

# West Earl Township NEWSLETTER

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

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## Quarterly Water and Trash Billing Coming Soon!

Within the next few months the Township will move from monthly billing to quarterly for its water and trash customers. By moving to quarterly billing, we can save up to \$5,000 per year. As soon as we have the billing schedule created, we will notify all residents in writing.

Keep an eye out for this correspondence.

## Can Emergency Responders Find you?

Seconds count in emergencies. Life saving time is lost when first responders cannot quickly find your home because your address it is not easily identifiable. The West Earl Township property maintenance code requires that all buildings have address numbers placed in a position where they are plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property and the numbers must contrast with the background they are placed on. The numbers should be a minimum of four inches in height with a minimum stroke width of one-half inch.

The Farmersville Fire Department and the West Earl Fire Department offer reflective address signs for sale. To purchase a reflective sign, visit the Township website at [www.westearltpw.org](http://www.westearltpw.org), in the forms section, for an order form. If emergency responders can't find you, they can't help you.

# Employee Spotlight

## Jenna Seesholtz, Township Manager

Jenna Seesholtz was hired by the Board of Supervisors in December 2019 as the Township Manager for West Earl Township. Jenna brings ten years of local government experience with her. She started her career in local government as the Township Secretary for Conewago Township in Dauphin County where she quickly realized she had an affinity for local government. In October 2019, she graduated with honors from Southern New Hampshire University where she earned her bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

Jenna has many responsibilities as Township Manager. They include, working directly with the Board of Supervisors to create a balanced budget, overseeing day to day operations of the Township and its employees, implementing policies, procedures and ensuring that ordinances are being followed. Jenna prepares the agendas for and attends the Board of Supervisor meetings, Planning Commission meetings and the Water Authority meetings on a monthly basis.

When Jenna is not in the Township office, she can be found working on one of her many craft projects, such as quilting or stained glass. Jenna, with the help of her 18 year old son, Andy, created the Township's logo out of stained glass, which will be on display in the Township's vestibule.



Photo by: Jenna Seesholtz

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## A MESSAGE FROM REPRESENTATIVE KEITH J. GREINER

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### **Budget Hearings Conclude, Negotiations Begin**

The House Appropriations Committee recently completed three weeks of hearings with top officials of state departments and agencies, to examine Gov. Tom Wolf's record \$43.7 billion budget proposal for 2022-23.

The governor's plan would increase state spending by a historic 16.6% or \$17 million more a day. For every working Pennsylvanian, that would mean an additional \$1,055 per year.

As a member of the committee and a certified public accountant, it is clear the governor's spending proposal is excessive, particularly in this economic environment, but my colleagues and I pressed hard to get state officials to justify the governor's numbers.

During the hearings, I repeatedly pointed out wide disparities in the budget numbers presented by the governor and those provided by the state's nonpartisan Independent Fiscal Office (IFO), which

was created specifically to ensure we have factual, unbiased numbers to work from when creating our budgets.

I asked Matthew Knittel, director of the IFO, about the disparity between the IFO's revenue forecast and the projections offered in the governor's budget proposal. He said his office and the governor have a difference of opinion and he characterized the governor's estimate as "optimistic." He further added that the absence of federal stimulus funds will lead to a decline in revenue from sales taxes as people have less money to spend. In fact, the IFO projects an \$800 million deficit next year.

Fortunately, the Commonwealth has money in reserve, thanks to contributions to the state's Rainy Day Fund over the past two budgets, which were made possible by the General Assembly's determination to hold the line on state spending. The governor's current massive spending proposal includes eliminating the state reserves and leaves the next governor with a budget deficit that would require tax increases or a reduction in state services.

Now it is up to leadership in the General Assembly to pore over what the Appropriations Committee uncovered in these hearings and put together a responsible budget that addresses the basic responsibilities of government and meets the needs of Pennsylvania citizens. This will include ample spending for Pennsylvania schools, and health and human services funding to address the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

To follow the budget process, visit my website: [RepGreiner.com](http://RepGreiner.com). There you will find the latest updates, analyses and coverage of the state budget hearings. The budget deadline is June 30.

# West Earl Township Police Department Receives Grant

The West Earl Township Police Department has been awarded a total of \$34,900.00 in grant funding to assist the department in completing the accreditation process through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association's Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC). The grant award was announced by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) at their December 8th meeting. The grant funding is provided through the US. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. The Department has used the funding to hire a consulting firm to assist the agency with developing a comprehensive policy manual and to assist the agency with attaining accredited status with the PA Chiefs of Police Association.

Police Accreditation embodies the precepts of community-oriented policing. It creates a forum in which the police and the citizens can work together to prevent and control challenges confronting law enforcement and provides a clear direction regarding community expectations.

Some of the benefits of accreditation include:

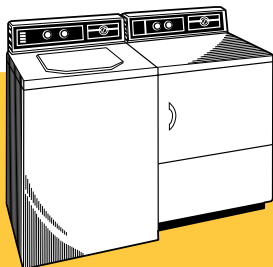
- Establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures
- Reduces agency risk and exposure to lawsuits
- Improves law enforcement and community relations
- Increases employee input, interaction and confidence in the agency
- Identifies and highlights the capabilities and competence of the agency
- Furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress
- Extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials
- Enhances planning and innovative activities by all agency personnel
- Develops improved methods for providing services to the community
- Encourages problem-solving activities within the agency
- Brings the departments policies and procedures up to date with best practices in law enforcement.

"We're excited to have been awarded this grant, Accreditation enhances the professionalism of the agency while improving our methods and levels of service we provide to the communities of West Earl Township and Akron Borough" said Chief Eric S. Higgins

The police department expects the process to take 12-15 months.

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## White Goods and Tire Pick-up



The Township's trash hauler, Eagle Disposal, is scheduled to pick up your unwanted or broken appliances on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. This service is open to residents who have a contract with the Township for trash removal. You must have a BLUE trash tag on the item, which can be purchased at the Township office before 3:30 PM Friday, April 29, 2022.

# COMPOST YARD



The West Earl Compost Yard is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Yard is located at 161 Locust Street, Talmage. The cost per trip is:

West Earl Resident	\$2.00/trip
Non-West Earl Resident	\$20.00/trip
Commercial Accounts	\$50.00/trip

Stop by the Township office to purchase a card to gain entry into the compost yard. You can drop off limbs, leaves, grass clippings and pick-up mulch or compost.

## Curbside Yard Waste Pick-Up

Curbside yard waste pick-up will begin on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 for residents who are a current Township trash and recycling customer. You can place leaves, small tree trimmings, shrubbery clippings, weeds, plant debris from flower beds and a limited amount of grass clippings out with your regular trash every other Tuesday starting April 5. Yard waste must be placed in a yard waste bag for pick-up. If you have questions about this service, please contact the Township office.



### REMINDER

**Before sending a check to the Township, please take a moment to review the following:**

**Is the date correct (YEAR)?**

**Is the check signed?**

**Is the check made out for the proper amount?**

**Checks that are not filled out properly will be returned.**



# MS4 Information

## How Can I Control Stormwater on My Property?

Have you ever wondered what you can do to control stormwater on your property? Maybe you experience property damage from excessive water runoff, live in a community that floods frequently, or care about the health of local streams.

Regardless of your motivation, there are many different things you can do to manage stormwater on your property, including:

- **Downspout Disconnect/Redirect** - If your downspouts are directed onto a paved or concrete surface or are directly connected to the storm drain system, look for opportunities to redirect them to lawn and garden areas. Some communities have even passed new ordinances that require this practice. Just be sure that all downspouts are directed away from foundations to avoid basement flooding.
- **Rain Barrels** - Rain barrels capture and hold water until it can be used or slowly released into planted areas. For rain barrels to be effective at controlling stormwater, it is important to have a plan for using the water before installing one.
- **Planting Trees** - Planting trees is a great way to reduce stormwater runoff. If you have a stream on your property, planting trees along the stream can be the best thing you do for water quality and the trees will help prevent the stream from eroding away your property. The more trees the better, but aim for a forest that is at least 35 ft. wide. At the very least don't mow your lawn directly up to the edge of the streambank. Let the grass grow some roots!
- **Meadows** - If trees aren't an option on your property, adding other types of plants is a good substitute. Any areas where lawn can be replaced with ornamental grasses, flowers, and shrubs will have a positive impact on controlling stormwater on your property. Meadows, whether large or small, increase the ability of the land to absorb water. Meadows can be a great way to reduce the amount of time you spend mowing the grass and can be placed in the areas that are the most difficult to mow.
- **Rain Gardens** - One of the best options for managing stormwater on your property is to install a rain garden. A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden that can capture and hold water until it is able to be absorbed into the soil. Rain gardens can be a do-it-yourself project, but it may be wise to seek the services of a landscape professional.
- **Pervious Pavers** - Pervious pavers can look very similar to a traditional brick or stone patio, sidewalk, or driveway. The difference is that they are installed with a thick stone base that provides space for water to be stored until it soaks into the ground. They are great for converting hard surfaces that usually make a lot of stormwater, into a surface that absorbs, manages, and reduces stormwater runoff. If you're interested in this, you should probably contact a professional landscaper.

These are just a few of the many options available for controlling stormwater. Many projects you can tackle on your own but if you have complicated stormwater issues on your property, consider getting help from an engineer or landscape professional.

If you have additional questions about stormwater, or you are just interested in learning more, you can find a full series of videos and articles in the [Penn State Extension Stormwater Basics series](#) . You can also visit the Township's website at [www.westearltpw.org](http://www.westearltpw.org) to find additional information on stormwater management.

# LIHWAP may be able to assist you with overdue water and wastewater bills.

## What is LIHWAP?

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary emergency program to help low-income families pay overdue water bills. LIHWAP is a grant. You do not have to repay it.

## To receive help...

- Apply starting January 4, 2022.
- You don't have to be on public assistance.
- You need to have an unpaid water bill.
- You can either rent or own your home.

## How does LIHWAP work?

LIHWAP Crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your water service. You can receive one Crisis grant for your drinking water service and one Crisis grant for your wastewater service, up to \$2,500 each.

## Crisis situations include:

- Past-due water bills.
- Termination of utility service.
- Danger of having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days).

## How do I apply?

- Apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).
- Request an application by calling the Statewide Customer Service Center at 877-395-8930 or call PA Relay at 711 for the hearing impaired.
- Applications are available at your local county assistance office.

## To apply, you will need:

- Names of people in your household;
- Dates of birth for all household members;
- Social Security numbers for all household members;
- Proof of income for all household members; and

## Who is eligible?

You may qualify for a LIHWAP grant if:

- You must have an overdue water bill that you are responsible for paying.
- Your household income meets the following income guidelines:

### INCOME GUIDELINES

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$ 19,320
2	\$ 26,130
3	\$ 32,940
4	\$ 39,750
5	\$ 46,560
6	\$ 53,370
7	\$ 60,180
8	\$ 66,990
9	\$ 73,800
10	\$ 80,610

Each Additional Person  
Add \$ 6,810

After your application is processed, you will receive a written notice that will tell you if you qualify. If eligible, it will tell you the amount of your grant.

# Important Phone Numbers

West Earl Municipal Office	717-859-3201
West Earl Municipal Fax	717-859-3499
West Earl Police Department	717-859-1411
West Earl Fire Company	717-656-6791
Farmersville Fire Company	717-354-5841
Water Emergencies	717-859-3725

# Important Dates

<b>Monday, May 2</b>	<b>West Earl Water Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 3</b>	<b>White Good Pick-up</b>
<b>Monday, May 9</b>	<b>Board of Supervisors Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 17</b>	<b>Primary Election</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 17</b>	<b>Planning Commission Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, May 23</b>	<b>Board of Supervisor Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, May 30</b>	<b>Office Closed – Memorial Day</b>
<b>Monday, June 6</b>	<b>West Earl Water Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, June 13</b>	<b>Board of Supervisor Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 21</b>	<b>Planning Commission Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, June 27</b>	<b>Board of Supervisors Meeting</b>