



157 W. METZLER RD.  
PO BOX 787  
717.859.3201

# West Earl Township

NEWSLETTER II

OCTOBER 2011

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Snow Removal Procedures	1
Compost Facility	1
Water Meters	2
Thank-you	3
Reminders	3
Sewer Extension	3
Leaf Collection	3
Water Rates	3

## Snow Removal Procedures

The winter season is approaching and the Public Works Department would like to remind you of the general policy for snow removal. Each winter storm event could be cause for change however.

The major roads are attended to first, followed by residential streets. 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 be repeated several times throughout the duration of the storm. As the storm ends streets will be plowed to their full width. Keep in mind that when you clear your driveway or sidewalk there is a possibility of snow getting onto areas that you have cleared.

In our attempt to clear the snow from the roads, plowed snow occasionally damages mailboxes and plas-

tic fences. Wet, heavy snow and slush increases the chance for damage to occur. To reduce the potential for damage to your mailbox 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 Public Works Department will make every effort to avoid causing any damage.

Residents who live along a designated snow emergency route must remove their vehicles from the street when a snow emergency has been declared by the Township.

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. Once the crew has finished widening 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 Director of Public Works at 717-859-3201.

## Compost Facility News

### The Entry Cards

Township residents who have obtained a card for the compost facility may continue to use it until there are no more trips left on the card. There is no need to return the card to the Township office at the end of the year to have it reloaded. Once you have used up all of your trips to the compost facility you may call or stop by the Township office to have your card reloaded. A maximum of 50 trips will be offered to each cardholder in West Earl Township per year.



### Yard waste & woody waste

When dropping off yard waste (leaves and grass clippings), please place it on the windrows to the rear of the facility. If you have woody waste (tree & shrub debris), place it on the brush pile located at the front of the facility. Please do not leave any plastic or non-biodegradable bags at the facility. We have biodegradable brown kraft bags available at the Township office for \$1 each. Biodegradable bags are also available at home improvement stores.

The compost facility is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except for Wednesdays between 8am and 3:30pm when the facility is closed for grinding.



## Water Meter Upgrade Program

We would like to thank all the West Earl Water Department customers for their cooperation during the recent water meter upgrades. The new radio-read meters will save a tremendous amount of time. There are over 1400 meters in the West Earl Township water service area, and before the upgrade, the water department would spend two to three weeks reading the meters for each billing. Now, all the meters can be read in approximately two hours. Along with being a time saver the new meters are much more accurate than the old meters. For this reason, customers who had an older meter may notice an increase in water consumption.

**If you have a high water bill...**there are several explanations for this.

- The new meters are far more accurate—old meters tend to get sluggish as they get older.
- Your previous water bill may have been estimated low.
- Depending on the date your meter was upgraded, you may see up to an additional six week's worth of water usage on your bill.
- There may be a leak somewhere in your home.

### Water Saving Tips

#### Average Daily Water Use

To figure out your average daily water use review your water bill and divide your usage by the number of days between readings and also by the number of residents in your household.

After determining your average daily water use, it is important to compare your and/or your family's water use to the statewide residential/water use average of 62 gallons per person per day (GPCD). Is your and/or your family's water use average more or less than 62 GPCD? If it is less than 62 GPCD, you and your family are doing a good job conserving water. However, if your or your family's water use averages

more than 62 GPCD, serious consideration should be given to the following suggestions:

- Installing low-flow plumbing fixtures.
- Purchasing water-saving appliances.
- Checking for household leaks.
- Changing water use habits.

#### Water Savings

Water-saving plumbing fixtures and appliances are cost effective, providing permanent long-term economic advantages. Low flow toilets, showerheads and faucet aerators save valuable water and energy used to heat water without requiring a change in personal use habits.

#### Repair All Leaks

A dripping faucet is more than annoying; it's expensive. Even small leaks can waste significant amounts of water. Hot water leaks are not only a waste of water, but also of the energy needed to heat the water.

Leaks inside a toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day. Toilet leaks can be detected by adding a few drops of food coloring to water in the toilet tank. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the tank is leaking. If you have a leaking faucet or toilet, stop pouring money down the drain and repair it.

#### Change Water Use Habits

In addition to installing low-flow plumbing fixtures, purchasing water-saving appliances and repairing leaks, water use can be reduced by changing your water use habits inside the home.

#### Water Saving Tips Inside the Home

- Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth.
- When shaving, use a sink filled with rinse water. Do not let the faucet flow.
- Take short showers instead of baths and consider bathing small children together.
- If the shower has a single hand control

or shut off valve, turn off the flow while soaping or shampooing.

- Turn the faucet off while cleaning vegetables. Rinse them in the sink with the drain closed or in a pan of water.
- If you wash dishes by hand, do not leave the faucet flowing for rinsing. Instead, use a dish rack and spray device to rinse them. If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water.
- Fill the sink with water to pre-rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.

#### Use Water-Saving Plumbing Fixtures/Appliances

##### Bathroom

- Since passage of the Federal Energy Act in January 1994, all new manufactured toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush. If your present toilet was manufactured before 1994, consider placing a plastic gallon container in the tank toilet to save water with each flush.
- Install low-flow showerheads that use no more than 2.5 gallons per minute at maximum flow.
- Install low-flow faucets that use no more than 2.2 gallons per minute at maximum flow.

##### Kitchen/Laundry

- Replace the more common less efficient, top loading clothes washer with a high-efficiency, front-loading washer that uses about 30 percent less water and 40 to 50 percent less energy.
- Operate clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are fully loaded.
- Use the proper washer level or load size selection on clothes washers.
- Install low-flow aerators on all faucets.

For more water saving tips visit PA's DEP website at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)

# Thank-You.....

We would like to thank the following people who volunteered throughout the Township this summer:

Joel Buch and his students from the Local History and Geography class at Conestoga Valley High School, for participating in a Conestoga River clean-up. Sue McPherson and her church group for their participation in a Conestoga River clean-up. Stacey Davis, Kerrie Snavelly and their Fresh Water Biology class from Conestoga Valley High School, for participating in the Earth Day clean-up of the Conestoga River.

John Fisher, a Brownstown resident, for painting the exterior of the pavilion at the Lions' Park in Talmage.

Heidi Morgan and her Leola Elementary kindergarten class for planting flowers at the Lions' Park.

David Good, an Eagle Scout badge recipient and his mentor Jerry Eckman, for upgrading the Lions' Park pavilion's siding, fascia and soffit.

Christian Baird, Tammy Karpinski and the students from the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center's National Technical Honors Society for cleaning up the Lions' Park and mulching at the Township building.

Ron Whiting and the students from Lancaster County Career & Technology Center's Basic Occupational Skills program for cleaning up at the Lions' Park and mulching at the Township Building.

We also thank all the Adopt-a-Highway participants.

If you are interested in the Adopt-a-Highway program please contact the Township office at 717-859-3201.

## A Few Reminders

Township residents can drop off their old, tattered American Flags at the Township office. The collection box for the flags is located in the lobby of the Township building. Approximately once a year the flags are retired properly at a ceremony performed by a local Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troop.



You may bring your burnt-out, compact florescent light bulbs and old cell phones to the Township office for recycling. The Township also has a dumpster for recycling cardboard and a tank where old engine oil can be placed for recycling.

# Water Rate Increase

The City of Lancaster supplies the majority of water distributed by the West Earl Water Department. Due to an increase of the City's water rates, it has become necessary to raise West Earl Township's rates.

The minimum dollar amount will remain \$40.00 for the first 7,000 gallons of usage; however, additional gallons over 7,000 will increase from \$5.88 to a rate of \$7.35 per 1,000 gallons. The rate increase was effective October 1, 2011, and the new rate will be reflected on your January 2012 water bill.

# Leaf Collection Schedule

Leaf Collection began on Monday, October 17, 2011 and will continue through Friday, December 16, 2011 (this date may be subject to change). No leaves will be collected Thursday, November 24th through Friday, December 2nd.

To prepare your leaves for pickup:

- Rake leaves into a row (not a pile) along the front edge of your property onto the roadway.
- Do not mix trash or other yard waste with the leaves.
- Do not cover leaves or park a vehicle over them.

The leaf collection truck makes one pass through the Township per week. Where they stop collecting one day is where they begin collecting the following day and continue that process each day until they have been through the entire Township. This will be done each week during the leaf collection schedule dates mentioned above.



## Oregon Pike Area Sewer Project

The West Earl Sewer Authority is still in the planning stages of the proposed public sewer extension to the Oregon Pike, Sandy Beach and Brian Development areas. Public meetings will be held in the near future. Residents in the affected areas will receive letters notifying them of the dates of these meetings once they are scheduled. If you have concerns and/or questions about the sewer extension please plan to attend the meetings.

West Earl Township  
PO BOX 787  
Brownstown, PA 17508

Presorted  
First-Class Mail  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Brownstown, PA  
Permit No. 1



## 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 7:30pm*

### **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 556-8294
- Water & Sewer Dept (after hours) 859-3725
- Police Department 859-1411
- Emergencies 911
- Zoning Officer 859-3201
- Sewage Enforcement 824-4618

