



# WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

VOLUME 36 - FALL 2010

NEWSLETTER

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### Meeting Dates

Board of Supervisors Meeting  
1st Tues. of each month 7:30 p.m.  
(except Nov. when meeting  
will be held Thurs. 4th)

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

Office ..... 285-5554  
 Police..... 285-5191  
 Emergencies..... 911  
 Police - Fire - Ambulance  
 TDD ..... (800) 654-5984  
 FAX ..... 285-2879  
 www.twp.west-hempfield.pa.us

### Board of Supervisors

David M. Dumeyer  
*Chairman*

Edward C. Fisher  
*Vice Chairman*

Frank R. Burkhardt  
*Township Supervisor*

Tony T. Crocamo  
*Township Supervisor*

Kent B. Gardner  
*Township Supervisor*

Ron L. Youtz  
*Township Manager*



# TOWNSHIP

# ECONOMY

Together, we recognize that our current economy has struggled to recover. This downturn has created challenges for all of us to stretch our dollars to meet our financial obligations.

West Hempfield Township continues to provide a level of service to residents that is second to none while realizing one of the lowest property tax rates in Lancaster County. The current tax rate of 0.18 mills is the fifth lowest of the sixty municipalities in the County. Township staff, under the guidance of the Board of Supervisors, strives to be fiscally responsible in spending your tax dollars. Our number of administrative personnel has remained the same for over 25 years. The growth in our Police and Public Works Departments over the past few decades is proportionate with the overall growth of the Township. Both the Police and Administrative Offices operate out of the current facility that was originally built in 1976 and expanded in 1990.

Our budget over the past two years has suffered a 13% decrease in revenues. Certainly, the economy plays a large role in this decline. Reduced

revenues from Earned Income Tax, Real Estate Transfer Tax and the decline in number of building permits are the main contributors in our realized loss of income.

Adopted spending plans over the past few years have relied heavily on reserves to balance those budgets. Those reserves grew during earlier times with a strong economy and significant returns on investments.

The Board of Supervisors and Township staff is very conscious of the challenges ahead in preparing our 2011 budget. We will carefully analyze the impact of our continued dependence on our dwindling reserve funds. Unfortunately, our ability to generate additional revenue is limited to a property tax increase. Like everyone, the Township deals with increased costs for which we have little or no control. State mandates will require us to spend funds on programs that are either new initiatives or to fund existing projects for which we no longer receive state funding.

While realizing that West Hempfield Township has felt the impact of the global economic conditions, our commitment to provide high quality, cost effective services and amenities to our residents remains our primary goal.





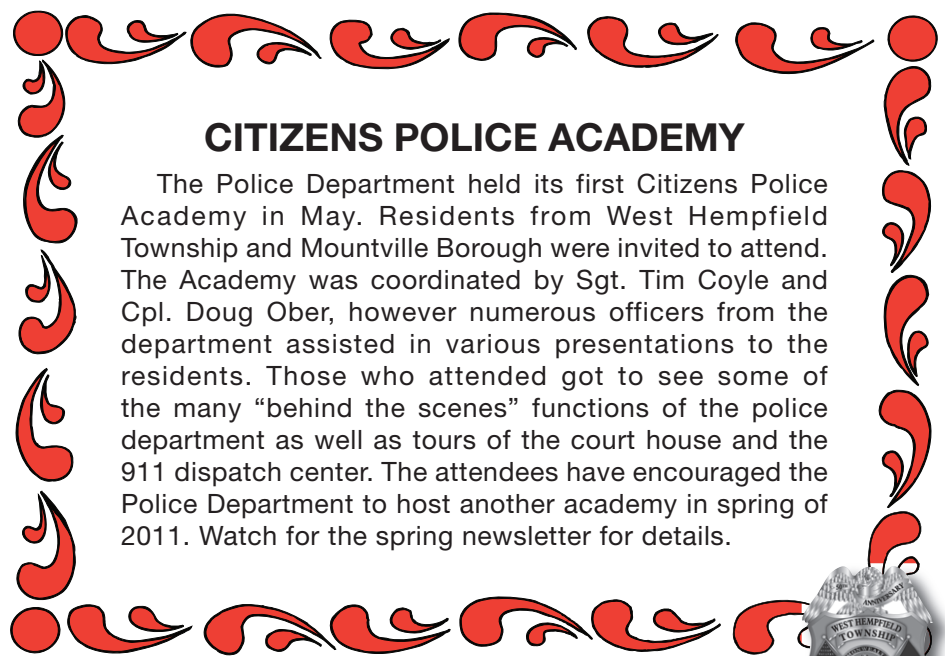
The Police Department hosted its first National Night Out event on August 1st at the Mountville Borough Community Park. Over 150 residents from West Hempfield Township and Mountville Boro were able to interact with members of our police department as well as many of our local first responders from the fire and emergency medical services. Also on hand were the Lancaster County SERT team, the county's mobile command center and a state police helicopter. The event was organized by Ofc. Bart Hollis. A very big **THANK YOU** to all of the agencies that came out to support our first National Night Out event.



# Police Bicycle Patrol



Officer Ryan Draper and Officer Rob Small became the Police Department's first Bicycle Patrol Officers. Using monies from a grant provided by the Lancaster Bicycle Club, the Department was able to purchase two police bikes as well as uniforms and safety equipment to outfit Officers Draper and Small. It didn't take long for the officers to roll into action with one of the officers biking up to drug activity in one of the parks. The Police Department would like to say thank you to the members of the Lancaster Bicycle Club for their donation. Additionally, we hope to be able to find funding, either through grants or donations, to increase the bike unit by 2 additional officers in 2011.



## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Police Department held its first Citizens Police Academy in May. Residents from West Hempfield Township and Mountville Borough were invited to attend. The Academy was coordinated by Sgt. Tim Coyle and Cpl. Doug Ober, however numerous officers from the department assisted in various presentations to the residents. Those who attended got to see some of the many "behind the scenes" functions of the police department as well as tours of the court house and the 911 dispatch center. The attendees have encouraged the Police Department to host another academy in spring of 2011. Watch for the spring newsletter for details.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Police Department's 50th Anniversary Celebration will be soon coming to an end. Officers have been wearing a commemorative badge on their uniforms and will continue to do so through the end of the year. In September, the Department held a luncheon for former and current officers as well as members of the Board of Supervisors. This provided an opportunity for past officers to tour the facility and to see how far the department has come since its inception in September of 1960.

# COLLECTIONS & RECYCLING

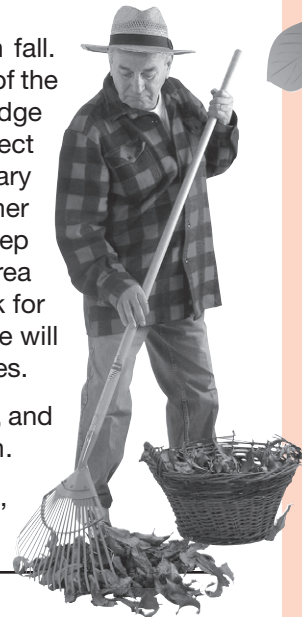
*(Note: Clip and save as a reminder)*

## LEAF COLLECTION

The Township provides leaf collection to residents 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, but 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 as this can be a difficult task for our crews. We will continue our work until each route has been collected 4 times.

**Residents East of Prospect Road:** October 18th, November 1st, and November 15th. Final Collection will start November 29th.

**Residents West of Prospect Road:** October 21st, November 8th, and November 22nd. Final Collection will start December 6th.



## YARD WASTE COLLECTION STOPS IN OCTOBER

Please remember that after October 16th of this year, yard waste will not be picked up as a special collection. After October 16, 2010, small amounts of yard waste can be placed out as regular trash. If you have more than the three containers allowed, a yellow tag must be attached to each extra container. 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 in this newsletter for those pickup dates. Collection of yard waste as a special, separate pick-up will resume the first Saturday in April, 2011. The final date for the Township drop-off site for this year will be Saturday, September 25, 2010.

## TELEPHONE BOOK RECYCLING

The Township will have a dumpster available each year during the Month of **NOVEMBER ONLY** when the new Century Link phone books are distributed. If you have phone books at other times of the year, you can save them until November or discard them as regular trash. They are not recyclable curbside.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Township residents are invited to drop off their Christmas trees for recycling during the month of January at the Fairview Park on Fairview Road. An area will be set aside for this purpose. Trees may be dropped off at any time. Please be sure to remove all bags and/or 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 have a red \$4.00 tag attached. Please be sure the red tag is clearly visible from the street.

There is no set date for pickup, but none will be taken after April 1st.

Please note that trees must be less than 6 feet in length to dispose of as trash. 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 2010 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. 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.** If you have any questions, when you receive this request, please do not hesitate to contact us.

# ZONING NEWS

## Commercial Vehicles Parked in Residential Zones

The Township has been receiving complaints from residents about neighbors who bring home commercial tractor-trailer cabs, dump trucks, box vans (or other work vehicles) and park them in the driveway or on the street in front of their homes.

The West Hempfield Township Zoning Ordinance prohibits parking a commercial vehicle upon any residentially-zoned lot or lot used principally for residential purposes. Under Section 704.14 of the Ordinance, commercial trucks include those that exceed a one ton capacity.

Commonwealth Court has held that parking these same work vehicles in the street in front of the owners' homes constitutes a violation of the Zoning Ordinance, since it is evidence that the self-employed homeowners are bringing their businesses home. Home occupations are permitted only when there is no change to the outside appearance of the home or neighborhood. By bringing these vehicles home, there is a change in residential character and appearance.

## House Numbers

Consider these recommendations to better identify your property for emergency services and public view. Numbers on mailboxes at roadways don't always identify properties.

- Post on house near front door.
- Clearly visible from a street, road or public way; not blocked by shrubbery or building material.
- House numbers should contrast with background on which it is affixed.
- Reflective arabic numbers / alphabet (Height  $\geq$  4 inches / Stroke width  $\geq$  1/2 inch).
- If house is served by a private road or lane, consider a pole, sign or monument at the public road identifying the address of the structure.

## Website Zoning Information

Check website for up-to-date information related to: Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map, Zoning Permits, Construction Permits, and 3rd Party Code Officials.

## REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION

In the event that you need information regarding your real estate tax assessment or have a billing question, please contact Hempfield School District at 898-5565 for school tax information and Lancaster County Tax Assessment Office at 299-8222 for municipal and county tax information. The West Hempfield Township Municipal Office does not bill or collect real estate taxes.



## 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 Friday, October 29th between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 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!*

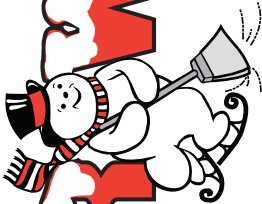
## TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT

**Friday, October 29th  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

*for West Hempfield Township*



# WINTER



In a few short months we will once again be entering the Winter Weather Season. We all remember the challenges of last year's record snow fall events. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as the Public Works Crew worked continuously to keep our roadways safe and passable.

West Hempfield Township has approximately 80 miles of roads to maintain during the winter. Our first objective is to make each road passable. Each weather event is different and our plan and approach change accordingly, based on the forecast and size of storm.

Below is a list of suggestions to assist in the snow removal process:

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

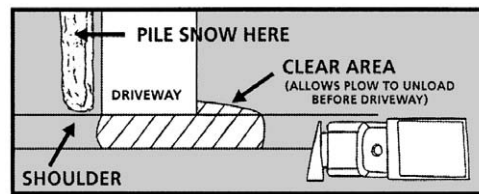
**Mailboxes:** Our Crew makes every effort to avoid causing damage to mailboxes. Mailboxes are in the Township right-of-way, but are the property owner's responsibility to maintain. Please take the time before winter to make sure your mailbox and post are in good condition and secure. The Township is not responsible for damage caused from snow that



comes off the snowplow. The Township is responsible if the plow or truck actually strikes your mailbox.

**Fire Hydrants:** For you and your neighborhoods protection, please remember to clear the snow away from the fire hydrants that are located on or near your property.

**Driveways:** Shown below is a diagram of the Township's driveway clearing recommendations. Abiding by the following guidelines will help make the snow removal process easier, safer, and more effective for all:



■ Snow should be plowed or shoveled to the **RIGHT** of the driveway as you are facing the intersecting roadway. Plowing or shoveling snow away from the direction of oncoming snowplows prevents the bulk of the snow from 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 the driveway and hinder oncoming motorists' ability to see you pulling out, creating another potential for accidents.

■ **DO NOT** push or shovel snow out onto roads at anytime. 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.

The Ordinance places the responsibility for this removal on the owner and/or occupant of each property that fronts a street with a sidewalk.

### Chapter 12, Article III requires:

■ 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.

■ 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 feet in width.

■ 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.

■ 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.

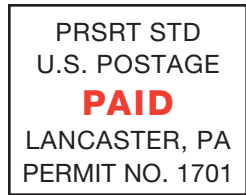
■ Depositing of snow or ice on a fire hydrant, sidewalk, travel lanes of a street or loading/unloading area of a public transportation system by property owners/occupants is prohibited.

## 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 (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 2, 2010**.
- For customers who have their trash collected on Fridays, the special pickup will be on **Saturday, October 9, 2010**.

Items should be placed curbside Friday evening before the scheduled pickup. Each appliance must be marked with a BLUE extra service tag (\$12.00 each); rimless tires must have one YELLOW tag attached, and tires with rims must have two YELLOW tags attached. If you have the necessary tags and are disposing of an appliance, tires and/or rims, register your name and address with the Township office **BEFORE** the above dates to ensure pick up. If you need to purchase tags, please do so **BEFORE NOON** on Friday, October 1st for Thursday residents or Friday, October 8th for Friday residents. Call the Township office at 285-5554 for more information.

If, for any reason, your appliance and/or tires are not picked up on the scheduled Saturday, leave the items curbside and call the Township office 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 for Township customers 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 holidays will not affect trash pickup this year since they fall on a Saturday. Please make sure your trash and recycling are placed curbside the night before. No return trips will be made.

Holidays not listed will not affect trash pickup. Please remember any trash over three containers allowed must be tagged with yellow extra service tags and that all boxes must be broken down and tied into bundles.