



WEST EARL TOWNSHIP

SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER

157 W. Metzler Road
PO Box 787
Brownstown, PA 17508
717-859-3201



TABLE OF CONTENTS

White Goods	1
Electronic billing	1
Recycle Corner	2
Rain Barrels	3
Holiday Schedule	4
Think Spring	4
On-Lot Assistance	5
Lancaster Library	5
Rep. Greiner Message	6
Compost Facility	7
Keep PA Beautiful	7
In the Spotlight	8
Dates to Remember	9
Water Saving Tip	9

ELECTRONIC BILLING IS HERE!

As a West Earl Township resident, you now have the option of receiving your monthly utility bill electronically. What are the benefits?

1. You will receive your utility bill 1-3 days faster than ones delivered by mail.
2. You will have the ability to simply click a button to pay your utility bill through the online portal.
3. You will never have to worry about bills getting “lost in the mail” ever again.

If this is something you would be interested in, please contact the Township office or send an email to mwallace@westearltwp.org.

WHITE GOODS & TIRE PICK-UP

SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2021

This is open to all West Earl Township contracted trash hauler customers. You must pick up tags at the Township office BEFORE Thursday, April 8th, 2021. White goods tags are \$12/each and tire tags are \$2/each. Tires must be off the rims.



Welcome to the West Earl Township Recycling Corner. You will find many useful tips and tricks in this section to assist you in the recycling process. Something you would like to know more about? Just send an email to mwallace@westearltpw.org and we will add information on your request in the next e-newsletter.

EARTH-FRIENDLY SPRING CLEANING & RECYCLING TIPS

Spring is here and it is a great time to declutter, reduce, reuse, and recycle.

- **REDUCE** – Go room-by-room and group the items that you haven’t used in a while. If you cannot remember the last time you used it, or you forgot that you even had it, it is a good sign that it is time to pass it on. Reducing waste and clutter could also include unsubscribing from junk mail lists and credit card offers.
- **REUSE** – Avoid the “throw away” mentality and think about how the item can be re-used. Could that piece of furniture be re-upholstered or re-finished? Old fabrics and T-shirts can be used as rags. Last year’s birthday cards could be used for art projects for the kids.
- **RECYCLE** – Look around your home to see how you can better set it up for easy recycling. Is there a place in the bathroom to put recyclables like toilet paper rolls and plastic shampoo bottles?
- **DONATE OR SELL** – There are probably many items that you just don’t want anymore, but someone else would appreciate having. Donate items to places like Goodwill, a local women’s shelter or a clothing drive. Try selling valuable pieces at a garage sale or swap meet, or online at one of the many yard sale sites.
- **AVOID WASTE** – When doing your spring cleaning, aim for zero waste. Instead of using paper towels to clean windows, use old or washable towels or even newspaper. Instead of buying plastic bags for your trash, utilize leftover plastic bags from the grocery store.

Excerpt from <https://harmony1.com/spring-cleaning-and-recycling-tips/>

WHAT CAN WE PUT IN OUR RECYCLE BIN???



1. Corrugated Cardboard – make sure boxes are flattened. You can also drop this item off at the dumpster located in the Township building parking lot.
2. Plastic Bottles & Jugs with Necks – this includes milk jugs, laundry detergent containers and anything else with a neck.
3. Metal Food & Beverage Cans – please remember to rinse out the food cans.
4. Glass Jars & Bottles with a Neck – any color glass can be recycled as long as it has a neck.



Rain Barrels:

What you may need to know

Function and Uses

- Typically made from a 50- to 80-gallon plastic barrel that sits underneath a downspout to collect water from the roof during each rain event.
- Use to water your lawn or plants, wash your cars, or clean tools and boots.
- Water is not for consumption.

Maintenance

- Drain and disconnect the barrel in the winter. Freezing and thawing can cause cracks. Clean out screens and the tank periodically to remove debris.
- Lead the overflow hose away from the building to an existing garden or rain garden to receive the excess water.

Contamination

- The water collected from the roof can contain leaf litter, bird droppings, and chemicals from roof material.
- It is best to use the water on inedible plants such as the lawn, flowers, shrubs, or trees.

Benefits

1. Save drinking water resources. On average, nearly 30 percent of our daily water use is attributed to lawn and garden care. Collecting water from rain events decreases the amount of treated drinking water used to water plants. Clean, fresh water is a limited, precious resource!
2. Save on water and sewer bills. Capturing rainwater keeps money in your pocket by reducing the amount of water needed from municipal sources.
3. Provide water during droughts. Rain barrels can provide free and easy access to water during times with limited water.
4. Better to use untreated water. Water collected from rain events is usually better for plants than treated water (which often contains chlorine).
5. Reduce pollution. Pollution is created as rainwater passes over land surfaces and picks up contaminants (e.g., motor oil residue, road salt, fertilizers, and pesticides) en route to our local streams and rivers. Capture that water in a rain barrel before it gets polluted and causes problems.
6. Prevent soil erosion. Slowing the flow and volume of gutter runoff reduces soil erosion that can damage the home foundation and remove nutrient-rich topsoil.

You can find out even more on rain barrels at www.extension.psu.edu/rain-barrels-information-and-guide.

**The West Earl Township office
will be closed on the following days:**

April 2nd, 2021

May 31st, 2021

DID YOU KNOW???????
**INTERESTING FACTS AND
TRVIA ABOUT SPRING**



Dates to remember

March 28th, 2021 – National Weed Appreciation Day

This would be a great day to check out the West Earl Compost Facility!

April 1st, 2021 – April's Fool's Day AND National Burrito Day

No kidding – it's really National Burrito Day!

April 11th, 2021 – National Pet Day

Have you renewed your pet's license yet?

April 16th, 2021 – National Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day

The West Earl Police Dept has a medicine drop-off box in their lobby.

May 16th, 2021 – Take Your Parents To The Playground Day

We are accepting reservations for the West Earl Lions Park pavilion.

Spring Fever Is Real! Because of the rising temperatures, there is a dilation of the blood vessels so that the blood can be carried to the surface of the body, where the heat is lost quickly. Because of this, people tend to feel more energetic when it happens.

If you are a homeowner who needs help with improvements, replacement or repairs to your On-Lot Septic System please visit www.pennvest.pa.gov/information/funding-programs/pages/on-lot.aspx for information on possible assistance.



LANCASTER CITY BRANCH

125 N. Duke Street | Lancaster, PA 17602 | 717-394-2651
Mon - Thurs 10AM-6PM | Fri 9AM-4PM | Sat 9AM-1PM



MOUNTVILLE BRANCH

120 College Avenue | Mountville, PA 17554 | 717-285-3231
Mon & Wed 11AM-6PM | Tues & Thurs 10AM-6PM | Fri 10AM-5PM | Sat 10AM-1PM

While our in-person events are on hold, we are offering virtual programming at the Lancaster City and Mountville Branches. To see the library's entire calendar of events and/or to learn more about our Summer Reading Program (begins on Saturday, June 5), please visit LancasterPublicLibrary.org/events. Whether in a building or online, Lancaster Public Library continues to inspire, empower, and strengthen our community by connecting people with information, ideas, and enriching experiences.

- **Chronicles of Yarnia:** Bring your knit & crochet projects and work in congenial company; it's always more fun to create with friends! For ages 9+
 - Meets most Mondays at 6:30 pm. via Zoom
- **Stay Home Storytime:** Children of all ages will enjoy interactive learning opportunities in the form of stories, songs, and fun with Alex and Miss Gail.
 - Watch most Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. via Facebook Live
- **Mamma Goose Story Time:** Join Mamma Goose for stories, puppets, songs, and movement activities!
 - Watch most Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. via Facebook Live
- **Discovering Short Stories: A Discussion Group:** The time commitment is low, enjoyment is high, and you're sure to discover some new authors and styles to explore.
 - Meets first Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- **Thursday Book Group:** Join us and discuss great books with interesting people!
 - Meets second Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- **Let's Draw Together:** Whether you're a beginner, an expert, or somewhere in between, we will help you sharpen your drawing skills. *For school-aged children.*
 - Meets third Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Dorothy Height Book Club *hosted in partnership with YWCA Lancaster:*** Join our interactive, insightful book club with a focus on diverse, thought-provoking writers and subjects.
 - Meets third Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Into the Strange: A Sci-Fi Book Club:** Celebrate your love of science fiction with like-minded readers!
 - Meets fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Minecrafternoons:** Once a month just isn't enough Minecraft.
 - Meets second and fourth Sundays at 12:00 p.m. via Twitch.tv



A MESSAGE FROM REPRESENTATIVE KEITH J. GREINER

House Appropriation Budget Hearings Conclude in March

The Wolf administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic was in the spotlight during state budget hearings with the House Appropriations Committee in February and March, as was the governor's proposed personal income tax increase of 46%.

Pennsylvania is currently trailing the national economy with our unemployment rate standing at 6.7% for December which was 40 basis points higher than the national average. We also lost almost 475,000 jobs over the 12-month period that included business shutdown orders and other regulations instated by the governor and the state Health Department. In addition, Pennsylvania's civilian workforce has shrunk by 3.9% as compared to 2.4% for the national average.

My colleagues and I in the General Assembly were hoping that the governor would propose a budget with policies that would relieve our workers and small businesses from the past year of hardship. However, Governor Wolf proposed an increased personal income tax on families and small businesses, a dramatic increase in the minimum wage, and a new tax on the energy industry. These policies would increase costs and inflationary pressures for families and small businesses at a time when so many are looking for assistance. In addition, the governor wants to increase state spending of taxpayer dollars by \$3 billion, or 8% over the current fiscal year.

Analysts have shared that the 46% increase in personal income taxes alone would cost Pennsylvania families and small businesses an additional \$6 billion. In addition, they shared that overall, Pennsylvania's local rates combined with the governor's proposed increase, our state would have the highest flat-rate subnational income tax in the country at 8.37%. Nearly 80% of the state's businesses will be subject to these additional income taxes, and those operations are already facing serious financial challenges.

Any minimum wage increase discussion must be responsible and factor in the jobs that would be lost, inflationary cost pressures, and the impact on how it will disproportionately hurt smaller businesses. Federal data has shown that last year's lockdown forced 30% of Pennsylvania businesses to close permanently.

Pennsylvania's energy industry has also been hit hard in the past year by the executive branch's regulations that decreased active rigs and wells to their lowest levels since 2012.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass a responsible budget in a timely fashion that spends appropriately and does not waste taxpayer dollars, making our Commonwealth the "Envy of the East".

I hope you have a great Spring, and I encourage you to reach out to my office with any state-related concerns and questions.

WEST EARL COMPOST FACILITY UPDATE

With warmer weather on the horizon, it's time to start thinking about yard clean-up. Whether you are dropping off those downed tree limbs or picking up mulch, the compost facility is the place to be. We want to update you on a few changes for this year:

- COST PER TRIP
 - West Earl residents \$1.50 per trip (**UNLIMITED**)
 - Non-West Earl residents \$20.00 trip
 - Commercial accounts \$50.00 per trip
- SURVEILLANCE
 - We now have a surveillance system in place at the facility. If you are caught entering the compost yard without using your keycard or illegally dumping items that are not allowed, you will be prosecuted.

West Earl has one of the only local composting facilities and we strive to provide this service as proficiently and inexpensively as possible. We urge residents to take advantage of the benefits of this site but NOT TO “take advantage” of the site.

If you have any questions concerning the West Earl Compost Facility, please feel free to contact the Township office.



Although Covid-19 may have hampered some of your outdoor activities in the past year, you can still take part in this statewide event. Sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, the **Great American Cleanup** is the nation's largest community improvement program. Each year, millions of volunteers collect litter & debris from roadsides, parks, and other public lands. They also clean up illegal dump sites, recycle thousands of tons of metal and tires and plant trees & flowers.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is a part of the Great American Cleanup and is sponsored by the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance and departments of the Environmental Protection and Transportation. This event runs from March 1st through May 31st.

To learn more about how you can be a part of this, please go to www.gacofpa.org. You can register for activities, find local events and get tips on holding a successful clean-up.

In The Spotlight

Spring brings so many wonderful things: flowers, warmer weather, sunshine and **road construction**. While we may complain about delays and detours, we should also take into consideration the many men and women who are risking their own safety to make sure these jobs get done correctly and in a timely manner.

In this edition of the West Earl Township newsletter, we put the spotlight on our Roadmaster, Neil Stoltzfus.



Although Neil has only been with West Earl Township for a little over a year, he has lots of experience under his belt. He spent ten years building PennDOT roads and bridges for JD Eckman, Inc; beginning as a heavy equipment operator and spending his last 4 years there in management. He has been paving and excavating for a total of 22 years.

What exactly do Neil and the road crew guys do? Well, here are just a few of their MANY duties:

- Snow removal
- Road maintenance & repair
- Stormwater facilities maintenance and repair
- Lawn mowing of all Township properties
- Bank mowing of all Township roads
- Line painting
- Street sign repair & replacement
- Leaf pick-up
- Park & grounds maintenance
- PA OneCall service for utilities

This month, and every month, we thank Neil and the road crew for doing a great job on our Township roadways.

Remember – if you see workers on the roads, please be mindful and give them room to work.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2021

March 30 – West Earl utility bills are due

April 2 – Township office is closed

April 5 – West Earl Water Authority Meeting, 7 PM

April 6 – **Yard waste pick up begins** (for West Earl trash customers)

April 10 – **White Goods & Tires pick up**

April 12 – West Earl Board of Supervisors meeting, 7 PM

April 20 – West Earl Planning Commission meeting, 7 PM

April 26 – West Earl Board of Supervisors meeting, 7 PM

April 27 – Primary election day

April 30 – West Earl utility bills are due

May 3 – West Earl Water Authority meeting, 7 PM

May 10 – West Earl Board of Supervisors meeting, 7 PM

May 18 – West Earl Planning Commission meeting, 7 PM

May 24 – West Earl Board of Supervisors meeting, 7 PM

May 28 – West Earl utility bills are due

May 31 – Township office is closed



A TIP FROM THE PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons of water per year. That's the amount of water it takes to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher.