



Brief

July 2023

The Newsletter for the Residents of West Deer Township

Stormwater & Storm Drain Maintenance

When storm drains become clogged with debris, water can no longer drain from the street during heavy rains. Stormwater will pool along the street, and it can flood streets and properties.

Whether accidental or on purpose, dumping materials into storm drains clogs our sewers and pollutes our waterways. The following are ways you can help avoid these consequences for the sake of both water drainage and the environment:

*Don't blow lawn clippings into the street. Lawn clippings on the roadway, whether wet or dry, can be especially hazardous to motorcycle riders and bicyclists.

*Be careful when working on cars or other vehicle equipment. A single quart of motor oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water. Take used oil or antifreeze to a service station or recycling center.

*Use only biodegradable soaps when washing your car. Try to wash it on the lawn or another unpaved surface to avoid water running into nearby drains.

*Don't apply pesticides or fertilizers to your yard before it rains. This not only helps the chemicals work better, but will also avoid creating polluted runoff.

*Dispose of pet waste properly. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that can enter local waterways and harm not only those downstream, but the plant and fish population of the waterway as well. Clean up after your pet.

*Limit the use of sand and salt on driveways and sidewalks. When snow melts, it carries these pollutants with it into storm drains.

The Township maintains storm drains within township limits. To report a clogged storm drain, call (724) 265-3680.



Important Dates

Mark the upcoming dates on your calendar for Township events:

July 4 - Independence Day
Township Office Closed

July 14 - Parks & Recreation
Movie In The Park @ Bairdford Park

July 18 - Parks & Recreation
Food Truck Event @ Nike Site

July 19 - Board of Supervisors Mtg.
Municipal Building @ 7:00 p.m.

July 27 - Planning Commission Mtg.
Municipal Building @ 7:00 p.m.

“We Need More Businesses So Taxes Will Drop”

It seems that every time the question of how to improve the Township - or whether to raise taxes - comes up, there is a similar refrain: “We need more businesses in the Township to lower taxes. That will solve the problem!”



While this is a normal (and popular) response, in reality it is not always true.

In 1988, the Pennsylvania state legislature passed what was known as the Pennsylvania Local Tax Reform Act. This Act prohibited municipalities that did not tax business proceeds - such as West Deer - from ever receiving business taxes.

As an example, if Wal-Mart decided to move into the Township today, West Deer would receive \$0 from taxing their profit. Not one single penny!

Now the Township would receive a property tax, local services tax (LST), and fire tax. Those would total approximately \$28,000 using an average Wal-Mart's value and employee count.

However, that Wal-Mart would require additional policing, more wear-and-tear on the roads, etc., so the cost to the Township would be greater than the \$28,000 received from the taxes.

Having businesses in the Township is very valuable, and desirable. That is why the Board is working diligently in getting SMART business growth in the Township...for the right reasons.

Your Newsletter... Spread the Word!

This newsletter is an effort to inform everyone in West Deer Township. Other sources — such as social media — may reach a portion of our residents, but a great deal of folks would be overlooked.

We have a small amount of printed copies of this monthly newsletter available at the municipal building, 109 East Union Road. ◆

Township Supervisors

Beverly S. Jordan, Chairwoman

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Warning: Though social media has its value, receiving Township information from sources like Facebook can be misleading. They are great to keep up-to-date with community events, etc., but not Township FACTS. Make it easy on yourself... check out our website, email us, or simply give us a call. We're here for YOU!

