



WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

VOLUME 38 - FALL 2011

NEWSLETTER

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Meeting Dates

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

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

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

Phone Numbers

Office285-5554

Police.....285-5191

Emergencies..... 911

Police - Fire - Ambulance

TDD(800) 654-5984

FAX285-2879

www.twp.west-hempfield.pa.us

Board of Supervisors

David M. Dumeyer
Chairman

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Vice Chairman

Frank R. Burkhardt
Township Supervisor

Tony T. Crocamo
Township Supervisor

Kent B. Gardner
Township Supervisor

Ron L. Youtz
Township Manager



VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES

The residents of West Hempfield Township are blessed to be served by the dedicated volunteers that provide fire protection along with other emergency response services to our community. Currently, fire protection services are provided by the West Hempfield Fire & Rescue Company, the Mountville Fire Company and the Hempfield Fire Department.

Financial support comes to our Volunteer Fire Companies from many different sources. The Township makes annual contributions to the Fire Companies to assist in covering a portion of their operating costs. The Township also receives an allocation from the PA Volunteer Firefighters Relief Fund that is forwarded to the Fire Companies to assist with equipment and training expenses. Additional funds have been provided to the Fire Companies from the Township to assist with major equipment purchases. Other Fire Company expenses are covered through support from the community by way of their annual fund drives or the numerous fundraisers held throughout the year.

Services provided by the Fire Department

are significantly more complex than they have been in the past. All of our volunteers have rigorous training and certification requirements to remain eligible to continue with the service for which they have a passion to provide. These men and women need to be recognized for their dedication in serving the community along with acquiring the expertise it takes to handle the often hazardous incidents they are called to respond to.

As we move forward it will prove to be difficult for the Fire Company to remain current with their training and certification requirements along with conducting their fund raising efforts that makes their existence possible. Let us all remember that our Fire Department members are volunteers and most of them have full time jobs. In addition, they have families and other responsibilities that they often sacrifice to ensure that our community is protected 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

The most recent fund drive conducted by the West Hempfield Fire & Rescue Company resulted in a 23 percent response from those property owners that were solicited. The average contribution from those that responded was approximately \$43. The Township is obligated to be sure that these services are provided to the community. A few other communities have either adopted a fire tax or are exploring such a tax as a means of generating

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The police department held its second National Night Out kick-off event on Sunday, July 31st for the residents of West Hempfield Township and Mountville Borough. The event was held at the Mountville Borough Park. Residents had the opportunity to interact with officers from West Hempfield Police. There were other law enforcement agencies on hand, including rangers from the Lancaster County Parks and the K-9 Units from both Columbia Borough Police and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. Mountville and West Hempfield Fire Departments were also on hand and gave various demonstrations. The emergency medical services were represented by Susquehanna Valley Emergency Medical Services. Other participating agencies included the Lions Club and the Lancaster County Campaign Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children (CASE). The event was well attended and everyone had a great time.

We would like to thank everyone who took part and look forward to next year's event.



WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE & POLICE FACILITY PLANNING

The Township is currently having a feasibility study conducted to assess the current administrative/police facilities and how best to plan for our future.

Our current building was constructed in 1976. An expansion project that more than doubled our space was completed in 1990. The Township has experienced significant growth over the past few decades and with that growth comes the demand for an increase in services. Our facility is overcrowded and there are many components of the building that need to be updated and/or replaced.

Kimmel-Bogrette Architects of Conshohocken, Pa. has been retained by the Township to conduct the feasibility study. This process will provide us with various ideas and concepts to assist us in preparing to continue to serve the community.

Smoke Alarms



Install a working smoke alarm on every level of the home, outside and inside all bedrooms. Make sure they are installed properly and in working order. All smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month. If battery operated, don't forget to replace the batteries at least once a year. A good reminder is when we change our clocks for daylight savings or standard time.

Make sure alarms are placed either on the ceiling or 6-12 inches below the ceiling on the wall. Locate smoke alarms away from air vents or registers; high air flow or dead air spaces are to be avoided. Dead air spaces are often at the top of a peaked roof, or in corner between ceilings and walls.

Develop and rehearse an escape plan so that when the smoke alarm sounds, family members will immediately move to a safe location outside the home. During practice, it is important to be aware of and remove any obstacles that may prevent a quick and safe evacuation, such as blocked exits or barred or jammed windows.

CRIME WATCH TIP

Every year the police department receives a large amount of reports of thefts from vehicles. Rarely are any of the vehicles locked. Items taken are often laptop computers, GPS units, purses along with other valuable items. **Crime Watch Tip: Never leave valuables inside of vehicles and always lock your vehicles!**

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO TRASH PROGRAM

Our contract with the current trash hauler will expire at the end of 2011 and we are in the process of bidding for a new contract. There is a possibility the hauler will change January 1, 2012 depending on those bid results or it could remain with the current hauler. When the new contract is finalized within the next few weeks, it is possible we will mail out an informational letter to all Township households if there are any important changes to the program. Please be alert for this possible mailing, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding this service.

COLLECTIONS & RECYCLING

(Note: Clip and save as a reminder)



YARD WASTE COLLECTION STOPS IN OCTOBER

Please remember that after October 15th of this year, yard waste will not be picked up as a special collection. After October 15, 2011 and through March 2012, small amounts of yard waste can be placed out as regular trash. If you have more than the three containers allowed, a yellow tag will have to be attached to each extra container. The kraft bags do not have to be used during this time period. As usual, no loose brush or woody material will be taken; it must be contained in some manner or tied into bundles no more than 30 pounds.

Please do not bag leaves for trash disposal at this time of year since the Township Highway Department will collect those curbside. Please refer to the collection schedule on this page for those pickup dates.

Please mark your calendars as a reminder that collection of yard waste as a special, separate pick-up will resume in April, 2012, and our program does require that you purchase the biodegradable bags from the Township during the growing season. The final date for the Township drop-off site for this year will be Saturday, September 24, 2011.

LEAF COLLECTION

The Township provides leaf collection to residential properties each fall. Please rake leaves to the front of the curb or along the edge of the road. Leaves need to be within five feet of the curb or the edge of the road for our equipment and crews to efficiently collect them. Our crews attempt to follow the schedule, but may vary due to volume and/or weather conditions. During dry weather conditions dust is always an issue, we will do our best to keep it to a minimum. The dates listed are when we will start your area and it may take us a full week to complete the route. We ask for your patience during this season as this can be a difficult task for our crews. We will continue our work until each route has been collected 4 times. Below is the schedule:

Residents East of Prospect Road: October 17th, October 31st, and November 14th. Final Collection will start the week of November 28th.

Residents West of Prospect Road: October 20st, November 7th, and November 21st. Final Collection will start the week of December 5th.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



West Hempfield residents are invited to drop off their Christmas trees for recycling during the month of January at the parking lot of the Fairview Park on Fairview Road. Please note, this is different from our summer drop-off site. Trees may be dropped off at any time, weekends or weekdays. Please be sure to remove bags and decorations before leaving it on the pile. The trees will be ground into mulch for the township parks.

Trees disposed of with your trash will not be recycled and must be less than six (6) feet in length and have a red \$4.00 tag attached. Please make sure tag is clearly visible from the street. There is no set date for pickup, but none will be taken after April 1st. Please consider recycling your tree this year.

COMMERCIAL RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS

We remind all commercial establishments that we will be mailing the annual recycling report requests for the year 2011 before the end of this year. Please be sure you are compiling your disposal weights for recycled items so you have them available to complete this report. Remember, corrugated cardboard, high grade office paper, glass bottles and jars, steel and bimetal cans, and plastic items with a #1(PET) or #2(HDPE) are a requirement for recycling by all commercial establishments. In addition, automotive repair shops should be recycling used motor oil, other vehicle fluids, tires and batteries. All items reported need to be documented with copies of weight tickets or a signature of the recycling center if your items are not collected by a licensed hauler. This includes paper recycled with Shred-It. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.





WINTER WEATHER

In a few short months we will once again be entering the Winter Weather Season. We appreciate your patience and cooperation at this time as our crew works to keep our roadways safe and passable.

To follow is a list of suggestions to help in the snow removal process:

- When possible, park vehicles off the roadway in your driveway, so plows do not need to navigate around parked vehicles.
- Make sure your mailbox and post are secure and in good condition. The Township is not responsible for damage caused by snow.
- Please remember to clear snow away from the fire hydrants located on or near your property.
- If you have a sidewalk, a path at least three (3) feet in width **MUST** be cleared within 24 hours after snow has ceased to fall or ice has ceased to form.
- Remove and clear away snow or ice on buildings and/or structures that could potentially fall on public roadways or sidewalks.
- Plow or shovel snow to the **RIGHT** of your driveway and eliminate any piles at the driveway entrance whenever possible.
- **DO NOT** push or shovel snow into the roadway at anytime. This not only creates hazardous driving conditions, but is also a violation of both State and Township laws.

MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Do you know what you will do if disaster strikes? How you will protect yourself and your family? What if your family is not together when the emergency happens - how will you contact each other and get back together? How will you respond to an emergency if it happens while you're driving or at work?

If you don't know or haven't thought about the answers to these questions, don't worry, but **DO** take action now by making an emergency plan. Not only will it answer these questions, it will help empower and guide you and your family in a crisis.

Make an emergency plan now for your **HOME**, your **VEHICLE**, and your **WORKPLACE**.


Go to: <http://www.readypa.org/makeaplan/>

Special Needs Emergency Plan

For elderly and people with disabilities or special medical needs, being prepared for emergencies is especially important. A few inches of snow can become feet, heavy rainfall can turn to flooding and power outages happen all the time, so be sure to be ready by having food, medicine and an evacuation plan ready, so that you're safe - no matter what Mother Nature delivers.

Plan ahead. Be prepared. 1-888-973-2397.

Trick-or-Treat



Trick-or-Treat night will be held on October 31st 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 31st. This year, Trick-or-Treat night will be held Monday, October 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SAFETY TIPS

- Trick-or-Treat in groups and always with a responsible adult.
- Look both ways before you cross the street.
- Never cross the street from between parked cars.
- When available, walk on the sidewalk, not on the street.
- Only go to houses with their outside lights on.
- Have parents check treats before you eat them.
- Never enter a stranger's house (even if you're invited).
- Use brightly colored, flame retardant costumes that fit and carry a flashlight so you are seen.
- Wear make-up instead of a mask for better visibility.
- Make sure your trick-or-treat bags are sturdy and easy to handle (not too big).
- Wear comfortable shoes, and dress for the weather.
- **NEVER** take a ride from or enter a stranger's car.

Be Safe & Have Fun!

TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT

**Monday, October 31st
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

for West Hempfield Township



Volunteer Fire Companies

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the required revenues to support the Fire Companies operations. We are hopeful that public awareness will lead to public support of these critical public safety services.

There are many ways that you can support the Fire Companies beyond your financial contributions. The Fire Department is always looking for volunteers to assist in their efforts to protect the community. Additional Firefighters and Fire Police officers continue to be in demand. The Department will provide all the required training for those that are interested in obtaining the necessary experience and certifications. In addition, there is always a need for volunteers to serve the community in areas behind the scenes such as business administration, building and ground maintenance, computer IT, fund raising and public education. Please contact the Fire Company or the Township Office should you have any questions regarding volunteering.

We recognize that these are tough financial times for everyone. Let us be sure, however, that those who choose to volunteer to protect our community are the best trained and are provided with the state of the art equipment so we all can remain safe when disaster strikes. Please remember that your support to the Fire Companies is very much needed and greatly appreciated.



Did You Know

...that West Hempfield Township is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community? This means that storm water runoff in the Township is regulated by permit under the oversight of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP).

DEP has issued the Final Draft of the Permit Application (FDPA) for the next permit cycle. In an effort to meet the new Chesapeake Bay cleanup requirements issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, the FDPA provides a list of possible projects that West Hempfield must consider implementing. Listed as TMDL control measures are:

- Establish and Protect Riparian Forest Buffers - restore vegetated buffer areas.
- Disconnection Program - disconnect impervious areas from your regulated small MS4 system.
- Tree Planting - plant trees within the area that drains to the regulated small MS4.
- Construct recharge/infiltration facilities.
- Storm Water Basin Retrofits - naturalize or modify for extended detention and/or modify basins for increased infiltration.
- Restore Stream Banks - restore and/or stabilize degraded and eroded stream banks.
- Establish Green Infrastructure at facilities owned by the municipality and that drain to the regulated small MS4.
- Develop and Implement additional provisions to address TMDLs or a separate MS4 TMDL Storm Water Management Ordinance.
- Participate in an approved Trading and Offset Program.

The EPA has established a "Pollution Diet" which establishes limits on the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediments that are allowed to flow to the Bay from a number of sources located in six states. One of these sources is storm water. Specifics as to what local municipalities will be expected to do to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads in their storm water are not known at this time. The following websites have information you might find of interest.

- www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/
- www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/stormwater_management/10628
- www.lancasterconservation.org/

TELEPHONE BOOK RECYCLING

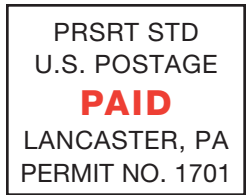
Effective this year, we will no longer have a dumpster available at our office for the recycling of telephone books. All telephone books can now be placed in your recycling bin along with newspapers for recycling.

West Hempfield Township

3401 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17601



Printed on recycled paper



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.



APPLIANCE AND TIRE PICKUP

Tires and large appliances (i.e. washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and freezers) will be collected for Township trash customers during special pickups scheduled as follows:

- For customers who have their trash collected on Thursdays, the special pickup will be on **Saturday, October 8, 2011**.
- For customers who have their trash collected on Fridays, the special pickup will be on **Saturday, October 15, 2011**.

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, please register your name and address with the Township office **BEFORE** the above dates to ensure pick up. If you need to purchase tags, please do so **BEFORE NOON** on Friday, October 7th for Thursday residents or Friday, October 14th for Friday residents.

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



Holiday TRASH SCHEDULE

(Note: Clip and save as a reminder)

Trash collection will be delayed by one day after the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday customers will be picked up on Friday and Friday customers will be picked up on Saturday following the holiday.

Christmas and New Year's will not affect trash pickup this year since they fall on a Sunday. No other holidays affect trash pickup during the fall of 2011. Additional holidays for 2012 will be listed in our Spring newsletter.

Make sure your trash and recycling are placed curbside the evening before. No return trips will be made. Holidays not listed will not affect trash pickup. And please remember, ALL boxes must be broken down and tied into bundles or placed in with your regular trash.