



# West Hempfield Township

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 50 - FALL 2017

## Inside . . .

Township Stormwater Management Projects.....	2
Collections & Recycling .....	3
Fence Permit Information.....	4
Police Department News .....	4
Winter Weather Tips and Removal Regulations .....	5

## 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. Burkhart  
*Township Supervisor*

Kent B. Gardner  
*Township Supervisor*

Naomi G. Martin  
*Township Supervisor*

Andrew B. Stern  
*Township Manager*

## FRANK BURKHART: 44 YEARS OF TOWNSHIP LEADERSHIP



In 1973, gas was 40 cents a gallon, Secretariat won the Triple Crown and the top rated TV show was M\*A\*S\*H.

Also in 1973, Frank Burkhart was asked about filling a vacant seat on the Township Board of Supervisors. At first he declined but eventually agreed to step up. "It wasn't something that I was reaching for," he said.

Fast forward to today, and Frank Burkhart has been a Supervisor for 44 years. His current term expires in December 2017 and he is not seeking office again. Forty-four years covers a lot of changes and expansion

in West Hempfield, including population rising from 6,500 to over 16,000 today, an increase from 3 to 5 supervisors for governance, and the creation of a Township Manager position.

Born and raised in West Hempfield Township, Frank grew up on a farm and has farmed his entire life. At one time he helped his father grow 300 acres of potatoes – "pretty labor intensive," according to Frank.

His agricultural background and occupation may be the reason Burkhart has been dedicated to the residents and the stewardship of the land. He witnessed firsthand the rate of development in West Hempfield, and as a Supervisor helped to implement some forward-thinking policies designed to maintain an agricultural/development balance.

"Frank's homespun honesty and sense of humor have defused the occasional tense atmosphere when controversial issues came before the Board," said Chairman Dave Dumeyer. Others who have interacted with Frank over the years

*(continued on pg. 6)*

## NEW BUILDING PROGRESS

Construction of the new West Hempfield Township municipal building and West Hempfield Fire & Rescue Station is going exceptionally well. At present, the project is approximately two months ahead of schedule and significantly below budget. We currently have a projected completion date of May 7, 2018. The contractors have been working with Township staff to find ways to save costs to our taxpayers. To date, the total project cost has been reduced by nearly \$300,000 due to construction modifications.

The contractors for this project are: general construction - SMJ Construction, Inc.; plumbing and fire suppression - Silvertip, Inc.; HVAC - Frey Lutz; electrical - H.B. Frazer Company.



# IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN OUR LOCAL STREAMS

## What Types of Stormwater Projects Reduce Sediment?

What type of stormwater management projects will help the Township achieve the most sediment and nutrient reduction? One of the most effective ways is to stabilize eroding streambanks, especially in areas where a pipe discharges stormwater runoff from upstream developments. The volume and rate of stormwater discharge from these pipes during storm events is a major contributor to eroding streambanks, and stabilizing them with stone and vegetation provides significant pollutant reductions.



Another effective project is to convert an "old" dry detention basin into a dry extended or bioretention basin. An "old" detention basin is one that was constructed before 2003 when water quality was not a consideration during stormwater management design. These dry detention basins are designed to completely drain within 24 hours of a storm event. However, a dry extended detention basin is designed to completely drain within 72 hours which allows for more sediment to settle out prior to being discharged downstream. These benefits are also achieved by converting grass swales into vegetated areas and bioswales.



In West Hempfield Township, the Chiques Creek, Shawnee Run, Strickler Run, Swarr Run, and the West Branch of the Little Conestoga River are polluted with excessive amounts of sediment and nutrients. Because stormwater runoff is a large contributor of these pollutants, the new MS4 permit requires the Township to implement a Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) over the next five-year permit term which begins on March 16, 2018 and ends on March 15, 2023.

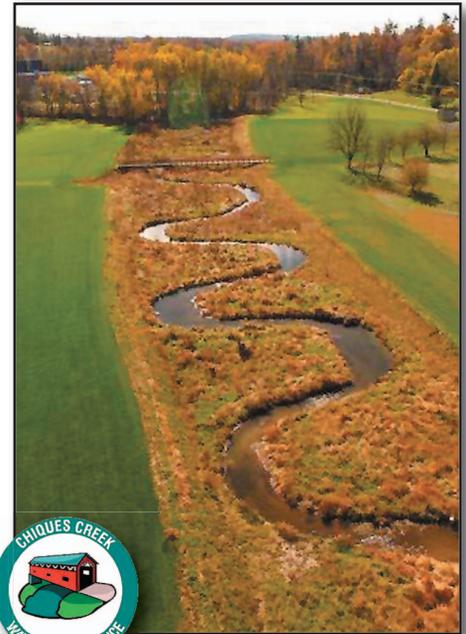
Municipal staff have been working with private landowners to identify several potential projects to include in the plan that will meet the sediment and nutrient reduction requirements. The proposed projects include stabilizing the streambanks on Shawnee Run and Chiques Creek, and converting a grass swale into a vegetated swale that drains to Swarr Run.

Implementing the projects identified in the PRP will be an enormous task for the Township and presents the following challenges:

■ **Cost:** Implementing stormwater projects is very expensive, and the expected costs associated with these types of projects include survey, design, permitting, construction and on-going maintenance. The Township has identified several options for funding these projects which include using the general fund, applying for grants and low-interest loans, and collaborating with private landowners and/or businesses.

■ **Identifying projects:** We anticipate the pollutant reduction requirements to continue in future 5-year permit terms, and finding locations for suitable projects may be challenging.

■ **Finding partners:** Many of the locations for potential stormwater projects may be on private property, and municipal staff must work with residents and business owners willing to partner on stormwater projects.



■ **Operation and Maintenance:** Once projects are implemented, municipal staff and responsible property owners need to make sure that the projects are maintained properly in order to continue functioning to improve water quality.

Residents can help the Township identify future projects. If you have an existing stormwater detention basin, grass swale, and/or a stream with eroding banks on your property, and if you are willing to work with the Township to implement a stormwater project on your property, please contact us.





# Collections & Recycling

## CLIP AND SAVE AS A REMINDER

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**

#### **Large Appliance & Tire Pick-up Day - for Township trash customers ONLY!**

- Each large appliance 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, October 20. The hauler usually starts the appliance pickup by 6:00 a.m. on Saturday.
- If you need to purchase a blue or yellow tag, please do so **BEFORE NOON on Friday, October 20**.
- 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, October 20** to ensure pick-up.

- If your appliance and/or tires are not picked up on Saturday, October 21, leave the items curbside and call the Township office on Monday, October 23 after 8:00 a.m., or leave a message on the Township's voicemail.

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12**

#### **Last Day for Yard Waste Bag Pick-up**

- After October 12, 2017 yard waste in the Township brown Kraft bags will not be picked up.
- From October 12 through March 2018 small amounts of yard waste can be placed in the regular trash.
- If you have more yard waste than fits in the toter or three (3) containers allowed, a yellow tag must be attached to each extra container. Yellow tags are sold in a sheet of five for \$7.50.

- No loose brush or woody material will be picked up. Woody waste must be contained in some manner or tied into bundles and weigh no more than 30 pounds. A green tag is required for each bundle. Green tags are sold in a sheet of five for \$7.50.

- Yard waste collection in the brown Kraft bags resumes April 2018. You are required to purchase these bio-degradable bags from the Township. The sale of the bags pays for the yard waste pickup program. Bags purchased at Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart or other stores are not permitted.

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

#### **Last Day for Woody Waste Disposal**

- The fourth Saturday in September - September 23 - is the last day the Township's woody waste site is open. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon.

### **WEEK OF OCTOBER 16**

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

- The Township Public Works Crew will begin residential curbside leaf collection starting Monday, October 16th.
- Rake leaves to the front of the curb or along the edge of the road. Leaf piles need to be within five feet of the curb or the road edge for Township equipment and crews to efficiently collect them.
- Please do not place leaves under a tarp or other kind of cover. Our road crew is not responsible for removing leaf covers or tarps held down by bricks or other such items.
- Township crews attempt to follow the schedule, but leaf pick-up may vary due to volume and/or weather conditions.

- Dust is always an issue during dry weather conditions. The Township does its best to keep dust to a minimum.

- The dates listed are when the Public Works Crew **BEGINS** collecting in your area. It may take a full week to complete the route. The Township asks for your patience as this can be a difficult task for our crew during this season. Leaf pickup will continue until each route has been collected four times.

- **Residents East of Prospect Road:** Weeks of October 16, October 30 and November 13. Final collection begins the week of November 27.

- **Residents West of Prospect Road:** Weeks of October 23, November 6, and November 20. Final collection begins the week of December 4.

### **2017 HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE**

- **Wednesday Customers:** The Thanksgiving holiday does not affect your trash collection.
- **Thursday Customers:** Due to Thanksgiving your trash collection is delayed one day to Friday, November 24, 2017.
- Christmas 2017 and New Year's Day 2018 fall on a Monday and will be delayed by one day for Wednesday and Thursday customers.
- Holidays not listed for 2017 do not affect trash pickup.
- Holiday trash collection for 2018 will be listed in our Spring newsletter.
- Make sure trash and recycling are placed curbside the evening before. Return trips are not made for items not put out in time.

*(continued on pg. 6)*

# FENCE PERMIT INFORMATION

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PUTTING A FENCE ON YOUR PROPERTY

**Q.A:** **Do I need a permit to put up a fence?**

**YES.** In West Hempfield, a fence is considered an accessory structure and therefore requires a Zoning Permit and possibly a Construction Permit Application.

### ARTICLE 700 – SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS SECTION 701 COMMON REGULATIONS §701.4 FENCES AND WALLS

No fence or wall, except agricultural fences or required and permitted buffer fences or walls, or a retainer wall of a building permitted under the terms of this ordinance shall be erected to a height of more than three feet in a front yard or more than six feet in any other yard. No fence or wall shall be located within any clear sight triangle required by this ordinance or the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. No fence or wall shall block motorists' view of vehicles entering or exiting the property. Fences or walls within the front yard shall be a minimum of one foot behind the street right-of-way line. Fences or walls may exceed six feet in height provided they are located to the rear of the building or dwelling and meet the required set back of the zoning district for accessory structures. The maximum height of such fences or walls shall be eight feet. No electric fences shall be permitted on a residential lot. Maintenance of fencing shall be considered when the fence is erected.

■ Additionally, fences shall not be placed in stormwater or utility easements.

**Q.A:** **How do I apply for a fence permit?**

It's easy. Residents can download the zoning permit form at [www.westhempfield.org](http://www.westhempfield.org) under the Departments tab. In addition, the Township will need to see a drawing of the property plot plan, the location of the house and where the fence will be installed, along with the linear measurements from the house to the fence and from the fence to the property lines.

**Q.A:** **What if I am replacing a fence?**

If the replacement fence is the EXACT SAME HEIGHT and is being installed in the EXACT SAME LOCATION, then you do not need a permit.

**Q.A:** **What if I want to install an 8-foot fence or add sections to an existing fence?**

If you are installing an 8 foot fence it needs to be 10 feet off the property line and the fence requires inspections. Zoning and Construction Permits are needed. If you are adding sections to an existing fence, a permit is required.

**Q.A:** **What about fences around pools?**

A fence (or a replacement fence) surrounding a pool requires permits and inspections. Zoning and Construction Permits needed.

If you are not sure if you need a permit for your new or replacement fence, please contact the Zoning office at 717-285-5554 and we will answer your questions.



# CRASHDOCS.ORG

## Makes It Easier to Obtain Accident Reports

It's always bad news when you have a car accident. But there's good news. If you have been involved in an accident you will be able to obtain copies of the accident report 24/7.

The West Hempfield Township Police Department has partnered with **CARFAX** to allow individuals involved in an accident to obtain copies of the accident report any time, any day. There is a waiting period of 5 to 7 days following the accident before you can access your report. Those who were involved have a legal right to the report which can be accessed online at **CRASHDOCS.ORG**. Select PA and then West Hempfield Township and follow the directions to access the report.

The fee is \$15.00, the same as a paper copy, which remains available at the Police Department Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Get your accident report now** [CRASHDOCS.ORG](http://CRASHDOCS.ORG)  
powered by CARFAX

## Mobile ID Will Aid With Fingerprinting



The West Hempfield Township Police Department received a grant to obtain Mobile ID equipment enabling them to conduct fingerprint searches from the field.

The grant is through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Local Technology Workgroup and in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State Police.

The Pennsylvania Justice Network and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association has established a secure server and infrastructure to receive the transmissions from the Mobile ID device and communicate it securely to the Pennsylvania State Police Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). This allows officers on the street to positively identify potential suspects immediately upon encountering them.

Through the grant, the Police Department will receive a DataWorks Plus Model Evolution Rapid ID Device, which operates on a managed secure cellular network included with the device.

# WINTER WEATHER TIPS AND INFORMATION

In a few months we will enter the winter weather season and probably remember the challenges of last year's above-average snowfall amounts. The patience and cooperation from all residents was appreciated as the Public Works Crew worked continuously to keep the roadways safe and passable.

West Hempfield Township has approximately 80 miles of Township-owned roads to maintain during winter weather events. Our first objective is to make every road passable. Each weather event is different and our plan and approach to snow/ice removal varies accordingly based on the forecast and the size and duration of a storm.

Below is a list of suggestions which will assist both residents and the Public Works Crew in the snow removal process:

**Vehicle Parking:** When possible, we strongly recommend that all vehicles be parked off the roadway and in the driveway. Plowing operations can be carried out much more efficiently when crews do not have to navigate around vehicles parked on the street. This policy is even more important in cul-de-sacs. Parking in cul-de-sacs creates a huge challenge in our efforts to clear those areas.

**Mailboxes:** The Public Works Crew makes every effort to avoid causing damage to mailboxes. Mailboxes are in the Township right-of-way but are the responsibility of the property owner to maintain. Please take the time before this winter season to be sure your mail-

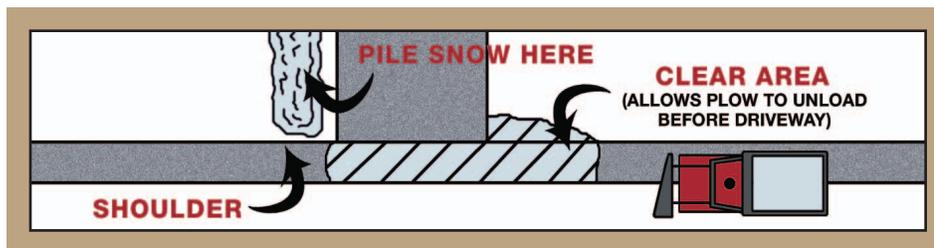


box and post are in good condition and secure. **The Township is not responsible for damage to mailboxes from snow that comes off the snowplow.** The Township may be responsible if the plow or truck actually strikes your mailbox.

**Fire Hydrants:** For you and your neighborhood's protection, please remember to clear snow away from any fire hydrants located on or near your property.

**Driveway Shoveling Tip:** Below is a diagram of the Township's driveway clearing recommendations. The following guidelines will help make the snow removal process easier, safer, and more effective for all.

- Plow or shovel snow to the right side of the driveway as you face the intersecting roadway. Piling shoveled snow away from the direction of oncoming snowplows prevents the bulk of the snow being pushed back into the driveway.
- Eliminate snow piles at the driveway entrance whenever possible. High accumulations of snow will obstruct the vision of motorists when exiting from driveways and hinder the ability of oncoming motorists to see a vehicle pulling out of a driveway. Tall snow piles have the potential to cause accidents.
- Do not push snow out onto roads at any time. This creates hazardous driving conditions for all vehicles.



## SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL REGULATIONS

In 2001, West Hempfield Township adopted an amendment to the Township Code concerning the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks throughout the Township. The Ordinance places the responsibility for this removal on the owner and/or occupant of any property that fronts a street with a sidewalk.

### Chapter 12, Article III requires:

**1** Within 24 hours after the snow has ceased to fall or ice has ceased to form, there shall be a clear walk along the entire length of sidewalk of at least three (3) feet in width.

**2** In the event that the snow or ice on a sidewalk becomes so hard that it cannot be removed without the likelihood of damage to the sidewalk, the responsible party shall cause enough sand or other abrasive to be placed on the sidewalk to make travel reasonably safe, and shall, as soon thereafter as weather permits, cause to be cleared a path in the sidewalk of at least three (3) feet in width.

**3** Every responsible party shall remove and clear away any accumulation of snow and ice on a building or other structure which is liable to fall on any sidewalk, roadway, or public way within 24 hours after the cessation of any snow, sleet, or freezing rain.

**4** Every responsible party shall remove and clear away, or cause to be removed and cleared away, any accumulation of snow or ice surrounding a fire hydrant located along the frontage of the property of the responsible party within 24 hours after cessation of any fall of snow, sleet, or freezing rain.

**5** Depositing of snow or ice on a fire hydrant, sidewalk, travel lanes of a street or loading/unloading areas of a public transportation system by property owners/occupants is prohibited.

## West Hempfield Township

3401 Marietta Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17601



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# TO: Postal Customer

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## Frank Burkhart: 44 Years

*(continued from pg. 1)*

describe him as hard-working, humble, friendly, thrifty and kind-hearted.

One attribute of Frank's that will definitely be missed is his near-encyclopedic knowledge of West Hempfield - its history, structures, property owners and development over the years. His insights and humor will be missed by staff and residents alike. Frank, we hope you are a frequent visitor.

Burkhart shared some advice not only for the person who replaces him on the Board of Supervisors but for everyone: "Be willing to share your opinion, but when somebody talks, you need to listen, rather than thinking what you're going to say in the next mouthful - and be polite, no matter what you say."

*Some information for this story courtesy of PA Township News September 2014.*

## Collections & Recycling

*(continued from pg. 3)*

### JANUARY 1 TO 31, 2018

#### Christmas Tree Disposal & Recycling

■ Township residents may drop-off Christmas trees for recycling at the Fairview Park parking lot on Fairview Road. Please note: This is a different site than the 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.

#### Trees Disposed in Trash:

■ Trees placed out for trash pick-up are not recycled.

■ To be disposed of as trash, the tree must have a red tag (\$4.00) attached and cannot be longer than six feet.

■ No Christmas trees are picked up after March 31, 2018.

## TRICK-OR-TREAT

Trick-or-Treat night will be held on October 31 of each year, unless this date falls on a Saturday or Sunday. When this occurs, it will be held on the Friday prior to October 31. This year, Trick-or-Treat night will be held Tuesday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

■ Make sure costumes are correct size to prevent trips and falls.

■ Use face paint instead of masks for better visibility.

■ Use reflective tape, stickers, glow sticks, and flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.

■ Save all treats until you get home and toss out any open, damaged or homemade treats, unless you know the giver.

## TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT

**Tuesday, October 31, 2017**  
**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

*for West Hempfield Township*

