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Tips for Environmentally Friendly Lawns and Gardens:

- **You may be able to save yourself a bit of money and frustration if you have a soil test done before planting or applying fertilizers.** Plants, including yard grasses, need the right levels of acidity or alkalinity, phosphorous, potassium, and nitrogen to thrive. These need to be in the right balance for the nutrient needs of the specific area you will be planting in. Adding more fertilizers, or the wrong type of fertilizer for the area, may damage your plants, or just runoff into our local waterways. A soil test can help identify what levels of which nutrients you need to get your plants growing well. Soil tests are usually readily available through garden centers and university extension offices.
- **The use of fertilizers for lawns and gardens should be minimized as much as possible, or outright eliminated.** Please consider avoiding fertilizers with phosphorous, and only using slow-release nitrogen fertilizers. Fertilizer should not be applied when rain is soon expected, and is not to be applied within at least 15 feet of any stormwater management area, road drain, stream, or pond. Fertilizer must be swept off of any hard surfaces, such as sidewalks and driveways, so it does not wash into storm drains.
- **Seed using a regionally appropriate grass-seed mix.** Seeding yard or turf areas with grass seed intended for the mid-west or south, may not do as well as seed mixes developed for our climate in the north-east. Additionally, a seed-mix that has more than one type of grass seed will be more resistant to pests and diseases than grass seed of only one type of grass.
- **When mowing grass, consider using a mulching set-up on your mower; and leaving the grass clippings on the lawn.** Mulched grass clippings act as an all-natural and free fertilizer for your lawn, meaning less time and money applying chemical fertilizers.
- **Mowing grass at the highest cutting setting will help the grass to outcompete weeds without having to use chemical weed killers.** Keeping the grass longer also reduces, or eliminates, watering needs for the grass to stay green; even through the hottest days of the summer.

Continued on page 2

Public Meeting Arrangements

The Township is exploring options for the handling of public meetings during the time of the COVID-19 crisis. Please go to the Township web site, www.eastlampetertownship.org for information and instructions regarding these meetings.

Tips for environmentally friendly lawns and gardens:

Continued from page 1

- **Please remember to sweep or blow grass clippings off of all sidewalks, streets, and storm drains.** Grass clippings left on streets can be very slick, and may be a hazard to motorists and pedestrians. Grass clippings can also wash into storm drains, and down into nearby streams, polluting our waterways and contributing to algae blooms in the Chesapeake Bay.
- **When planting, consider using native species of plants.** Plants that are native to PA will generally grow the best, and will provide the most benefit to local wildlife and pollinating insects. Your local nursery, greenhouse, seed store, environmental groups, and/or university extension may be able to help you in selecting and planning the best way to use native plants on your property.
- **Now may be a good time to start composting!** Composting is a great way to deal with yard waste, reduce waste going to landfills, and save money on buying planting soils. Some composting types for residential properties include: compost piles or bins, vermicomposting (with worms), and fermentation composting. Each type has its own pros, cons, and limitations; but any type can be beneficial to our environment if properly managed.
- **Dog Poop Patrol.** Perhaps the least pleasant part of owning a pooch is dealing with the half-frozen landmines littering your yard after the snow melts away, but deal with it we must! Dog waste can have high levels of antibiotic resistant bacterium that are both health hazards and are water quality pollutants. Please remember to timely collect and dispose of your dog's leavings, preferably by bagging the waste in bio-degradable bags and placing them in the garbage.

Recycling Yard Waste

State law requires that Yard Waste is to be recycled. It cannot be burned. Township residents currently have options for recycling their yard wastes (tree trimmings, leaves, shrub trimmings, etc....). One option is to work through your licensed waste hauler. All Township licensed waste haulers are required to offer their customers a yard waste recycling program. You should contact your hauler regarding how to take advantage of their program. Another option is to take your yard wastes to the West Earl Township compost facility. Before going to their facility, you should contact West Earl Township about how they administer their compost facility operations at westearltwp.org or 717-859-3201.

Manheim Township is no longer allowing non-residents to use their yard waste facility.

East Lampeter has requested technical assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate options regarding yard waste recycling in the Township. A consultant has been assigned to complete this evaluation and to present options to the Board of Supervisors by June 1, 2021.

For a number of beneficial reasons, we continue to recommend that residents mulch their grass clippings and allow them to remain on the lawn. (See previous article)

<p>Ralph Hutchison Stephen Zerbe Kevin Hostetter Tara Hitchens David Sinopoli Alecia Hair Charlie Thomas Larry Frankford John Brooks Troy Bresch Charles Hayes Alex Wasilewski Jeffrey Shirk Kathy Treier Stephanie Leakway Lashawnda Martin</p>	<p>Township Manager Chief of Police Finance Director Dir. of Planning/Zoning Officer Assistant Zoning Officer Zoning Admin. Assistant Public Works Director Sewer Superintendent Road Superintendent Parks Superintendent Stormwater Coordinator Stormwater Technician System Administrator Bookkeeper Admin. Assistant Admin. Assistant</p>	<p>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of each month except for February, May, July, September and November when they only meet on the 2nd Monday All regular meetings begin at 7:30 pm</p> <p>PLANNING COMMISSION Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm</p> <p>SEWER AUTHORITY Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month except for November when they meet on the 1st Wednesday All regular meetings begin at 4 pm</p>	<p>PARK BOARD Meets 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 pm (NO MEETINGS in November and December)</p> <p>ZONING HEARING BOARD Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm (NO MEETING on 4th Thursday in November and December)</p> <p>This newsletter is funded by the sale of advertising. Your ad will reach every address in the Township, and your support will be greatly appreciated by the township and our residents. Please contact: Carla Snyder at 717-669-0914 or e-mail: carlas@spectrumprintpartner.com</p>
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Police News

Captain James Shank recently graduated from Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety following completion of an extensive police management and leadership program that helps prepare mid- and upper-level personnel for senior command positions. Cap-

tain Shank completed the 10-week Staff and Command program offered in Hershey, earning his certification in October 2020. The School of Police Staff and Command provides upper-level college instruction about topics including leadership, human resources, employee relations, organizational behavior, applied statistics, planning and policy development, budgeting and resource allocation



Officer Tyler Auerbeck was selected by his peers as the 2020 Officer of the Year. Officer Auerbeck is a two-year veteran of the police department. He attended Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg Area Community College, and Penn State University. Officer Auerbeck came to East Lampeter Township in 2019, after serving with the Harrisburg City Police Department for two years.

On Sept. 18, 2019, Officer Auerbeck received a Letter of Commendation for his identification and arrest of a known drug dealer. Because of this arrest, over a pound of Methamphetamine was removed from the street.

Over the course of two years, Officer Auerbeck has deployed his sworn duties, faithfully, fairly and without prejudice, in service to the residents of East Lampeter Township. His work ethic had been noticed and commended by his peers as well as Administrative Staff.

2021 Budget Highlights

Late in December 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved the budget for 2021. The Board decided to keep the real estate tax rate for 2021 the same as it was for 2019 and 2020. The budget as approved is expected to result in General Fund spending of approximately \$580,000 more than expected revenues. Through prudent fiscal discipline, the Township has sufficient reserves to cover this deficit amount. The 2021 budget maintains almost all expenditure categories at or below 2020 budgeted levels. Other than a small increase in employee wages, the one category which had a major increase over 2020 is in pension funding costs which was expected and is the result of changes made by the Board in order to further solidify pension funding for future benefit requirements. Overall, the 2021 budget focuses primarily on maintenance of core services to the community.

For a copy of the budget, please go to the Finance Department's section of the Township's website.

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Expires September 26, 2021

Lancaster Public Library News

Lancaster Public Library is open for **Limited Lobby Services**. In addition to holds pickup, printer, copier, and fax services are available. A small sample of the collection is available for browsing and staff is on hand to pull items if patrons arrive without holds to retrieve. Building access is limited to areas for pickup and checkout using self-check machines. Public computers are not available at this time. For everyone's safety, face masks must be worn properly while inside the library at all times. Three patrons (or one family) will be allowed inside at a time to allow for adequate social distancing. Patrons who do not wish to enter the building or who cannot wear a face mask, are invited to request a Grab Bag of books and/or DVDs handpicked by our librarians. Visit [LancasterPublicLibrary.org/grab-bags](https://www.lancasterpubliclibrary.org/grab-bags) for more information about this library service.

While our in-person events are on hold, we are offering virtual programming at the Lancaster City and Mountville Branches. To see the library's entire calendar of events and/or to learn more about our Summer Reading Program (begins on Saturday, June 5), please visit [LancasterPublicLibrary.org/events](https://www.lancasterpubliclibrary.org/events). Whether in a building or online, Lancaster Public Library continues to inspire, empower, and strengthen our community by connecting people with information, ideas, and enriching experiences.

- **Chronicles of Yarnia:** Bring your knit & crochet projects and work in congenial company; it's always more fun to create with friends! For ages 9+
Meets most Mondays at 6:30 pm. via Zoom
- **Stay Home Storytime:** Children of all ages will enjoy interactive learning opportunities in the form of stories, songs, and fun with Alex and Miss Gail.
Watch most Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. via Facebook Live

- **Mamma Goose Story Time:** Join Mamma Goose for stories, puppets, songs, and movement activities!
Watch most Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. via Facebook Live
- **Discovering Short Stories: A Discussion Group:** The time commitment is low, enjoyment is high, and you're sure to discover some new authors and styles to explore.
Meets first Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- **Thursday Book Group:** Join us and discuss great books with interesting people!
Meets second Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- **TED Circles hosted by TedXLancaster:** Community members come together to watch a TED talk video, then discuss and debate the ideas from the talk.
Meets second Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Let's Draw Together:** Whether you're a beginner, an expert, or somewhere in between, we will help you sharpen your drawing skills. For school-aged children.
Meets third Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Dorothy Height Book Club hosted in partnership with YWCA Lancaster:** Join our interactive, insightful book club with a focus on diverse, thought-provoking writers and subjects.
Meets third Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Into the Strange: A Sci-Fi Book Club:** Celebrate your love of science fiction with like-minded readers!
Meets fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Minecraftafternoons:** Once a month just isn't enough Minecraft.
Meets second and fourth Sundays at 12:00 p.m. via Twitch.tv



LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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What is an MS4?

MS4 is short for, “Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System”, where the word “Municipal” refers to a unit of local government like a borough or a township. And the number 4 refers to the four words that start with the letter “S”; “Separate,” “Storm,” “Sewer,” “System.” East Lampeter Township (ELT) is required to operate under a MS4 permit.

A separate storm sewer system is a collection of structures, including retention basins, ditches, roadside inlets and underground pipes, designed to gather stormwater from built-up areas and discharge it into local streams and rivers. It’s called a separate system because it’s not connected to the sanitary sewer system which drains waste water from inside a home to a sewage treatment facility or a private septic system.

Many rural developments have stormwater management structures, but only municipalities that the Census Bureau classifies as Urbanized Areas (UAs), based on population density, are required to be permitted as a MS4. UAs can contain commercial, industrial, institutional, and/or residential development which produces stormwater runoff. The permit is managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection or DEP, which fulfills this role to comply with federal mandates under the Clean Water Act. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has an oversight role as the federal agency charged with implementing the Clean Water Act.

The authorization that MS4 communities like ELT get from the DEP to legally discharge stormwater into local streams and rivers is called an “NPDES” permit which stands for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. The word “National” references the connection with the Federal Clean Water Act, and the word “Discharge” refers to the fact that separate storm sewer systems eventually release stormwater into local creeks, rivers, and lakes, untreated. To meet the terms of our NPDES Permit, ELT developed what’s called a “Stormwater Management Program” (SWMP). Discharged stormwater within ELT eventually flows to the Chesapeake Bay, thus ELT is required to implement Pollutant Reduction Plans to accomplish additional nutrient and sediment reductions into local streams and rivers.

Every MS4 permittee is required to address the same six focus areas that the Environmental Protection Agency considers essential for success, these focus areas are called Minimum Control Measures or “MCMs”:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Construction Site Erosion Control

- Public Participation and Involvement
- Post Construction Stormwater Management
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

To find out how ELT is addressing the minimum control measures, visit www.eastlampetertownship.org/departments/stormwater

What is Stormwater?

While you may be familiar with the term, have you ever wondered what stormwater is?

In Pennsylvania, we get an average of 41 inches of precipitation each year. When it rains or the snow melts, where does this water go?

In more natural areas, water is quickly able to infiltrate into the ground. A forested area allows for about 18 inches per hour of infiltration, where an average lawn allows for about 2 inches per hour. Impervious surfaces like pavement and rooftops, offer no infiltration at all. All of the water that doesn’t infiltrate flows over the ground, over roofs, through gutters, into storm drains, and into the nearest waterway –our lakes, rivers, and streams. This is stormwater.

Stormwater can be the water running out of the gutters on your home or garage or down your driveway. If a home has 2,000 square feet of impervious surfaces, that is equal to 1,246 gallons of stormwater runoff that needs to be managed during a typical rainstorm. Stormwater can also flow across a farm field, over a highway, through a parking lot, or through a construction site. It’s important to be aware of stormwater, where it comes from, and where it goes because it impacts water quality in your local watershed.

There are local ordinances and regulations for the control of stormwater runoff in East Lampeter Township. These ordinances require the management of stormwater based on requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). Homeowners, businesses and industries can all work together with municipalities to help manage stormwater and its potential impacts. Understanding stormwater is the first step to making good choices and being a good neighbor in your watershed.

If you have additional questions about stormwater, contact Charles Hayes, Stormwater Coordinator for East Lampeter Township or visit the Township website at www.eastlampetertownship.org/departments/stormwater



State Representative
Keith J. Greiner, CPA

House Appropriation Budget Hearings Conclude in March

State Rep. Keith J. Greiner, CPA

The Wolf administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic was in the spotlight during state budget hearings with the House Appropriations Committee in February and March, as was the governor's proposed personal income tax increase of 46%.

Pennsylvania is currently trailing the national economy with our unemployment rate standing at 6.7% for December which was 40 basis points higher than the national average. We also lost almost 475,000 jobs over the 12-month period that included business shutdown orders and other regulations instated by the governor and the state Health Department. In addition, Pennsylvania's civilian workforce has shrunk by 3.9% as compared to 2.4% for the national average.

My colleagues and I in the General Assembly were hoping that the governor would propose a budget with policies that would relieve our workers and small businesses from the past year of hardship. However, Governor Wolf proposed an increased personal income tax on families and small businesses, a dramatic increase in the minimum wage, and a new tax on the energy industry. These policies would increase costs and inflationary pressures for families and small businesses at a time when so many are looking for assistance. In addition, the governor wants to increase state spending of taxpayer dollars by \$3 billion, or 8% over the current fiscal year.

Analysts have shared that the 46% increase in personal income taxes alone would cost Pennsylvania families and small businesses an additional \$6 billion. In addition, they shared that overall, Pennsylvania's local rates combined with the governor's proposed increase, our state would have the highest flat-rate subnational income tax in the country at 8.37%. Nearly 80% of the state's businesses will be subject to these additional income taxes, and those operations are already facing serious financial challenges.

Any minimum wage increase discussion must be responsible and factor in the jobs that would be lost, inflationary cost pressures, and the impact on how it will disproportionately hurt smaller businesses. Federal data has shown that last year's lockdown forced 30% of Pennsylvania businesses to close permanently.

Pennsylvania's energy industry has also been hit hard in the past year by the executive branch's regulations that decreased active rigs and wells to their lowest levels since 2012.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass a responsible budget in a timely fashion that spends appropriately and does not waste taxpayer dollars, making our Commonwealth the "Envy of the East".

I hope you have a great Spring, and I encourage you to reach out to my office with any state-related concerns and questions.

Public Works Road Paving Alerts

Here is a list of roads in East Lampeter Township that are on the schedule to be paved in 2021.

Pennwick Road from Rt. 23 to dead end.

Tompkins Lane, Stonecrest Drive from Zooks Lane to Dead end, Zooks Lane, Creekview Drive, Ellendale Drive, Joyce Lane, Douglas Drive, Cypress Drive, Willow Hill Drive, Willow Glen Drive, and Alfa Drive.

The Township would ask that all residents on these roads to please remove anything from the Township right of way, including basketball rims, fences, and any landscaping. If you are unsure where the right of way is on your road please call the Township office and we can supply that information.



How long will it take to get my permit?

When a permit application is submitted to the Township for a residential project, an initial review is conducted by Township staff and then, if needed, the permit application is sent to the third-party review and inspection agency. From the time the permit application is received at the Township until a permit is issued for you to begin your project it typically takes between two (2) and three (3) weeks.

Board Approves 10% Credit on Quarterly Sewer Bills

In February of this year, the Board approved a resolution to help offset the ongoing economic impact of COVID-19 on Township sanitary sewer system customers. The Board approved a 10% credit on quarterly billings for sanitary sewer services provided during 2021. Specifically, the 10% credit will be applied to the quarterly bills issued in April, July and October 2021 and January 2022. Most residents will see their quarterly sewer bill decrease by almost \$10 per quarter.



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Garage/Yard Sales

Yard and garage sales are permitted within any zoning district in the Township, but there are some rules to follow:

- Only 2 garage/yard sales are permitted per property per calendar year.
- No garage/yard sale shall be conducted for a period of longer than 3 consecutive days.
- Garage/yard sales may offer personal possessions for sale; no importing or stocking of inventory is permitted. No commercial merchandise.
- Only one six (6) square foot sign is permitted to advertise the garage/yard sale. The sign must be located on the property where the sale is taking place and must be removed within six (6) hours of the end of the sale.
- No garage/yard sale is permitted to be conducted within the right of way of any street.



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