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# West Earl Township

FALL / WINTER

NOVEMBER 2016

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Leaf collection began on October 17th and will continue through December 8th (this date is subject to change).

### To Prepare Leaves for pick-up:

\*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.



## What You Should Know About Radon

### What is Radon?

Radon is a tasteless, odorless, colorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas. It comes from the breakdown of uranium in rocks and soil. Radon enters the home through hollow block walls, cracks in the foundation floor and walls, and openings around floor drains, pipes and sump holes.

### What are the Health Effects of Radon?

The harmful health effects of radon arise from the radioactive particles emitted from radon and its decay progeny. These particles can settle in the lungs, where they attach to the surface of the lungs and emit radioactive particles. It is these radioactive particles that can impact the lungs and cause lung cancer. Currently, there are no other health effects associated with radon exposure except for lung cancer.

### How Do You Know if Your Home Has High Radon Levels?

You and your family are most likely to get the greatest exposure to radon at home. The only way to know the radon level in your home is to test. Testing is easy and inexpensive. You may perform the test yourself using a radon test kit. Kits are available online at <https://securechek.com/DIY/index.html> or from a PA Certified Laboratory. You can choose either a short-term test, which takes 2 to 7 days, or a long-term test, which takes 3 to 12 months. These do-it-yourself kits can cost between \$15 and \$30. You also have the option to hire a PA Certified tester to perform the test. The cost to have a PA Certified tester perform the test can vary from about \$90 to \$120.

### What do your test results mean?

The U.S. EPA recommends that if your initial radon test result shows a level of 4 pCi/L or higher you should confirm the result with a follow-up test. For homes with radon levels of 4 pCi/L or higher, the EPA recommends that you have a radon mitigation system installed to lower the radon levels.

### How can you reduce radon levels?

Radon levels can be reduced by installing a radon mitigation system. The most common type of system uses an arrangement of plastic pipes and a fan to vent the radon gas to the outside air. The typical cost of a radon mitigation system ranges from \$500 to \$1,300.

For more information about Radon or Radon Mitigation Systems please visit any of the following websites.

DEP—[www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov), keyword: Radon

EPA—[www2.epa.gov/radon](http://www2.epa.gov/radon)

R&R Radon Reduction—[www.rrradonreduction.com](http://www.rrradonreduction.com)

DEP Radon Hotline: 1-800-23RADON

EPA Radon Hotline: 1-800-SOS-RADON

## SIDEWALK NEWS

in 2015 the West Earl Township Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance #230—Sidewalks, Required maintenance repairs to sidewalks. The Township recently mailed a letter detailing plans to begin enforcement of this ordinance. This letter was mailed to all homeowners in the Township whether or not the property abuts a sidewalk. The Board of Supervisors felt it was important to keep all residents informed of these changes.

One of the most important components of the ordinance places the responsibility for maintaining and repairing a sidewalk on the owner of the property that abuts that sidewalk. An existing sidewalk shall be deemed defective and/or in need of replacement, resurfacing, or repair whenever, by reason of being uneven, cracked, broken or otherwise defective, such sidewalk becomes hazardous or presents a danger or risk in use by a pedestrian while walking or jogging and/or in the normal use of the sidewalk with tricycles, baby strollers, etc.

The Township has begun inspecting sidewalks and will notify property owners with sidewalks in need of repair. Sunday, **October 1, 2017** has been set as the date by which all sidewalks in the Township must be brought into compliance with the Sidewalk Ordinance. Owners of property abutting sidewalks deemed defective and/or in need of replacement, resurfacing, or repair will have until that date to effect appropriate repairs or replacements. Although the Township Supervisors have been working to obtain grant funding to help offset these kinds of repairs, such funding is not guaranteed, so affected property owners would be well advised to begin planning for these expenses now.

To view a copy of Ordinance #230 please visit the Township's website at [www.westearltwp.org](http://www.westearltwp.org).

# Winter Storm Safety

The winter season will soon be upon us and the Road Department would like to remind you about the general policy for snow removal. Each winter storm event could be cause for change however.

The major roads are attended to first with the residential streets following. Salt and anti-skid material is spread onto the roadway at the onset of the storm. When the snow accumulates to around 3 inches, the center of the road will be plowed one pass in each direction. This process may take place a couple of times throughout the duration of the storm. As the storm ends the plow will return to widen the street to its full width. Keep in mind that if you clear your driveway or sidewalk there is a possibility of snow getting onto those areas that you have cleared.

In our attempt to clear the snow from the roads, plowed snow occasionally damages mailboxes and plastic fences. Wet, heavy snow and slush increases the chance for damage to occur. To reduce the potential for damage to your mailbox please make sure that it is tightly secured on a solid post. Residents are reminded that mailbox damage occurring from the plowed snow is the responsibility of the property owner. The Road Department will make every effort to avoid causing any damage.

Additional reminders during snow events:

- Do not push or blow snow onto the roadway. This creates hazardous driving conditions.
- Please park vehicles off the street whenever possible. When the crew has done the widening of the street, they will not return to clear parking spaces.
- It is recommended that you wait to clear your sidewalk until after the crew has widened the street. This will prevent the need for additional shoveling of the sidewalks.
- Drive carefully on snow and ice covered streets.

Any questions, please contact the Township Office at 717.859.3201.



## NEW TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEE

The Board of Supervisors and Township staff would like to welcome Bethany Benedict to West Earl Township as the full-time Zoning Officer/Stormwater Coordinator. She graduated from Millersville University in 2015 with two bachelor's degrees in Occupational Safety and Environmental Geography. After graduation, she worked at RCM&D, an insurance broker, as a Risk Consultant.

Bethany enjoys spending time outdoors walking, gardening, and swimming. She has been a resident of West Earl Township her entire life and is passionate about the community.

Zoning office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Winter Weather Preparedness

By William Howard, Emergency Management Coordinator

Living and working in Pennsylvania can become interesting during the winter because of winter storms. Although weather forecasters can give the public an idea when storms will happen, it is not always accurate resulting in emergency situations. Here are some basic tips to remember during the winter months.

At Home:

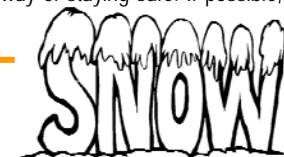
- ✓ Have flashlights and extra batteries.
- ✓ Have food that does not require cooking or refrigeration.
- ✓ Have 1 gallon of water per person, per day.
- ✓ Have extra prescription medicine.
- ✓ Have extra baby supplies such as diapers and formula.
- ✓ Have a secondary heating source— but be careful of carbon monoxide.
- ✓ Have a fire extinguisher and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ✓ Have extra pet supplies and a warm place for them.
- ✓ Charge your cell phone and back up power supplies.

These are just some suggestions for being ready for winter weather at home.

Many people need to travel during the winter months. Before leaving home, check the forecast for where you will be traveling. It is important to remember, "TAKE IT SLOW, IN THE SNOW" and if you must travel, be prepared. The NWS has prepared this graphic as a reminder of what items to have in a vehicle emergency kit.



Being prepared before the storm begins is the safest and most reliable way of staying safe. If possible, stay home and stay safe.

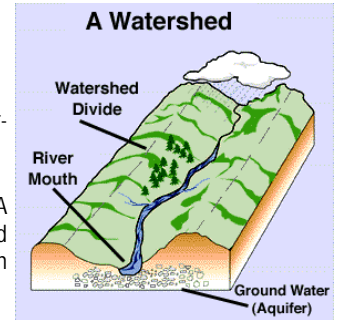


# Lancaster County Watershed Basics

## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a specific body of water: a stream, pond, lake, wetland, river or ocean. A watershed area can be as large as portions of several states or as small as a backyard. Everyone lives in a watershed.

Watersheds are broken down into *Watershed Management Units*. The largest Watershed Management Unit is a **basin**. A basin drains to a major receiving water body (large river, estuary, or lake). The drainage areas of basins typically exceed several thousand square miles and usually include major portions of a single state or a group of states. Within each basin are **sub-basins**. Sub-basins extend over several hundred square miles and are composed of Watersheds.



Watersheds are broken down further into smaller geographic units called **Sub-watersheds**. Sub-watersheds typically have a drainage area of 2 – 15 square miles. Sub-watersheds usually drain to small streams. Finally, within sub-watersheds are **Catchments**, which are the smallest units in a watershed. Catchments are defined as the area that drains an individual development site to its first intersection with a stream.

## What are the Watersheds of Lancaster County?

The Basin in which most Lancaster County empties into is the Chesapeake Bay Drainage Basin. One of the many sub-basins for the Chesapeake Bay is the Susquehanna River Sub-basin, of which Lancaster County is a part. Continuing "upstream" within Lancaster County are 4 Watersheds; **Chiques, Conestoga, Pequea**, and the **Octoraro**. Finally, there are 12 Sub-watersheds within Lancaster County (to see a map of the 12 sub-watersheds visit [lancasterwatersheds.org](http://lancasterwatersheds.org)). West Earl Township is located within the Conestoga and Cocalico Sub-watersheds.

## What can you do to protect Lancaster County's Watersheds?

There are many ways residents of Lancaster County can protect the water quality of our streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. The simplest thing we all can do is let Mother Nature take care of herself. Altering a flowing stream by straitening it or constricting its flow only creates water quality and flooding problems downstream. In addition, mowing the vegetation next to a stream increases stormwater flows and reduces the ability of filtering pollutants before they enter the water body.

A better option instead of mowing next to a stream is to plant native vegetation that will increase water quality, provide food and cover for wildlife, protect stream banks, slow stormwater runoff, and trap and filter excess nutrients and sediments. Studies have shown the best way to protect and enhance a stream ecosystem for water quality and wildlife is to plant native trees and shrubs. This vegetation is known as a **Riparian Buffer**. These forested buffers provide a full complement of water quality and ecological benefits. Buffers have been shown to remove nearly 97% of sediments, 80% of nitrogen, and 77% of phosphorus from entering the stream. Add in wildlife benefits and one can see the true value of a riparian buffer. For more information about Lancaster County Watersheds please visit [www.lancasterwatersheds.org](http://www.lancasterwatersheds.org) or [www.lancasterconservation.org](http://www.lancasterconservation.org).

## Library News

The Lancaster Public Library has a wide range of programs and activities to keep the whole family out of the cold all winter long! Upcoming programs include:

**Pre-School Story Time:** A story time for our patrons 2 years old and above, with songs, finger plays, and stories every other Tuesday morning at 10:30 am.

**Construction Zone for Learning:** Hard hats and tool belts are not necessary as you head to the library for an hour of building. A variety of building materials will provide limitless possibilities for children to let their imaginations go wild as they build whatever they like. Join the fun and meet new friends in the library's Construction Zone for Learning all the while building fine motor and language skills on Thursdays at 10:30 am. While in the Construction Zone, children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Dog-Wagging Read Aloud:** Is your child looking to become more confident in his/her reading skills? Reading to the registered therapy dogs in the Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D) program helps children improve their reading and communication skills. Be sure to bring your favorite book on the first Saturday of every month from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. This program is for readers in 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grades.

The library even has you covered on snow days! The Lancaster Public Library is now offering hoopla, a great new library app to all our patrons. Lancaster Public Library card holders can download the free hoopla digital mobile app on their Android or IOS device or visit [hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com) to begin enjoying thousands of titles – from major Hollywood studios, record companies, and publishers – available to borrow 24/7, for instant streaming or temporary downloading to their smartphones, tablets, and computers.



The Leola Branch Library has so much to offer but don't take our word for it – stop by and see for yourself! The Lancaster Public Library East-Leola Branch is located at 46 Hillcrest Avenue, Leola. You can reach the library by calling (717) 656-7920 or by visiting [www.lancaster.lib.pa.us](http://www.lancaster.lib.pa.us). The Leola Branch Library is open on Monday from noon to 5:00 pm; Tuesday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday from noon to 7:00 pm; Thursday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Friday from noon to 5:00 pm; and Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

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
- Sewage Enforcement 989-8439

### Email Addresses

- Road Master [sfisher@westearltpw.org](mailto:sfisher@westearltpw.org)
- Assistant Road Master [amartin@westearltpw.org](mailto:amartin@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 [bbenedict@westearltpw.org](mailto:bbenedict@westearltpw.org)