



West Hempfield Township

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 56 - FALL 2020

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic in mid-March, the Township's Board of Supervisors, Zoning Hearing Board, and Planning Commission meetings have continued to be held, without interruption, with a quorum of members present in-person for each meeting. The Township has been committed to continuing to serve the public as much as we can in a safe and practical manner. Our public meetings are open for the public to join in-person and this is the official method for public participation. The Township provides remote access to public meetings as a convenience to those who are unable or uncomfortable attending in person. We do not guarantee your ability to connect remotely or to participate remotely as internet and connectivity issues are outside of the Township's control. Meetings will not be cancelled or rescheduled in the event of an internet or connectivity issue.

Applicants with business on a meeting's agenda must be present in-person unless prior arrangements have been made with the Township for just cause.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

As we journey past the six month point in the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are happy to report that Township is in relatively great shape! Our Township has continued to serve the public continuously since the beginning of this emergency. While our lobby had been closed for a few weeks in April, we continued to provide all services via phone, internet, and email. Our staff worked modified schedules in April to allow us to keep at least half of our staff working in-person to provide emergency and essential services. In early May we returned to full-time staffing and re-opened our doors to the public.

To date, we have not had any reported COVID-19 deaths in West Hempfield Township. While this is not something directly in our control, we do believe the efforts of our residents and businesses have contributed to this great news! As for staff, we have not yet had any COVID-19 illnesses, although we have occasional quarantines to insure the health and safety of our staff.

Our Township takes this emergency seriously and we have worked hard to maintain the safety of our staff and the public. We require masks and social distancing within our building and have stepped up our efforts to keep our facilities as clean as possible.

With respect to finances, the Township is in great shape, all things considered! We continue to monitor our revenues and expenses on a daily basis to insure we can continue to provide the best possible services to our residents and businesses in the most financially responsible manner possible. We are continuing to track slightly ahead of our 2020 budget projections for revenues and slightly below our 2020 projections for expenses. There are many things out of our control which could quickly change our financial position, but we are doing our best to stay ahead as much as we can.

We thank our residents for their patience during recent months. We offer our prayers and best wishes to all who have experienced illness and/or death of family and loved ones from COVID-19.

TOWNSHIP PHONE NUMBERS & BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Office 717-285-5554
Police..... 717-285-5191
Emergencies 911
TDD..... 800-654-5984
FAX 717-285-2879

www.westhempfield.org

David M. Dumeyer..... *Chairman*
Edward C. Fisher *Vice Chairman*
Kent B. Gardner *Twp. Supervisor*
Naomi G. Martin..... *Twp. Supervisor*
Robert M. Munro..... *Twp. Supervisor*
Andrew B. Stern..... *Twp. Manager*

New Employee Spotlight



Leah Johnson began employment with West Hempfield Township in April of 2020 as our Assistant Director of Finance. Leah

is a 2018 graduate of Millersville University. Leah will be working directly with the Director of Finance on all of the Township's financial matters and will also be assisting us with our website, newsletter, and social media. Welcome Leah!



Christmas Tree Disposal and Recycling

DECEMBER 26, 2020 - JANUARY 31, 2021

- West Hempfield Township residents may drop off Christmas trees for recycling at the Fairview Park parking lot on Fairview Road. Please note: This location is different from the Township's woody waste drop-off site.
- Trees may be dropped off any time weekdays or weekends.
- Remove bags and decorations from the tree before leaving it on the pile.
- The trees are ground into mulch for use at Township parks.
- Please consider recycling your tree this year. Trees disposed of in trash are not recycled.
- To be disposed of as trash, the tree must have a red tag (\$5.00) attached and must be shorter than six (6) feet.
- No trees will be picked up after March 31, 2021.



SEASONAL CURBSIDE LEAF PICK-UP mid-October through November

CURBSIDE LEAF PICK-UP POLICY

- A separate truck will come around, weather permitting.
- Do not mix twigs or any other yard waste in with leaves.
- Do not park on leaf piles.
- Once the season ends, bag leaves and dispose of with your household trash.

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

Weeks of October 19th, November 2nd, 16th & 30th
East Side of Prospect Road

Weeks of October 26th, November 9th & 23rd, December 7th
West Side of Prospect Road

Schedule subject to change based on weather and emergencies



ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Please remember to vote!

West Hempfield Township offices will be closed on November 3, 2020, in order for our building to be used for voting.

- The Silver Spring District will be voting at the rear of the Fire Station in the Community Room, where the primary election voting was held (use the entrance at the rear of the building).
- A voting location for the Chestnut Hill District, which normally votes at St. Anne's, and recently voted in the primary election at the rear of the Fire Station in the Community Room, has not been finalized. You will receive notification from Lancaster County prior to the election, and you may check our website closer to the election day.

Recycling right doesn't have to be hard.



FOCUS ON THE
BIG 4
RINSE & PUT ONLY
THESE ITEMS IN BIN



It's OK to throw *everything else* away. It will be turned into renewable energy.

Visit recycle.right.lancaster.org for more tips.

West Hempfield Township Has Been Awarded Grant Funds for Water Quality and Stormwater Projects!

More great news was announced for the Township on August 17, 2020, when the Commonwealth Financing Authority announced two grant awards for West Hempfield Township totaling \$800,397. These funds will go toward repairing and replacing the stormwater infrastructure within the Farmdale/Ferndale Road development. This work includes improving the curbing, inlets, piping, manholes and drainage swales. Once this work is completed, the road surface will be repaved. The total project cost for stormwater and road improvements is estimated at \$1.8 million dollars. In addition to the grant money, approximately \$600,000 in state liquid fuels money will be designated to the project.



While these grant funds do not pay for the total estimated project costs for either project, the money does significantly reduce the total cost to West Hempfield Township taxpayers.

The Township would like to thank Pennsylvania State Senator Ryan Aument and Pennsylvania State Representative David Hickernell for their very gracious assistance with helping us obtain these funds!



Stormwater discharge along Farmdale Road is eroding the channel.

STORMWATER FEES

West Hempfield Township, along with most other Pennsylvania Municipalities, is facing a tremendous expense to comply with Federal and State stormwater and clean water requirements. Our Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP), along with other required projects and stormwater infrastructure improvements, will cost the Township several million dollars over the next several years. The Township has been diligent and very successful in applying for grants from multiple sources in an effort to reduce the burden on our taxpayers, but we will still come up short with necessary funds.

Our options for funding are basically limited to increasing our real estate tax or charging a stormwater fee. Both options have their advantages and disadvantages. An increase in real estate taxes would mean that property owners would pay more based on the value of their property, which is not necessarily related to the amount of stormwater which leaves a property. A stormwater fee would be based on the amount of impervious surface on a property, which in most cases is directly related to the amount of stormwater which leaves a property. Additionally, all property owners would pay a stormwater fee, while an increase in real estate taxes would not apply to tax-exempt properties.

Given the limited options we have, the Board of Supervisors has chosen to move in the direction of a stormwater fee. The first step was to create a Municipal Authority, which occurred earlier this year. Our Municipal Authority is now working with our Township Engineers to design a stormwater fee for possible adoption in early 2021. The Municipal Authority has also created a committee with several property owners who will be helping us finalize this stormwater fee program later this year.

It is the Township's desire to keep these fees as reasonable as possible and leverage these new funds as matches for additional grant funds.

Over the next several years, our property owners and residents will see numerous stormwater projects underway throughout the Township, many of which will directly benefit our residents.



OLDS REMINDER

All on-lot disposal systems (OLDS) must be inspected and pumped by an approved septic pumper once every three years, as directed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). To comply, all homeowners must provide a copy of the septic inspection/pumping form to the Township once every three years. This three year requirement helps assure that the septic system is in proper working order, which can prolong the life of the system and prevent groundwater contamination from malfunctioning systems.

The Township website provides a list of approved septic pumpers and the septic inspection/pumping form.

Hempfield recCenter's Summer Playground Program Recap

This summer, Hempfield recCenter celebrated 42 years of its Summer Playground program, which encourages local kids to discover the outdoors, engage with friends, and remain active during summer vacation. With COVID guidelines changing just weeks before the scheduled opening, it was challenging to provide the program this summer. The program's success is a testament to the dedicated staff, many of them former Summer Playground participants, playground parents, West Hempfield Township supervisors and veteran Program Director, Cristine Maser.

Due to the increased guidelines, 2020 camp was held at only two parks this summer—Silver Spring in West Hempfield Township and Amos Herr Park in East Hempfield Township. Between the two parks, 300 children were organized into small groups that stayed and played together while participating in organized games, sports, arts & crafts, songs & skits, and more! Nobody seemed to mind that the usual trips to the East Pete outdoor pool and the weekly field trips to local attractions had to be eliminated. It was pure fun in the sun and exploration in our beautiful community parks!

Open to youth ages 6-13, the recCenter's Summer Playground program is held for eight weeks each summer. Registration for 2021 Summer Playground will open on April 1, 2021. Visit hempfieldrec.com for information about this program and additional programs for tots through seniors. There is something for everyone at Hempfield recCenter.



WEST HEMPFIELD PARK RENTALS



Hempfield recCenter maintains the township's nine parks, including the rental of park pavilions and athletic fields. Reserve your pavilion and athletic fields now for 2020. Beginning October 1, 2020, Hempfield recCenter will accept reservations for 2021.

For information about park rentals, contact Cristine Maser, Program Director 717-898-3102 ext. 139 or cmaser@hempfieldrec.com.

HEMPFIELD REC CALENDAR

FREE Family Nature Program – Fall Foliage Walk

October 17th @ 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- Join family and friends at Lake Grubb Park in West Hempfield Township for a nature-based program lead by Lancaster County Naturalist, Lisa Sanchez.
- All ages. Dress for the weather and light walking.
- FREE! Registration requested. Call 717-898-3102.



FREE Family Nature Program – Owl Prowl

October 21st @ 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

- Join family and friends at Lake Grubb Park in West Hempfield Township for a nature-based program lead by Lancaster County Naturalist, Lisa Sanchez.
- All ages. Dress for the weather and light walking.
- FREE! Registration requested. Call 717-898-3102.

FREE Family Nature Program - Hibernation

November 14th @ 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- Join family and friends at Lake Grubb Park in West Hempfield Township for a nature-based program lead by Lancaster County Naturalist, Lisa Sanchez.
- All ages. Dress for the weather and light walking.
- FREE! Registration requested. Call 717-898-3102.

FREE Family Nature Program – Welcome Winter

December 19th @ 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- Join family and friends at Lake Grubb Park in West Hempfield Township for a nature-based program lead by Lancaster County Naturalist, Lisa Sanchez.
- All ages. Dress for the weather and light walking.
- FREE! Registration requested. Call 717-898-3102.





Municipal Highlight: West Hempfield Township Nears Completion of Green Infrastructure Project at Murry Ridge Park

West Hempfield Township was awarded funding through the CAP Implementation Grants to install green infrastructure improvements at Murry Ridge Park. The improvements will significantly reduce stormwater pollutants, increase biodiversity and habitat for native wildlife species, and educate the public on the benefits of these projects. "This is the first water quality improvement project that the township is implementing and will increase recreational opportunities for the adjacent community. The township will post educational signs throughout the park to describe the environmental benefits," says Kara Kalupson, project engineer.

The project is nearing its finish date thanks to hard work by the Public Works Department to keep things on schedule despite delays precipitated by Covid-19 issues and precautions. Earth work is finished, seeding and tree planting are underway and are planned to be near completion over the next months, weather permitting. The project's pollinator garden and riparian buffers will be a great enhancement for songbirds and other wildlife.



"The West Hempfield Township Police Department thanks everyone for their gracious support. We have received numerous donations of food, cards, signs, and other goodies. We are very thankful for our community!"



NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

When local daylight time is about to reach 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 1, 2020, clocks are turned backward 1 hour to 1:00 a.m. local standard time instead.

Eagle Scout Projects at Local Park



Matthew Van Ingen completed an Eagle Scout Project this summer. He reconstructed the stairway on the walking path from Murry Ridge Park up to Pleasant View Drive. He completed this by digging up the old material from the staircase, rebuilding the structure and placing new material back in the stair treads. Thank you, Matt, for taking an interest in West Hempfield Township.



Nathan Stutzman completed an Eagle Scout Project at the Fairview Park this summer. He redesigned some modifications to the bridge on the walking path. He calculated what materials that would be needed, received proposals for the material, and fundraised to cover the cost of the materials. Nathan coordinated his work force and completed the work in a two Saturday time frame.

After covering the cost of the materials for the project Nathan has funds left over, he donated the remaining money to the Hempfield Area Food Pantry.





FIRE COMPANY FUND DRIVES

West Hempfield Fire & Rescue and Mountville Fire Company have both sent out their annual fund drive letters. Both fire companies are 100% volunteer and rely on your contributions to continue providing their incredible services to our community. If you have supported them in the past, thank you! If you have not, please consider starting this year!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

West Hempfield Township is primarily served by West Hempfield Fire & Rescue and the Mountville Fire Company. Both fire companies are 100% volunteer and are actively seeking new volunteers. Visit www.jointhefd.com for more information on how you can help your community!



Non-Criminal Fingerprinting

Non-criminal fingerprinting will no longer be performed at the West Hempfield Township Police Station. A number of UPS Stores offer a more appropriate option for employment, volunteering, and other non-criminal purposes.



Staying Healthy and Safe this Winter

Susquehanna Valley Emergency Medical Services

The fall season is here. The air is getting colder and the days are getting shorter. And, soon winter will be upon us. With all of the changes of weather also comes the flu season with the coronavirus still lingering.



Mask wearing, social distancing; hand washing, and sanitizing surfaces will still be in vogue this winter. All are great methods to help keep us and others safe and healthy. Illnesses thrive in winter months, and if you plan on spending more time inside, you will be susceptible to viruses and bacteria.

Here is a short list of things you might consider doing to increase your chances of fighting germs and staying well.

- 1** Keep your family safe by going on the offense against germs and let fresh air inside whenever possible. Stale air out, fresh air in. Keep the temperature in your home comfortably warm. Cold, dry air inside your home can increase the spread of germs. Invest in a humidifier, if you can, to keep the air you're breathing moist. Dry air causes nasal membranes to dry out and your defenses to fight off even the common cold decrease.
- 2** Make sure everyone in your household practices good hygiene and washes their hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds, with antibacterial soap. Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands. Be sure to disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the home like doorknobs and countertops.
- 3** Regularly changing your toothbrush is also something to think about as germs like to manifest there. If you store all the family toothbrushes together in one container, the bacteria can spread from one to the other if the heads are touching. That's an especially bad idea if one person is sick. Along the same lines, germs can be transmitted from one brush to another by sharing toothpaste.
- 4** A lack of sunlight exposure during the colder months can cause low levels of Vitamin D in our bodies. Vitamin D is crucial for our immune systems to function. A deficiency in Vitamin D can cause susceptibility to infection. There have been many studies conducted showing that taking Vitamin D supplements can help prevent respiratory infections and the common cold. However, before taking any supplement, you should check with your doctor first.
- 5** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends everyone six months of age and older receive a yearly flu vaccination. According to them, the flu vaccine cannot cause the flu, and getting vaccinated is the first and best line of defense against the virus. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for your immune system to fully respond to the vaccine and provide the needed antibody protection. A flu vaccine won't prevent your chances of getting the coronavirus, as they are different viruses. But, if enough people receive the flu vaccine, it can help reduce the number of people being admitted to hospitals this winter.



TRICK-OR-TREAT 2020

Trick-or-Treat in West Hempfield Township is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2020 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. To coincide with most other Lancaster County municipalities.

In 1992 the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee (LIMC) encouraged municipalities throughout Lancaster County to observe trick-or-treat on the same date. The LIMC recommended a policy that trick-or-treating be held between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on October 31, except when Halloween falls on a Saturday or Sunday, in which case trick-or-treating would be on the prior Friday. West Hempfield Township adopted a resolution to follow this policy.

With respect to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the Township will not be establishing special rules for trick-or-treat and will not be cancelling trick-or-treat unless directed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to do so. We encourage all parents and residents to decide for themselves if they wish to participate this year based on their personal comfort level.

TRICK-OR-TREATING SAFETY

West Hempfield Police Department

Parents:

- Make sure your kids can be seen. Give them a flashlight and glow-stick, and if their costume is dark, add some reflective stickers or tape.
- Accompany young children.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review an acceptable route.
- Agree on a specific time children should return home.
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home.

A reminder for Trick-or-Treaters and Motorists - put electronic devices down and watch for traffic and pedestrians.



2020-2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



ALL MEETINGS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

OCT	Tues.	6	Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Municipal Authority Meeting to Follow BOS (as needed)
	Fri.	9	Last Day to Purchase Large Appliance & Tire Blue Tag
	Sat.	10	Large Appliance & Tire Pick-up – 6:00 a.m. - noon
	Tues.	13	Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
	Thurs.	15	Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
	Mon.	19	Curbside Leaf Collection Begins
	Fri.	30	Halloween Trick-or-Treat – 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
NOV	Tues.	3	Election Day – OFFICES CLOSED
	Thurs.	5	Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:30 p.m. <i>Meeting will be held on Thurs. 5th due to Election Day Tues. 3rd</i> Municipal Authority Meeting to Follow BOS (as needed)
	Mon.	9	Veterans' Day Observed – OFFICES OPEN
	Tues.	10	Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
	Thurs.	19	Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
	Th.-Fr.	26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday – OFFICES CLOSED <i>Wed. trash customers not affected. Thurs. customers will be picked up Fri. 27th</i>
DEC	Tues.	1	Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Municipal Authority Meeting to Follow BOS (as needed)
	Tues.	8	Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
	Mid-		Curbside Leaf Pick-up Ends
	Thurs.	17	Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
	Thurs.	24	Christmas Eve – OFFICES CLOSED
	Fri.	25	Christmas Day – OFFICES CLOSED
	Sat.	26	Christmas Tree Drop-off at Fairview Park Begins
JAN	Fri.	1	New Year's Day – OFFICES CLOSED
	Tues.	5	Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Municipal Authority Meeting to Follow BOS (as needed)
	Tues.	12	Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
	Thurs.	21	Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
	Sun.	31	Christmas Tree Drop-off at Fairview Park Ends
FEB	Tues.	2	Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Municipal Authority Meeting to Follow BOS (as needed)
	Tues.	9	Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
	Thurs.	18	Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
MAR	Tues.	2	Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Municipal Authority Meeting to Follow BOS (as needed)
	Tues.	9	Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
	Thurs.	18	Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
APR	Tues.	6	Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Municipal Authority Meeting to Follow BOS (as needed)
	Fri.	9	Good Friday – OFFICES CLOSED
	Sun.	11	Easter Sunday
	Tues.	13	Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
	Thurs.	15	Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
	Sat.	18	Large Appliance & Tire Pick-up – 6:00 a.m. - noon

West Hempfield Township

3476 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17601-1126



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ECRWSS

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.



TELEPHONE CONTACTS

(AREA CODE IS 717 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)



Columbia Borough	684-2468	Lancaster County	
Columbia Water Company	684-2188	Voter Registration	299-8293
Comcast TV	1-800-266-2278	Lancaster County	
District Justice Miles Bixler	684-2761	Recorder of Deeds	299-8238
East Donegal Township	426-3167	Mountville Borough	285-5547
East Hempfield Township	898-3100	Mountville Public Library	285-3231
East Hempfield Township Police	898-3101	PA Department of Health	1-877-724-3258
Hempfield Area Recreation		PA One-Call System	811
Commission (HARC)	898-3102	PennDOT District 8	
Hempfield School District Tax Office	898-5565	Lancaster County	299-7621
Hempfield Water Authority	898-8231	Poison Control Center	1-800-722-7112
Lancaster Area Sewer		PPL	1-800-342-5775
Authority (LASA)	299-4843	Sewage Enforcement Officer	786-3205
Lancaster City Parks Department	299-8215	State Representative Brett Miller	295-5050
Lancaster County		State Representative David Hickernell	684-5525
Property Assessment	299-8381	State Senator Ryan Aument	627-0036
Lancaster County Solid Waste		Susquehanna Valley EMS	653-6885
Management Authority (LCSWMA)	397-9968	UGI	1-800-276-2722
Lancaster County Tax		West Hempfield Fire & Rescue	285-4929
Assessment (Spring Tax)	299-8222		