



# By the Way

www.westmorelandcleanways.org

Helping people make a difference in Westmoreland County

Spring 2011

## Earth Month is Here—Finally!

### Spring Cleaning

After what has seemed like an interminably long winter for the second year in a row, Spring is here. With it comes a renewal of energy and ambition to clean up the detritus hidden under winter snows. The joy of more daylight and a hint of warmth in the air is quickly deflated by the site of the enormous amount of trash strewn along the roads, over the embankments, and stuck in trees. Is it worse this year or is it me?

Who threw that stuff there, anyway? After all the years of educating our children about not littering, where is it still coming from? Next to one shopping center, you'd swear a crop of plastic bag flowers was planted on purpose. On another road, a collection of half-filled orange soda bottles betrays the fact that someone leaves the house (or work, or convenience store) with the soda, tires of it at just the same spot on the road, and throws the bottle out the window. You can even tell which direction the driver comes from, because all the bottles are on the same side of the road.

So okay, that pile was obviously a full bag of trash that fell off of someone's truck and burst open. But honestly, didn't anyone see it or notice it was missing? Didn't they notice it the next time they drove the road and said "Oh no, that's my garbage. I'd better clean it up!"

In more than 12 years, I've never heard one person admit to throwing his trash out the window, or rolling a tire into the gully. Remember the gremlins "Not Me" and "Ida Know" from the comic strip The Family Circus? Somehow we grownups see right through those gremlins when our kids pull that excuse, but it's not all kids trashing our neighborhoods. Is the litter any less offensive if a grownup does it? Where is the fine line between an adult's "Oops, the bag just got away from me" and Naughty Johnny's pop bottle that was intentionally thrown out the window?



Westmoreland County has land area of over 1,000 square miles, and who know how many miles of roadways. Westmoreland Cleanways' road adoption program, now administered by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, at one point had over 200 miles of local roads adopted. That meant that someone cared enough to say "I'm going to keep my little corner of Westmoreland County clean, regardless of who's trashing it." Someone was willing to clean up someone else's trash for the sake of a beautiful and healthy Westmoreland County environment.

Westmoreland Cleanways volunteers have been picking up other people's trash for over 20 years, yet every Spring we ask the same question: "Who threw that stuff there, anyway?"

For those of us for whom the answer doesn't matter, there's plenty of time before summer vegetation takes over to do a cleanup. Register your event at the Great American Cleanup of PA website ([www.gacofpa.org](http://www.gacofpa.org)); pick up vests, trash bags, safety gloves, and some free water at our office on Donohoe Road. Some exercise, fresh air, and the sight of a clean landscape will do wonders to chase the winter doldrums and welcome Spring. See you soon.

### In This Issue

- P. 1 Spring Cleaning
- P. 2 Board and Staff Contacts
- Quarterly Calendar
- Collection Event Price List
- P. 3 "Secure Your ID" Day
- Backyard Compost Workshops
- National Drug Take Back Day
- P. 4 Mission Statement
- P. 4 Meeting Notice
- P. 4 Membership Application



*Friday 4/29/11 All Day*



Visit **Chick-fil-A Eastgate**, mention **Westmoreland Cleanways** when placing your dine in or take out order and **20% of the total sales will go to Westmoreland Cleanways**

**WESTMORELAND  
CLEANWAYS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

**M. Curt Fontaine, *President***  
**Laura Kayhart *Vice President***  
**Rob Cronauer, *Secretary***  
**Michael V. Quatrini, *Treasurer***

**Directors**

**Albert Barnett**  
**Archie Bossart**  
**Joe Goffner**  
**Fred Goodman**  
**Kim Goodsell**  
**William McCabe**  
**Tim Savisky**

**Staff**

**Ellen C. Keefe, *Executive Director***  
**Andrea Viazanko, *Program Director***

**226 Donohoe Road, Suite 101**  
**Greensburg, PA 15601-7470**  
**Phone: 724-836-4129**  
**Fax: 724-836-5597**

**web site:**

**[www.westmorelandcleanways.org](http://www.westmorelandcleanways.org)**

**email:**

**[info@westmorelandcleanways.org](mailto:info@westmorelandcleanways.org)**

***By the Way* is published four times  
a year by Westmoreland  
Cleanways. Copies may also be  
found on our web site:  
[www.westmorelandcleanways.org](http://www.westmorelandcleanways.org)**



**Westmoreland Cleanways  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
APRIL-JUNE 2011**

**APRIL**

- 1 Earth Month Begins
- 2 "Talkin Trash" with 1480 WCNS 8:30 a.m.
- 2 Fugitive Tire Roundup
- 2 Backyard Compost Workshop WPNR Nature Reserve Noon—2 p.m.
- 9 Hard-To-Recycle Stuff\* Collection Westmoreland Fairgrounds 8:30 a.m.—Noon
- 14 Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Fugitive Tire Roundup
- 16 BBB Document Destruction Event—Donohoe Center 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
- 16 Westmoreland Earth Day Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve 10 a.m. —4 p.m.
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Fugitive Tire Roundup
- 23 Great American Cleanup of PA
- 29 Arbor Day
- 29 Chick-fil-A Spirit Day All Day!
- 30 Fugitive Tire Roundup
- 30 SCWA/WC Cleanup
- 30 National Drug Take Back Day

**MAY**

- 7 "Talkin Trash" with 1480 WCNS 8:30 a.m.
- 7 Hard-To-Recycle Stuff\* Collection Carmike Cinema/ Wynnsong Theater Rt. 22, Rt. 22 Delmont 8:30 a.m.—Noon
- 12 Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Backyard Composting Workshop Oak Hollow Park, NHT 9 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
- 21 Backyard Composting Workshop Valley Landfill, Penn Township 9 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

**JUNE**

- 4 "Talkin Trash" with 1480 WCNS 8:30 a.m.
- 4 Backyard Composting Workshop The Barn at Donohoe Center 9 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
- 9 Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Our thanks to....



For more info, visit us at [www.westmorelandcleanways.org](http://www.westmorelandcleanways.org) or, call 724-836-4129



**\*Tire/Batteries/Freon/Appliances/  
Electronics**

**Collection Event Price List**

**TIRES**

Passenger & Lite Truck: Off Rim \$1.75 each\*  
On Rim \$2.75 each\*  
Large Truck and Tractor—prices vary depending on size

**APPLIANCES/SCRAP**

Freon Appliances \$20 per appliance  
Vehicle/Lead Acid Batteries No Charge  
Scrap metal/Non-Freon Appliances No Charge

**ALL ELECTRONICS: !!! FREE\*\* !!!**

\*Westmoreland Cleanways members receive a discount  
\*\*Households only; fees apply to businesses; call for info.

Thanks to this year's sponsors:

- ◇ Appliance Warehouse
- ◇ Creative Recycling
- ◇ Dan's Tire
- ◇ Salandro's Refuse, Inc.
- ◇ Westmoreland Fairgrounds
- ◇ Wynnsong Theater/Carmike Cinemas
- ◇ Our Terrific Volunteers!



## Three Big Events!!

One thing we've learned over the years—there are lots of reasons to do the right thing. We may advocate for a clean and healthy environment, and someone else's interests are completely different, but working together, we can accomplish the same goals and achieve the same benefit. The following events are great on so many levels, just pick your reason and hop on the bandwagon. We'll all win!

### "Secure Your ID" Day—April 16

Westmoreland Cleanways, along with the Better Business Bureau, First Commonwealth Bank, and the Paper Exchange bring the first "Secure Your ID" Day to Westmoreland County. We've promoted paper recycling for years, now, but many of us have that nagging doubt in our minds as to whether our important papers and financial documents are really secure in the recycling bin. Many businesses, too, can be especially vulnerable to security and privacy concerns. Here's your chance to purge your files in a safe and secure manner, on-site, for free\* (up to 3 boxes/bags of paper-based material).

As the Better Business Bureau advocates — You are your best defense against identity theft. The first rule of Identify Protection—If you don't need it, dispose it ... Responsibly.

Where: Donohoe Center, 216 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA (1/2 mile from the Westmoreland Mall)

When: Saturday, April 16 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Volunteers will guide you through a line, unload your vehicle, and shred your material on the spot. You'll also receive a goodie bag with ID theft and fraud prevention materials, as well as Westmoreland Cleanways own special environmental information. Visit our website or the Better Business Bureau's at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) for more information.

### Backyard Composting Workshops

Backyard Composting is the best way to dispose of your yard and kitchen waste in the most economical and environmentally responsible way (Reason #2). Adding compost to your garden soil is the absolute best way to improve its texture, add beneficial nutrients and trace minerals that plants need to thrive, and ensure the health of your plants without the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals (Reasons #3 thru #5). Everyone can compost (#6), it's great exercise (#7), it's a lot of fun (#8), AND, what's the #1 reason to compost? You'll have the best-looking garden in town!

Choose a Backyard Composting Workshop that's convenient for you. Learn everything you need to know to successfully compost at home from a Penn State Master Gardener. There'll be plenty of time for questions and answers if you're a seasoned gardener but need some advice. Cost is \$10, payable at the door; pre-registration is preferred.

May 14 Oak Hollow Park North Huntingdon Township 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

May 21 Valley Landfill\* Penn Township 9 a.m. to Noon (includes Landfill Tour)

June 4 The Barn at Donohoe Center Greensburg 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Call the office today at 724-836-4129 to make a reservation.

### Second National Drug Take Back Day—April 30

The second National Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by the US Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration, local police department will host sites across the country where people can safely and securely dispose of unwanted, unneeded, and expired medications:

- ◇ Controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter medications will be collected. This FREE program is **absolutely anonymous** and all efforts will be made to protect the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications. No questions or requests for identification will be made by volunteers or law enforcement personnel present.
- ◇ Participants should **remove any personal information** from bottles or packages that contain pills/capsules and liquids and place the bottles or packages into the disposal box.
- ◇ NEW—liquid products and creams in their containers will be accepted.
- ◇ **Sharpies and syringes will not be accepted due to the potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.**
- ◇ **Westmoreland Collection Locations are:**
  - ◇ Allegheny Township Police Department
  - ◇ Greensburg City Hall
  - ◇ Mt. Pleasant Borough Police Department
  - ◇ North Huntingdon Township Police Department
  - ◇ Derry Borough Rite Aid
  - ◇ Ligonier Township Police Department
  - ◇ Murrysville Public Library
  - ◇ Rostraver Township Police Department
- ◇ Visit our website or call our office for additional information

# By the Way - Spring 2011



WESTMORELAND CLEANWAYS  
226 DONOHUE ROAD, SUITE 101  
GREENSBURG, PA 15601-7470

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please call 724-836-4129 and ask to have your name removed from our mailing list.

## What We're All About

Westmoreland Cleanways is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to protect, restore and maintain the environmental qualities of our county for the benefit of all who live, work, and visit herein. Westmoreland Cleanways accomplishes its mission by sponsoring and promoting programs that address the proper disposal of solid waste through recycling, special collections, and the cleanup of illegal dumpsites and littered areas. We educate the public through presentations, print media and the web.

Westmoreland Cleanways initiates and facilitates programs by bringing together a network of volunteers, industry leaders, and state and local government representatives to provide services in the most efficient and economical manner. We are funded by the county commissioners, member fees, private donations, sponsorships and grants. Volunteers donate time, energy and expertise to carry out our mission.

Volunteers and new members are always welcome. Won't you call our office, visit us on the web, or attend a meeting to learn more about how you can be a part of Westmoreland Cleanways?

### ~ MEETING NOTICE ~

Regular meetings are held at 6:30 PM in the Westmoreland Conservation District Barn, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, on the second Thursday of every month (except July & December). Call 724-836-4129 for information. Everyone is welcome.

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. To support our activities, please become a member. Return this coupon and your payment to Westmoreland Cleanways, 226 Donohoe Road, Suite 101, Greensburg, PA 15601-7470.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$5       Lifetime Individual \$100

Family \$15       Lifetime Family \$300

Organization/Business \$25

Municipal \$25

Corporation \$100       Lifetime Corporate \$500

Additional contributions are greatly appreciated.

**Memberships and contributions are tax deductible, as defined by law**

**WE DO NOT SHARE OR SELL OUR MAILING LIST**