

NEWSLETTER

APRIL - 2018



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



[FACEBOOK: West Easton Borough, PA](#)

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

MAYOR: Dan DePaul
COUNCIL MEMBERS
PRESIDENT: Paul James
VICE PRESIDENT: Matthew Dees
Robert Lewis
Henry Nodoline
Pete Mammana
Desiree Lake
Jeff Breidinger, Jr.
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 4pm

***Closed Weekends and Holidays

Police, Non-Emergency: 610-759-6106

Police, Emergency: 911

WEB SITE: www.WestEastonBorough.com

E-Mail: BoroughClerk@WestEastonBorough.org

BoroughManager@WestEastonBorough.org



West Easton Borough, PA

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Monday nights of each month, 6:30pm, at Borough Hall. Check Facebook or our website as to whether there will be a 2nd meeting of the month; they are only “as needed” and sometimes canceled. Definite dates are: April 23rd, May 14th, June 11th, July 9th.

CONDITIONAL USE HEARING

West Easton Two LP is once again seeking a conditional use permit for a residential treatment center pursuant to the requirements of the Borough Zoning Ordinance. The Conditional Use Hearing will take place on Monday, May 14th at a regularly scheduled council meeting, 6:30pm, at Borough Hall.

Zoning Board Vacancy

After 20+ years Mr. Leon Stull has resigned from the Zoning Board. Thank you for your service, Leon!!

This leaves a vacancy on the board. If you are interested in serving on the West Easton Borough Zoning Board, please get in touch with the borough office to let us know of your interest.

WEST EASTON SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION

High School Class of 2018, West Easton Residents:

Don't forget to apply for the Scholarship Association of West Easton scholarship. This scholarship is available to all graduating high school seniors who have resided in West Easton Borough for at least 18 months. This includes students in Wilson Area High School, Notre Dame High School and Charter Schools. Donations are always welcome!

All applications MUST be turned into your guidance office by April 30th!!!

RAIN BARREL GIVEAWAY

Two West Easton residents can win a 50 gallon rain barrel/planter donated by Home Depot! No fee to enter. One entry per address. Visit Borough Hall or the website for an entry form with details. The drawing will be held at the start of the May 14th Council Meeting.

RECYCLE/REFUSE INFO

We are in our third year with Advanced Disposal as our trash hauler. If your trash is not picked up, please call their customer service number as soon as possible, 610.440.3700. **Please consider using only trash cans with lids and not bags for your garbage.** If animals get into your bags and tear them up, you are responsible to clean up the mess, not the trash haulers and not our maintenance man. You are allowed 2 cans or 3 bags and 1 bulk item a week. Tires and electronics are not accepted. Recycle stickers, for your own container, are available at the Borough office. Items to be recycled include: clear glass, colored glass (green and brown), plastic (PET, PETE 1 and HDPE 2), aluminum, steel, bimetallic and aerosol cans, newsprint, magazines and corrugated paper. These items include cardboard, food cans, glass bottles, jugs, mail, plastic bottles and caps. Do NOT throw greasy used food containers into recyclables, for example pizza boxes!

SAFETY FIRST LADIES AUXILIARY

The Safety First Ladies Auxiliary, in addition to their regular Wednesday night Bingo, will have 3 special events this year:

June 3rd, Purse Bingo

July 15th, Xmas in July Bingo

November 18th, Holiday Bingo (A full Thanksgiving dinner is served.)

More details will be posted on our website and Facebook page as we get closer to the dates.

SEWER/REFUSE BILLING

Sewer/Refuse billings are sent out quarterly. Bills are sent out January 15th, and due February 15th; sent out April 15th and due May 15th; sent out July 15th and due August 15th; sent out October 15th and due November 15th. (If the dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the dates are adjusted to the residents' advantage.)

TOWN HALL MEETING FOR SEWER RATES

The Utilities Committee has been looking into converting your sewer rates from a flat rate to a usage-based rate, as is used in most other municipalities. They will be holding a Town Hall meeting in the future to discuss this topic. Check the website and Facebook page for updated information.

WATER CONSERVATION

A family of four in the United States uses 400 gallons of water every day. That's a lot of water – enough to take 10 baths! By being smarter about our water use, not only can we save water, energy, and money, we can help our rivers, too. When we use water more efficiently, we leave more water in rivers and streams to support fish and wildlife and recreation.

MOTOR VEHICLES

No inoperative or unlicensed or unregistered motor vehicle is allowed to be parked on the street, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Vehicles must display a license plate and current inspection sticker.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please continue to save the bright pink Box Tops for Education found on many products. Avona Elementary collects them to add "extras" like field trips for the children. We have a collection container at Borough Hall. It doesn't cost you a thing to help them out!

EGG HUNT, THANK YOU!

Thank you to all that made the Egg Hunt such a great success! We had approximately 75 children participate. We'd like to thank Giant for donating gift cards that were used to buy juice boxes, condiments and chips. Dubs on 5th donated the hot dog rolls; Safety First Social Club donated the hot dogs. Our Safety First Volunteer Fire Company and their wives and families cooked the hot dogs and set up and took down the tables and sound system. Thank you to Karen Bright and Sharon Niko for "helping" the bunny.

It was a pleasure working with the Safety First Ladies Auxiliary on this! We hope to work with them on future events as well.

BUSINESS/LANDLORDS IN THE BOROUGH

Ordinance #818 requires the licensing or re-licensing of all businesses, whether permanent or transient, operating within the Borough of West Easton for an annual fee of \$20.00. The Business License application can be obtained at the municipal office or found on the website. **This also includes Landlords in the Borough;** most of you have already been paying for the license.

*****LANDLORDS:** If you have properties within the Borough which you rent/lease, you are required by Borough ordinance to have a business license and report, yearly, your tenant's name and address in writing to the Borough office. (Please forward newsletter to your tenants.) You are also responsible for the mercantile tax to Wilson Area School District. <http://www.wilsonareasd.org/business/taxes>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Check the website and Facebook page for more info:

April 28, Electronics Recycling, Easton

May 5, Electronics Recycling, Nazareth

May 19, Household Hazardous Waste, NCC

May 28, Memorial Day, 9am, Borough Hall

June 3, Safety First Bingo, Purse Bingo/Tricky Tray

June 23, Latex Paint Recycling, Bethlehem

July 15, Safety First Bingo, Xmas in July

August 4, Latex Paint Recycling, Nazareth

August 7, National Night Out

September 8, Electronics Recycling, Bethlehem

September 22, Electronics Recycling, Northampton

October 6, Electronics Recycling, Pen Argyl

October 29, Halloween Parade

November 18, Safety First Bingo, Holiday Bingo

December, Breakfast w/Santa (?), tree lighting (?)

PERMITS

The PA Uniform Construction Code and the ordinances of the Borough of West Easton require permits for many types of projects in and around your home. Please check with the office before buying your materials or starting your projects to prevent wasted time and money.

Safety First Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

-The Safety First Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 is a 100% volunteer fire company providing emergency response service to the Borough of West Easton and surrounding communities since 1912.

-The operation of the fire company requires participation and commitment of members of the community to volunteer, become trained and respond to emergencies.

-Volunteerism across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is at an all time low. Volunteers are needed to provide emergency services to our community.

The Safety First Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 is accepting applications for the position of Probationary Firefighter.

Probationary Firefighter entry requirements are:

- (A) Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older at time of hire; and resident of the Borough of West Easton or in close proximity to the fire station;
- (B) Must possess, or be able to obtain by time of hire, a valid Pennsylvania State Driver's License without record of suspension or revocation in any state;
- (C) No felony or misdemeanor I or II convictions or disqualifying criminal histories within the past seven years;
- (D) Must possess a High School Diploma or equivalent;
- (E) Ability to read and write the English language;
- (F) **Ability to meet Departmental physical standards.**

If you are interested in volunteering, stop by the fire station on a Monday evening or e-mail us at info@safetyfirstvfc.com.

TREE TRIMMING

Due to safety concerns for larger vehicles (buses, fire trucks, delivery trucks etc.), and as a courtesy to the pedestrian and vehicular traffic, street-side tree trimming needs to be routinely performed by the property owner. This also permits the proper maintenance of roads. To reduce the frequency of pruning, trees should be generally pruned beyond the curb or, to the edge of the right of way or, or a minimum of 3' from the edge of the paved road surface maintaining a minimum clearance off 12' above the road surface. Clearance above sidewalks should be a minimum of 8' above the sidewalk surface.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Recreation Committee will be working with the Activities Committee to try and bring new activities to the Borough residents but we need your ideas! Please let us know what activities you would like to see in the Borough. Some of the suggestions we are considering are movie night in the park, family kickball games, borough yard sale, breakfast with Santa, tree lighting. We're open to new ideas but if there is no interest then there is no sense in our pursuing these events.

LET US KNOW WHAT INTERESTS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!!

INCONSIDERATE NEIGHBORS

We continue to hear concerns from residents about their neighbors. Please do your best to get along with your neighbors. Legally, the Borough cannot get involved in personal matters of neighbor vs neighbor but we can ask you to put yourself in your neighbors' shoes when it comes to taking care of your property, noise, shared walls in doubles, etc. We should not have to legislate common decency. If you don't want to hear your neighbors' televisions blaring at all hours, chances are they don't want to hear yours, etc. Thank you for your consideration!

PARENTS: TRESTLES, LITTER

Please talk to your children about staying away from the trestles. There is a fence on each end of the trestles but children still manage to get up on them. This can lead to a very dangerous situation. Also, please talk to them about respecting the parks if they play there. The parks are meant for all to enjoy. There are trash cans available for their litter.

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 well as this can make a horrible stench in the warmer months. It should not be someone else's responsibility to clean up after your animals.

PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Reduce stormwater pollution by:

- Cleaning up oil spills and leaks on driveways
- Picking up pet waste to help reduce bacterial and nutrient pollution
- Removing trash from gutters before it gets washed into storm drains
- Replanting bare soil to prevent erosion and sedimentation from running off into storm drains

TAX COLLECTOR

Liz Hanni can be reached at 610-438-0049,
lizh@rcn.com

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, personal hygiene products, paper towels, baby/cleaning wipes. Please do not pour down drains: grease, all used cooking oils, 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.

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.

HOUSE NUMBERS

Please be sure to have your house number somewhere visible on the front of your house to make it easy for the post office and emergency services to locate you and/or your property.

SWIMMING POOLS

Swimming pools, hot tubs, spas or similar receptacles capable to retain water of 24" in depth or greater shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least 48" in height. Please check website for more information.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

This is a Pennsylvania program providing rebates on property tax or rent paid the previous year by income-eligible seniors and people with disabilities. The program benefits income-eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

Check the Borough website and Facebook page for more info.

EMO REGISTRATION

If you have not filled out your EMO (Emergency Management Operation) contact form please download from the website or pick one up at Borough Hall.

COUNTY-WIDE HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM

Depending on the funding available, you may qualify for help with repairing safety or hazardous conditions in your home. This program may be able to provide low-income owner-occupants of single-family residences with a zero-interest, partially-forgivable, deferred-payment loan for home improvements. The loan can cover a range of improvements necessary for health, safety, and code compliance requirements. This loan does NOT cover cosmetic improvements.

*Owners must be permanent residents and owner-occupants of their single-family residence in Northampton County and must be current on all property taxes.

*Funding is available on a first come, first serve basis. Samples of the current income guidelines are: 1 person household, \$41,100; 2 person household, \$47,000; 3 person household, \$52,800.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

Just a reminder that advertising space is available on the website and in the newsletter. Call the office for ad sizes and pricing.

DURING THE PAST YEAR.....

- Millage rate remained the same, at 11.7
- Basketball court was sealed and fences painted
- Installed cameras to deter illegal dumping
- Received ORI number to begin the process of part-time police force
- Hired police consultant for police dept. development
- Jr council person appointed
- Lease for police dept. building
- Emergency Management Coordinator hired
- Fire code updated
- LED street light installation throughout the Borough
- Egg hunt brought back
- National Night Out brought back
- Construction of Second Street Storm Project
- Removed dilapidated shed on Ridge Street

*****Please check out the Borough website, www.WestEastonBorough.com and Facebook page, West Easton Borough, PA for more detailed information. They are both constantly updated! We welcome your ideas!*****