



157 W. Metzler Road
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www.westearltwp.org

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SUMMER 2018

The West Earl Township Municipal building will be closed on the following days:

July 4th and September 3rd

We will reopen again for normal business on July 5th and September 4th, respectively, with normal business hours (8 AM to 4 PM).

Waste Prevention in a Commercial Setting

The most effective way to reduce your organization's waste is to generate less in the first place. Waste prevention offers the greatest environmental benefits and cost savings.

- REDUCE:** Organizations can modify their current practices to reduce the amounts of waste generated by changing the design, manufacture, purchase or use of materials or products. For example, your organization could encourage employees to only print what they need and ensure that printer settings are defaulted to print double sided to save paper.
- REUSE:** Reuse of products and packaging prolongs the useful life of these materials, thus delaying final disposal or recycling. Reuse is the repair, refurbishing, washing or just simple recovery of worn or used products, appliances, furniture and building materials. For example, by encouraging occupants to use reusable coffee mugs rather than single-use, disposable cups, you don't have to manage the disposal of a bunch of coffee cups.
- DONATE:** Organizations can donate products or materials to others who need and can use the items. For example, restaurants, hotels and cafeterias promptly distribute perishable and prepared foods to hungry people in their communities. Many local food banks will pick up food donations free of charge, saving you storage and disposal costs.

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License Your Dog in PA

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs.

An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50.

If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities.

The small license fee helps the millions of dogs in the state by funding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.

Dog licenses are available from your local county treasurer and other licensing agents.

Built to Achieve Community



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Municipal Office
717-859-3201
- Municipal Fax
717-859-3499
- Police Department
717-859-1411
- Brownstown Fire Company
717-656-6791
- Farmersville Fire Company
717-656-2508



Construction Management | Preconstruction
Design-Build | General Construction

www.benchmarkgc.com

Is there something you would like to see in the newsletter? Please feel free to let us know!

Send your thoughts and ideas to -
mwallace@westearltp.org



FIREWORKS SAFETY

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks displays. But along with all the festivities are plenty of visits to emergency rooms – especially during July. And while the majority of these incidents are due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, thousands were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

The National Safety Council advises everyone to stay away from all consumer fireworks and to only enjoy fireworks at a public display conducted by professionals. If you choose to use fireworks yourself, there are a few safety tips that could help to keep everyone safe with celebrating.

- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never light them indoors
- Only use fireworks away from people, houses and flammable materials
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of a fire

UTILITY BILL REMINDER

Water, sewer and trash bills are sent out at the beginning of every month. The due date, while not always on the same day, is listed on the utility bill.

All payments MUST be received before 4 PM on the due date to avoid a late penalty. Late penalties are 10% of the individual utility being billed. Online payments must also be processed before 4 PM on the due date to avoid penalties.

There is a drop box located at the West Earl Township building for your convenience. The payments are taken out of the drop box at 8 AM every morning (Monday-Friday).

Prescription Drug Drop-off Locations

We have had many people call or stop in at the township building to ask about where to drop off old, outdated prescription drugs. The following are some of the local areas that will accept prescription drugs.

- Ephrata Police Department
- Lancaster County Courthouse
- Lititz Borough Police
- Manheim Township Police Department
- New Holland Police
- East Earl Police
- East Lampeter Township Police Department
- Northern Lancaster County Regional Police

GRASSCYCLING: Cut it High & Let it Lie



Grass-cycling and composting are two techniques residents can use to reduce waste disposal and possible water contamination as well as save time, money and energy while returning valuable nutrients back into lawn and gardens.

Grass-cycling means leaving the grass clippings on the lawn. There are many benefits to grass-cycling including:

- Grass clippings are mostly water and nitrogen. They decompose into the grass quickly and return nutrients to the lawn which will result in a greener, healthier lawn.
- Chemicals, such as pesticides, herbicides and insecticides, stay on the lawn to do the intended job.
- Grass-cycling saves money by reducing gas consumption, lawn bags and fertilizer. By returning clippings to the lawn regularly, you can reduce fertilizer use by one application per season.
- Grass-cycling does not require the use of lawn bags because the clippings are not being picked up. With no clippings to bag, less frequent stopping and starting of the lawnmower saves gas and mowing time and reduces air pollution.

Grass-cycling must be done correctly to eliminate water pollution. Clippings should be directed back to the lawn. This is especially important when using a side discharge mower. If clippings are left on driveways, sidewalks or other impervious surfaces, they can end up in surface water or drains. These clips will add nutrients to surface water and increase the growth of algae and other aquatic plants that can deplete oxygen in surface waters.

All mower types can be used successfully for grass-cycling. To prevent clumps or discharge onto impervious surfaces when using a side discharge mower, mow toward the center of the lawn toward the discharged clippings to re-cut and distribute over the lawn. This will prevent “windrows” from forming on the lawn. Most rear bag mowers have a flap that covers the discharge shoot when the bag is removed. This allows the clippings to drop right down onto the grass. Mulching mowers pull the clips up into the mower so they can be re-cut into smaller pieces before depositing them on the lawn.

Any clips that blow from under the mower onto sidewalks or driveways should be swept or blown back onto the lawn.

When you can't leave the clippings on the lawn, collect grass for use as mulch. Use clippings in a thin (.5" to 1") layer around annual and perennial plantings. Remove all weeds before applying mulch. Grass clippings also can be mixed with shredded leaves and spread around plants.

Point Source and Non-Point Source Pollution.....

What's the Difference?

Point Source Pollution is water pollution that typically comes from wastewater discharge pipes at factories, power plants and sewage treatment plants. Point Source Pollution is regulated by state and federal laws and agencies. Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) is water pollution that comes from many different sources—like roads, highways, sidewalks, parking lots, lawns, gardens, farm fields and leaking septic systems. NPS is triggered when rainwater washes road salts, vehicle fluids, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, manure, litter and soil off the land and into waterways. As surface runoff moves over land, it picks up and moves these pollutants into our streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands—and even into our reservoirs and groundwater drinking supplies. ***NPS is the biggest source of pollution to our streams and rivers.***

Because there are so many sources of NPS, it's difficult to regulate. Therefore, it's up to each of us to do our part to keep our water clean for our use, as well as for the plants and animals that also depend on water for their survival. Drinking water, whether from private wells or municipal water supplies, comes from the rain that falls on our watersheds. What happens to this rainwater from the time it hits the ground to the time it's poured into a glass, is mostly up to each of us as individuals. We all contribute to Non-Point Source Pollution in our daily lives. But there are ways we can make changes to reduce our impacts to our water resources and minimize our contributions to Non-Point Source Pollution.

Consider adopting a 30-day trial of “green” habits that will help protect our water. Select some habits from this list. You'll find that in addition to protecting our water, they also save you time and money.

Inside your home

1. Avoid using your garbage disposal. It adds potentially damaging grease and solids to your plumbing and septic system. Instead, make or buy a compost bin to dispose of food scraps and let nature recycle it into soil for you (West Earl Township is holding a free home composting workshop on May 11, 2018. Call 717-859-3201 to register).
2. Avoid using chemical-based cleaning products. They can kill essential bacteria in your septic system and are difficult to remove in wastewater treatment plants. Instead, consider using chemical-free products for house cleaning.
3. Buy laundry and dishwashing detergents that are phosphorous-free. Phosphorous is a nutrient that can cause excessive algae blooms that suck oxygen out of the water and cause toxins to be released into streams and lakes, putting fish at risk.
4. Reduce the amount of water you use. No need to keep the spigot running the whole time you're washing your fruits and vegetables or brushing your teeth.

Outside your home

1. Avoid using fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides on your lawn. Instead, leave grass clippings on your lawn to allow nutrients to cycle into the soil
2. Harvest rainwater using rain barrels and rain gardens for watering plants. You can visit the Township's website at www.westearltp.org and click on the MS4 link for more information about rain barrels.
3. Plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. The roots of plants absorb and remove pollutants from water and bind soil together to keep it from washing off the land when it rains.



The Township is still looking for volunteers for the "Adopt-A-Drain" program. For information about "Adopt-A-Drain" please visit

www.westearltwp.org/pages/adopt-a-drain.html

or email sservice@westearltwp.org.



News from PPL Electric Utilities

Spring Cleaning:

Ditch your inefficient fridge/freezer

That old fridge in your garage or basement could be costing you an extra \$150 a year in electricity.

Through PPL's energy-efficiency program, you get free pick-up of your old, working refrigerator or freezer and a \$35 check. As an added bonus, if you recycle an old room air conditioner or dehumidifier at the same time, you'll receive another \$10. The refrigerator or freezer must be in working condition and between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size and be clean, empty and defrosted. Visit www.pplelectric.com/recycle for more program details.

Recycling your old appliance is good for the environment. Under PPL's appliance recycling program, up to 95% of your appliance's components are used in new products and don't end up in a landfill.

Earth-Friendly Gardening

Using compost, applying fewer chemicals, conserving water and removing invasive plant species add to the earth rather than taking away from it. By following some of the earth-friendly gardening procedures listed below, you will reap numerous benefits and also do your part to help out.

Make Compost. Compost enriches the quality of the soil in your garden and lawn, increases water retention and adds nutrients. It is simple to make from organic materials such as plants, weeds, prunings, lawn clippings, leaves, vegetable and fruit scraps and paper items. A good mix consists of two parts "brown" (such as dead leaves) and one part "green" (such as fresh grass clippings). Do not compost diseased plants, meat or dairy items.

Use fewer chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Learn to tolerate some damage. This can be difficult if you want your garden to look perfect, but most plants can tolerate 20-30% leaf defoliation. Don't be alarmed by aphids feeding in the spring; ladybugs and other natural predators usually clean up the infestation in a month or so. Spray your plants with water to dislodge aphids and mites. Hand pick the insects off plants and drop them into a jar of soapy water. Make sure you rotate your crops every year so they are not planted in the same spot each time.

Save Water. You may be surprised to learn that nearly 30% of our daily water use goes on our lawns and gardens. There are several ways to save water:

- Reduce lawn areas. You can cut down on maintenance and the use of chemicals and water by reducing the amount of lawn that covers your property. Some turf is desirable for children, pets and other activities but you can make a difference by replacing your lawn with native plants, groundcover, ornamental grasses or by creating a wildflower meadow.
- Use mulch. A 2-3" layer of mulch helps the soil retain water while suppressing weeds and protecting against temperature extremes. Mulch also reduces soil erosion and enhances your garden's appearance.

TOWNSHIP NEWS



We would like to welcome **Todd Heidelbaugh** to the West Earl Township family. Todd is the newest member of our Water Department. Prior to coming to work with us here in West Earl, Todd was part of the Warwick Water Department.

When Todd is not spending time with his wife and children, he enjoys riding four-wheeler and rooting for the Philadelphia Eagles. He even has the tattoo to prove how much of an Eagles fan he is. He is very excited to be here and is looking ahead to the future of West Earl Township.

When you see Todd out and about, please make him feel at home. We look forward to a long and prosperous teaming with our new crew member.

On May 19, 2018, Sylvan Fisher officially retired after 40 years of service to West Earl Township.

Sylvan feels blessed and honored to have served the residents of West Earl Township for 28 years as supervisor and 40 years as a road employee. He appreciates the kindness of the many people he has met over the years and thanks you for allowing him to serve you.

"I wanted to personally thank everyone who attended the retirement party for all the gifts and encouragement, but I know that I didn't get around to talking to everyone."

It was a whirlwind of an evening, and his head still spins just thinking about it.

"It is by God's grace, and the help of fellow board members and good and faithful employees that we have accomplished all that we have in the last 40 years, and I thank every one of them for their integrity and input".

When asked if we will still see him around, Sylvan said, *"I plan to continue to serve the community during retirement as long as I am able".*

Our best to you, Sylvan.

A big congratulations goes out to the new West Earl Township Roadmaster, **Ashley Martin**. Ashley has been with West Earl for three years. Prior to coming to West Earl, Ashley spent 7 ½ years working with Penn Township.

When not busy putting out all of the fires and emergencies as our Roadmaster, Ashley is putting out fires as a Lieutenant with the Penryn Fire Department. He is part of the West Earl Fire Department as well.

Ashley is most excited about serving West Earl Township residents and getting to know the people that live and work here. In Ashley's own words:

"I worked under Sylvan for a little over two years and hope to serve the community as well as he did! He was a huge asset to this community and I wish him the best during his retirement."





DID YOU KNOW??

You can pay your utility bill online, right from the comfort of your home. Just log onto www.westearltp.org and click on "pay utility bills online". Fast, easy and safe.



Pink stains in your toilet bowl and bathtub?

Here's how to get rid of them!



Pink residue is generally not a problem with water quality. A pink discoloration may be a result of iron found in some well water or older pipes in the delivery system but would not be isolated to only a toilet, one fixture or one room. In most cases a pink residue is likely a result of airborne bacteria which produce a pinkish or dark gray film on moist surfaces. This film is usually found as a ring that accumulates at the water line in the toilet bowl or around showerheads, shower doors or curtains, sink drains, bathtubs, tile and grout. Some people have also noted that the pink residue appears in their pet's water bowl, which causes no apparent harm to the pet and is easily cleaned off.

Often people are concerned that there must be something wrong with the water. This is not the case. The pink ring that develops at the water line in the toilet, around drains, in the tub/shower area, in bathroom drinking cups and even in dog bowls is actually caused by airborne bacteria known as **Serratia Marcescens**. The airborne bacteria thrive in moist environments, which is why it is commonly found in bathrooms.

There are several things you can do to prevent the pink stains from developing. Drying wet surfaces after use will prevent the bacteria from growing.

For toilets, we have been told that there is a way that takes less than a minute to make this "job" easy. Simply get a good toilet bowl cleaner and squirt around the bowl from the rim of the toilet and leave it. Upon your return, using a soft brush, apply light pressure against the bowl surface, swish the water around the bowl and flush. Do this before the reappearance of the discoloration and stay ahead of any reappearance. *Serratia Marcescens* cannot be completely killed or removed, but routine maintenance can keep the bacteria from reappearing, increasing or becoming a more stubborn issue. Remember to flush any guest or infrequently used toilets on a daily basis to avoid setting a stain.

For harder to remove stains you can use regular household bleach and a soft bristle cleaning brush to gently scrub the affected area. An old toothbrush or nail brush works great. Avoid being too aggressive with cleaning solutions or abrasive methods – please exercise caution.

Stainless steel or wool pads and even pumice stones will scratch and remove the protective coating, sealant or finish on the toilet which ironically makes them more susceptible to staining, mold or mildew, bacteria growth and mineral deposit rings. Chlorine tablets or any toilet tank cleaners are not recommended. Check with the toilet bowl manufacturer for more information and warranty.

To clean shower curtains and liners, wash them in hot water with a little bleach. For patterned curtains, use color-safe bleach. Bathtubs, sinks, drains, faucets, showerheads and other surfaces can be kept up just by wiping them down after each use. Use similar cleaning methods as you would to clean the toilet. Do not be aggressive and if you have any special finishes consult the manufacturer.

We are still collecting yard waste in the township. The yard waste bags will be picked up every other week on the same day as your normal trash is picked up. Yard waste is considered to be tree trimmings, plant debris from gardens and flower beds, shrubbery clippings, weeds, leaves and LIMITED grass clippings. Please do not place trash, litter, stones or glass in these yard waste bags.

We will continue to pick up your yard waste through September 18th. If you are in need of any of the brown kraft yard bags, please stop in at the township building. They can be purchased for \$1.00 per bag.

Monthly Meetings

Board of Supervisors

2nd & 4th Monday of every month at 7 PM

Sewer Authority

2nd Wednesday of every month at 7 PM

Water Authority

1st Monday of every month at 7 PM

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 PM

Park & Recreation Board

3rd Monday of the month (as needed) at 7 PM

Zoning Hearing Board

1st Wednesday of the month (as needed) at 7 PM