



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

**BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

**MAYOR:** Dan DePaul

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Paul James

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Matthew Dees  
Robert Lewis  
Pete Mammana  
Desiree Lake  
Jeff Breidinger, Jr.  
David Bolash

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING OFFICE HOURS:**

**Mondays 9am-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](http://www.WestEastonBorough.com)**

**E-Mail: [BoroughManager@WestEastonBorough.org](mailto:BoroughManager@WestEastonBorough.org)**

 **West Easton Borough, PA**

**GENERAL ELECTION**



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

If you're registered to vote in West Easton Borough, your polling place is Safety First Volunteer Company on Keystone Avenue.



**It's that time of year to...**

- ✓ Check the operation of your smoke detectors, and change the batteries. Install additional detectors if needed.
- ✓ Inspect and ready your heating system. Empty the ashes, and clean the soot from your fireplace.
- ✓ Check the weather-stripping around doors and windows, and replace those that are worn.

**...and remember to set your clocks back one hour on November 4, 2018.**

**Fall Time Reminder...**

# NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION - 2018



The Halloween Parade in West Easton is scheduled to take place on **Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**. The lining up for the parade starts at **5:30 pm at 10<sup>th</sup> and Low Streets**. The parade ends at Gerald W. Gross Park on Keystone Avenue. Children in the parade will receive a ticket for a free hot dog and birch beer at the end of the parade. The West Easton Activities Committee will be selling hot dogs, birch beer and cupcakes to raise money for future activities. (Donations of cupcakes can be brought to the park.) There will also be a cake walk. Prizes will be awarded by age groups. **The West Easton Scholarship Committee will have a Tricky Tray table at the end of the parade.**



**TRICK OR TREAT**

**Wednesday**  
**October 31<sup>st</sup>, 6pm-8pm**

**TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY TIPS**

**Motorists**

Slow down in residential neighborhoods and obey all traffic laws. Be on the lookout for excited youngsters darting out in traffic whose vision may be obscured by a mask. Enter and exit driveways with caution.

**Parents and Children**

Wear costumes with light or bright colored material or trim. Have children use face paint and/or make-up rather than hoods, wigs or masks that can block vision. Make sure children do not cut across yards. Clotheslines and yard ornaments are not easily seen in the dark. Take a flashlight with fresh batteries so the children can see and be seen. Children should Trick or Treat in groups, NEVER alone. An adult should accompany children. Cross only at street corners and never between parked cars. Be sure to check all candy before it is eaten.



## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday nights of each month, 6:30 pm, at Borough Hall. Check our Facebook page or the website as to whether there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the month; they are only “as needed” and sometimes canceled. Definite dates are: Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, and Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>.

## TAX COLLECTOR INFO

Our Tax Collector, Liz Hanni, will be sending out Past Due Notices for 2018 Borough taxes on November 9<sup>th</sup>. If your bill is unpaid and you would like to pay in person, Liz will be in the office on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm; Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm; and Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm. You may also pay by mail or by using the drop box on the side of Borough Hall by the garage doors. Please include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope if you want a receipt. No payments can be accepted after December 14<sup>th</sup>. Liz can be reached at 610-438-0049.

## LEAF COLLECTION

Please check the Borough website and/or our Facebook page for the start of leaf collection. Do NOT put the leaves in the street until you know they will be picked up. Leaves in the street get washed away during the rain which can clog up the storm drains.

## SNOW????

Hopefully we won't have to worry about snow for a long time, but just in case, please check the website, on the “Public Works” page, for the snow emergency routes or pick up a paper copy at Borough Hall. Please keep in mind that we have ONE maintenance man and sometimes one part-time helper. They will get to your roads as soon as they can. They start with the snow emergency routes, followed by the hills, then main and secondary roads and finally alleys. As always, your patience is appreciated.

## SEWER/REFUSE PAYMENTS

The sewer/refuse bills for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be mailed by **October 15<sup>th</sup>**. Payment will be due on **November 15<sup>th</sup>**. This covers the period from October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please remember if payment has not been **received in the office** by the due date, a \$20.00 penalty will be added. If you have not paid your bill for two quarters, you will receive a shut off notice with an extra charge of \$50 to your account and shut off proceedings will begin. If the bill is still not paid and a letter is sent to the water company, another \$50 charge will be added to your account.

If you do not get your bill in the mail, call the office for the billing information. Once the bills leave the office and are mailed, it is not the Borough's responsibility if you do not receive your bill.



## HOLIDAY BINGO

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Safety First Volunteer Fire Company is holding a Holiday Bingo on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. There must be a minimum of 50 people to hold the Bingo but no more than 150 people will be allowed. The package costs \$30 per person and includes 20 games and a full Thanksgiving dinner at intermission. Forms are available on our website and Facebook page and at the regular Bingo on Wednesday nights from 5:30-10pm. **Tickets must be purchased in advance.** Call Donna, 610-253-6969, for more information.

## COUNTY-WIDE HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM

-Depending on the funding available, you may qualify for help with repairing safety or hazardous conditions in your home.

-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, \$52,000.

Please check the Borough website for more information.

## PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

The deadline for older adults and Pennsylvania residents with disabilities to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2017 has been extended from June 30<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 31, 2018. The rebate program benefits eligible PA residents 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. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for certain qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.



# Be Stormwater Savvy



**Don't let a good drop go bad!**

In case you've been wondering what all the fuss concerning "MS4" has been about in recent news stories, and even if you haven't been wondering, here are a few basic facts about MS4. Please take the time to read; it really does impact us all.

Polluted stormwater runoff is commonly transported through Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), from which it is often discharged untreated into local water bodies.

Stormwater runoff is generated when precipitation from rain and snowmelt events flows over land or impervious surfaces (paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and building rooftops) and does not percolate into the ground. As the runoff flows over the land or impervious surfaces, it accumulates debris, chemicals, sediment or other pollutants that could adversely affect water quality if the runoff is discharged untreated into the waterways.

**Why Do We Regulate Stormwater?** The MS4 program requires the MS4 owner/operator to implement a series of programs to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable in a manner that protects water quality.

So, what does all that mean for you as residents of West Easton? The more we, as a community, can cut back on pollutants entering our stormwater the less likely we are to be fined and the less likely the borough would need to impose fees on residents to cover the MS4 fines, not to mention, most importantly, our water will be a lot cleaner.

## **How you can help; Residents Roles in Helping to Prevent Stream Pollution**

You can help reduce the discharge of pollutants to the streams and protect water quality by doing the following:

- Nothing should go into a storm drain, inlet, swale or stream except stormwater. Dumping in these areas is an Illicit Discharge and is illegal. If you see anyone dumping anything into the storm drains, please call the Borough office immediately.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. Pet waste should never be disposed of in a storm drains, inlet, catch basin or stream.
- Wash vehicles so that wash water does not enter the MS4. Wash vehicles in lawn or gravel areas, or take them to commercial car washes.
- Recycle or properly dispose of hazardous materials including paints, used oil and chemicals.
- Pick up litter, debris or garbage from yard, sidewalks, driveways and other areas so that it is not washed into a storm drain. (Thank you to the walkers that I've seen already doing this! Every little bit helps!)
- When you mow your lawn, make sure the grass cuttings go back into your own lawn rather than out into the street.
- Report any road killed animals to the Borough office for disposal.
- Use native plants because they increase water filtration, decrease maintenance and perform better in drought conditions.
- Install rain barrels in gardens.
- If you see a storm drain with debris (grass, sticks, etc) over it, take the time to clear it off so when it rains the water can go into the drain rather than around it and possibly cause flooding.

\*To learn more about how you can help, please check out the website under the "Stormwater-MS4" tab.





**CURBS AND SIDEWALKS** - It is the property owner's responsibility to keep their curbs and sidewalks in a proper state of repair. This also includes keeping the grass and weeds properly cut.

**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 the office. This has come in handy to notify residents of the need to move cars when roads are being worked on, home alarm problems, etc.

**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.

**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.

**RECYCLABLES** - Free 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 (empty), newsprint, magazines and corrugated paper. These items include cardboard, food cans, glass bottles, jugs, mail, plastic bottles and caps. Please rinse and remove labels. Do NOT throw greasy used food containers into recyclables, for example: pizza boxes. Also, do not place plastic grocery bags in your recyclables. While they are recyclable at some stores, they are not in our regular recycle containers. They get caught up in the machinery at the recycling center.

**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: household/gardening chemicals, leftover cleaners/solvents, 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).

**TRASH** - Our trash contract is with Advanced Disposal. We have a limit of 2 cans or 3 trash bags per residence. The contract also includes 1 bulk item per week. 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. If you notice your trash or recyclables have not been picked up, please call Advanced Disposal directly (610.440.3700) as soon as possible. If you forget to put your trash out in time, please wait until the next week. Tires and electronics are not accepted. **Bundle:** Tree, shrub, brush trimmings, newspaper or magazines must be securely tied together forming an easily handled package not exceeding three feet in length or 50 pounds in weight.

**Bulky, Demolition or Construction Refuse:** This material shall be collected on regular collection days. Items should be of a size and weight, which may be reasonably lifted by two persons. Construction and demolition refuse consisting of one (1) container or one (1) bundle per residence shall also be collected on regulation collection days. Nails must be removed for the safety of the trash haulers.

**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, a minimum of 3' from the edge of the paved road surface maintaining a minimum clearance of 12' above the road surface. Clearance above sidewalks should be a minimum of 8' above the sidewalk surface.