

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

www.westearltwp.org

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WINTER 2018-2019

#### 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



#### **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a member of the same family of diseases as Mad Cow Disease in cattle, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans and Scrapie in sheep and goats. It was first recognized in Colorado deer in 1967 and is believed to be caused by an abnormal prion in the brain, the nervous system and some lymphoid tissues of infected animals. It causes death of brain cells, and on a microscopic level, holes in the brain tissue.

CWD is transmitted both directly through animal-toanimal contact and indirectly through food & soil contaminated with feces, urine and saliva. The disease may also be spread indirectly through environmental contamination. Animals infected with CWD may not show signs of infection for 12 months or more. Late-stage symptoms include a loss of body condition, excessive drinking, urination, salivation and drooling; repetitive walking patterns, droopy ears and listlessness. There is no known cure.

Hunters should only harvest animals that appear healthy and practice basic precautions like wearing gloves while field dressing an animal and washing hands and equipment thoroughly when finished. If you see an animal that is sick, do not attempt to kill or remove the animal. Document the location of the animal and immediately contact your nearest Game Commission region office.

You can learn more about CWD at www.cwd-info.org.



A Message from Representative Keith J Greiner, CPA

## Building on Our Success to Ensure a Strong, Viable Future

When the new legislative session begins on January 1<sup>st</sup>, I look forward to building on the many successes of the previous session.

Earlier this year, I was proud to join other fiscally conservative colleagues in averting yet another state budget stalemate and erasing a more than \$2 billion budget deficit without raising income taxes or sales taxes. In fact, we were able to invest in Pennsylvania's Rainy Day Fund for the first time in a decade.

A number of government reforms were enacted last session, including legislation authorizing wine and beer sales in grocery and convenience stores, providing \$60 million in grant funding for school safety enhancements, and restructuring the public pension and unemployment compensation systems, saving billions of dollars long-term.

Long-awaited education reforms were also adopted, most notably a permanent and predictable Basic Education Funding formula that will help ensure our schools are funded fairly, consistently and appropriately. Greater emphasis is also being placed on career and technical education to support the current labor force, and the jobs provided by employers the Commonwealth is attempting to attract.

In February, the governor will unveil his budget proposal for the 2019-20 fiscal year. It is expected to be another difficult budget year, but I am more determined than ever to hold the line on state spending and protect the interests of Pennsylvania taxpayers.

As your state representative, I am here to assist you with any state-related matter. Please feel free to stop by my office at 852 Village Road, Lancaster, or call (717) 464-5285. It is my honor and privilege to serve you.

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# HAVE A BLESSED AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

#### **Recycling and Reuse in Restaurants and Taverns**

Restaurants and taverns can reduce their waste considerably by employing both recycling and reuse. For example, restaurants that use disposable napkins, utensils or placemats can reduce waste volume by switching to reusable items. Many restaurants and bars also generate significant quantities of glass, aluminum, steel, plastics and corrugated cardboard. Some methods of handling restaurant waste might include:

- Recycling corrugated cardboard, glass, metal and plastic. If space is a problem, specially designed equipment such as can, glass and plastic crushers are available to reduce the volume of recyclable materials.
- Replacing beverage bottles and cans. Many beers and most soft drinks can be served on-tap, reducing both the cost of buying beverages and disposing or recycling cans and bottles. Even wine can be stored in bulk in some circumstances.
- For eat-in restaurants and hotels, use of reusable napkins and dinnerware, placemats and tablecloths. Switching from disposable may add to dishwashing and laundry costs, but it will save on the purchase of paper goods and avoid waste disposal costs.
- Asking suppliers to provide you with products that are packaged in materials such as recyclable or reusable paper, glass, steel aluminum and plastic.
- Donating useful, outdated stock and leftover foods to food pantries, charities and shelters or composting food waste.



### Plants to Help with Indoor Air Quality

With colder weather upon us, the windows are closed and the heat is on. If you are one of the many people who suffer from indoor allergies, asthma, headaches, etc., you may benefit from having a few of these plants in your home.

Aloe Vera – known to remove benzene & formaldehyde (both human carcinogens). It is well suited for the bedroom because it absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen during the night. You can also use this plant to treat burns topically.

Gerbera Daisy – not only does it add color to your home, it also removes benzene & formaldehyde. It can be grown outdoors and then brought inside over the cooler months.

<u>Peace Lily</u> – removes numerous chemical vapors, including acetone, ammonia & benzene. It also raises indoor humidity levels (a beneficial quality for dry climates).

<u>Rubber Plant</u> – ranks near the top of the list for removing formaldehyde from the air. You will need to water this plant regularly and mist the leaves.

<u>Snake Plant</u> – adept at cleaning formaldehyde and smog from the air. Like aloe, it also adds oxygen & removes carbon dioxide from the air at night, making it ideal for bedrooms. Great plant for beginners.

#### **WINTER DRIVING KIT**

The following items, if carried in your vehicle, will be invaluable should a winter emergency develop:

- Ice scraper
- Cloth or paper towels
- Booster cables
- Blanket
- Cellular phone
- Warning flares or triangles
- Snow brush
- Traction mats
- Flashlight
- Glove or mittens
- Small snow shovel
- Bag of abrasive (sand, salt or cat litter)
- Window-washing solvent

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Brownstown, PA 17508

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PAINTING CO INC

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717-859-6590 hushpainting.com Due to the rising costs associated with trash and recycling pick-up, West Earl Township will be raising the monthly rate for refuse/recycling from \$15.50 to \$20.00 effective January 1, 2019.

If you have already prepaid for a year of trash service, please be aware that there will be a small balance due at the end of that year because of the price increase.



#### **SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL**

It's the time of year when we must start to think about colder weather and the clean up of snow and ice accumulation. In West Earl Township, we have ordinances in place to help with any questions you may have about these issues.

Every person (whether it be a tenant, occupant, lessee, owner, etc.) must remove and clear away snow and/or ice from a path at least 24" in width from sidewalks. The snow and ice must also be removed within 24 hours after the cessation of any snowfall, sleet or freezing rain.

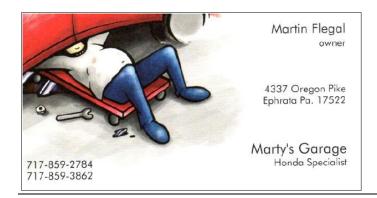
In the event that snow and/or ice on a sidewalk has become so hard that it cannot be removed without likely damaging the sidewalk, sand or other abrasive must be put down to make travel reasonably safe. Then, as weather permits, the sidewalk must be cleared at least 24" in width.

Snow that is liable to fall on any sidewalk, roadway or other public area must be removed from rooftops within 24 hours after the cessation of any snowfall, sleet or freezing rain.

Snow and ice are not permitted to be deposited next to a fire hydrant or on any sidewalk, roadway or loading/unloading areas of a public transportation system. The township does have the right to mound snow on public areas for clean up soon thereafter.

If you have any questions about snow removal, please feel free to contact the West Earl Township office at 717-859-3201.

Christmas tree pick-up for those served by the West Earl Township contracted trash hauler is Saturday, January 12, 2019. Please remove all bags, decorations and lights, and place your tree at the curb on Friday night, as close to the roadway as possible.





#### A message from Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority

### The Recycling Crisis: How Did We Get Here?

Hopefully by now, you've heard that recycling has changed in Lancaster County. Residents should place only the "Big 4" in their recycling bins: 1) corrugated cardboard, 2) plastic bottles and jugs with a neck, 3) metal food and beverage cans, and 4) glass bottles and jars.

But you may not have heard that Lancaster County is not the only community impacted by recent recycling changes. The "recycling crisis" has created significant challenges for recycling programs across the United States. So, how did we get here?

For many years, well-meaning "wishful recyclers" have incorrectly believed that most things are recyclable. In part, this misconception grew from the waste industry's desire to facilitate a convenient process for recyclers. The message was: "Put it all in your bin. We'll sort it later." Unfortunately, this convenience turned problematic when contamination levels increased. Contamination happens when people place materials in the recycling bin that do not belong. And the largest importer of recyclable materials from the U.S. said "no more."

Previously, China was the largest consumer of recyclable materials generated in the United States. Growing frustrated by high contamination in imported recycling bales, China announced their "National Sword" campaign in summer 2017. This initiative enforced a crackdown on imported waste and communicated China's intent to ban most recyclable materials, including post-consumer plastic and mixed paper. Among the changes was also the announcement of a new quality standard prohibiting contamination to .5%, which was significantly more stringent than the previously acceptable rate of 5%. And the hits kept coming. In July 2018, China announced their plan to ban all imported recycled commodities by the end of 2018.

So where does this leave us? Unfortunately, the United States does not have enough domestic demand for recyclable materials to replace the volume China previously bought. Meaning, the market is saturated with more recyclable material than our country can use. An important point to remember is that something can only be recycled if there is a demand for that material, by a manufacturer, to be turned into a new product for consumers to buy.

This big shift in the market caused significant ripple effects, including lost revenues, higher processing and capital costs for material recovery facilities (MRFs), higher transportation costs, fewer outlets for materials and increased stockpiling issues. MRFs (re: facilities that separate, bale and market the recyclables you put in your bin) are now in a financial crisis. A reset is imperative to fix the contamination problem and help make recycling sustainable.

In Lancaster County, we believe the solution is three-fold: 1) simplicity, 2) consistency, 3) and awareness. We're simplifying the recycling process by asking people to only place the "Big 4" in their recycling bin. We're standardizing the message by working with municipalities, haulers and business partners to all follow the same guidelines across the county. And we're raising awareness by publicizing the need to Recycle Right through an integrated PSA campaign, so people can learn to recycle right.

We know this is a huge shift for our community, and change will not come overnight. But if we work together, perhaps recycling can be better than it was before. Let's Recycle Right Lancaster!

#### From PPL Electric Utilities

#### New PPL site streamlines applications for solar panels, other generation systems

PPL Electric Utilities recently unveiled its <u>Renewable Energy Connection</u>, a new web portal that allows residential customers, businesses and contractors to submit online applications to connect solar panels or other alternative generation systems to the electric grid.

The number of homeowners and businesses connecting various kinds of on-site generation -- like solar and wind power -- continues to grow. PPL supports this trend, and wants to make the process for customers as easy and smooth as possible.

The new portal will:

- Allow PPL customers and contractors to submit online applications where real-time decisions are made about the approval process
- Automatically generate a work order after a project is submitted
- Send email notifications on the status of an application
- Provide improved transparency throughout the application process

Though contractors are expected to make up the majority of Renewable Energy Connection users, residential customers can use the portal too. They just need to register an account on the site. All new applications, regardless of the size of the project, will require an online application. Hard copy applications are no longer accepted.

You can reach the Renewable Energy Connection, and see instructions to register and use it, by visiting pplelectric.com/renewable. There's also a helpful checklist of information and documents. Please feel free to call PPL with additional questions at 1-800-342-5775.

#### How Can I Be a Good Stormwater Neighbor?

Have you ever discussed stormwater with your neighbor or wondered how to be a better stormwater neighbor? Neighbor disputes over stormwater are very common. Water does not follow property boundaries and there are often instances where water flows from one property onto another and causes damage. It is important to realize that activities on your own property can adversely affect your neighbor's property.

The first thing to do as a responsible neighbor is to familiarize yourself with how stormwater flows on your own property. Ask yourself how does water enter and exit my property? Are there areas of concentrated flow currently causing damage to your property or adjacent neighboring property? If so, flows can be re-directed to vegetated areas for infiltration. You can also install a rain barrel, cistern, rain garden, or dry well as needed to control roof run-off.

When installing best management practices (or BMP's), do not direct stormwater flows onto a neighboring property and do not block stormwater from leaving your neighbor's property. Stabilize disturbed areas and maintain lawns, driveways, and gardens to prevent erosion and sedimentation on your own and on other peoples' properties. Changes from building and land development activities can alter natural flows of surface and stormwater. It is important to recognize that grading and re-grading can change how water moves across the land. It is essential to leave natural drainage paths undisturbed when possible and never intentionally concentrate stormwater flows.

If you live near a stream, pond, or stormwater drain you can plant a riparian buffer or establish a "grow zone" along the waterbody to allow pollutants to be filtered before reaching the water. This will help prevent erosion on your property. Also, do not compost yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, or mulch into or near a stream or stormwater drain. Clean up trash, litter, and other debris that may clog a drain or small stream that could potentially cause flooding or pollution from water run-off.

If you find yourself in a dispute with a neighboring property owner over stormwater issues remember: open communication and cooperation can prevent stormwater issues and help resolve existing stormwater problems. If you have questions about local stormwater regulations, contact your municipality. It is important to take steps to protect natural water courses, infiltration areas, and drainage paths. Be mindful of how your actions can affect adjacent landowners and take steps to prevent damage not only on your own property but also on your neighbor's property.



#### **CFL LIGHTBULB RECYCLING**

West Earl Township is a drop-off site for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's). You can come into the office between 8 AM & 4 PM (Monday through Friday) and drop

off old CFL's. We will only accept bulbs that are intact. If you have bulbs that are cracked or broken, please place them in your normal trash container and put out with your weekly trash to be picked up.

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

You can opt out of receiving paper copies of the local phonebook.

Just go to 
www.yellowpagesoptout.com and register to make this change!

#### A WORD FROM THE ROADMASTER



Proper placement of your mailbox will help to protect it from potential damage during snow plowing season. West Earl Township asks that residents follow these mailbox placement guidelines:

The front of the mailbox should be located one foot from the edge of the roadway pavement. The bottom of the box should be 42-48 inches above the road surface. Maintain three feet of clear zone below the mailbox, measured from the road surface. This allows room for the Township plow trucks to clear snow from the street without damaging your mailbox. Following the Township guidelines will help ensure that your mailbox is accessible to the mail carrier and less likely to be damaged during snow plowing.

#### WINTER STORM SAFETY & TIPS

Here at West Earl Township, we try hard to do the best and most efficient job possible to make the roadways safe and clear of snow & ice. Salting usually starts right after the snow begins to fall, with plowing starting around 3" of accumulation. Cindering & plowing routes are set up to clear the more heavily traveled roads first, then secondary roads & development streets. All roads are



usually plowed at least twice. We make an effort to plow through all of the streets and roads once to get everything at least passable and then the second time to get the snow to the edge of the road or curb.

During a snowstorm, while snow is still falling, the road crew makes an "Emergency Pass" plowing in two directions up and down the street to allow for the passage of emergency vehicles. The crew will continue to plow the "Emergency Pass" as snow continues to fall. When the snow stops, the crew will return to widen the streets for on-street parking & allow room for future storms. Please remove vehicles from the street, if possible, to allow plows to get close to the edge of the road in order to get the road as wide as possible.

Sometimes mailboxes are toppled or damaged by the snowplow if they are too close to the road edge or mounted poorly. Even properly installed boxes can be damaged by heavy wet snow that comes off the plow more forcefully. Every effort is made by our operators to avoid or minimize damage to property; however, the repair of mailboxes, lawn areas, trees and/or shrubs planted on the right-of-way is the property owner's responsibility.

Homeowners are responsible for clearing snow around fire hydrants on your property. You can also minimize flooding by clearing snow from storm water basins located along your property.

Tips about clearing your driveway: During plowing operations, snow is pushed to the right side of the road, regularly blocking driveways and occasionally covering sidewalks. The best way to avoid having to clear snow from your driveway multiple times is to wait until plowing operations are completed before you clean up. If you'd like to get a head start but don't need to get out of your driveway, consider not shoveling the last six feet toward the street until the plowing is complete. If you need to clear your driveway before plowing is finished, you can minimize the amount of snow plowed by not only clearing your driveway, but also all of the snow at least ten feet along the street. This will allow plows to unload most of the snow before coming in front of your driveway.

# **West Earl Township**

### Refuse/Recycling Collection Schedule

2019

Trash/Recycling	Trash/Recycling	White Goods	Christmas Trees
	and Yard Waste		

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Please note: Monday holidays WILL affect your pickup day																							

The following items are approved recyclable items (commercial and residential)

- Plastic Bottles & Jugs (please throw away the lids)
- Glass Bottles & Jars (please throw away the lids)
- Metal Food & Beverage Cans (please throw away the lids)
- Corrugated Cardboard (break down boxes as flat as possible)

### **Monthly Meetings**

Board of Supervisors Planning Commission

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at 7 PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7 PM

Sewer Authority Park & Recreation Board

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

Water Authority Zoning Hearing Board

1st Monday of every month at 7 PM 1st Wednesday of the month (as needed) at 7 PM