



# WEST EARL TOWNSHIP

## SUMMER 2021

### NEWSLETTER

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

#### PAVILION RENTALS

Summer is here and that means it is time to go outside with friends and family. If you are looking for an inexpensive way to get everyone together, the West Earl Community Park offers a pavilion that can be rented for only \$50.00/day. Contact the Township office for reservation details.

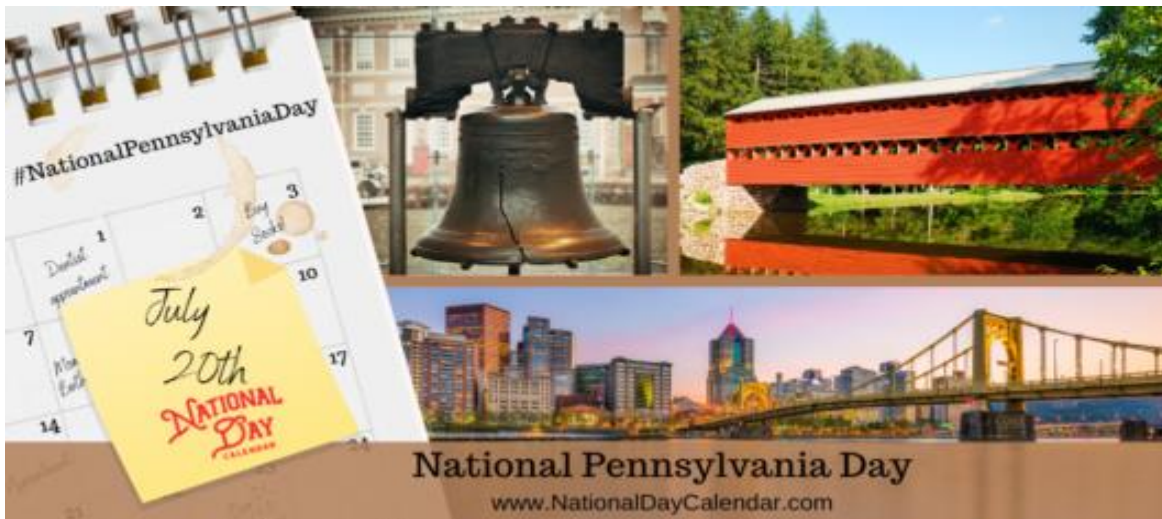


### TRASH QUESTIONS?

If you are a West Earl Township trash customer and have questions or concerns regarding your trash service, please feel free to contact the Township office. We are in direct contact with Eagle Disposal and can work to resolve any problems that may arise.

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In 2017, National Day Calendar began celebrating each state in the order they entered the union starting the week of Independence Day and ending with Hawaii. **National Pennsylvania Day is on July 20<sup>th</sup>** and recognizes PA as the 2<sup>nd</sup> state to join the Union. According to National Day Calendar, Pennsylvania played many roles that could be considered keystones. To begin with, its vote for independence split between eight delegates. Because of this, the split played a vital role in deciding to move forward toward independence & cementing the union of the newly formed country. Throughout military operations, Pennsylvania provided forces to support the cause. As we know, the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were signed in Philadelphia during its tenure as the temporary capital. It was geographically centered among the 13 original colonies.

You can learn more information about National Pennsylvania Day by going to <https://nationalholidaycalendar.com/national-pennsylvania-day-july-20/>.

### **STAY IN THE KNOW**

For the most up-to-date information, please check out the West Earl Township Facebook page and the West Earl Township website ([www.westearltwp.org](http://www.westearltwp.org)). Both of these sites are regularly updated with pertinent information for the residents of West Earl Township.

## **COMPOST SITE ISSUES**

If you have trouble with your compost card when trying to enter the compost facility, call the phone number listed at the gate. Someone is available after-hours, so please call that number and follow the prompts for compost; this will connect you with the Township employee on call.

## RECYCLING DONE RIGHT

Summertime = road trips, barbeques and LOTS of new ways to recycle the right way. Follow these tips to help in the fight for zero-waste.

- Toss all empty cans and bottles into your recycling bin.
- Use reusable plates, cups and utensils whenever possible.
- You can even help when cooking on a charcoal grill!
  - o Wait until the coals are cool, then soak them in water.
  - o Wrap the cooled coals in foil and place in your trash can.

All cans and bottles should be rinsed out before being placed in a recycling container. Keep all recycled material loose in the recycling bin – no bagged items will be accepted. ***And, when in doubt, throw it out!***



Before you head out on the open road, pack some meals and snacks in reusable containers. Instead of buying bottled water, fill up with insulated, reusable bottles instead. Forget about buying the

small, travel-sized toiletries; fill reusable containers with shampoo, soap and other necessities. It's also a good idea to keep a few bags in your car to collect the recyclables you use along the way.

Don't let your cut grass end up where it shouldn't. The best thing you could do for your lawn is to let the cut grass lay. This returns valuable nutrients to the



soil. But, if you don't like that idea, you can also place your cut grass in biodegradable bags and either have the West Earl trash hauler (for Township trash customers only) pick it up for you OR take your grass clippings to the West Earl Compost Facility to be made into mulch.



Rain barrels are a valuable addition to any garden. Place the barrels underneath a downspout to collect water from the roof each time it rains; the water can be saved and used to water plants in your yard.

## Benefits to both the gardener and the environment

**Save drinking water resources.** On average, nearly 30% of our daily water use is attributed to lawn and garden care. Collecting water from rain events decreases the amount of drinking water used to water plants and after all, clean, fresh water is a limited, precious resource!

**Decrease water bills.** Capturing rainwater also keeps money in your pocket by reducing the amount of water needed from municipal sources.

**Utilize higher quality water for plants.** Water collected from rain events is better for plants than treated water (which often contains chlorine).

**Reduce nonpoint source pollution.** Nonpoint source pollution is created as rainwater passes over land surfaces and picks up contaminants enroute to our local streams and rivers (i.e. driveways and roads are coated with motor oil residue and road salt; agricultural fields often have fertilizers and pesticides applied). Since rain barrels reduce the amount of water that runs off your property, they also reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution that can harm aquatic and human life.

## Tips and precautions for rain barrel maintenance

- Remember to keep your rain barrel drained in the winter months. Freezing and thawing of water can crack the rain barrel components.
- Clean out the screen and tank periodically to remove any debris that has settled.
- Lead the overflow hose into an existing garden or plant a rain garden to receive the excess water.
- Note that the water is not drinkable. The water collected from the roof can be laden with leaf litter, bird droppings (potential for bacteria), dust, other airborne materials, and chemicals from roof material. It is best to use the water on inedible plants such as the lawn or flowers. The water can be used on vegetable plants, but to ensure safety, make sure to water near the base of the plant and avoid the fruit and foliage, especially on leafy greens.
- Specifically avoid watering edible plants if you have an old tar and gravel, old asbestos shingle roofs, treated wood shingles or shakes, copper roofs and if you have a zinc anti-moss strip. Also, pay attention to the type of gutter you have, since some may be coated with lead-based paints.
- Many residents with an asphalt shingle roof avoid watering vegetables since complex hydrocarbons may be leached from the roof; however, there is no definitive research to prove the extent of the leaching.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Brian Brandt, Code Enforcement Officer



Brian has been with the Township since 1992 when he was first employed as a police officer. He was promoted to Chief of Police in 1996 and retired in June 2019. Following retirement, he accepted the position as Code Enforcement Officer for the Township. He is certified through the International Code Council as a Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector, through the National Stormwater Center as a Stormwater Inspector and through the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry as a Building Code Official.

As Code Enforcement Officer, Brian is responsible for enforcing numerous Township codes including the Property Maintenance Code. The primary purpose of the Property Maintenance Code, and its enforcement, is to promote and protect public health, safety, and welfare. A frequent complaint received is that of distressed or poorly maintained properties. These types of properties can quickly lose value and that reduced value is reflected in the value of adjacent properties. One of the greatest benefits of the property maintenance code is the ability to maintain property values throughout the township and create a safe and healthy environment for the residents of the Township.

## **FRIENDLY REMINDER**

The Property Maintenance Code requires residents to dispose of trash in a clean and sanitary manner by placing trash in an approved container. The Township's Solid Waste Ordinance defines an approved container as one which prohibits the contents from being scattered by wind and rain and shall prohibit accessibility by rodents or other vermin. Storing loose bags of trash outside or placing loose bags of trash curbside for pickup can attract rodents, insects, animals, and vermin and can produce noxious odors and create potential health problems. If this ordinance is not adhered to, fines may be issued.





## A MESSAGE FROM REPRESENTATIVE KEITH J. GREINER

### State Surplus is Great News, But Storm Clouds Looming

Late this spring, state revenue forecasters predicted the Commonwealth would end the fiscal year with a sizable surplus, thanks to federal stimulus payments stemming from the pandemic. In fact, the state Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) forecasted that on June 30 the General Fund would be \$1.6 billion above the level the IFO had projected just last January.

As a certified public accountant and member of the House Appropriations, Commerce and Finance committees, I welcome news of a budget surplus, but we must remember that this one is artificial. We did not earn it by extraordinary fiscal discipline, and it will not last. We have learned from experience that stimulus funding dries up and we are left with the same fiscal realities that dogged us before the bailout. That is exactly where we find ourselves in the new budget cycle beginning July 1.

To start, the surplus will be used to offset about \$1 billion in excess state spending by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services carried over from the 2019-20 budget. This is money that was not appropriated in the prior year's budget but was nonetheless spent by the Wolf administration. While the stimulus would enable us to cover expenditures for 2019-20 with the excess helping offset 2021-22 spending, this funding will not be available going forward and should not be anticipated. The IFO projects state revenues for fiscal year 2021-22 to be \$37.96 billion before approximately \$1.3 billion in tax refunds. In addition, general fund revenues for fiscal year 2021-22 are projected to be nearly \$2.152 billion less than 2019-20.

While state lawmakers work throughout June to arrive at a responsible budget, our best hope for the future is to get our economy back on track and citizens back to work. A bustling economy is good for businesses and our residents. It generates much-needed tax revenue and creates jobs.

We have seen positive signs in recent weeks. Many citizens are now vaccinated for COVID-19 and the rate of new cases and deaths has dropped sharply. Businesses are re-opening and people are starting to venture out again. While the IFO reported that Pennsylvania is still about 400,000 jobs short of pre-pandemic levels, jobless benefits will soon dry up and competition for jobs is expected to increase.

Businesses in our area have posted "Help Wanted" signs and many are offering higher wages to compete in the current job marketplace. If you are looking for employment, please contact:

- **PA Career Link:** <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/> or call 717-509-5613.
- **PA Government Jobs:** <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau> or call 855-524-5627.
- **Lancaster County:** <https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/1144/Employment-Opportunities> or call 717-299-8310.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

2021

June 20 – **Father's Day**

June 28 – West Earl Board of Supervisors Meeting, 7 PM

June 30 – West Earl utility bills are due

July 4 – **HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!**

July 5 – Township office is closed in observance of Independence Day

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

July 20 – West Earl Planning Commission meeting, 7 PM

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

July 30 – West Earl utility bills are due

August 2 – West Earl Water Authority meeting, 7 PM

August 9 – West Earl Board of Supervisors meeting, 7 PM

August 17 – West Earl Planning Commission meeting, 7 PM

August 23 – West Earl Board of Supervisors meeting, 7 PM

August 30 – West Earl utility bills are due

September 6 – **Labor Day** (Township office is closed)

Do you have something you would like to see mentioned in the newsletter? Let us know! We are always looking for suggestions. You can email ideas to [mwallace@westearltwp.org](mailto:mwallace@westearltwp.org).