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www.westearltpw.org

SPRING 2018

CENSUS 2020

Every ten years the United States runs a census to count our national population. If you think your township is just a blip on the census map, think again. When it comes to ensuring that the commonwealth obtains the political clout and funding it deserves, getting an accurate count of every person in every political subdivision, including West Earl Township, is important.

For starters, a complete count makes a difference in the political influence Pennsylvania has in Washington. The mandatory nationwide headcount, conducted every 10 years since 1790, will determine how many U.S. representatives Pennsylvania has in Congress and how many Electoral College votes the state gets when electing a president. It will also help to decide how voting districts for both Congress and the state legislature will be drawn.

An accurate count also matters in the federal dollars the state and local governments receive. Data from the census is used to distribute money for grants, as well as various federal and state programs to townships.

Finally, accuracy matters when it comes to understanding the residents of Pennsylvania. Socioeconomics information collected through the census sheds light on who we are, where we live and how we are changing.

So, when you receive that census form in the mail or from the person knocking on your door, please take a moment to fill it out and return it. Your voice does matter.



PPL and You GENERATOR SAFETY

This time of year, many people start thinking about possible power outages and portable generators. While generators come in handy, they must be used safely for both the home occupants and PPL Electric Utilities workers.

Generators need to be operated away from homes and away from spaces where deadly carbon monoxide fumes can enter your residence. Never operate your generator in a garage or other enclosed space.

For PPL worker safety, be sure you operate your generator in a way that prevents electricity produced by the generator from going back into the power line that feeds your home. This is called back-feed and occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding "back" through the power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near the lines, especially crews working to restore power.

Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and repair crews from back-feed.

For more information, you can go to
www.esfi.org or
www.pplelectric.com/safety.

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Save The Date!!! Saturday, April 14, 2018

ATTN: All West Earl contract trash customers! White Goods 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 week day between 8 AM and 4 PM. You will need one (1) blue tag for every piece that you wish to have picked up. The blue tags are only \$12.00 each. **You must purchase your tickets no later than APRIL 12th.**

Get that spring cleaning done right this year!



Recycling Do's and Don'ts

DO put in the recycling bin

- Plastics, cartons (milk, juice and broth), clean/rinsed empty cans, paper, cardboard, glass (food & beverage containers)

DO NOT put in the recycling bin

- Medical waste, electronics, light bulbs, plastic bags, aluminum foil, scrap metal, clothes hangers, bubble wrap, diapers

Spring Into Home Improvements

After a long, dark winter, spring's bright sun and warm winds are definitely a breath of fresh air. It's also a great time to start looking around your home to see what updates and repairs could be done.

1. Examine your roof shingles. Check to see if any are loose, cracked or buckled.
2. Check your gutters. Make sure they are cleaned out and fastened securely.
3. Examine the exterior of your chimney for signs of damage and have the flue cleaned & inspected.
4. Fill any cracks in your concrete with a filler or silicone caulk. Then power wash and seal the concrete.
5. Check your power equipment. Make sure lawn mowers are clean and all fluids are good. Sharpen cutting blades so that you're all ready to make yardwork that much easier.

DID YOU KNOW?? – carbon monoxide detector

The Carbon Monoxide Alarm Standards Act (Act 121 of 2013) states that every multi-family dwelling (a building with two or more units) is required to have carbon monoxide alarms installed in every unit. The building owners must install, repair and maintain the detectors until a tenant occupies the unit, in which case the tenant is responsible for the upkeep of the alarm.

The alarm must be centrally located and near a unit's bedroom. The detectors should not be placed in front of anything that burns with flames (fireplace, oven or furnace for example).

Carbon monoxide detectors are battery-operated alarms that are designed to measure the accumulation of carbon monoxide over time and sound an alarm when levels markedly increase.



PAVILION RENTAL

It's that time again – time to think about family reunions, cookouts and get-togethers with friends. What better way to do this than renting out the West Earl Lions pavilion? For only **\$50** you can book this well-equipped pavilion for your warm weather outing. Please call the Township Office at 717-859-3201 to book your date before all of the good ones are gone.



Martin Flegal
owner

4337 Oregon Pike
Ephrata Pa. 17522

Marty's Garage
Honda Specialist

717-859-2784
717-859-3862

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EARTH DAY 2018

Sunday, April 22nd

This year's Earth Day theme is **END PLASTIC POLLUTION**. From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet.

In response, Earth Day 2018 will focus on fundamentally changing human attitude and behavior about plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.

Currently about 300 million tons of plastic are produced each year to make bags, bottles, packages, and other commodities for people all over the world. Unfortunately, only about ten percent of this plastic is properly recycled and reused. The rest ends up as waste in landfills or as litter in our natural environment, where it leaches dangerous chemicals into the nearby soil and water, endangering humans and wildlife alike.

The problem has now grown completely out of control and threatens to affect millions of people and animals if we do not act soon.

Please remember to recycle your plastic properly. For more information and to see how else you can help, please visit www.earthday.org.

HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 19th from 1 PM to 2:30 PM

West Earl Township Building

Do you know what dried up leaves and foliage, coffee grounds, spent tea leaves and vegetable peels all have in common?

YOU CAN COMPOST ALL OF THESE ITEMS!!

Join me for a fun and informative look at residential composting. Whether you are thinking of starting a vegetable garden or are just looking for better ways to recycle every day trash, this workshop is for you. PLUS – everyone that attends will receive a surprise gift and be in the running for a home compost bin courtesy of LCSWMA. This is just our way of saying thank you for doing your part in the battle against waste and landfills.

This is a **FREE** event but pre-registration is recommended. Please contact the township at 717-859-3201 or mwallace@westearltwp.com.

With tax time upon us, many people start to think about shredding documents that are no longer necessary to keep. The following are just a few of the Lancaster County locations that will shred items for you at no charge or a minimal charge.

- The UPS Store <https://www.theupsstore.com/store-services/shredding>
- Shred-It <https://www.shredit.com/en-us/paper-shredding-central-pa-lancaster>
- Staples <https://printingservices.staples.com/us/pa/lancaster>

Built to Achieve community



Construction Management | Preconstruction
Design-Build | General Construction

www.benchmarkgc.com

**On Monday, May 28th,
the township office will be
closed in observance of
Memorial Day.**

**We will reopen for our
normal hours (8 AM-4 PM)
on Tuesday, May 29th.**

COMMERCIAL CUSTOMER TIDBIT

Act 101 of 1988 requires commercial, institutional and municipal establishments located in Pennsylvania's mandated municipalities to recycle high-grade office paper, corrugated paper, aluminum and leaf waste. In addition, establishments must recycle any other materials included in the municipality's recycling ordinance or regulations, which may include glass, newsprint, plastics, and/or steel and bimetallic cans.



West Earl will once again be collecting yard waste beginning on APRIL 3, 2018. We will take any yard waste that is collected and placed in the brown yard waste bags. Yard waste is items like grass clippings, shrubbery, twigs, sod, etc. We have the kraft bags for sale at the Township building. They are only **\$1.00/each**.

"ADOPT-A-DRAIN" Program

As part of the Township's MS4 Program (stormwater management) we are starting an "Adopt-a-Drain" program. We are asking residents of the Township to volunteer to "adopt" a storm drain near their home and to

to keep it free of garbage and debris. Keeping storm drains free of debris helps to prevent flooding and prevents pollutants from entering the local waterways.

Details of the "Adopt-a-Drain" program have not yet been finalized; however, we do want to give residents an idea of what "Adopt-a-Drain" is about. Adopting a drain will include checking the storm drain periodically (once or twice per month) and/or prior to a forecasted rain event. It will also include cleaning up any garbage or debris (leaves, yard waste etc.) from the storm drain grate (surface only – not into the drain itself) and submitting the cleanup details to the Township. If you are interested in volunteering please email sservice@westearltwp.org or call 717-859-3201.

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP PENNSYLVANIA

MARCH 1-MAY 31, 2018

Everyone wants to live, work, and play in a clean and green community ... and it's up to everyone to make it possible and improve the overall quality of life for us all.

Join Pennsylvanians across the state – and Americans across the nation – for the Great American Cleanup. You can participate in the Great American Cleanup of PA by cleaning up litter and trash along our roadsides, streams, beaches, parks, forests and neighborhoods. Additional events include holding recycling events for hard-to-dispose of items like tires and appliances, creating or enhancing green areas by planting plants, bulbs, and trees, and other activities that help beautify your community.

**To register a group or join one
that is already established go
to www.gacofpa.org**

Sylvan Fisher retires after 40 years at West Earl Township

Forty years seems like a long time when you're starting out on a journey, but when looking at those forty years at the completion of the journey, the perspective is a bit different. After a successful career, Sylvan Fisher will be retiring this spring. He has served West Earl Township in many capacities: employee, road master, supervisor and firefighter. From plowing snow to emptying the trash, Sylvan, the employee, has done it all.

As Road Master, Sylvan has seen growth in the land use and population of West Earl Township and endured the growing pains that accompanies these changes. Residential developments and commercial ventures present their unique challenges. In these instances, as with many others, trial and error has been a valuable teacher for him. Many bridges in the Township bear his name; many roads in the Township exhibit his skill and expertise.

Serving as a Township Supervisor is a rewarding, but often difficult task. During his time serving on the Board of Supervisors, Sylvan witnessed many changes in regulations and mandates, not all of them popular with the public, but necessary, nonetheless. His ability to connect with people and explain the reasons for such change is one of his many strengths.

Sylvan is still an active member of the West Earl Fire Company. Many times over the years, he has been called away from work and his personal time to assist the Fire Company, either to fight a fire, assist with an auto accident, or rescue baby ducks from a storm drain.

Condensing forty years of this man's service to our community into a short article is an arduous task that cannot possibly do justice to the man or the value of his contributions.

We all wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement.



WATERSHED FRIENDLY SPRING CLEANING

Whether we like it or not, the spring means spring cleaning for many of us. Wherever you are doing your cleaning – inside the house, in the garage, out on the deck, or in the driveway – you can have an impact on your local waterways. Here are a couple simple steps for you to remember for keeping your waterways health and clean!

1. **Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Property** – If you have old oil-based paint, solvents, dead batteries or other substances from your garage or home, remember to dispose of them properly. The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority has a household hazardous waste facility located at 1299 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster. They will accept your household hazardous waste free-of-charge.
2. **Sweep instead of using a hose** – If you are cleaning your driveway or sidewalks, please remember to use a broom to sweep onto your lawn instead of a hose to remove dirt and debris. When you use a hose to remove the debris from your driveway or sidewalks, the runoff you create goes into the storm drains and out to the local creeks and streams.
3. **Wash your car at a commercial car wash** – Winter leaves vehicles caked in dirt, grime, road salt, deicing chemicals and various other pollutants. If you wash your car in the driveway, you're likely sending all of it into the nearest waterbody via a storm drain. Instead of washing your car at home, take it to a car wash. Commercial car washes are required to dispose of their wastewater properly, ensuring that it's cleaned and treated. If you must wash your car at home, try to do it in an area where the water will soak into the ground instead of run into the street and dump your soapy bucket of water down your sink – not the storm drain.
4. **Use natural cleaning products** – If you plan to wash your outdoor furniture, windows, deck, etc. make sure the cleaning products you use are free of chemicals and phosphates and are water-based only. You can also look up a DIY recipe for natural cleaner. Don't do washing or rinsing on your driveway. Instead, do it on the grass and far from a storm drain or local waterway.

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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

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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

***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@westearltwp.org***