

237 SEVENTH STREET, WEST EASTON, PA 18042-6172 610-252-6651 FAX: 610-252-6993

April 4, 2017

Dear Residents of West Easton,

Recently, while looking over the sewer/refuse bills for the Borough, it occurred to us that approximately one-third of our community rent their homes. Since we have been sending the newsletter along with the sewer/refuse billings to the **owners**, as required by our ordinance, many of you may not have been aware that we do a quarterly newsletter. We've decided to send this newsletter out, on its own, to the **residents** this time, assuring that everyone gets one. The newsletter is posted on our website as soon as it is completed. It is also available in the Borough Hall lobby. If you do not have access to the Internet and would still like it mailed to you, please call the office with your information and we will mail it to you.

The Borough has a new website which is updated often, [www.westeastonborough.com](http://www.westeastonborough.com). According to Time magazine, 70% of people are on Facebook, we've decided to try and reach our residents that way as well. The Facebook page (West Easton Borough, PA) is new and is intended to get information about the Borough and its surrounding areas out to our residents in a timely manner; it is not for personal opinions, bashing of others, etc. So far, we've included information about the Mary Meuser Library, Wilson sports, local happenings, etc. If you have any suggestions, as to what kind of information you would like to see, please let us know. If your organization is having an event or fundraiser and you would like us to include the information, please let us know.

We would like to try and bring back that "small town feel" the Borough was known for in the past. We cannot do this alone; to do this we need volunteers on the Activities Committee. So far we've had suggestions that include a National Night Out (Block Watch Program), a Borough-wide clean up weekend, a community garage sale, and a winter tree-lighting ceremony.

Included in this mailing you will find a list of how some of your taxes were spent this year and a list of some of the basic information we often get asked about. We have also included an Emergency Management Operation form, with the option of opting in or out of an Emergency Alert System. We are hoping you will participate in the alert system as this has proven to be very helpful to other communities.

If you have any comments on suggestions on any of these matters please feel free to call us or email us.

Sincerely,

Joan Heebner  
Secretary/Manager  
[boroughmanager@westeastonborough.org](mailto:boroughmanager@westeastonborough.org)

David Gehman  
Senior Clerk  
[boroughclerk@westeastonborough.org](mailto:boroughclerk@westeastonborough.org)



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**BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

**MAYOR:** Gerald W. Gross

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Daniel DePaul  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Henry Nodoline  
Matthew Dees  
Robert Lewis  
Pete Mammana  
Paul James  
Thomas Nodoline  
**SECRETARY/MANAGER:** Joan Heebner  
**SENIOR CLERK:** David Gehman  
**TREASURER:** Carl Pierson  
**TAX COLLECTOR:** Elizabeth Hanni

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING OFFICE HOURS:**

**\*\*\*Monday 9am to 5pm**  
**\*\*\*Tuesday thru Friday, 9am to 4 pm**  
Closed Weekends and Holidays  
**Office:** 610-252-6651 **Fax:** 610-252-6993  
**Non-Emergency:** 610-759-6106  
**Emergency:** 911  
**WEB SITE:** [www.westeastonborough.com](http://www.westeastonborough.com)  
**E-Mail:** [boroughclerk@westeastonborough.org](mailto:boroughclerk@westeastonborough.org)  
[boroughmanager@westeastonborough.org](mailto:boroughmanager@westeastonborough.org)

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT**

The City of Easton will have an electronics recycle event on Saturday, April, 29, 2017, from 9am–noon for residents of Northampton County. Check the website for prices of each item to be e-cycled.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS**

Northampton Community College will hold a Household Hazardous Waste event on May 20, 2017, and again on October 14, 2017, from 8:30am-2pm. This event is for Northampton County residents only; bring photo ID or recent utility bill to verify residency. Check the website for lists of what is and what is not accepted.

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

Monday, May 29, 2017  
9:00 am  
War Memorial  
Corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets  
West Easton, PA

**NEWSLETTER**

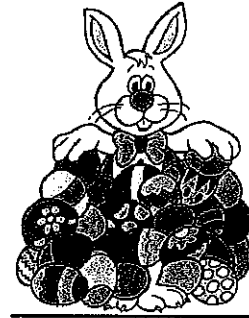
**SPRING EDITION - 2017**

**\*\*\*WEST EASTON BOROUGH WEB SITE\*\*\***

[www.westeastonborough.com](http://www.westeastonborough.com)

**\*\*\*\*\*FACEBOOK\*\*\*\*\***

West Easton Borough, PA



We are hoping to have an egg hunt for the children living in West Easton. It is tentatively planned for Saturday, April 15th, at 11:00am at the Gerald W. Gross Park (formerly Keystone Park). It will follow the dedication of The Louis Niko Park (on Ninth Street) at 10:00am and the park dedication of The Gerald W. Gross Park at 10:30am. We NEED to get an estimate of how many people are interested in bringing their children for an egg hunt. If there is little to no interest we will not hold it. PLEASE

email the office ([boroughmanager@westeastonborough.org](mailto:boroughmanager@westeastonborough.org)) to let us know if you would like to bring the children to the egg hunt, along with their ages. The age groups are set up as 4 and under, 5-7, and 8-9. We will be using plastic eggs with real candy so it will be the parents responsibility to check what their children eat if they have allergies.

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council meetings are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month: **April 10<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup>**. (There are occasionally meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month; check the website for updates.) **We are looking for volunteers for the Activities Committee and the Block Watch Committee.**

**WEST EASTON MART**

Please help welcome a new business to our Borough. **West Easton Mart**, located on East Street, next to Yvonne's Salon, will be opening on April 8<sup>th</sup>, providing a printing center along with items for your daily needs.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATION

The Borough of West Easton would like to start to gather information for an Emergency Management Operation (EMO). An EMO is the creation of plans through which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters. This information would also be useful to our volunteer firefighters as well. Unless the firefighters responding to a call know a family personally, they have no idea if there is one or ten people living in a residence that is involved in an emergency. Ideally, we would like to have an EMO form returned by every household in the Borough, both owners and renters. Also, please list any additional information that would be helpful not only during a fire but any other emergency as well. In addition to full names, address, phone numbers, etc, this information should also include any health issues such as disabilities: unable to walk, need oxygen, Alzheimer's, autism, unable to speak, etc. Please be as detailed as possible so that we may evaluate every situation to the best of our ability. This information would NOT be available to the public; it is strictly for emergency purposes only. We also ask that you list if you are single, and/or single/elderly so that if there is any kind of evacuation we know who is living alone and to check on them first.

As part of the Borough EMO, West Easton Council is considering a text message Resident Alert System to notify residents of emergencies, hazards, road closures, or other information deemed important to our residents' safety. The system will not be used for scheduled events or other normal business.

Participation requires you to "Opt-in." There is no Borough fee to participate but text message charges are subject to your contract with your cell phone carrier.

### Instructions:

**The Resident Alert System notification list is based on complete names and street addresses. Please list all contact information as requested on the back of this page. Please do not write "wife" or "husband" when submitting information.**

Your information will be kept confidential and will be for Borough use only.

OPTIONAL – If you do not own a cell phone, the message can be delivered through voice conversion to a landline or sent by email. **Use of these methods will delay delivery.**

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATION INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #s

Home \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Residents  \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please check box of anyone who wants to participate in the Resident Alert System**

Does any member of the household have a medical condition? Yes No  
(examples - autistic, Alzheimer's, loss of hearing, requires use of a wheelchair)

If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have pets in the home? Yes No

If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

The Borough of West Easton is instituting a new text message Resident Alert System. If you do not have a cellular telephone a voice message will be delivered to a landline. Please understand if a landline is used for this service a delay is possible during the delivery of the alert.

Check one:  I agree to participate in the new text message Resident Alert System

I do not want to participate in the text message Resident Alert System

**\*\*All information provided will be kept confidential and will be for Borough use only.  
If additional information is required, please submit on an additional sheet of paper.**

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

The 2016 audit is complete; the General Fund in the Budget came in under by \$176,612. After all expenses were paid, the total carry-over money from 2016 to 2017 was \$60,795. The audit may be viewed at the Borough Hall or online.

### New Hires

Borough Manager  
Senior Borough Clerk (saving temp agency payments)  
Treasurer (providing official treasurer reports)  
Part-time Summer Worker  
New Borough Solicitor, New Engineering Firm

### Financial

Mil rate remains at 11.7  
Borough bank accounts have been moved to a bank paying higher interest on our monies.  
All former solicitor and engineering fees were paid, due from 2015 and prior.  
New contract with new copier vendor, saving approximately \$1,000/year

### Technology and Equipment

Cameras have been purchased and installed in key areas to deter illegal dumping.  
Upgraded computer hardware and technical support have been purchased.  
A generator has been purchased to be sure the Borough stays up and operating.  
Much needed new tools for our maintenance department were purchased.  
A new website, [www.westeastonborough.com](http://www.westeastonborough.com), has been up and running.  
A new copier leased to meet Borough needs  
A conference phone purchased for Council Chambers  
Facebook page started: West Easton Borough, PA

### Improvements Around the Borough

Potholes were repaired prior to numerous roads (60% of the Borough's roads) being sealed and resurfaced; part of a three-year project ending 2018 - to resurface all roads in the Borough.  
Structural repairs were completed to Borough Hall.  
Trees trimmed or removed as needed in the Borough  
Abandoned Ridge Street property cleaned and refuse hauled away in dumpster  
A contract is in place for new energy-saving LED lights for all Borough street lighting - awaiting Met-Ed installation schedule.  
Adamson Street Rebuild Project was completed for \$86,000.  
In a joint effort with Wilson Borough and the City of Easton, Lehigh Drive was cleaned up and resurfaced from Glendon Hill Road to 25th St.  
The trestle had an engineering study done, for free; the structural integrity was found to be sound.

### Grants Applied For and Received

A grant for \$125,400 for a Storm Water Project for Second Street was approved; now awaiting bids - to be requested in the spring.  
Received grant for bicycle rack and benches, which have been installed at the park on Keystone Avenue.  
Following the 30" snow storm January 2016, we had an outside contractor remove mountains of snow for five days. The Borough had half the cost refunded through a federal grant.

**In the Pipeline**

Police protection in conjunction with the State Police

We are currently working on providing a part-time police force, anticipating 2-3 part-time officers with rotating hours to be employed by the Borough.

Repairs to sidewalks and curbs throughout the Borough

An Emergency Management Coordinator to be hired

A new Public Works building to break ground on Ridge Street (Applying for grants that would cover a significant portion of the cost)

A Community Block Watch Program to be restructured in line with the Police Dept.

Update several ordinances

Published codification of all borough ordinances and zoning regulations

**Also Of Note**

A new office policy was approved that allows for a one day late fee waiver to those residents who previously had consistently (8 quarters in a row) paid their sewer/trash quarterly bills on time.

A Pilot Program of an SMS Emergency Alert System for West Easton residents is being studied.

**If you would like to comment or offer a suggestion,  
we look forward to your attendance at the next Council Meeting  
to be held the second Monday of each month.**

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**BUDGET/AUDIT/LIQUID FUELS**

The 2017 budget and the 2016 audit are available on the website under the "Announcements" page. There have been some questions about "Liquid Fuels". The Municipal Liquid Fuels Program funds a range of projects to support construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public roads or streets. The amount of a municipality's allocation is based on its population and miles of roads on their approved Liquid Fuels Inventory. West Easton receives approximately \$35,000 - \$37,000 a year in liquid fuels money. We've been letting this money accumulate for a couple years and then having roadwork done; that is why your taxes are not increased to do the roadwork that is being done.

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# **List of Information Most Requested**

## **Electronics**

Electronic items cannot be disposed through the curbside waste system. Check our website for a list of E-cycling events.

## **Litter**

Please do not leave any litter behind when you are in the Borough. Whether it is thrown out the car window or on the ground at the park or as you are walking, it is unsightly to see and not necessary.

## **Neighbors**

The Borough is not able to get involved in most instances when neighbors do not get along. We ask that you treat each other respectfully, how you would like to be treated. This would solve a lot of the conflicts we hear about.

## **Parking**

At some places in the Borough, street parking is limited. Please respect your neighbors when it comes to parking your vehicles. There is no parking allowed on the sidewalks. If you have parking available other than the street please consider using it thus freeing up street parking for those that do not have other options.

## **Parks**

The Borough has 2 parks available for your use, on Keystone Avenue and Ninth Street. PLEASE use the trash cans for your litter. Parents, please talk to your children about this as well; there is no reason for anyone to throw litter on the ground when there are trash cans available.

## **Permits**

Permits are required for many types of construction and improvements. This assures your safety and adds to your property values. Please check with the office before starting any construction.

## **Pets-Waste Matter**

If you choose to own a pet it is your responsibility to clean up any waste matter they create. That includes in others' yards, sidewalks, etc. Please clean up your own yards of their waste as this makes a horrible stench in the warmer months if it is not cleaned up. It should not be someone else's responsibility to clean up after your animals. At this time there is a \$300 fine if you are caught not cleaning up your pet's waste.

## **Recyclables**

The Borough does not provide recyclable containers but we do have red recyclable stickers for you to put on your own container(s), for free. Stop down at Borough Hall if you need some. Please consider a container with a lid to cut down on the recyclables that blow around on trash day.

## **Sewer Lines**

The Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority is responsible for the main sewer line. The homeowner is responsible from their home to the curb. Where it gets tricky is from the curb to the main line: if there is a problem from the curb to the main the EAJSA will only take care of it if there are tree roots growing through the pipe or if the pipe is broken. The Sewer Authority requires an official report from a licensed plumber if it is either of these things; that is your responsibility to get. If it is just a clog from the curb to the main, that is your responsibility as well.

## **Sewer/Refuse Billing**

Sewer/refuse bills go out 4 times a year. The scheduled dates for mailing out the bills are January 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and October 15<sup>th</sup>. The payment due dates are February 15<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>. If any of these dates fall on a weekend or holiday, adjustments are made to the dates.

### **Sewer System**

Our sewer system is not designed to collect trash. Human waste and toilet tissue are the only products the wastewater system was designed to handle. Please do not flush anything else. For example, **do not flush:** Diapers • Used bandages • Rags • Dental floss • Cotton balls/Q-tips • Personal hygiene products • Paper towels • Baby/Cleaning wipes • Leftover foods/sauces. **Please do not pour down drains:** • Grease, all used cooking oils, and leftover sauces and gravies (allow to cool and solidify, then scrape out and wrap in newspaper and dispose of in your trash can) • Household/gardening chemicals • Leftover cleaners/solvents.

### **Sidewalks and Curbs**

The sidewalks and curbs in front of and alongside of a house are the responsibility of the owner. This includes cutting and maintaining of the grass, trees and weeds and removal of snow when necessary. It is also up to the homeowner to keep the curbs and sidewalks in a safe condition.

### **Snow Emergency Routes**

When the mayor calls a snow emergency, cars must be removed from the following streets so the plows can get through, in order to plow curb to curb:

- Main Street, from East Street to Adamson Street to Easton Boundary
- East Street from Spring Street to Third Street
- Third Street from East Street to Keystone Avenue
- Seventh Street from East Street to Center Street
- Spring Street from Center Street to Iron Street
- Ridge Street from Spring Street to Wilson Boundary
- Tenth Street from Ridge Street to Palmer Street
- Palmer Street from Tenth Street to Wilson Boundary
- Keystone Avenue from Spring Street to Front Street
- Front Street from Keystone Avenue to Iron Street

### **Snow Removal**

Ordinance #632 requires snow to be removed from sidewalks 12 hours after snow stops. A thirty inch (30") minimum width path is required for pedestrian right of way. It also prohibits throwing snow out into the roadway. (Parents, if your children want to earn extra money you might want to suggest that they offer to shovel driveways/sidewalks for people. We had several phone calls this past winter asking for help/names.)

### **Street Lighting**

If you have an out or flickering streetlight in your area, please call the office with the street location of the light and the number on the back of the light and we will call it in for you. (You are welcome to call them directly, as well.)

### **Weeds**

No person owning or occupying any lot or tract of ground shall permit any noxious vegetation to grow or any grass or weeds or non ornamental vegetation not grown for use as food for domestic animals or humans to grow to a height in excess of six (6) inches.

### **West Easton Safety First Ladies Auxiliary**

The West Easton Safety First Ladies Auxiliary raises money to help support our Volunteer Fire Company. They have a regularly scheduled Bingo night every Wednesday at the Fire Hall. They have also scheduled several special events throughout the year: June 4th – Purse Bingo and Tricky Tray; July 16th – Kids Bingo; August 12th – Yard Sale/Flea Market, rent tables inside or out; November 19th – Holiday Bingo.

### **West Easton Scholarship Association**

If you are a high school senior and a resident of West Easton, the West Easton Scholarship Association has applications available at the guidance office or Borough Hall each spring. If you are interested in participating in the selection process, let us know. Donations are always appreciated as well; they can be dropped off at Borough Hall.

### **Tax Collector**

[lizh@rcn.com](mailto:lizh@rcn.com), 2017 Borough Hall hours: Wednesdays, April 12 - June 7, 9am – Noon