

# The Borough of WEST READING

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# Welcome

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## to the 2019 Fall/Winter Edition of the Borough of West Reading Newsletter.

We hope you find the information in this newsletter to be helpful and informative. As always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts and opinions with us. Together we can all keep West Reading a place we love to call home.

Sincerely,

*Borough Council*

### West Reading Borough Directory

500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611

Phone: 610-374-8273 • Fax: 610-374-8419 • [www.westreadingborough.com](http://www.westreadingborough.com)



#### BOROUGH COUNCIL

Philip Wert, Council President  
[pwert2@westreadingborough.org](mailto:pwert2@westreadingborough.org)  
Christopher Lincoln, Vice President  
Suzanne Thompson, Member  
Nicholas Gardecki, Member  
Patrick Kaag, Member  
Jennifer Bressler, Member  
Jack Gombach, Member

#### MAYOR

Andrew Kearney  
610-374-8273 x228  
[akearney@westreadingborough.org](mailto:akearney@westreadingborough.org)

#### BOROUGH MANAGER

Nicholas Imbesi  
610-374-8273  
[nimbesi@westreadingborough.org](mailto:nimbesi@westreadingborough.org)

#### BOROUGH SECRETARY

Cynthia Madeira  
610-374-8273 x222  
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#### ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

Stephanie Burkholder  
610-374-8273 x221  
[sburkholder@westreadingborough.org](mailto:sburkholder@westreadingborough.org)

#### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Dean Murray  
610-374-8273 x401  
[dmurray@westreadingborough.org](mailto:dmurray@westreadingborough.org)

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT SECRETARY

Elba Beltran-del Rio  
610-374-8273 x238  
[ebeltrandelrio@westreadingborough.org](mailto:ebeltrandelrio@westreadingborough.org)

#### TAX COLLECTOR

Janice Kaucher  
610-374-8273 x225  
[taxcollector@westreadingborough.org](mailto:taxcollector@westreadingborough.org)

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Stephen Powell  
**Emergency Calls – 911**  
Non-Emergency Calls 610-373-0111

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Mark Burkholder  
**Emergency Calls – 911**  
Non-Emergency Calls 610-372-9621

#### BOROUGH MEETING SCHEDULE

##### BOROUGH COUNCIL

3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
October 16th & 22nd, November 19th & 26th  
December 17th & 26th

##### BUDGET WORKSHOPS/COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 28th 9 a.m., October 12th 9 a.m.  
November 9th 9 a.m.  
November 26th 7 p.m., December 7th 9 a.m.

##### PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Wednesday 6:00 p.m.  
October 2nd, November 6th & December 4th

##### TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday 6:00 p.m.  
October 9th, November 13th & December 11th

##### RECREATION COMMISSION

1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
October 1st, November 4th & December 3rd  
*All meetings are held at West Reading Borough Hall  
in Council Chambers  
500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611*

#### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

October 14, 2019 – Columbus Day  
November 11, 2019 – Veteran's Day  
November 28, and 29, 2019 – Thanksgiving Holiday  
December 24, 2019 – Office closed at Noon  
December 25, 2019 – Christmas Day  
December 31, 2019 – Office closed at Noon  
January 1, 2020 – New Year's Day  
January 20, 2020 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
February 17, 2020 – President's Day  
April 10, 2020 – Good Friday

## Council's Corner

It's always nice to reflect on where one's been and we would like to take this opportunity to review some accomplishments of the borough over the last year which demonstrates how Borough Council is working hard for its residents and property owners.

- 1) **Green Light-Go Grant** – Improvements have been made to the Penn Avenue traffic signals, which include a battery backup system that will enable traffic signals to function during power outages.
- 2) **Paving Projects** – A portion of Fifth Avenue and Museum Road were paved in early spring at a cost significantly under what was budgeted, which allowed the scheduling of additional paving projects during 2019. A contract has been awarded to pave Lakeview Drive, Walnut Street and Parkside Drive North.
- 3) **Water Infrastructure Improvement** – A contract was awarded to replace the water main and valves along Pine Street.
- 4) **Tree Inventory Grant** – The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) performed a Borough-initiated shade tree inventory to provide a list and assessment of trees, which will assist with the planting, maintenance and sustainable management of our public shade trees.
- 5) **Intergovernmental Fire Inspection Agreement** – A cooperative agreement has been entered into with the Township of Spring to provide fire inspection services for commercial and institutional properties located within the Borough of West Reading.
- 6) **Animal Control Services** – Following much deliberation, a fee-for-service contract was entered into with the Animal Rescue League to provide investigative services, sheltering and care of unclaimed animals. The Animal Rescue League invoices the Borough on a monthly basis for services provided. This contract also provides a 20% discount to Borough residents for veterinary services performed by the Animal Rescue League.



There are a host of other ideas we're working, but I hope this short list demonstrates how your tax dollars and elected officials are working to keep and build on our successes as a destination community.

*Philip Wert*  
Council President

## Utility Payment

### Water/Sewer/Refuse Bill Schedule

Quarter	Months Billed	Bills Mailed	Due Date *
1st	January - March	April 1st	April 30th
2nd	April - June	July 1st	July 31st
3rd	July - September	October 1st	October 31st
4th	October - December	January 1st	January 31st

\* Utility bills are due on the last business day of the month.

Please Note: Online payments are not an option for real estate taxes or code department fees.

### **Xpress Bill Pay » The easiest way to pay your bill!**

Our online payment option saves you time and gives you flexibility in how you pay your bill. If you have an internet connection and an email address, you can pay your bill online! It's fast, it's easy and you no longer have to write a check or find a stamp when it's time to send in your payment.

When you sign up for online bill pay, you will get a secure password to access your personal account at [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com). A reminder email will be sent to let you know when your bill is online. Online bills cannot get lost in the mail and are accessible anytime 24/7! You also have the option to keep our planet happy and healthy by requesting to go paperless.



## Water Conservation Tips for Residents

### For Every Room in the House with Plumbing

- Repair leaky faucets, indoors and out.
- Consider replacing old equipment (like toilets, dishwashers and laundry machines).

### In the Kitchen

- When cooking, peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of running water.
- Fill your sink or basin when washing and rinsing dishes.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- When buying a dishwasher, select one with a "light-wash" option.
- Only use the garbage disposal when necessary (composting is a great alternative).
- Install faucet aerators.

### In the Bathroom

- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the water to brush teeth, shave and soap up in the shower. Fill the sink to shave.
- Repair leaky toilets. Add 12 drops of food coloring into the tank, and if color appears in the bowl one hour later, your toilet is leaking.
- Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.

### Laundry

- Run full loads of laundry
- When purchasing a new washing machine, buy a water saving model that can be adjusted to the load size.



## West Reading Fire Department - Fire Chief Mark Burkholder

223 Playground Drive | West Reading, PA 19611 | [www.wrfire.com](http://www.wrfire.com) | Email: [westreadingfire@hotmail.com](mailto:westreadingfire@hotmail.com)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/westreadingfire](http://www.facebook.com/westreadingfire) | Twitter: @westreadingfire  
 Emergencies: DIAL 911 | Non-Emergency: 610-372-9621



### Fire Prevention Week

The history of fire prevention week marks the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of October 8-9, 1871. The blaze that raged for several days claimed more than 250 lives and destroyed more than 17,400 structures. The Chicago Firemen prompted a much needed reform by focusing public attention on fire prevention and fire safety. In 1911 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Chicago fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America proclaimed the nation's first Fire Prevention Day to promote public awareness of fire safety. In 1925 President Calvin Coolidge declared

## Have Two Ways Out!



Fire Prevention Week an official national observance. Fire prevention week for 2019 will be observed during the week of October 6th through October 12th. The theme this year is "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape!" The goal is to educate the public about having and

practicing an escape plan to get your family to safety in the event of a fire or emergency in your home. At our open house this year we will be distributing information to help your family create your own escape plan and different ways to prevent fires in your home and everywhere you go.

### Open House

We will be holding our annual Open House at the fire station on October 9th from 6 to 8 pm. We will have fire prevention displays for the entire family, our fire apparatus and station open for tours. We will have free food and snacks for all who attend, so please plan on stopping by and enjoy the evening with your local firefighters!



### Smoke Detectors

Working smoke alarms save lives, test yours every month! To test your alarm press and hold the test button on the smoke detector. It can take a few seconds to begin, but a loud ear-piercing siren should emanate from the smoke detector while the button is pressed. If the sound is weak or nonexistent, replace your batteries. Should you have any questions regarding smoke alarms or if you need assistance with changing batteries please contact the fire station at 610-372-9621. We can evaluate your home to determine the best location and how many detectors you will need. We also can provide new smoke alarms at a cost of \$10 each installed. Just call or email for more information!

### Fire Safety

During heating season it is important to keep these safety tips in mind:

- Keep all curtains or other



combustible materials as well as children away from space heaters.

- Properly care for natural Christmas trees by keeping the water reservoir full at all times and use lights that are "UL approved" for indoor use and inspected for deterioration prior to placing on the tree.

### Kiddies Christmas Party

Our annual Kiddies Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 2 to 4pm for borough resident children who are age 10 and under. Admission is free and all children will get to see Santa and receive a small gift. A registration form is needed to obtain a free ticket to the event. Forms are available on our website or at Borough Hall. Santa will also ride around the borough prior to the event in one of the fire trucks to wave, say hello and remind you of the event. We hope to see you there!



### Membership

We are always looking for a few good men or women! We accept membership applications starting at the age of 14. If you are interested in volunteering with your neighborhood fire department, please log onto [www.wrfire.com](http://www.wrfire.com) and download an application or visit us any Wednesday evening to pick up an application.

## Stay Informed!

For up-to-date information pertaining to snow emergencies, changes to trash or recycling collection, meeting dates and times or events around the Borough please visit [www.westreadingborough.com](http://www.westreadingborough.com)

Also, while visiting the Borough website please register with the CodeRED Emergency Notification System to receive time-sensitive, targeted location notifications of local events that may immediately impact your safety. Messages for the following types of events can be received via phone call, text message, and email or through a CodeRED Mobile Alert App:

- Missing Person
- Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Evacuation
- Weather Related Necessities
- Criminal Activity
- Shelter in Place/Lockdowns
- Boil Water Advisories
- Large Local Events

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## Mayor - Andrew Kearney

I have been hounded by this task for months now. How do I tell drivers about driving carefully and cautiously through the borough? I mean social media only goes so far. My target for my message just isn't the residents of West Reading but everyone who drives through the borough. How do I spread that message thoroughly, so when people drive into West Reading, they are respectful behind the wheel? We have had some harrowing accidents in broad daylight in the last two months in West Reading and careless and thoughtless driving was the cause. People were severely hurt. This concerns me because it can be prevented but only if the person behind the wheel obeys speed limits, stops at stop signs and tries to drive defensively. I want to admit the drivers not stopping at stop signs is a major pet peeve of mine. Every day I see drivers slowing driving through stop signs in the borough. I have been racking my brain about how to solve that. I'm starting here in this newsletter. Please spread the word that drivers need to be considerate of the traffic laws. We need to do this to protect our residents. I hope you will put down this newsletter (or turn off the digital version) and tell somebody "the Mayor of West Reading wants us to stop at stop signs!" I sure do. It sounds funny. I know. But I have sold advertising for over ten years and we all know the best advertising is "word-of-mouth". And just belting that sentence out loud so someone else can hear it is success in my book. I am content to even hear it become a punchline as long as you are talking about it. Because, hopefully you will remember your friend joking about it as you roll up to the stop sign at Third and Pine...and stop.



*Andrew Kearney, Mayor*

## West Reading Police Department

The West Reading Police Department consists of 13 sworn Police Officers, 2 Parking Enforcement Officers and 2 Administrative Aides. In addition, the WRPD is proud to have our K-9 Officer, Falco helping keep the community safe. The Police Department is open to the public from 08:00 AM to 08:00 PM Monday to Friday. We can be reached after hours and on weekends by calling 610-373-0111.

Community involvement is a vitally important part of ensuring that West Reading continues to be an outstanding place to live. The Police Department takes a very active role in developing and maintaining our relationship with our residents. Throughout the year we participate in many events, both on our own and with other Law Enforcement agencies. Some of these events include:

- Digital Safety Presentation at the Wyomissing Area Jr/Sr High School
- DARE Classes at Sacred Heart Elementary School
- Citizens Police Academy with Wyomissing and Spring Township Police Department
- National Night Out – At the West Reading Pool and Park

We also support and provide a visible presence at many of the outstanding events that take place along Penn Avenue.

As we move through the fall and winter, please keep in mind some simple things that can be done to prevent crime:

### **If leaving your vehicle unattended:**

- Turn off the ignition and take the keys out of the vehicle.
- Remove or hide any valuables that may be in the vehicle, including electronics.
- LOCK YOUR DOORS!

### **Around your home:**

- Check your outside lights and change bulbs as needed.
- Trim bushes and/or trees that may prevent officers on patrol from having a good view of the front of your home.
- Anyone soliciting must have a permit. Permits can be verified by calling the Code Department, or checking the Borough website.
- Check batteries in smoke and Co2 detection equipment

### **Please report any suspicious activity. When calling you will be asked some or all of the following questions:**

- Description of the activity.
- Description of those involved – Clothing, Height, Weight, etc.... Are weapons involved?
- Vehicles Involved – Description and direction of travel if moving.

More specific information may be asked, based on the incident and what you are able to see. The West Reading Police Department would like to thank our residents and business community for all of the assistance and support we have received, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in making West Reading a great place to live and work.



**Chief Stephen Powell**

## Public Works Department - Director Dean Murray

### Keeping West Reading Moving and Open for Business

The Public Works Department provides the daily direction, planning, coordination and supervision of numerous essential public services. Services include street cleaning, snow and ice control, removal of storm debris, street light maintenance, storm drain maintenance, street sign maintenance, street construction and maintenance, pool and park system maintenance, leaf removal and water meter maintenance and repairs. All of these services are completed with a crew of nine. *Total Service Years to Date: 9 employees for 120 years.*

#### Go Green Program

Did you know that your yard waste can be disposed of at the Borough Garage? We currently accept grass and hedge clippings, leaves, tree branches and garden waste. Yard waste can be bundled or placed in biodegradable bags, no plastic bags will be accepted. Yard waste is disposed of at the Borough Garage located at 1st & Chestnut Streets, just call 610-374-8605 to schedule an appointment between the hours of 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

Also, yard waste may be disposed of on the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 AM to Noon during the months of August through December without an appointment. The remaining 2019 dates are: October 5th, November 2nd and December 7th. The yard waste is transported to an area facility and converted into mulch, keeping yard waste out of the landfill.

#### Leaf Collection

The street cleaning program has been a great success, and street cleaning days will continue to be used for leaf collection. If additional days are needed to clean the streets temporary signage will be posted. Please separate branches and other heavy debris from the leaves by placing this material in the planting strip area to avoid clogging the machine. Branches and large debris will be collected at random times.



#### Stormwater – When it Rains, it Drains

To keep pollutants out of our streams, please sweep up debris before it washes away with storm water and obstructs the storm drain or contaminates a waterway. Increasing the vegetated areas of your yard helps water filtration.

Stormwater that cannot infiltrate paved or compacted surfaces will drain to local waterways. To prevent runoff, make sure your downspouts are directed onto your lawn area, but not directed so as to cause saturation near your home or a stormwater problem on your neighbor's property. Current stormwater regulations encourage rain spouts to be disconnected from underground pipes that lead to the gutter in order for rainwater to freely infiltrate lawn areas.



Stormwater runoff that reaches the roads may pick up chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, road salt, engine fluids, eroded soils and debris, and creates 30% of all water quality impairments in the Schuylkill River Watershed. For more information visit [www.schuylkillwaters.org](http://www.schuylkillwaters.org).

#### Keep a Clear Path to Your Water Meter

Make sure there is a clear path to the remote device for your water meter. Keeping a path clear of lawn furniture, toys, hoses, shrubbery, snow and/or ice, etc. will ensure the road crew personnel can get to your reading device to obtain consistent water readings.

#### Sewer Backup

As always, avoid flushing anything other than toilet paper. This means no feminine products/wipes, paper towels, wash cloths, toys, etc. At any time, day or night when a sewer backup occurs at your home or business your first call should be to the Borough. A Public Works Member will plunge the sewer trap located near your home/business in an effort to remove the clog, possibly negating the need to hire a plumber. During normal business hours contact Borough Hall at 610-374-8273, outside of normal business hours contact the non-emergency Police line at 610-373-0111 to dispatch a member of the Public Works Department to your location. The Borough maintains the sewer system from the curb to the main. Sewer lines from the house to the curb are the property owner's responsibility.

#### Light Poles

Please report Borough streetlight issues to Borough Hall. Providing the location, address and pole number of the light will help field personnel make repairs. If you discover a downed streetlight pole, exposed electrical wires or any other hazardous situation please contact the Police Department at 610-373-0111. To report a streetlight that is either on during the day or not on at night, please contact Borough Hall at 610-374-8273 or you may submit a trouble ticket directly to Met-Ed through their online [Report a Lighting Problem](#) portal.

#### Snow Storm Tips

Snow will be here before you know it! Please prepare your home and family in the event of a large accumulation by keeping emergency lighting on hand, including fresh batteries. Also, know where your water and sewer stacks are to keep them accessible in case of an emergency or backup.



Director Dean Murray

## Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Looking for a responsible way to dispose of unwanted paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides at no cost to you? The Berks County Ag Center, located at 1238 County Welfare Road will be hosting a hazardous waste disposal event on Saturday, October 19th from 8am to 2pm rain or shine. This event is free to all Berks County residents (identification is required). Household hazardous waste is any household product that is labeled: caution, danger, flammable, explosive, toxic, warning, corrosive, poison, volatile or any combination of these characteristics. Placing these items in the trash or down the drain contributes to the pollution of our air and drinking waters.



# Code Enforcement Department

## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Code Enforcement Department to fairly, reasonably and with impartiality enforce the building codes, municipal codes and zoning ordinance of the Borough. Our goal is to ensure compliance for safe living and business operations, thereby protecting property and the quality of life for all Borough residents.



## Contact Us

Cathy Hoffman  
Code Department Manager  
610-374-8273 ext. 223  
[choffman@westreadingborough.org](mailto:choffman@westreadingborough.org)

Elba Beltran del-Rio  
Code Enforcement Secretary  
610-374-8273 ext. 238  
Fax: 610-816-7565  
[ebeltrandelrio@westreadingborough.org](mailto:ebeltrandelrio@westreadingborough.org)

## Prior to beginning any projects, please contact our office to determine if a permit is needed.

Blight and nuisances can devalue, detract and degrade the quality of any neighborhood. The Borough has adopted codes that govern the use and maintenance of private property, such as weed abatement, rubbish and graffiti in order to enhance and protect the quality of life for all who work, live and play in the Borough.

## Property Maintenance Information

Homes and properties are required to be well maintained both inside and outside according to the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). The IPMC imposes minimum upkeep standards for existing buildings and exterior property areas. To keep neighborhoods safe, healthy and vibrant, the Code Department is continually in the process of performing exterior inspections of properties within the Borough.



## How Do I Report a Code Violation?

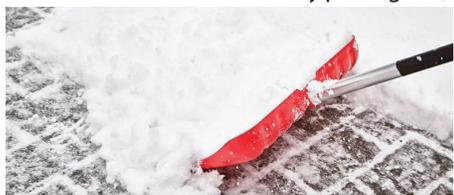
To report a code violation, please submit a written complaint form which can be obtained by either contacting the Code Enforcement Department to have a form faxed, mailed or emailed to your attention; visit our website at:

[www.westreadingborough.com](http://www.westreadingborough.com); or visit Borough Hall located at 500 Chestnut Street. To stay current on ordinance regulations visit [www.ecode360.com/WE3192](http://www.ecode360.com/WE3192) for a complete searchable list of the Borough of West Reading municipal code.

## Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal

Thank you for shoveling your sidewalk, it's the neighborly thing to do! West Reading is a vibrant, walkable community, which is why it is vitally important to maintain public sidewalks and walkways in a manner safe for travel.

We do not issue notices/warnings for snow and ice removal from public sidewalks on your property. Every owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, property agent or any other person responsible for property within the Borough must remove a clear path of at least 36" from public sidewalks within 36 hours following the end of a snow/ice event. In order to accommodate increased pedestrian traffic on Penn Avenue, a path of at least 48" shall be cleared within 24 hours following the end of a snow/ice event. All sidewalks must be maintained free of snow/ice by placing salt, sand or other abrasive or chemical material upon areas where



melting and refreezing has occurred to render sidewalks safe for travel. If snow/ice is not removed within the time frame allowed, a fine for each offense will be assessed until the violation is corrected: Fine 1 - \$25; Fine 2 - \$50; Fine 3 and subsequent instances \$100 each.

Also, please be sure to clear snow away from fire hydrants as this will assist fire department personnel to extinguish a fire in the event of an emergency.

As always, the Borough seeks volunteers to assist our elderly and/or disabled residents who cannot maintain their sidewalks in the event of snow or ice. Please contact our office if you are interested in volunteering. On the same note, if you cannot maintain your sidewalk or know a resident that is elderly/disabled and in need of assistance, please contact our office to be added to a list so we may offer assistance.

One never knows when you'll need a little neighborly assistance. Unfortunately, less than half of Americans actually know the people in their communities, a fact that becomes all that more acute when it comes to needing cups of sugar or dealing with snowstorm aftermath. Make an effort to get to know your neighbor and assist each other in staying safe.

~ Allow us to find ways to show neighborly kindness to all people ~

## Trash Information

1) Please remember to store all refuse within durable, water-tight containers equipped with handles and tight-fitting covers to deter the attraction of rodents to your neighborhood. It is also recommended to mark your containers and lids with your address.

Our Municipal Code Is Now Online!

Go to [ecode360.com/WE3192](http://ecode360.com/WE3192)

Access | Navigate | Share | 24/7

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- 2) Four (4) trash cans per household per trash collection day are allowed. Please do not place bulky items out for regular trash collection. One bulk item per household per month may be placed out for collection on the first Friday of every month.
- 3) Please do not place trash/recycling out prior to noon the day prior to collection and promptly remove your receptacle(s) by midnight the day of collection.
- 4) Trash collection is every Tuesday and Friday; recycling collection is every Wednesday.
- 5) Electronic items such as televisions, microwaves, refrigerators and air conditioners will not be removed by the trash/recycling hauler. These items must be recycled due to hazardous materials. Please contact Berks County Solid Waste Authority at 610-478-6362 or visit their website at [www.co.berks.pa.us/swa](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa) for more information.

### Reminders

- 1) Pet waste management is an important responsibility of dog ownership. The first step is picking up what your pet leaves behind. The second is making sure it is disposed of properly. A common misconception surrounding pet waste disposal is that Fido or Fluffy's waste serves as a natural fertilizer. Dog owners take note: this is not true. In fact, leaving pet waste on the ground or concentrating it in one specific area of the yard can seriously harm soil quality and can be dangerous for both families and their pets. Pet waste should always be picked up and removed from your property on a regular basis. It is recommended to scoop waste into a trash bag, then double-wrap with another bag and place in the garbage to be collected and taken to the landfill.
- 2) Cars, trucks, RV's, motorcycles, trailers, etc. cannot be parked on the grass on your property or the property where you reside. Vehicles may only be parked on a stone, concrete or macadam pad. Prior to installing a parking pad, a zoning permit application is required.
- 3) In an effort to allow emergency personnel to quickly identify your home, the Borough requires all properties are to be clearly marked in the front and rear of the property. The numbers should contrast with the background and be a minimum height of four inches.
- 4) No soliciting without a permit – Going door-to-door for the purpose of soliciting, handing out flyers and door hangers, etc. requires first obtaining a Borough permit. After a background check and receipt of a permit fee a Borough issued ID badge must be worn at all times while soliciting. Hours available to solicit are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday only. If a solicitor comes to your door without a Borough issued ID do not hesitate to contact the West Reading Police at 610-373-0111 to make a report. Please provide as much detail about the solicitor as possible. If you receive a brochure or letter from the solicitor, please mark the date received and turn it into the Borough for processing.

Just a reminder...



### Rental Property

Regulating the condition and operation of rental housing is a major challenge facing local governments across the United States. While a stock of sound, well-managed single family rental properties can be a valuable community asset and most landlords are responsible owners that is not always the case.

The responsibility for making sure that landlords maintain and manage their properties well falls to local governments, which has the authority to enforce codes and take a variety of other actions under the legal powers municipalities are granted to regulate property. The goal of these regulations is not to drive landlords away or to punish them, but to raise the quality bar for rental housing in the community, and ensure to the extent possible that landlords who own property in the municipality are responsible stewards of their properties, working with the municipality to ensure that neighborhoods remain safe and clean.



West Reading Borough administers a Residential Rental Unit Licensing and Inspection Program. All residential rental units are issued a license upon submitting a completed application. Periodic inspections of all rental units in the Borough are conducted by the Code Enforcement Department in coordination with the property owners and tenants. The goal of this program is aimed at promoting a greater compliance with health and safety standards to reduce substandard conditions in rental housing.

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*"Keep It Safe, Keep It Beautiful"*

*A cooperative effort of the Borough of West Reading and its neighborhoods.*

## Committee Vacancies



Join Us! Help shape the future of your community by becoming a volunteer member of one of your local boards or committees. These resident-led groups help shape public policy, direct economic development, provide local services and make tremendous positive contributions to our quality of life. Public service is a valuable resource and your time is greatly appreciated! You can make a huge difference by contributing just a few hours every month.

The following is a list of current boards/committees with vacancies:

- **Zoning Hearing Board**

**Interested Borough residents should forward a resume and/or letter of interest to:**

Borough of West Reading • Attention: Borough Secretary • 500 Chestnut Street • West Reading, PA 19611

## Recreation Department

The mission of the West Reading Recreation Commission is to provide excellence in the delivery of programs, events and services. The Borough's 23-acre park is for the use of West Reading residents and their guests. The park facilities include a stone pavilion, walking trails, tennis and basketball courts, baseball and softball fields, a gravel track, volleyball court and community swimming pool. A new addition to the park area is an 18-hole Disc Golf Course.

### Facility Rentals

The Bicentennial House was introduced back in 1976 by Elta K. Bitz. The Bicentennial House is available for small parties, gatherings, meetings and special events. The building has a large gathering room with a full kitchen and handicapped accessible restrooms. There is also green landscape for outdoor entertainment.

The Pavilion was built in 1939 by Wyomissing Industries, who helped provide funds for the stone field house. This recreation facility also has a tot-lot, playground and outdoor exercise area. The Pavilion is available for gatherings and small parties. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Information pertaining to rental fees for residents and non-residents for both facilities can be found on our website [www.westreadingborough.com](http://www.westreadingborough.com)

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



### Zumbini

**Tuesdays September 10th - October 29th 10 AM & 6 PM**

Zumbini is an early childhood education program that uses original music and movement to promote cognitive, social, fine/gross motor skills and emotional development for children ages 0-4 all while creating the ultimate bonding experience for families. Join Shayla Bradley-Oberly at the Bicentennial House on Tuesday mornings and/or Tuesday evenings. Questions for Shayla? She can be reached at 610-568-0794 or [msbradley21@aol.com](mailto:msbradley21@aol.com)

### Harvest Hayride

**Friday & Saturday, October 18, 19 & 25th 7 PM – 9 PM**

Come see what all the excitement is about as you enjoy a hayride through the Playground area. Beware of those scary drivers who may make a turn down Spooky Lane to the pumpkin patch and wind up in the graveyard! Following the hayride roast S'mores with your volunteer firefighters. There will be light refreshments available to purchase, spooky games in the tent area and a chance to win a prize at the famous Mrs. Heckler's Duck Pond.

**Hayride: \$6 per person • Duck Pond: \$1 per person**

### Haunted House

**Friday & Saturday, October 18, 19, 25 & 26, 2019 7 PM – 9 PM**

Come see what's new this year during our 5th Annual Haunted House at the Pavilion! A less spooky time for smaller children is available on Saturday, October 26th from 5PM – 7 PM. If you are interested in volunteering your hauntingly good time during all of the above dates and times, please contact the Recreation Director at 610-374-8273, ext. 243. Fee to enter the haunted house is \$8.00

### Trunk-or-Treat

**Saturday, October 26, 2019 4 PM – 6 PM**

Bring your friends, family and neighbors to the Pavilion for a safe, fun filled Halloween event sponsored by the West Reading Recreation Department. There will be music, games, haunted attractions, spooky crafts, food vendors, candy and a trunk decorating contest. All vehicles must be registered for the trunk decorating contest. Also, if you are interested in volunteering your time for this event, please contact the Recreation Director at 610-374-8273, ext. 243.



### Mother-Son Night Out

**Saturday, November 2, 2019 6:30 – 9:00 PM**

Welcome to Superhero City! We will have a nice evening beginning with a spaghetti dinner and a super hero movie. There will also be games, dancing & memorable photo and every young gentleman will receive a gift. Tickets will be available after October 14th 2019. The cost for tickets are \$20.00 per couple and \$10.00 for additional siblings in the same household and can be purchased at West Reading Borough Hall. This dance is for West Reading/Wyomissing/Sacred Heart Students in grades K-6th. The deadline to purchase tickets is October 31st, tickets will not be sold at the door.

### Holiday Tree Lighting

**Friday, December 6, 2019 6 PM**

Join us at Delaney Circle for our 91st Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! The tradition began in 1928 when the first tree lighting was held in front of Borough Hall with a few Council Members present. Little did our forefathers know they launched what became a tree lighting tradition. The tree lighting ceremony was moved to Delaney Circle in the 1990's where we can celebrate the night air with music, dancing and warm wishes. Following the ceremony at Delaney Circle join us at St. James Church for an opportunity to meet Santa and Mrs. Clause!

### Holiday Home Decorating Contest

**Sunday, December 15, 2019 7 PM – 9 PM**

West Reading Recreation Department would like for you to get into the holiday spirit this season by decorating your home. All houses will be judged from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on Sunday, December 15, 2019 by our Recreation Committee. You don't need to be home to participate, but make sure you leave your lights on. The committee will look for creativity, originality and over-all presentation. There can only be three winners so do your best.



- 1st place is a complimentary single pool pass for the season or a single playground program for a child.
- 2nd place is a complimentary 6 day pool pass.
- 3rd place is a complimentary day pass for the pool.

## When is Bulk Trash Pickup?

On the first Friday of every month, each household may place one bulk item at the curb for collection with your trash. Bulk items may weigh no more than 75 pounds nor exceed five-feet in length. Items such as tires, appliances, water heaters, batteries, items with Freon, etc. will not be accepted. These items must be recycled at a recycling center. For more information please contact the Berks County Solid Waste Authority at 610-478-6362 or visit their website at [www.co.berks.pa.us/swa](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa).

# Volunteer

The Borough's Park and Recreation Department provides fun and safe activities for Borough residents. We have a Recreation Commission which meets regularly to discuss and plan upcoming events and projects. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you have the time, come out and join us!

Throughout the year, the Recreation Department hosts a variety of activities including the Father/Daughter dance, Mother/Son dance, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Tree Lighting, Haunted Hayride, Community Moonlight Swims and so much more. Every summer, Borough children are invited to take part in the Borough's playground program, which provides activities and field trips for children ages 5-12 years old.

If you would like to join or just volunteer your time with the Recreation Commission, please contact the Parks & Recreation Director at Borough Hall 610-374-8273 ext. 243.



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**THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES!**

The Borough of West Reading would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to the residents.



# Borough of West Reading

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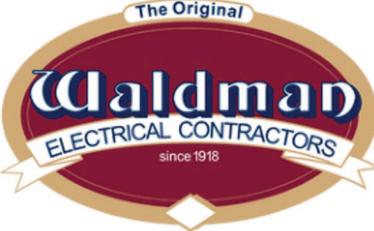
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