



*West Hempfield Township*

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49 - SPRING 2017

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### **MEETING DATES**

**Board of Supervisors Meeting**

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

**Township Planning Commission**

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

**Township 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](http://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*

Andrew B. Stern  
*Township Manager*

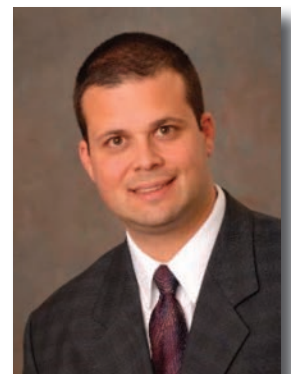
## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMPLEX**



The Municipal Services Complex project is moving forward as planned. The building will house facilities for West Hempfield Fire & Rescue, along with our Police and Administrative offices. The project was put out to bid in February 2017 and construction is anticipated to begin in May. Construction will take about 18 months, thus we hope to occupy the new building in late summer of 2018. Once the new building is occupied, the Township intends to sell our current building.

### **New Township Manager**

On October 24, 2016, West Hempfield Township welcomed our new Township Manager, Andrew Stern. Andrew replaces Ron Youtz, who had been Township Manager since 2008, and Jim Williams, who had been serving as the Interim Township Manager since Ron's departure. Prior to coming to West Hempfield, Andrew had been serving as the Director of Planning & Development for East Hempfield Township. Andrew's career in Public Administration spans twenty-five years, serving municipalities in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware directly and as a consultant. Andrew has a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He is a certified land use planner through the American Institute for Certified Planners (AICP), and is a Certified Stormwater Management Inspector, LEED Green Associate, and Certified Floodplain Manager. Andrew has also served as an Emergency Management Coordinator, Fire Chief, firefighter, and EMT in York County. He is looking forward to putting his skills and experience to use at West Hempfield Township.



Andrew is married to Karen and has two sons, Noah and Austin.



# Spring & Summer ZONING REMINDERS



## Public Works Projects

The Township is pleased to announce that the following streets are scheduled to be resurfaced in 2017:

- Strickler Run Drive
- Ironville Pike (Marietta Avenue to Prospect Road)
- Clear Spring Road
- Silver Spring Road (Nolt Road to Clear Spring Road)

In addition, the Township plans to replace the Kames Hill culvert. This will require the closing of Kames Hill Road at the creek during construction.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) plans to replace the Marietta Avenue (Route 23) bridge over the Chiques Creek this summer. There will be a detour established during construction, which is expected to last about ten weeks.

AMTRAK plans to repair the bridge over Old Harrisburg Pike just north of Salunga. There will be a detour established during construction, from 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., which is expected to last about ten weeks.

UGI plans to continue work on Stony Battery Road between Church Street and Marietta Avenue. Details are still being finalized, but we anticipate a detour via Corporate Boulevard at some point in 2017.

PennDot will be resurfacing Marietta Avenue from the City of Lancaster to Corporate Boulevard in West Hempfield Township this spring and summer. We anticipate lane restrictions during construction.

As always, we ask for your patience as we complete our work. Please be cautious as you travel through our construction zones.

The following are things to keep in mind for your spring clean-up, summer projects, outdoor activities, as well as your everyday living in the Township. All permit forms are located on the website [www.westhempfield.org](http://www.westhempfield.org) under Departments - Zoning, Permits and Land Use - Building Permit Information.

### Building Permits

Building permits are required for all construction projects as well as for a fence, a pond, or a change in the use of the property. Permits are not required for sealing driveways, painting, wall-papering, new flooring, replacement of siding or roof shingles. Please call the Zoning Office at 285-5554 if you have any questions.

As of July 1, 2009, all contractors who perform home improvements totaling a cash value of \$5,000 or more per year need to register with the Attorney General's Office. The law requires written contracts between the contractor and consumer when the price of the project exceeds \$500. You can check if a contractor is registered at [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov) or by calling 1-888-520-6680. All contractors must display their official registration number on all contracts, estimates, proposals, and advertisements distributed within the Commonwealth.

### Call 811 Before You Dig!

Whether installing a fence or deck, digging for a mailbox post, or just planting a tree, it is important to know what's below before you dig. Either you or your excavator must call PA One Call at 811 or 1-800-242-1776, anytime, three to ten days prior and the utility companies will

be notified and mark where their

underground lines are as necessary. It is the responsibility of the person digging to place the call. If you do not and the underground utility lines are damaged, you could be held responsible for all losses and expenses.

### Garage & Yard Sales

You may have up to 2 yard sales per year. No sale shall be conducted longer than 2 consecutive days. One four (4) foot square sign is permitted for advertising the sale and shall be removed promptly upon completion. No aspect of the sale shall be conducted in a street right-of-way.

### Trash/Garbage/Refuse/Junk

Accumulations of trash, garbage, refuse, or junk for a period exceeding fifteen (15) days is prohibited.

### Grass and Weeds

Per Code of Ordinance Chapter 104, grass and weeds in excess of six (6) inches in height shall be mowed. If found to be in violation, two notices will be sent. Thereafter, action will be taken by the District Justice for the violation without further notice.

### Construction Code Inspections

All inspections are performed by third-party inspectors who have been approved by West Hempfield Township. These inspectors have provided the Township with their credentials verifying the types of inspections they may perform. For your project, contact an inspector early in the planning stages to ensure the project will be up to code. The list of the inspectors is available at the Township Office and on the Township website.

### Building, Demolition and Removal of Mobile Homes

Before any building is demolished or any mobile home is removed, a Zoning Permit is required. This permit creates a record of the demolition or removal for tax assessment purposes and Township records. When a mobile home is removed, a permit is also required from the Lancaster County Treasurer's Office - 717-299-8000.



# Collections & Recycling

## CLIP AND SAVE AS A REMINDER

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 22**

#### **Large Appliance & Tire Pickup Day**

- Large appliances (washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers) must be marked with a blue tag - \$12.00.
- Rimless tires must have one yellow tag attached - \$1.50.
- Tires with rims must have two yellow tags attached - \$3.00.
- Items should be placed curbside on Friday evening, April 21. The hauler usually starts the appliance pickup by 6:00 a.m. Saturday.
- Purchase blue or yellow tags **BEFORE NOON on Friday, April 21.**
- If you have already purchased the necessary tag(s) and are disposing of an appliance, tires and/or rims, please register your name and address with the Township Office **BEFORE NOON on Friday, April 21** to ensure pick-up.
- If your appliance and/or tires are not picked up on Saturday, April 22, leave the items curbside and call the Township office on Monday, April 24 after 8:00 a.m. or leave a message on the Township's voicemail to report the miss.
- The next large appliance pick-up is Saturday, October 14, 2017.

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5**

#### **First Day for Yard Waste Bag Pickup**

- Recycle your grass clippings, summertime leaves and green plants through our curbside trash program. These items must be placed in the brown Kraft biodegradable bags purchased at the Township office for \$1.50 each. Small twigs, branches and shrubbery trimmings must also be placed in these bags during this time.

- Bags purchased at Ace, Home Depot, Lowe's, etc. **WILL NOT BE TAKEN.** The sale of the Township bags covers the costs for the yard waste pickup program.

- Yard waste is collected the same day as trash. If your yard waste is not picked up, please leave the items curbside 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 and recycling.



- The weight limit for Kraft bags is 30 pounds. Brush, larger branches and any woody material too large for the bag must be tied into 4 foot bundles no heavier than 30 pounds and tagged with a green yard waste tag, sold in sheets of five for \$7.50. No loose brush or woody material will be picked up.
- Residents are urged to not bag grass clippings. Grass clippings left on the lawn decompose and act as a natural organic fertilizer. Please consider using the woody waste dropoff site as an alternative for disposing of yard waste. Your woody waste is turned into mulch for use in the Township.

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

#### **Woody Waste Disposal Site Opens**

- The Township's woody waste collection site, located off Norwood

Road near Fairview Park and the Township Maintenance Building, opens Saturday, April 8, 2017. The site is open from 9:00 a.m. until noon on the second and fourth Saturdays until the end of September.

- Dropoff dates are April 8 & 22, May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22, August 12 & 26 and September 9 & 23.
- All Township residents (not just trash customers) may use the woody waste disposal site.

### **WEEK OF OCTOBER 23**

#### **Curbside Leaf Collection Begins**

- The Township Public Works Crew will begin residential curbside leaf collection starting Monday, October 22.

### **2017 HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

- Trash collection for Township customers **WILL BE DELAYED BY ONE DAY** after the following 2017 holidays: Memorial Day (May 30), Independence Day (July 4) and Labor Day (September 4).
- Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 23. **Wednesday Customers** trash collection will not be affected. **Thursday Customers** will be delayed one day to Friday, November 24.
- Christmas Day 2017 and New Year's Day 2018 fall on Monday. **Wednesday Customers** will be delayed one day to Thursday, December 28. **Thursday Customers** will be delayed one day to Friday, December 29.
- Columbus Day (October 9) and Veterans Day (November 10) do not affect the Township's trash pickup schedule.

# WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP'S VISION 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

West Hempfield began the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan in summer 2016. The process is facilitated by our Planning Commission with support from staff and routine consultation with the Board of Supervisors.

“A comprehensive plan is more than just a document disclosing past and present land use trends with a proposed course of action. It is a process of organizing for the future. It creates a blueprint for our land use patterns of tomorrow. Even to not plan is a strategy for dealing with what lies ahead. Community planning is an organized way or process of thinking about tomorrow. By thinking about how a community changed in the past can help predict what changes might be in store for the future. When this type of thinking translates into action, it needs to be done in an orderly fashion and made part of a routine administrative process.” (*The Comprehensive Plan in Pennsylvania, PA Governor’s Center for Local Government Services, 2001*)

The Township has identified the following topics as a starting point for this process:

- Bicycle – Pedestrian Facilities
- Transportation
- Village Planning
- Economic Development
- Land Use
- Housing
- General Governance
- Community Facilities & Utilities
- Natural & Historic Resources
- Adjacent Municipalities
- Regional Planning

It is anticipated that at each monthly meeting, the Planning Commission will discuss a topic and provide thoughts and discussion helpful to the creation of goals and policies.

At the conclusion of the discussion phase of this process, a draft document will be prepared, public meetings will be held, and the document will be voted on as our new Comprehensive Plan. At that point, it is the Township’s intent to keep the plan updated on a regular basis to insure the Township is headed in the direction planned for.

Once the Comprehensive Plan is adopted, the Township will work on ordinance and map updates to reflect to goals and policies of the new Comprehensive Plan. The Township will also work on the creation of an Official Map to complement the Comprehensive Plan.

## New Township Website & Twitter

In January 2017, the Township launched our new website. The new site provides a user friendly experience for our customers to find information about the Township. The home page includes an Announcements section where updated information will be posted to inform the public of changes to trash/recycling pickup schedules, office closures, meeting changes, and many other important notifications. The Township has also started a Twitter feed which allows our followers to receive tweets with important information and updates. Follow us on twitter @WHempfieldTwp.

We encourage you to check the website or twitter for announcements before calling the office. In most cases you will be able to find your answers much quicker, especially during off-hours.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

At the March meeting of the Susquehanna Regional Police Commission, Corporal Douglas Ober and several officers from Susquehanna Regional were recognized for their response to a suicidal person call on January 12, 2017. Chief Ed Haugh of Susquehanna Regional presented The Meritorious Conduct Award to Cpl. Ober, along with other local officers who were also recognized at the ceremony.



In June, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and North Central Highway Safety Network will acknowledge an individual from each participating police department who played an important role in last year’s Aggressive Driving Program. Officer Karl Hartranft has been nominated as the recipient of the 2016 Aggressive Driving Award for his contribution to the West Hempfield Township Police Department’s 2016 Aggressive Driving Enforcement Program.

Officer Michael Murray will be recognized, along with other Lancaster County officers, at the 26th Annual Lancaster County DUI Awareness



Conference scheduled for June 20 at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center. They will be honored for going above and beyond in making DUI arrests. Officer Murray made the most DUI arrests for the Police Department in 2016.

# You Can Curb Water Pollution by Starting in Your Own Back Yard

Stormwater, rain that runs off hard surfaces and eventually into local waterways, is a major and fast growing source of pollution that affects every watershed.

This runoff may carry sediment, nutrients from lawns, waste from farms and pets, oil and litter from streets, and other contaminants into streams or storm drains. To cover the costs of managing stormwater's impact on the environment, some local governments have recently established programs that impose fees on property owners, who play a crucial role in limiting water pollution right in their own yards.

"When you add up the combined efforts of thousands of individual homeowners, the cumulative improvement on stormwater runoff and water quality can be quite substantial," says Al Todd, Executive Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, "but it can be hard to find the right information to get started."

The following lawn and garden tips will help property owners partner with the Township to manage stormwater and battle water pollution.

## Getting a start in your own back yard

A "stormwater-friendly" lawn is one that can absorb rainwater and does not harm local streams due to the over-application of chemicals. Likewise, a "stormwater-friendly" garden is one that uses organic compost as fertilizer to amend soil and minimizes or eliminates the use of chemicals.

Reducing chemical applications and encouraging infiltration will help stabilize local water flows and also maintain natural nutrient levels in streams. Stormwater-friendly lawns and gardens will help you save money on fertilizers and time on upkeep once they become established.

## A stormwater-friendly lawn

Following the steps below will not only help protect local streams and rivers but can result in direct and substantial cost savings to you, the homeowner.

■ **Set mower height to 3 inches or higher.** Taller grass slows the rate of runoff and produces a deeper, denser root system, which will absorb more water, prevent erosion, and suppress weeds. Deeper roots also have access to more water stored in the ground and can reduce the need for irrigation during droughts.



■ **Retain grass clippings and chopped leaves onsite.** A mulch-mower is ideal for retaining and spreading clippings on your lawn. The clippings decompose quickly, provide important nutrients for your lawn, and settle to create an organic layer on the soil that encourages stormwater infiltration. This technique can significantly reduce or eliminate the need for nitrogen fertilizers and reduce the amount of fertilizer needed.

■ **Keep clippings and chopped leaves out of streams, streets and storm drains.** If mulching is not possible, bag clippings and store them in a compost area where the organic material can be used as a fertilizer later. Blowing them onto a street or into storm drains deposits clippings directly into local streams, where they decompose and become major pollutants by increasing nitrogen to unsafe levels for fish and other aquatic life.

■ **Fertilizers for your lawn...do you need them? If so, what, where, when, and how much?** Many lawns do not need fertilizer because they are already fertile or you have carried out the previously discussed practices. Using no fertilizer is ideal for the bay's health, but if your lawn is thin or has bare spots, you should consider fertilizing it.

■ A dense vegetated cover is the most "stormwater-friendly" lawn so take the following steps to determine if fertilizer is necessary for your property:

**1) Test your soil or consult a local professional or certified applicator.**

There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to fertilizer. Needs vary drastically based on soil texture, pH levels, and nutrient levels. In fact, soil tests can reveal that lawns may be suffering from *micronutrient deficiency*, and standard chemical fertilizers may not alleviate the problem. Identifying these needs will reduce unnecessary applications, create a healthier lawn faster, and reduce your long-term costs.

**2) Maximize the slow-release nitrogen in your fertilizer.** Typically called "water insoluble nitrogen," or WIN, on fertilizer bags, slow-release nitrogen limits nutrient runoff and exportation. This should be applied in the spring, not fall, to provide a steady source of nutrients throughout the growing season.

**3) Start with low amounts or fewer applications:** Your lawn may achieve its ideal coverage and growth with reduced amounts of fertilizer, saving time and money.

**4) Apply only during the growing season and check the weather.** Wait until the grass begins growing in March to fertilize and avoid doing after October. Fertilizing during a lawn's dormant season increases the risk of the chemicals running off into streams or leaching into your water table because root systems

*(continued on pg. 6)*

## West Hempfield Township

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Lancaster, PA 17601



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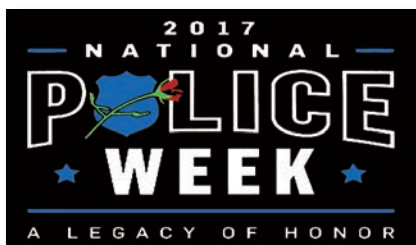
# TO: Postal Customer

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.

## National Police Week May 11 - 17, 2017

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. A joint resolution of Congress established National Police Week, which pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

When you see police officers, please make sure to thank them for their service and selfless sacrifice to this community.



## You Can Curb Water Pollution

*(continued from pg. 5)*

are less active. Additionally, do not fertilize before it rains since most of it will wash off your lawn.

**5) Do not fertilize or use pesticides within 15 to 20 feet of a stream and use riparian-specific herbicides, if necessary.** Maintaining this distance will help keep chemicals out of the stream. Also, consider establishing a natural riparian buffer instead.

**6) Sweep any granulated chemicals off hard surfaces and back onto your lawn immediately:** Your walkway, driveway, patio, or road is often a quick route to drainage pipes that discharge into local streams so make sure they're kept clean of chemicals.

### A stormwater-friendly garden

Home gardens can contribute a considerable amount of nutrients and other pollution to streams and other water bodies if not cared for in a responsible way. This mainly applies to fertilizers and pesticides so here are some options:

**Garden fertilizers:** Organic alternatives to chemicals include compost or manure. Compost can be created in your own backyard, is free, and contains the many nutrients your vegetables need. Also, be sure to apply before planting to prevent runoff.

**Pesticides:** When it comes to pesticides, identify the pest and research your options. Many insects are harmless to people and play an important role in maintaining a healthy lawn or garden.

If there is a problem, however, identify the exact pest you have and consult an expert since there are many nonchemical alternatives to controlling pests.

Pesticides can infiltrate the ground water, contaminate drinking supplies, and severely harm downstream ecosystems if applied incorrectly or unnecessarily.

In the long run, little actions such as taking a stormwater-friendly approach to your garden and lawn will have a big impact as we work together to protect our water's quality.

*Information from Townships Today Jan-Mar 2017.*