

WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

VOLUME 45 - SPRING 2015

NEWSLETTER

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Meeting Dates

Board of Supervisors Meeting

1st Tues. of each month 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Thurs. of each month 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board

2nd Tues. of each month 7:30 p.m.

Phone Numbers

Office 285-5554
Police 285-5191
Emergencies 911
Police - Fire - Ambulance
TDD.....(800) 654-5984
FAX 285-2879
www.westhempfield.org

Board of Supervisors

David M. Dumeyer
Chairman
Edward C. Fisher
Vice Chairman
Frank R. Burkhardt
Township Supervisor
Kent B. Gardner
Township Supervisor
Naomi G. Martin
Township Supervisor
Ron L. Youtz
Township Manager



MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMPLEX

West Hempfield Township continues with the planning for a new Municipal Services Complex. As reported in our last newsletter the Township is working along with West Hempfield Fire and Rescue in an effort to address their building needs as well.

The Building Committee established by the Board of Supervisors meets on a regular basis to explore options for a site and to identify the specific needs of each department. Presently, the Township is focusing on determining if the current site owned by WHFR on the south side of Marietta Avenue is an acceptable location for the proposed complex. The Board of Supervisors recently awarded a contract for a consultant to conduct a storm water feasibility study to gauge the suitability of this site for the size building and associated infrastructure that would be required to support Police, Fire and Administrative services. We expect to have the results of the storm water study by June of this year.

The Committee will continue with its work in preparing a Request for Proposals to allow us to solicit proposals from architectural firms. We encourage you to watch for future newsletters as we will continue to update you on our progress.

PERMIT REMINDERS

As we welcome spring we wish to remind you of the requirements to obtain the necessary permits for any projects you may be planning. A Zoning Permit is required whenever your project involves placing, constructing, or expanding a physical structure (including driveways) or changing the use of your property. Any zoning permit application will require conformance with the new Storm Water Management regulations. Smaller projects of 1,000 square feet or less may be exempt; however, all new impervious area must be documented. Larger projects will need to meet the requirements as outlined in our Storm Water Management Ordinance.

A Construction Code Permit is required whenever your construction project will need to be reviewed and inspected to insure that it meets the standards of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC).

We encourage you to visit our website at www.westhempfield.org or please feel free to contact the Township office with any questions and our staff will be happy to assist you.



West Hempfield Township Parks

West Hempfield invites all residents - especially if you are event-planning - to remember our park pavilion rental program as a possible place for your celebration. The Township has pavilions for rent at Fairview Park (2), Ironville Park, Silver Spring Park and Lake Grubb Nature Park (2).

The rental fee is \$35 which includes your use of the pavilion anytime between dawn and dusk. Each park has these similar features: comfort station with flush toilets, electrical outlets, picnic tables, charcoal grills, and swings and playground activity areas. All parks are patrolled regularly by West Hempfield Township Police.

■ **Silver Spring Park** (GPS: 3800 Ironville Park, Columbia) is 11 acres in size and has a baseball field, a soccer field and a sand volleyball court. Parking area is paved.

■ **Ironville Park** (GPS: 786 Prospect Road, Columbia) is 8.8 acres located on a level plateau atop one of the highest points in the Township. Beautiful views. There is a basketball court at this park and paved parking.

■ **Fairview Park** (GPS: across from 4380 Fairview Road, Columbia) is 40 acres of gentle sloping terrain with a paved parking area, 2 baseball fields, 1 soccer field, 1 basketball court, 1 sand volleyball court, 1 street hockey rink, and a small hiking trail.

■ **Lake Grubb Nature Park** (GPS: 671 Hempfield Hill Road, Columbia) is the site of a former iron ore mine. The ore pit has filled with water, creating Lake Grubb. A hiking trail encircles the lake and there is a 1/4 mile ADA accessible trail. One pavilion is near the parking area; the other pavilion is closer to the Lake. Fishing is permitted but no boating, swimming or pets are allowed at Lake Grubb.

To check on availability, contact the Township office at 285-5554. Reservation forms and additional information can be found at www.westhempfield.org under the "Departments / Parks & Recreation" tab. The reservation fee must be paid in order to secure your reservation.

NEW TOWNSHIP STAFF MEMBERS



The Township recently hired two new employees for positions in the Township Administrative Offices.

Marsha Beamenderfer started her employment in October of 2014 as an Administrative Secretary. Marsha manages the Refuse/Recycling accounts, Sewer accounts, and the On-Lot

Sewage System Management Program. Marsha replaces Darlene Diffenderfer who retired at the end of 2014 after 15 years of service. We want to thank Darlene for her many years of dedicated service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Mary Gildea was hired in January of 2015 as a permanent, part-time Administrative Assistant in the Township office. She had previously served the Township over the past four years a temporary staff member. Mary handles many duties including answering phones, greeting residents at our front window and assisting other staff members in completing their required tasks.



STREET LIGHT/FIRE HYDRANT ASSESSMENT BILLS

The annual street light/fire hydrant assessment bills are mailed in early March each year and payment must be postmarked or received at our office by July 1st each year. When you receive your bill for 2015, please review it carefully.

There are two amounts listed on each bill. Please be sure to pay the lower amount if payment is made prior to July 1st. If payment is made after July 1st the higher amount listed on the bill will be due. It is important that you pay the exact amount due as listed on the bill. Each account must be paid in full in the exact amount billed each year. Including your payment stub with your payment is also greatly appreciated. The barcode on each bill assures accuracy in crediting each payment to the proper account.

PLEASE NOTE: The message "Pay \$163.40 before March 2, 2015 for annual discounted rate" at the bottom of your 2015 street light/fire hydrant bill is our error. Please disregard this message and pay the amount listed at the top of the bill.

If you have any questions about the bill you received for 2015, please do not hesitate to call our office.

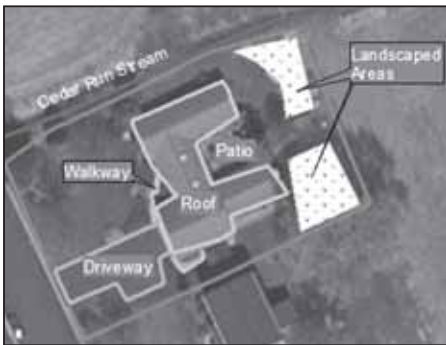


ASSESSING STORMWATER ON YOUR PROPERTY

In order to better manage stormwater on your property you should first understand how stormwater is generated and flows on your property. Follow these simple steps to figure out where stormwater is generated, how it flows, and approximately how much stormwater from your property needs to be managed if you're planning to change the impervious areas on your property.

1. Walk your property and map your boundaries and basic features.

STEP 1. Draw the boundaries of your lot. If you are not sure of your boundaries, you may be able to look up this information on your property tax assessment, the deed to your house, or at the Lancaster County Tax Office.



STEP 2. Draw buildings and other features of your property. Draw and label the buildings and other features of your property. These include:

- **Impervious areas** - These are hard surfaces on your property that prevent stormwater from soaking into the ground, including buildings, driveways, parking areas, walkways, decks, patios, or other hard surfaces.
- **Lawn and landscaped areas** - These include any areas with grass or landscaping that you regularly maintain.
- **Natural vegetation** - These are areas of woods, meadow, or other naturally vegetated areas that are

allowed to grow natural on your property.

- **Water features** - These could be streams, wetlands, ponds or swimming pools.

You can determine the approximate size of each area by using a tape measure and calculating the square footage of each.

2. Assess and map your stormwater flow. The next step is to show how and where runoff flows on your property and identify any problems it may be causing. Common stormwater problems may include large puddles ("ponding"), damp basements, soil erosion, and collapsing stream banks. The ideal time to assess would be during or immediately after a rain storm. Look for and map the following:

- **Roof downspouts.** Indicate the location of roof downspouts and the direction stormwater flows from the downspouts.
- **Stormwater flow paths.** Using arrows, show the direction of stormwater flow off impervious surfaces. If you have any areas where stormwater collects, such as drainage swales or ditches, show this and label them as such.

■ **Areas of ponding.** Indicate locations of standing water or ponding on the map.

■ **Gullies or ditches from soil erosion.** Indicate any areas of soil erosion which have resulted in gullies or ditches. This may appear within existing drainage swales or channels, and would be good to note on your assessment. If you have multiple downspouts, drainage channels, ponding areas, etc. organize you map and assessment plan by numbering them.

3. Estimate how much stormwater needs to be managed from proposed impervious area changes on your property. The amount of stormwater runoff generated from your property depends on how long and how hard it rains, the slope of your property, the type and quality of the soils, the amount of impervious surface on your property, and other factors. The majority of annual rainfall in south-central Pennsylvania comes in the form of small storms that carry most of the pollutants that impact water quality. Use the following chart to determine how much stormwater will need to be managed due to proposed changes to the impervious area on your property.

Square Feet of Impervious Area	Cubic Feet of Runoff to be Managed	Gallons of Runoff to be Managed
500 or less	less than 100	less than 748
501 — 1,000	101 – 200	748 – 1,496
1,001 – 1,500	201 – 300	1,497 – 2,444
1,501 — 2,000	301 – 400	2,445 – 2,992
2,001 – 2,500	401 - 500	2,993 – 3,740

The above numbers were calculated using the following formula:

(Total square feet of impervious area) x 0.2 = _____ cubic feet of runoff

(Total square feet of impervious area) x 1.496 = _____ gallons of runoff

Further information regarding how to manage the runoff and the permit process for seeking approval of your proposed changes can be obtained from the West Hempfield Township office.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

West Hempfield Township has established an annual road maintenance project list for 2015. These projects include street resurfacing and seal coat application. Streets to be resurfaced will include Broad Street and Greenridge Drive. A portion of Donnerville Road (Hempland Road and south) and Eby Chiques Road will receive a leveling course of asphalt. Donnerville Road will receive the final paving course in 2016.

Streets to receive a seal coat application are Indian Head Road, Norwood Road, Burma Road, Meadow Road and Minute Drive.

The Township Public Works Crew will also be completing the installation of public sewers in the Ironville area. We request that everyone be aware and alert when traveling through construction zones. Your safety and that of our crews is our number one priority.

Finally, we wish to thank all residents for your patience and cooperation during what proved to be a very challenging winter. This season produced a continuous cycle of weather events that kept us busy and placed a strain on our budget and other resources. A special thanks to our dedicated public works crew who worked many extended shifts to keep the roadways open and safe. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.



CHICKEN BAR-B-Q

The West Hempfield Fire & Rescue Company will continue their Chicken BBQ's in 2015 on the following Saturdays:

March 28 ♦ June 13 ♦ Oct. 10

Dinners are \$9.00 each and will start be sold at 11:00 a.m. each day at the Fire Hall. Both eat-in and drive-thru service is available. We remind everyone to please follow the signs and to enter from the rear parking lot off Ivy Drive.

We encourage you to support these important fundraisers. These volunteers make a true commitment in serving the community and keeping us safe.



CURBSIDE YARD WASTE DISPOSAL



Recycling of grass clippings, summertime leaves & green plants through our curbside trash program resumes the first week in April 2015 and will continue weekly through mid-October 2015. The final date will be listed in our fall newsletter. As in previous years, these items must be placed in brown Kraft biodegradable bags purchased at the Township office for \$1.50 each during this period. Small twigs, small branches & shrubbery trimmings must also be placed in these bags during this time. There is a 30 pound weight limit for the Kraft bags. Brush, larger branches & any woody material too large for the Kraft bags must be tied into 4 foot bundles no heavier than 30 pounds and tagged with a GREEN yard waste tag, sold in sheets of 5 for \$7.50. Bags purchased at Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Lowe's, etc. will not be taken.

PLEASE NOTE: All yard waste will be collected on the same day your trash is collected during 2015. If your yard waste is not picked up, please leave the items at the end of your driveway and contact the Township office the next business morning to report the miss. Our hauler has 24 hours to return for any misses, the same as for trash & recycling misses.

We strongly urge residents not to bag grass clippings. Grass clippings left on the lawn decompose and act as a natural organic fertilizer. Please consider using our drop-off site as an alternative for other yard waste. See related article in this newsletter.

WOODY WASTE RECYCLING DROP-OFF SITE

Beginning in April and continuing through September, the Township will open the drop-off site along Norwood Road near Fairview Park for Township residents to deliver woody waste. The site is open from 9:00 a.m. until noon on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. You do not have to be a participant in the Township's refuse program to use this site.

Materials may be bundled or bagged or delivered by truck or utility trailer. Tree stumps and tree trunks larger than 8" in diameter will not be accepted. No plastic bags or other containers should be left at the site.

DROP OFF DATES FOR 2015:

April 11th & 25th ■ May 9th & 23rd
June 13th & 27th ■ July 11th & 25th
August 8th & 22nd ■ September 12th & 26th

POLICE DEPARTMENT TO LAUNCH DIGITAL CRIME FIGHTING TOOL

New website offers direct access to crime and public safety-related information

The Township Board of Supervisors has approved Chief Mark Pugliese's request to launch a new website that gives people who use social networks and mobile devices an easier, more effective way to help fight crime and stay informed.

The new website which will launch in mid-April was developed in partnership with CRIMEWATCH Pennsylvania and the Lancaster County District Attorney's Office and is part of the CRIMEWATCH Network (www.crimewatchpa.com). This online tool gives the public direct access to crime and public safety-related information happening in their community.

"This new website is the perfect entry point for establishing better police and public partnerships. Technology gives us the opportunity to communicate with the public, the anonymity of technology and avoids the potential risks of sharing information with the police. Several police departments throughout the region are having great success using this technology," said Chief Pugliese.

The Police Department is one of approximately a dozen across Lancaster County to join the CRIMEWATCH Network, a communications platform developed specifically for Pennsylvania law enforcement agencies that allows for geographically-targeted information sharing and intelligence gathering.

Chief Pugliese further stated, *"Through this new web portal, the public can view and share community related crime information on social networks, through email and on mobile devices."*

The new Police Department website will allow residents to do the following:

- Sign up for a free account to receive e-mail alerts regarding crimes committed in certain areas
- Submit a tip to local law enforcement
- View recent arrests and "most wanted" lists
- File a right-to-know request
- Share information with others through social media
- Get connected with resources and services

Stay tuned for more information on the West Hempfield Township CRIMEWATCH website.



WHAT WAS CRIME LIKE IN WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP IN 2014

The Police Department has been very busy during the past several years doing its very best to lower the crime rate in the Township and make you, those who we are sworn to serve, feel much safer in our community. You will be happy to know that for the 4th year in a row there has been a decrease in the number of reported crimes in West Hempfield Township. Additionally, there have only been two years with slight increases in the crime rate since 2002. In 2014 there was a substantial decrease of 34% in "Part 1 Offenses" which include violent crimes such as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assaults, as well as property crimes which include burglary, theft and vehicle theft. There were no homicides nor were there any reported incidents of rape in 2014. Our clearance rate or rate of reported crimes solved or otherwise cleared was 88.8% for violent crimes and 38.7% for property crimes. This means that almost 9 out of every 10 reported violent crimes that occurred in the Township were either solved or cleared by other means and almost 4 out of 10 reported property crimes were solved or cleared by other means. These numbers are significantly better than the national averages.

Chief Mark Pugliese credits not only the tenacious, dedicated work of his officers but also the increased awareness of Township residents and the steps they take to prevent crime. Chief Pugliese further stated that we shouldn't let the numbers fool us or allow us to let our guard down. Our officers are just as busy if not busier than ever. Due to the number of crime series on TV, juries expect to see technology in crime solving such as DNA evidence, computer generated crime scene replication and much more. Officers need to be trained in this technology and it can take longer to process crime scenes and do follow-up investigations. He also noted that illegal drug use, including the increased use of heroin and prescription drug abuse, seems to be entwined in almost all our major crimes.

The numbers are good and West Hempfield Township continues to be a safe place to live, but we need to continue to work as a community, with officers and residents acting together as one to fight and prevent crime.

West Hempfield Township

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Lancaster, PA 17601

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TO: Postal Customer

This publication utilizes bulk mailing rates and is delivered according to mail carrier routes. Delivery to homes outside of the boundaries of West Hempfield Township may occur where carrier routes continue into bordering municipalities.

APPLIANCE AND TIRE PICKUP

Tires and large appliances (such as washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and freezers) will be collected for all Township trash customers during a special pickup scheduled for **Saturday, April 18, 2015**.

Items should be placed curbside Friday evening before the scheduled pickup. Each appliance must be marked with a BLUE extra service tag (\$12.00 each); rimless tires must have one YELLOW tag attached, and tires with rims must have two YELLOW tags attached. If you have the necessary tags and are disposing of an appliance, tires and/or rims, register your name and address with the Township office **BEFORE** the above date to ensure pick up. If you need to purchase tags, please do so **BEFORE NOON** on Friday, April 17, 2015. Call the Township office at 285-5554 for more information.



If, for any reason, your appliance and/or tires are not picked up on the scheduled Saturday, leave the items curbside and call the Township office after 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning following the scheduled pickup.

Holiday TRASH SCHEDULE

(Note: Clip and save as a reminder)

Trash collection for Township customers will be delayed by one day after the following holidays in 2015: Memorial Day and Labor Day. Wednesday customers will have trash picked up on Thursday, and Thursday customers on Friday. July 4th will not affect trash pickup since it falls on a Saturday. For Thanksgiving 2015, Wednesday customers will have regular pickup and Thursday customers will have a one day delay to Friday. Again, please put trash and recycling out the evening before collection. No other holidays affect trash pickup in 2015.

