

157 W. Metzler Road PO Box 787 Brownstown, PA 17508 <u>www.westearltwp.org</u>

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SUMMER 2019



With the weather getting warmer, you will start to notice the **spotted lantern fly** once again this year. This insect is a destructive, invasive species that threatens agricultural, timber and ornamental industries as well as the plants in your backyard. Currently, they are under quarantine in 13 counties in Pennsylvania (Lancaster County being one of them). What are they and how can you help to stop the spread?

Native to Asia, the spotted lantern fly was first detected in 2014 in SE Pennsylvania. It feeds on many plants, including fruit trees, grapevines, hops, hardwoods and ornamental. There is one generation of SLF per year. The eggs are laid in the fall and hatch in the spring. Egg masses are laid on hard surfaces (trees, decks, houses, outdoor equipment, rocks, etc.) and are protected with a mud-like covering. Each egg mass contains 30-50 eggs. There are four different nymph stages after the egg hatches. The first three stages see the SLF as all black with white spots and the last stage is when they turn red with white dots and black stripes. The adult spotted lantern fly normally emerges in July and will be active until winter (the picture above is of an adult). Only the adults can fly.

You can help stop the spread of the SLF by scraping any egg masses you notice. This can usually be done between September and May. Scrape them into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. This is the most effective way to kill the eggs but they can also be burned or smashed. Another way to help stop them is to "band" your trees. This can be done by wrapping tree trunks with sticky tape and trapping the nymphs. Tape can be purchased from your local garden centers. To make sure that birds and small animals do not get caught on the tape, you can cage your sticky tape in wire or fencing material.

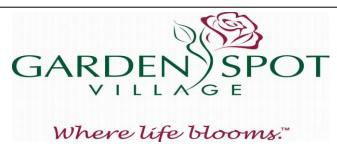
If you own a business, it is recommended that you obtain a Spotted Lantern Permit through the PDA (Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture). To get a permit, complete the training online at www.extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly. This is a "train the trainer" course to train designated employees (usually an owner, manager or supervisor) within a company on how to comply with the quarantine regulations. The designated employee must then train fellow employees. Plant nurseries, nursery stock dealers and mulch producers should contact their plant inspector for compliance information. In-person training and questions may be directed to SLFPermit@PA.gov.

<u>For more information, you can always stop in at the West Earl Township building. We have handouts in the lobby concerning the regulations, information for homeowners and much more.</u>

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Do you have used up and worn-out batteries lying around the house? Not sure what to do with them? Stop in at the township building and grab a couple of our battery recycling bags. They are free and can be placed with your normal recycling every week. Even if you are not a township hauler subscriber, you can still stop in and get some of the battery bags.





Maple Farm Location 604 Oak Street Akron, PA 17501 717-859-1191

> <u>info@gardenspotvillage.org</u> www.maplefarm.org

News from PPL Utilities

High electricity demand seasons like winter & summer usually bring increases in your monthly PPL Electric Utility bill. To help customers better manage their electric bill budget, PPL offers budget billing. We'll even out your payments over 12 months and adjust your payment every three months. There are enough surprises in life, your PPL bill amount doesn't have to be one of them. You can enroll online at www.pplelectric.com.

Another bill option is changing your bill due date. If your due date gives you financial heartburn because it doesn't jibe with when you get paid, that's not a problem. PPL Electric Utilities customers can change their due date once every 12 months. It could take one or two bill cycles to take effect. Get all the details at www.pplelectric.com under "My Account".



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Recycle and conserve in the workplace

We all know how to watch for things to recycle and ways to conserve energy at home. The same principles can be used in the workplace.

When not in use, set your computer to "sleep" mode and turn it off at the end of each work day.

Recycle used ink cartridges. Often, ink cartridges come with mailing packages and free return postage. Some companies also offer discounts on new cartridges when the used ones are sent back to them.

Use as few lights as possible. Use task lighting instead of overhead lighting whenever possible.

Use email instead of paper letters. This will save on not only paper, but also postage.

Whenever possible, chose the two-sided option when printing.



A MESSAGE FROM THE ROADMASTER

This time of year, West Earl road workers are out and about making sure your

travels are done on safe roads. Please be on the lookout for workers in your area. Be alert and cautious while driving through a work zone. If you see flashing lights, drive slowly through that area.

We will try to keep you updated on any projects we start – normally through our Facebook page.

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





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RECYCLING MYTHS

Most Americans recycle all they can.

Research shows convenience and commitment are required for maximum recycling. Is there more than one location in a household to store recyclables? If not, recyclables in areas other than the kitchen get thrown away. Also, is there only one committed recycler in a household? Studies indicate making this a family/partner affair where everyone participates, allows for the most recycling of the right materials.

Containers must be squeaky clean in order to be recycled. While all bottles, cans and containers should be clean, dry and free of most food waste before you place them in your recycling container – they do not need to be spotless. The goal is to make sure they are clean enough to avoid contaminating other materials. Try using a spatula to scrape cans and jars or using a small amount of water & shake to remove most residue.

It doesn't matter if something belongs in the recycling bin, haulers will sort everything anyway. There are increasing amounts of non-recyclables sent to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and every single one of them must be removed by hand by trained staff and/or mechanically sorted, or they end up contaminating high value recyclables. Non-recyclable garbage placed in recycling containers increases the cost of the recycling process & will increase the cost of garbage and recycling collection services. In other words – the less you take the time to recycle right, the higher your trash bill will be.

The recycling arrows on a container mean it's recyclable at a MRF. Manufacturers strive to get eco-friendly information on their product labels. The FTC requires that a product have at least 60% access to local programs to include the Mobius (recycling symbol) on their products. This is NOT a reliable indicator of whether something gets recycled. Many plastics can not be made into new products.



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SURVIVING SUMMER

Summertime means many outdoor activities. From grilling to hiking to swimming; there is so much to do! But you can not forget about safety precautions while enjoying your time outdoors.

Barbecuing — What's a summer without a barbeque? To make sure your meal goes off without any emergencies, place foods with mayonnaise in them in shaded areas. If the food is brought from the refrigerator straight to the table, help yourself but it should not be out in the hot sun for more than 15-20.

<u>Out in the Wild</u> – Summer is the perfect time to start exploring nature. Enjoying the fresh air and seeing all that there is to see is wonderful, but don't forget about the insects you may encounter. Make sure you have sunscreen and/or bug repellant with you at all times while outdoors. If you know that you are allergic to stings and bites, make sure you have allergy medication on hand as well.

Bees & wasps offer the greatest chance for allergic reactions. If you are stung, make sure to get the stinger out quickly and put ice on the sting to reduce swelling. Signs of a severe reaction include dizziness and an inability to breathe.

If you are hiking, you may want to be on the lookout for ticks. The best thing to do is to wear light colored clothing so you can spot them easily. If you find a tick on your skin, it's important to get as much out as possible. Tweezers will be a huge help with this matter.

No matter what you are up to this summer, always be prepared. Have a first aid kit handy, drink plenty of fluids, lather on that sunscreen and enjoy yourself.

Rain Barrels in the Home Garden



Rain barrels are effective tools for managing storm water. This article recommends rain barrel size, care, and how the water should be used in your garden.

Rain barrels are the final piece of the puzzle in dealing with storm water on your property—they capture the rain and store it for later use on-site. In addition to permeable surfaces, plants that tolerate large volumes of water, healthy lawns to enhance absorption, and rain gardens, rain barrels are a simple and effective way to handle water that would normally run off into storm water systems. Harvesting the water from a nice heavy rain allows you to water plants deeply, optimizing their health and vigor.

Rain barrels range in capacity from 30 to 100 gallons. A rough determination of capacity for your site involves measuring the surface area of the roof draining into the downspout inserted into the barrel, as well as calculating the volume of rain per event in inches. For example, a surface area of 1000 square feet receiving half an inch of rain would result in 300 gallons of water to be captured in rain barrels. A good-sized rain barrel, or series of rain barrels, would allow you to capture a substantial portion of that water.

Look for a rain barrel that has the following features:

- Is child and animal proof, with a lid that can't be easily removed
- Has a mesh screen to filter out debris, whether on top of the rain barrel or attached to the downspout
- An overflow valve connected to a hose in order to allow water from a fully filled barrel to flow away from your house. Another option is to purchase a diverter to install on the downspout. Diverters allow water to fill the barrel, and once full return the flow back into the downspout.
- For ease of use, an elevated stand for the barrel to sit on. This allows easy access to a spigot at the base of the barrel. Stands must be sturdy enough to withstand the weight of a full rain barrel.
- If you have room to add another barrel eventually, look for one that allows the barrel to connect to another in series.

Water collected in rain barrels can be used to water ornamental plants. The outlet hose can be attached to soaker hoses or by filling watering cans. While the water collected in a rain barrel does not have the chlorine contained in municipal water systems, it does pick up contaminants from roofing materials. Therefore, it is not considered potable—do not drink or cook with rain barrel water. A good overview of using rain barrel water on edible crops can be found via Rutgers University Cooperative Extension.

Rain barrels should be emptied during winter months, and either brought indoors or covered so as not to allow any water to enter the barrel when temperatures are below freezing.

Please visit the Township's website at www.westearltwp.org/pages/stormwater_education.html to download instructions on how to build your own rain barrel or you can purchase a rain barrel or rain barrel kit at stores such as Lowe's, Home Depot and Ace Hardware.

This article was provided by the Penn State Extension https://extension.psu.edu/

Is there something you would like to see in the newsletter? Email us your suggestions - mwallace@westearltwp.org

TOWNSHIP NEWS



At the start of the new millennium, Ricky Haverstick joined the road crew at West Earl Township. This year, Ricky will be retiring and enjoying leisure time with his family.

For nineteen years, Ricky has been employed by West Earl Township, lending his expertise to the road department when paving, mowing, plowing snow, collecting leaves and servicing police cruisers - to name only a few of his duties. Many more

day to day assignments crop up for the department and Ricky has always been available to lend a hand.

Says Sylvan Fisher, recently retired Roadmaster, "Ricky always went the extra mile; especially mowing road banks and was a fine employee. Ricky always did a good job, whatever he was asked to do".

And he was asked to do plenty. Ricky could be found doing all sorts of tasks around the township office, not the least of which included being a general handyman when a doorknob needed fixing, changing lightbulbs in the office, moving furniture, removing a noisy cricket hiding in a closet or hanging a plaque in the meeting room.

Ricky's community service includes serving on the West Earl Sewer Authority from 1986 to 2004, and he is a longtime active member of the West Earl Fire Company. We thank him for all his contributions to the West Earl community.

Best wishes for a happy retirement!

The West Earl Township office will be closed on the following holidays:

Thursday, July 4th

Monday, September 2nd

West Earl Township will continue collecting your yard waste bags through September 17th, 2019. If you are a current township trash customer, please put your brown kraft yard waste bags out with the recycling and refuse pick-up items. After September 17th, you may still take your yard waste bags to the West Earl Compost Site to dispose of them.



A NOTE FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT

If you have a fire hydrant located on your property, please be sure to weed whack around the hydrant. We appreciate your help with this matter.





<u>DAY</u> 2019



On Friday, May 3, West Earl Township, Leola Elementary School and Conestoga Valley High School collaborated on the annual Earth Day clean up at the West Earl Lions Park. More than 100 volunteers were on hand to clean up debris, tires and to plant new flowers. In just about 3 ½ hours, this group picked up 14 tires and filled 11 trash bags. They worked on 2 acres of the park and roughly 300 yards of the river.

Thank you all for helping out – we could not do it without the support of the community. Thanks also goes out to Benchmark Construction for donating lunch for all of the volunteers. It is said that it takes a village and West Earl Township shows this in so many ways.

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 for a list of locations that accept a variety of other recyclable materials.

And remember - WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT

Monthly Meetings

Board of Supervisors Planning Commission

 2^{nd} & 4^{th} Monday of every month at 7 PM 3^{rd} Tuesday of every month at 7 PM

Sewer Authority Park & Recreation Board

2nd Wednesday of every month at 7 PM 3rd Monday of the month (as needed) at 7 PM

Water Authority Zoning Hearing Board