



157 W. Metzler Road
PO Box 787
Brownstown, PA 17508
717-859-3201

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

The West Earl Township monthly meetings are still open to the public. We ask that you wear a mask to enter the meeting room and adhere to the 6' separation that we currently have in place.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the meetings, please feel free to contact the Township Manager at 717-859-3201 OR by email at manager@westearltwp.org.

We greatly appreciate your continued patience and support during these very trying times.

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SUMMER 2020

NEWSLETTER

West Earl Township would like to thank our residents and local businesses for your continued patience and support during this trying time. We have all felt the effects of Covid-19 and are continually adapting to make sure that the Township remains as safe and secure as possible. As soon as we feel certain that we can safely reopen the Township office to the public, we will do so. In the meantime, we are following the steps below to accommodate our customers the best we can. Although the office is not currently open to walk-in traffic, the main doors to the municipal building will be open from 7:30 AM until 4 PM every weekday.

Compost Cards – *Please allow 24 hours for your request to be processed.*

1. **If you need to add trips to your compost card.** Complete the form provided (on the table in the vestibule), or write your name, compost card number, phone number and the number of trips requested on a slip of paper. Place the form or slip of paper, along with a check or cash for the number of trips you are requesting, in an envelope (we have provided them for you). Place the envelope in the night-deposit box located outside, to the right of the municipal building doors. We will contact you when the trips have been added to your compost card.
2. **If you have lost your current compost card.** Complete the form provided (on the table in the vestibule), or write your name, compost card number, phone number on a slip of paper. Please write a note stating that your compost card has been lost. Place the \$5.00 lost card fee in an envelope (along with the completed form or slip of paper containing your information) and drop it in the night-deposit box. We will contact you when your new card is ready to be picked up. We will put any unused trips from the old card onto the new card for you.
3. **If you have a defective compost card.** Complete the form provided (on the table in the vestibule), or write your name, compost card number, phone number on a slip of paper. Please write a note stating that your current card is defective. Place the form or slip of paper into the night-deposit box and we will contact you as soon as your new compost card is ready to be picked up. We will add any unused trips from the old card onto the new card for you.

Utility bill payments

1. You may deposit your utility bill payments in the night-deposit box. We are checking this box regularly during normal business hours and will contact you with any questions or concerns. At this time, we are not charging a penalty for late payments.
2. You also have the option of paying your utility bill online. Go to the township website (www.westearltwp.org) and click on "pay utility bills online". You will need to have your account number and 4-digit pin to pay your bill online. Both numbers are located on your monthly bill.

Extra trash tags – if you need trash tags for extra trash bags, oversized items, yard waste tags or kraft bags, you may still purchase them at the West Earl Township office. Complete the form provided (on the table in the vestibule), or write your name, phone number and which tags you would like to purchase on the paper. Place the form or slip of paper (as well as the amount owed for the tags) in an envelope. Place the envelope in the night-drop box. We will contact you when your tags are ready for pick up.

EARTH SAVING TIPS



Since we are all home a lot more right now, what better time to look around and see what we can do to help save this beautiful planet of ours. Here are a few quick tips:

- Turn water off while brushing your teeth
- Unplug video games and cell phones when not in use
- Switch to LED lightbulbs
- Always turn off lights when not needed
- Donate toys and clothing to local churches or thrift shops
- Sweep, never hose, your driveway
- Decide what you want to eat before opening the refrigerator
- Always recycle
- Recycle old cell phones
- Reduce the number of plastic bags you use
- When possible, use a dishwasher instead of a sink
- Use the cold water setting on your washer for all loads except the dirtiest loads

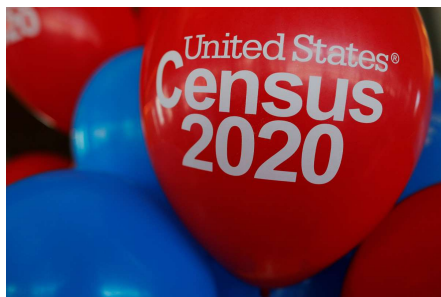
If you find old prescription medicines lying around, please do not just throw them in with the normal trash. There are many ways to dispose of medications that are no longer needed or that have expired.

Wellspan Pharmacy (Ephrata) will take any unwanted prescription medicines.

Pour the medicine into a plastic bag that seals. Add water to dissolve the medicine. Then place in your trash container.

Add kitty litter, dirt or coffee grounds to the medicine. Place this mixture into a sealable plastic bag and discard.

Remove any personal information from the label on the bottle before placing the empty prescription bottle in the recycling container.



The 2020 Census is here!!! Have you participated yet?

Make sure you are counted so your community receives all the population-driven funding it deserves and needs. Remember, responses to the census are kept confidential & secure. Visit www.2020census.gov or www.pa.gov/census to learn more about the census & how the U.S. Census Bureau protects your information.

Due to rising costs, West Earl Township will only be printing two newsletters in 2020. Would you be interested in receiving an e-newsletter every month or possibly every two months? In an e-newsletter, you would receive more up-to-date information and reminders. We could also have some personal interest items as well. Let us know what you think by taking a short survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/YJBFWT3.

Interested?

The West Earl Township trash hauler will be picking up yard waste bags every other week until September 22nd, 2020. Please make sure that there are ONLY yard waste materials in these bags. The contents go directly to the West Earl Compost Facility to be made into mulch for the residents of the township. If trash is also thrown into the yard waste, equipment could be damaged, and the finished product will not be suitable for use. Yard waste includes twigs, leaves, woody waste and other natural yard waste items.



People usually think about recycling as putting material in their recycling bin – however, the wrong things are often placed in the bin. Recycling is a system of collecting & processing used materials that are still of some value. There must be someone willing to buy the used material & turn it into a new product. Just because a product has a recycling symbol on the bottom does not mean it is truly recyclable.

The following are the ONLY items that should be placed in your recycling bin. Please remember to rinse out any bottle, cans or jars before placing them in the recycling bin.

- Corrugated cardboard – this includes any size material consisting of a fluted corrugated sheet (shipping boxes, packing boxes, CLEAN pizza boxes, etc.). *Cereal boxes, shoes boxes and junk mail do not belong in the recycling bin.*
- Plastic bottles and jugs – this category includes any container with a neck. Throw the lids in the trash and rinse out the residue before placing in the recycling bin. *Plastic toys, plastic bags, Styrofoam, etc. do not belong in with recycling.*
- Metal food & beverage containers – this includes all food & beverage cans made from aluminum or steel. Throw the lids in the trash and rinse them out before placing in the recycling bin. *Metal hangers, cooking pots and pans or other scrap metal do not belong in the recycling container.*
- Glass bottles & jars – this includes clear, green and brown glass bottles or jars. Throw the lids in the trash and rinse out any residue. *Do not put light bulbs, dishes, glassware, auto glass, vases or any other glass material in the recycling bin.*

If we all take a few minutes to think before throwing away, we will be helping to keep trash where it belongs and recycling where it should be. **Remember – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.**

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

July 3, 2020

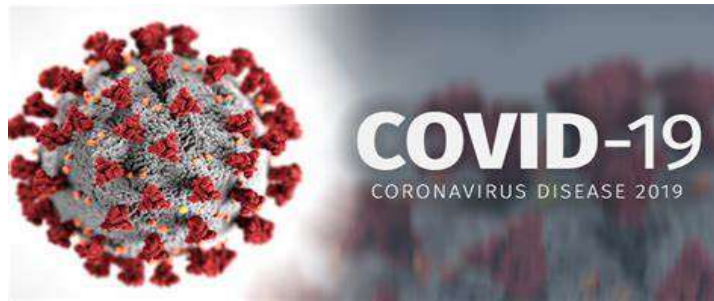
September 7, 2020

November 26 & 27, 2020

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 10, 2020 will be the next White Goods and tire pick-up. You can purchase tickets at the West Earl Township municipal office.

October 30, 2020 is Trick-or-Treat night in West Earl Township. This event will run from 6 PM until 8 PM.



Practical tips to stay healthy when going out in public

From grocery shopping, to signing your name, to opening doors, times have certainly changed. Here are a few tips to follow when you need to leave the house to maintain your health and sanity or to run critical errands.

1. Don't make shopping trips a source of entertainment. The point of shelter in place & stay at home efforts is to keep you from transmitting the virus to others or acquiring it yourself. Shop swiftly and efficiently. Now is the time to get what you want and get out, not to browse aisles as a way to pass the time.
2. If you're still pressing walk signs with your fingers, please stop. Any time you must open a door, push a button, pull a lever or digitally sign something, use a different part of your body instead. You can flip on a light switch with your elbow or wrist. You can wrap the sleeve of your jacket around a door handle. Whenever possible, forgo using your hands to touch things that can be manipulated another way.
3. Look for automatic options. If the doors to wherever you are entering are not already propped open or have automatic sensors, look around before you pull a handle. Most modern buildings have accessibility buttons to open doors for people with mobility concerns. You can easily touch this with your foot, hip or forearm and wait the few seconds for the doors to open. Consider buying an automated soap dispenser for home use as well.
4. Set aside your reusable tote bags. Right now, most stores are asking that you do not bring reusable bags from home to shop with. If you want to lessen your environmental impact, find ways to reuse the store bags at home.
5. Don't sort through produce with your bare hands. At a time when face masks are increasingly common in stores, it would only make sense to not touch the fresh food as well. Use a glove or stick your hand inside one of the store-supplied bags before choosing your fruits and veggies.
6. Carry extra napkins, disinfecting wipes and facial tissues. Having extra of these items on hand could come in very handy if there are no available wipes to clean off shopping carts, cell phones or other surfaces while out and about.
7. Stop handling cash. Where possible, ditch cash payments for the digital kind. Most stores accept debit cards as a form of payment. There is also Google Pay, Apple Pay, Samsung Pay and credit cards with the contactless logo on them. If a digital signature is required, you can use your knuckle instead of your index finger.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – QUICK TICKETS

The West Earl Board of Supervisors enacted an ordinance to allow the issuance of a "Quick Ticket", instead of a citation, for certain ordinance violations. A "Quick Ticket" is used to streamline the process when violators are discovered and reduces the fine for violators. A Quick Ticket carries a fine of \$25, where the minimum fine for a citation is \$100 plus court costs. The ticket can be issued directly to or mailed to the offender. For minor violations, a courtesy notice may be issued to the violator. This notice will include the nature of the violation and the actions needed for compliance.

Violations for which a Quick Ticket may be issued are:

Burning Violation
Parking a vehicle on grass or exposed dirt on a residential lot
Accumulation of Rubbish including used vehicle parts & tires
Unregistered or uninspected motor vehicles stored on property

Weed & Grass Growth in Excess in 6"
Snow & Ice Removal from Sidewalks
Storage of items in public right of way
Unsanitary conditions

Complaints or concerns regarding Property Maintenance issues can be made to the Code Enforcement Department by calling the Township Office at 717-859-3201, ext. 122 or by emailing to codes@westearltpw.org. A copy of the Property Maintenance Ordinance & associated regulations can be found on the Township website; www.westearltpw.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR WEST EARL PUBLIC WORKS DEPT

May 17-23, 2020 was National Public Works Week. Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association in 1960, National Public Works Week calls attention to the importance of public works in community life. The event promotes awareness of the often-unsung heroes of our society, the professionals who serve the public and keep communities running smoothly all year long.

One of West Earl Township's areas of public works is our Roadcrew. Headed by Roadmaster Neil Stoltzfus, this group of men work tirelessly to make sure that West Earl Township runs smoothly. From the parks to the roads to the grass areas, these fellows make sure all is tidy and presentable to the public and for the public's use. They are also out and about, 24 hours a day when necessary, if bad weather strikes.



Another area within the West Earl Public Works is our Water Department. This entire department is run by one man, Robert "Bucky" Buckwalter. Not only does he have the task of maintaining every water meter in the Township, he also oversees the water treatment plants and pumping stations, keeps us current with DEP regulations and even goes to residents' home if issues arise. Without his knowledge and constant effort, West Earl would not run quite as smoothly. And, even though he is always on the move, he never forgets to stop into the office and greet us with a "Good morning" and a smile.



Thank you all for your continued efforts and amazing work ethic. We DO appreciate all you do!

What is Sediment and Why is it a Stormwater Pollutant?

Sediment is made up of soil particles that have been detached from the land by a process called erosion. In Pennsylvania, water is the primary cause for erosion, and sediment is often dislodged by rainwater and transported by stormwater runoff. Sediment can range in size from small, pea-sized gravel to tiny soil particles, less than 2 millimeters in diameter, and is present in both native soil and some materials used for building unpaved roads, driveways, and farm lanes. Consequently, the source of sediment can be from bare soil from construction sites or farm fields, poorly maintained dirt and gravel roads, or degrading stream banks. Any soil that is not protected from rainfall or runoff may be vulnerable to erosion and become a source of sediment pollution.

Raindrops that fall from the sky have enough force to dislodge soil particles from uncovered soil. Rain that is not absorbed into the ground becomes stormwater runoff and flows downhill, building momentum and picking up unprotected sediment until it reaches a waterway such as a stream, river, lake, or pond. Initially the shallow flow of water over the land is spread out in a process called sheet flow. But as stormwater continues to flow downhill, it can concentrate and form small channels called rills, or larger channels called gullies, that intensifies the force of stormwater runoff that detaches and transports additional sediment. Eventually, this sediment laden stormwater will reach our waterways, turning the affected surface water a muddy brown color.

Sediment pollution can also originate within a stream channel itself. During rainstorms and snowmelt, more water fills the banks of streams and rivers than the typical base flow. Historically, when stream levels rose, water escaped into the floodplain where energy was dissipated, and water was absorbed into the ground. However, because of development, there are more hard, impervious, man-made structures like roads and rooftops in both urban and rural areas, and streams in both landscapes now handle more storm water compared to those in natural settings. Additionally, many stream channels have been physically altered – such as being lined with concrete, covered in culverts, or straightened through ditching – to keep them contained. Combining increased runoff with concentrating flows in modified channels causes stream flows to be deeper and to travel faster than they did historically. This deep, fast flowing water has great erosive force and removes stream bed and bank sediment in a process called streambank or channel erosion. As bed and bank materials are removed, sediment is washed down stream and the elevation of the stream bed is lowered, forming vertical banks that further constrict water flow and continue to intensify erosion and sedimentation over time.

Once sediment reaches our waterways, it can degrade water quality in many ways. Small sediment particles may remain suspended in the water column or deposited onto the streambed. Suspended sediments increase the turbidity of the water, which causes the water to be cloudy, obstructs sunlight and limits photosynthesis of aquatic plants, reduces biologically available oxygen, and increases water temperature. Increased turbidity can also make it more difficult for fish gills to absorb oxygen and makes it harder for visual predators, such as brook trout or largemouth bass, to forage. Additionally, the cost of treating a source of drinking water with high levels of sediment is greater than the costs to treat clearer, cleaner water.

Sediment can also blanket the stream bed in a process called sedimentation. Over time, this process of mud building up on the stream bottom can reduce viable habitat for aquatic insects, fish, amphibians, and other wildlife by clogging the spaces between larger gravel, cobble, and boulders. Overall, the population of more sensitive species will be reduced, leading to a less diverse aquatic community.

Sediment poses a greater water quality risk than just soil particles alone because it often carries other pollutants, such as nutrients, heavy metals, organic chemicals, bacteria and other pathogens along with it. These pollutants originate from sources such as agriculture, industrial waste, mine spoils, and urban contaminants and can have short-term and long-term effects. Some will be dissolved into the water and washed downstream quickly, while others may remain stuck to sediment on the bottom of the stream bed for years.

If you are interested in learning more about stormwater and how it affects our environment you can visit the Township website at www.westearltp.org.

This article is courtesy of the Penn State Extension Stormwater Basics website. To learn more visit <https://extension.psu.edu/water/stormwater-management/>



A MESSAGE FROM REPRESENTATIVE KEITH J. GREINER

Helping You During the COVID-19 Crisis

With many Pennsylvania employers, workers and families struggling in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the House was in session in April and May pushing to reopen businesses safely so that people can return to work and provide for their families.

As we continue to deal with the effects of the crisis, my district office is still here to help you with any state-related issues and your Unemployment Compensation applications. You can call my office at 717-464-5285 and my staff or I will be sure to return your message. You can also email me at kgreiner@pahousegop.com. We can assist you virtually this way or we can also schedule in-person meetings in advance at our office while following all CDC recommendations.

You can also watch House proceedings online as we work to safely reopen Pennsylvania and to determine budget priorities for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year at pahousegop.com. Please also be sure to follow me on [Facebook.com/RepGreiner](https://www.facebook.com/RepGreiner) and keep on the lookout for important updates regarding COVID-19 on my website RepGreiner.com. I also encourage you to sign up for my weekly E-Newsletter at RepGreiner.com/Email-Signup, especially during this public health crisis.

There have been numerous important updates regarding state services and government news during this pandemic, so I encourage you to follow my E-Newsletter updates.

A few recent important announcements included: Gov. Tom Wolf's "phased plan" for reopening the Commonwealth; PennDOT extending the expiration dates on driver licenses, ID cards, and learner's permits to June 30; and construction being allowed by the Wolf Administration to resume in accordance with CDC safety guidelines. You can find much more information on these announcements on my website at RepGreiner.com/coronavirus.

While we navigate this crisis together, I hope you are staying healthy and safe and I encourage you to reach out to my office with any state-related concerns and questions. I look forward to the days when our community can return to "normalcy"! Until then, please stay safe!

Respectfully yours,

Representative Keith J. Greiner, CPA

COMPOST NEWS

The West Earl Compost Facility, located at 161 Locust Street in Talmage, is open 24/7 for your composting needs. The following items are accepted at the compost facility:

1. Leaves and weeds
2. Twigs and small branches
3. Garden & flower bed debris
4. Shrubbery clippings

The compost facility will attempt to keep up with your mulching needs, but West Earl Township does not have a full-time person working at the compost yard.



Did you know that you can get rid of old TV's, computer monitors, e-readers, cameras, DVD players, video game consoles, etc. **FOR FREE?**

Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA), located at 1299 Harrisburg Pike in

Lancaster, will accept up to 10 of these items per customer per day FOR FREE.

They also accept batteries, florescent bulbs (30 per month per person), floor and furniture polish, household cleaners, paint, stains, pool chemicals, cooking and frying oils and many more household hazardous waste items.

Call 717-397-9968 for more information.

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