

## 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



157 W. Metzler Road  
PO Box 787  
Brownstown, PA 17508

[www.westearltwp.org](http://www.westearltwp.org)

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## FALL 2018

### CONTENTS

Phone numbers .....	1
Leaf composting .....	1
White Goods .....	1
Flag disposal .....	1
Cleaning alternatives .....	2
Trash reminder .....	2
Grease Removal .....	2
Leaf collection .....	2
Holiday closings .....	2
Energy savings tips .....	2
Commercial recycling .....	3
Recycling Update .....	3
Safety on the street .....	3
Fall Clean-up.....	4
Parking Reminder .....	4
Compost Site .....	4
Message from Rep. Greiner.....	4
Free Little Library .....	5
Outdoor Safety Tips .....	5
Stormwater .....	6



### COMPOSTING LEAVES

**Before you bag up those fall leaves,  
consider their potential for your landscape.**

The leaves of one large shade tree can be worth as much as \$50 of plant food and humus. Pound for pound, the leaves of most trees contain twice as many

minerals as manure. For example, the mineral content of a sugar maple leaf is over 5%, while even common pine needles have 2.5% of their weight in calcium, magnesium, nitrogen and phosphorus, plus other trace elements.

Composting your leaves is quite simple and doesn't require any expensive bins or tumblers; just a good mix and time. Your compost pile can be any size and can be loose or fenced in with some chicken wire, just make sure you can access it from one side to turn your pile every so often. Turning your pile will allow oxygen to help the decomposition process.

Start with a 6" layer of leaves, shredded or not, and then add a 2" layer of something green that contains more nitrogen such as manure, grass clippings, green weeds or vegetable waste from your kitchen. If you don't have green waste, then add a little nitrogen such as dried blood, cottonseed meal or bone meal. You can also spread a little native soil between the layers which will add some bacteria, fungi and other organisms that will help decompose the organic waste. Turn your pile every three weeks or sooner if you want. If you turn the pile three or four times before spring, you can have some fine compost ready for spring planting.

Once you have compost, use it in the garden or landscape by incorporating it into planting soils or topdressing a planting bed or garden. The compost will improve soil structure, loosening compacted clay soils that have trouble draining or helping sandy soils hold moisture and nutrients.



### WHITE GOODS & TIRE PICK UP

Saturday, October 13, 2018

**ATTN: All West Earl contract trash customers!!** White goods and tires will once again be picked up at your homes. This includes appliances of all shapes and sizes, old or not so old.

To participate, please stop in at the Township Office any weekday between 8 AM and 4 PM. You will need one (1) blue tag for every white good item and (1) orange tag for every tire that you wish to have picked up. The blue tags are \$12/ea and the orange tags are \$2/ea. **You must purchase your tickets no later than OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>.**



### PROPER FLAG DISPOSAL

When the United States flag becomes torn, tattered, faded or unfit for display, it is suggested that it be properly retired. The best way to go about doing this is by contacting your local VFW or American Legion and asking if they retire old flags. VFW organizations and American Legions perform mass flag retirement ceremonies which are a preferred alternative to throwing your old flag in the garbage.

You can also simply bring any faded, torn or unfit flags to the West Earl Township building. We will take care of properly disposing of them.

If you don't want to use harsh chemicals in your home or garage, but you don't know what to use instead, please read below for some **environmentally-friendly alternatives for everyday cleaning products.**

1. All-purpose cleaner
  - Dissolve 4 tbsp baking soda in 1 quart of warm water for a cleaning solution or use baking soda sprinkled on a damp sponge. Baking soda will clean kitchen and bathroom surfaces.
2. Glass and window cleaner
  - Mix ½ cup vinegar and 1 quart warm water. Wipe with newspaper for less streaking.
3. Drain cleaner
  - Put ½ cup of baking soda and then ½ cup white vinegar down your drain and cover the drain. Let set for a few minutes, then pour a kettle of boiling water down the drain to flush it.
4. Furniture polish
  - Mix two parts olive oil and one part lemon juice. Apply and polish with a soft cloth.
5. Lime and mineral deposit remover
  - Hard lime deposits around faucets can be softened for easy removal by covering the deposits with vinegar-soaked rags or paper towels. Leave the rags or paper towels on for about 1 hour before cleaning. This also cleans and shines chrome. To remove deposits that may be clogging metal shower heads, combine ½ cup white vinegar and 1 quart water. Completely submerge the shower head and boil for 15 minutes. If you have a plastic shower head, combine 1 pint white vinegar and 1 pint hot water. Completely submerge the shower head and soak for about an hour.
6. Ant control
  - Sprinkle cream of tartar along the ant path – they won't cross it

**THE WEST EARL TOWNSHIP OFFICE**  
**WILL BE CLOSED ON**  
**THE FOLLOWING DAYS:**

**NOVEMBER 22 & 23**  
**DECEMBER 24 & 25**

**TOWNSHIP LEAF COLLECTION**

Residential leaf collection will begin on October 15<sup>th</sup> and run through December 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to have the township pick up your fallen leaves, please rake them into a pile curbside (as close to the street as possible and no more than 3' wide). Do not park on top of leaves and **PLEASE** make sure it is only leaves in the pile. Ground up leaves and/or grass will not be collected. If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact us at 717-859-3201.

**REFUSE REMINDER**

The normal trash pick-up day for West Earl residents is Tuesday. Please be sure to have your recycling and trash put out on Monday night. Our trash hauler comes early on Tuesday morning and your trash will not be picked up until the next week if it is not out when they drive by.

**GREASE REMOVAL IN YOUR HOME**

Fats, oils and grease aren't just bad for your waistline and arteries; they are also bad for our sewers! Sewer backups and overflows can cause health hazards, damage home interiors and threaten our environment. A major cause of overflow is sewer pipes blocked by grease. To help combat this problem, here are a few things you can try in your home:

- Scrape all food from plates and utensils into the garbage before rinsing, washing or placing in the dishwasher
- Put all solid and liquid food, including dairy products, batters, sauces and gravy into the garbage - not down the sink
- Use a sink basket strainer to collect food waste
- Keep empty soup cans or small jars to collect cooking grease for disposal into the garbage

**Reduce your carbon footprint –  
Home energy use**

Americans are plugging in more appliances than ever and, consequently, home energy use is at an all-time high. The U.S. uses more than 20 percent of the world's energy, yet accounts for only about 5% of its population. If everyone consumed energy at U.S. rates, we would require five planets.

Reducing energy consumption at home not only shrinks your personal carbon footprint, it saves money on your monthly bill.

While unplugging your refrigerator isn't a feasible option, unplugging your other electronics when not in use is. "Energy vampires" are devices that suck energy – and add to your bill – even when unplugged. In your kitchen alone, keeping gadgets like your coffeemaker and toaster plugged in could add an extra \$20 to your electric bill each year.

Try using a power strip to make turning off multiple devices as simple as the flick of a switch. To maximize energy efficiency while heating and cooling your home, make sure to seal all air gaps and inspect the insulation. Shutting off your thermostat as you head out the door or climb into bed is a great way to reduce your energy consumption, too.

Energy Star is an EPA-backed program that certifies energy-efficient electronics. Look for this label the next time you shop for appliances.

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## Tips to determine your commercial recycling program needs

If you've been tasked with implementing a commercial recycling program for your office, where do you begin? We have made a list of five top tips to help you determine what kind of recycling program would be best suited for your workplace. To develop an effective and efficient recycling program, first start by assessing your recycling needs:

1. The size, location and function of your office space. Think about what types of different spaces comprise your office. Is your office primarily a working area with a separate staff dining area as well? This becomes important as different spaces will require different recycling solutions. For example, call centers are typically paperless and they don't have a lot of waste generated at the desk. However, they normally have a break room where people eat. This means both areas have completely different recycling needs.
2. The number of employees and visitors. As a rule of thumb, one recycling bin per 50-75 people is a good starting point, but this all depends on the density of people. If you have a high-density space (an office with many cubicles), then recycling stations should be easy to access. You will most likely want a small number of larger bins. If you work in a lower density office space then you estimate on the traffic flow, not the amount of people.
3. The volume and type of material being collected. Does your office primarily recycle paper and bottles, or is there organic waste as well? Keep in mind any new materials that could change your recycling needs. For example, if you introduce recyclable, clam shell packaging in your cafeteria. The discarded packaging may take up a lot of room, so your recycling bin will fill up quicker; thus needing more, larger bins.
4. How recycling is currently collected, stored and handled at your office building. It's important to know the custodial schedule and how often the bins are emptied. The less frequently they're emptied, the more bins you'll need.
5. The capabilities of your waste hauler. Is your waste hauler set up to accept the streams you want to collect? For example, a waste hauler may charge \$100 to pick up waste, but they won't charge for recycling or paper or they might even give a rebate. In the case where your current waste hauler does not accept a certain recycling stream you may wish to implement in your office, you may need to invest in additional services to properly remove the waste.

## RECYCLING CHANGES

WEST EARL TOWNSHIP!! Have you heard? Recycling in Lancaster County has changed. Stick to the "Big 4" which include **metal food and beverage containers, plastic bottles and jugs that have a neck (meaning the base is larger than the neck), glass bottles and jars, and corrugated cardboard.**

All other items can be placed in your trash. When in doubt, throw it out! Your trash in Lancaster County is burned and turned into renewable electricity. In fact, Lancaster County's trash powers 1 in 5 area homes.

### What led to this change?

The problem is contamination (trash in the bin). Many people are "wishful recyclers", meaning people throw items that do not belong in the recycling bin in hopes they will be recycled. Items such as plastic bags, garden hoses and hangers contaminate curbside recycling bins. The result? A 20-40% contamination rate. China was the United States' largest importer of recycled material, and overtime they stopped accepting our contaminated material. A collapse in U.S. recycling markets means less items are accepted in your curbside bin. Stick to the "Big 4" when recycling. These items have always had a strong value domestically and are expected to in the future.

### For more Information:

Visit [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) to find drop off locations for items no longer accepted such as newsprint. Visit [recyclerightlanaster.org](http://recyclerightlanaster.org) for more information, or contact the West Earl Township Office at 717-859-3201.

## Safety on the streets

This time of year, many people are out and about taking walks, jogging, etc. While this is a great way to get some exercise, there are also safety issues that need to be remembered.

Walk on sidewalks whenever possible. If you must walk along the roadway, make sure you are walking against traffic. That means that you are walking so that the cars are not to your back, and you can see them coming. If you are walking after dark, make sure you have a flashlight, reflectors and/or bright colored clothing so that vehicles can see you more clearly. Never have your earbuds or headphones turned so loudly that you can not hear the traffic around you. Have fun, enjoy fall and be safe out there.



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## COMPOST SITE REMINDER

West Earl Township has a compost site that is available to all residents. Grass clippings, tree trimmings, plant debris and leaves are all able to be dropped off here. These items then, in turn, get processed into mulch for the residents to pick up and use.

PLEASE do not bring construction materials, concrete pieces or large tree scraps to this site. The township can do nothing with this type of material. And PLEASE do not just leave bags of debris lying outside the site. Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## Fall Yard Cleanup Tips

Autumn means football games and visits to the local pumpkin patch. It also means it's time to get your yard ready for winter. The right preparation now will save you time and energy when spring rolls back around and will keep you and your family safe in the yard year-round. Make sure you get the most out of your yard next year by following the checklist listed below.

1. **Clean out debris** – Fallen leaves and weeds are the perfect place for pests to settle for the winter. Clear out flower beds to keep critters at bay. Pay special attention to rose beds, as their foliage can foster disease over the winter.
2. **Till the vegetable garden** – After the final harvest, pull out old vegetable plants, remove debris and completely till the whole plot. If you compost, now is the time to add a layer of compost to help nurture your soil for planting next spring.
3. **Feed the lawn** – Send your yard into winter with the nutrients it needs to survive the long, cold sleep. Add a fall lawn fertilizer with high phosphorous content to encourage root growth and enjoy a lush green lawn come spring.
4. **Dry everything out** – Drain all water from hoses, fountains and drip irrigation systems. Store them in a dry place. Water left standing over the winter may damage your equipment.
5. **Prune trees and shrubs** – Trim any dead branches and cut back overgrown trees and bushes. If you have blooming perennials like roses, now is the time to prune them and train the branches.
6. **Protect the deck** – Prevent the growth of mold and mildew by giving the deck a good power wash. If you don't have a pressure washer, you can rent one from a garden store. Once the deck is clean and dry, add a weatherproofing stain to protect the wood from moisture damage over the winter.
7. **Clean tools and store them** – Don't throw your gardening tools in the shed and forget about them until spring. Take the time to give them a good cleaning and add a light coat of oil to prevent rust during the cold season.



## **PARKING AND STREET USE REMINDER**

The West Earl Township Police wish to remind residents of the requirement set forth in the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code regarding the parking of vehicles on streets. The Vehicle Code requires motorists to park their cars with the right-hand wheel within 12 inches of the curb or shoulder. Please park your car "with traffic" and not "against traffic".

Also, in accordance with Township ordinances, the storage or placement of non-motorized vehicles (such as trailers, combination vehicles or any other material) for a period in excess of 24 consecutive hours is prohibited upon township streets and state roads.

A permit can be obtained from the township office when there is a need to temporarily place a dumpster, building materials or other materials upon a street or sidewalk.

## **A message from Representative Keith J. Greiner**

### **Many Tools Available to Start a Business in Pennsylvania**


Small businesses are the backbone of Pennsylvania's economy. In fact, starting a business in Pennsylvania has been made easier.

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) publishes a book entitled "Entrepreneur's Guide: Starting and Growing a Business in Pennsylvania." This how-to guide, which is available online, can help residents achieve their dreams of business ownership. It contains start-up activities, state and federal government agency contacts and many other important resources.

To begin, aspiring entrepreneurs will need a viable idea for a business, create a business plan, secure financing, find an appropriate business location and register the business with the state and federal governments.

Our region's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) can also help aspiring entrepreneurs with the education, information and tools necessary to accomplish their objectives. The SBDC that serves our region is located at 454 New Holland Ave., Suite 300, Lancaster. Residents may also call (717) 825-1132.





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### Free Little Library

Have you seen the new, free little library at the West Earl Lions park? This great idea came from a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Brownstown Elementary School named Kyleigh Fineberg. She thought it would be good for kids to explore new books and for families to donate books that they no longer want or need. With the help of her family and West Earl Township, this idea became reality. Please stop down and check it out if you haven't already. Feel free to give a book and/or take a book to read. Thank you for the wonderful addition to the park, Kyleigh!



#### **From PPL Electric Utilities**

##### **Outdoor safety: Lightning**

Lightning may be spectacular to watch, but it also can be deadly.

A lightning bolt contains millions of volts of electricity and is hotter than the surface of the sun, so it's important to be safe.

The National Weather Service says "When thunder roars, go indoors." We couldn't agree more. It needs to be a safe, substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with the windows up.

A lot of myths exist around lightning. Here are some myths and facts from the NWS to consider.

**Myth: If trapped outside during a lightning storm, lie flat on the ground.**

Fact: Lying flat just increases your chance of getting hit by potentially deadly ground current. Keep moving toward a safe shelter.

**Myth: If there is no rain or clouds, you're safe from lightning**

Fact: Lightning has a long reach. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from a thunderstorm.

**Myth: A lightning victim is electrified and you risk electrocution if you touch them.**

Fact: The body does not store electricity and it's perfectly safe to give first aid. Don't be afraid to come to their aid. You could save their life. However, a lightning strike differs from a situation where someone comes into contact with a live electric line. Touching that person could make you a victim, too. Stay away and call 911.

## What is Stormwater?

In Pennsylvania, we get an average of 41 inches of precipitation each year. When it rains or the snow melts, where does this water go?

In more natural areas, water is quickly able to infiltrate into the ground. A forested area allows for about 18 inches per hour of infiltration, where an average lawn allows for about 2 inches per hour. Impervious surfaces like pavement and rooftops, offer no infiltration at all. All of the water that doesn't infiltrate flows over the ground, over roofs and through gutters on buildings, into storm drains, and into the nearest waterway –our lakes, rivers, and streams. This is stormwater.

Stormwater can be the water running out of the gutters on your home or garage, and down your driveway. If a home has 2,000 square feet of impervious surfaces, that is equal to 1,246 gallons of stormwater runoff that needs to be managed during a typical rainstorm. That's a lot of water that needs somewhere to go! Stormwater can also be the water rushing across a farm field, over a highway, through a parking lot, or through a construction site. It's important to be aware of stormwater, where it comes from, and where it goes because it impacts water quality in your local watershed. Flooding, pollutants, erosion, and property damage can all result from uncontrolled stormwater runoff.

There are local ordinances and regulations for the control of stormwater runoff in your municipality. These ordinances determine the best ways to manage stormwater for the benefit of local residents and businesses, as well as for the overall health of the watershed. Homeowners, businesses and industries can all work together with municipalities to help manage stormwater and its potential impacts. Understanding stormwater is the first step to making good choices and being a good neighbor in your watershed.

## Why Should I Care About Stormwater?

We are all part of a watershed. Watersheds are land areas that drain to the nearest body of water. For example, if you are in western Pennsylvania, you are part of the Ohio River watershed, while eastern Pennsylvania lands may ultimately drain to the Chesapeake Bay. Smaller local creeks and streams also eventually drain to a larger local water body.

- **Flooding**

When excess water has nowhere to go, flooding can impact property and cause damage to land and structures. Flooding can also be a public safety issue that affects entire communities.

- **Pollution and Health Impacts**

Stormwater picks up anything that is on the ground and carries it along with it. Animal waste, chemicals, pesticides, oil, and sediment – all end up in waterways and potentially in our sources of drinking water.

- **Streambank Erosion**

Uncontrolled stormwater can cause streambank erosion, leaving bare soil and exposing tree roots. This can lead to property damage and cause issues with streambank stability.

- **Sedimentation**

Erosion and runoff, can also lead to sedimentation. Sedimentation of waterways from runoff causes changes to aquatic habitats. Undesirable plant growth increases, water becomes more turbid or cloudy, which leads to disruption of aquatic ecosystems. Sedimentation also fills in waterways, which can increase the flooding potential.

- **Impacts to Groundwater Recharge**

If stormwater isn't sinking into the ground it can affect recharge of groundwater resources. This can affect water levels in drinking water wells as well as impacting levels in surface water.

- **Impacts to Recreational Opportunities**

Stormwater runoff can cause polluted waterways which can lead to restrictions on boating, swimming, and fishing in recreational areas.

Making changes to how stormwater is managed can go a long way to reduce negative impacts. Even small actions by individual homeowners like using a rain barrel, choosing permeable landscaping surfaces, or installing a rain garden can make a difference. Stormwater affects everyone!

This article is courtesy of the Penn State Extension Stormwater Basics series. For more information you can visit the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/> or you can visit the Township's website at [www.westearltp.org](http://www.westearltp.org).

Due to the decrease in facilities that will buy recycled materials, Lancaster County has begun cutting back on what can be placed in residential recycling bin. All items NOT listed below can be placed in your normal trash bags and will be sent to the Waste to Energy facility.

## Recycling right doesn't have to be hard.



### What Can Be Recycled?

Only the following materials can be recycled. Think of them as the "Big 4". Everything else should be placed in your trash. If you aren't sure, remember this phrase: "When in doubt, throw it out!" LCSWMA will transform discarded waste into renewable energy.

#### **CORRUGATED CARDBOARD:**

This includes any size material consisting of a fluted corrugated sheet, like shipping boxes, packing boxes, CLEAN pizza boxes (no grease or food remnants), etc. Flatten all boxes and remove packaging including Styrofoam, peanuts, bubble wrap and plastic liners. **Do NOT put paperboard (cereal boxes, shoe boxes), newsprint or junk mail in the bin.**

**You can bring your corrugated cardboard to the West Earl Township building for drop-off (157 W. Metzler Road, Brownstown)**

#### **PLASTIC BOTTLES AND JUGS:**

This includes plastic bottles, jars, jugs and anything else with a neck. Throw away the lids and rinse out any residue. All other plastic material is considered trash. Ignore the numbers, as they don't indicate if something is recyclable. **Do NOT put plastic bags, toys, buckets, packaging, Styrofoam, hosing, furniture, or other plastic items in the bin.**

#### **METAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE CANS:**

This includes all food and beverage cans made from aluminum or steel. Throw away the lids and rinse out any residue. **Do NOT put metal hangers, cooking pots and pans or other scrap metal like foil and pie plates in the bin.**

#### **GLASS:**

This includes clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars. Throw away the lids and rinse out any residue. **Do NOT put light bulbs, dishes, glassware, window or automotive glass, vases or any other glass material in the bin.**

Visit [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) for a list of locations that accept a variety of other recyclable materials.

**And remember – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT**

### **DID YOU KNOW??**

You can pay multiple months at a time on your water, sewer and/or trash bill. If you don't want to worry about this bill every month, pay ahead.

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@westearltpw.org](mailto:mwallace@westearltpw.org)

### **Monthly Meetings**

Board of Supervisors

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at 7 PM

Sewer Authority

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7 PM

Water Authority

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month at 7 PM

Planning Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7 PM

Park & Recreation Board

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month (as needed) at 7 PM

Zoning Hearing Board

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month (as needed) at 7 PM