear at different times.

How to protect yourself

Know where ticks live—Ticks tend to be near the ground, in leaf litter, grasses, bushes, and fallen logs.

Dress defensively—Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves. Tie back long hair and wear a hat. Light-colored clothing can help you spot ticks.

Use repellent on exposed skin—Studies show that repellents with DEET, Picaridin, or lemon eucalyptus oil are most effective.

Check for ticks—When outdoors, periodically inspect your clothing and skin for ticks.

Take a shower—Once home, take a shower right away. This will wash away unattached ticks and allow you to thoroughly inspect yourself.

Put your clothes in the dryer—Running your clothes in a hot dryer for 10 minutes before you wash them will kill any ticks that may be there.

Protect your pets—Consult with your veterinarian about tick protection for your pets.

For more information visit www.LymeDisease.org

Tips for Conserving Water

We all use water every day. It's essential for drinking, bathing, cooking, cleaning and a whole lot more. But, a lot of water gets wasted. This happens both indoors and outdoors in many households most often due to water use habits and appliances that are not water-efficient. Leaky pipes and fixtures are also big water-wasters.

Saving water has benefits. They include saving money and energy and helping the environment. Everyone in the family can help save water. Here are a few ways to help conserve water at home.

Look for leaks and repair them—Most leaks are easy to detect and repair. For sinks, check faucets and pipes for dripping water. Replace washers, and repair or replace fixtures, if needed. For toilets, add food coloring to the tank water and check the bowl in 15 minutes. (Don't flush.) If there's color in the toilet bowl, it means there's a leak.

Install water-saving devices—such as low-flow toilets and sink fixtures.

Save water while preparing food—Use a brush and bowl of water to clean food instead of letting the water run.

Use less water to clean your home—Use a pail or basin instead of running water. Also, use a sponge mop instead of a string mop.

Wash dishes wisely—If you use a dishwasher, wash only full loads. If washing by hand don't run the water continuously. Soak pots and pans before washing.

Check hoses and irrigation systems—Use a hose nozzle that you can shut off or adjust to a fine spray. When finished, shut it off at the house to avoid leaks.

Minimize watering outdoors—Water when the sun is down and when it's not windy. Water slowly, deeply and as little as possible.

For more water saving tips visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keywords: Water Conservation.

West Earl Township
PO BOX 787
Brownstown, PA 17508



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 859-3725
(after hours)
- Police Department 859-1411
- Emergencies 911
- Zoning Officer 859-3201
(hours vary—check Twp website.)
- Sewage Enforcement 989-8439

Email Addresses

- Road Master sfisher@westearltpw.org
- Assistant Road Master amartin@westearltpw.org
- Water Dept waterdept@westearltpw.org
- Sewer Dept bhershock@westearltpw.org
- Township Manager cjohnson@westearltpw.org
- Administrative Office datadept@westearltpw.org
- Zoning Office tzorbaugh@westearltpw.org