

# *The Borough of* **WEST READING**

## *In This Issue*



Welcome from Borough Council .....	2	Tax Collector Sitting Dates .....	5
Borough Directory.....	2	Public Works.....	6
Message from Council President .....	3	Recycling Guidelines.....	6
Online Utility Payment.....	3	Code Enforcement Department. ....	7
Rain Barrels .....	3	West Reading Fire Department .....	8
Message from Borough Mayor .....	4	Shredding Event.....	8
Pest Alert - Spotted Lanternfly .....	4	Bulk Trash Pickup .....	8
West Reading Police Department .....	5	Recreation Department .....	9-10

500 Chestnut Street | West Reading, PA 19611 | 610.374.8273

*Visit us at [westreadingborough.com](http://westreadingborough.com)*



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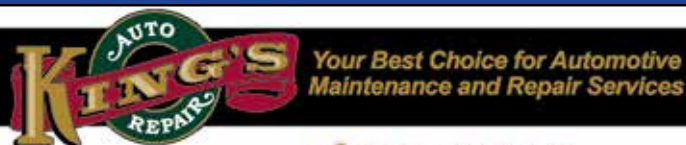
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610-926-2325 BerksCountyMG.com

# Welcome

2

## to the 2019 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

Nicholas Imbesi, President  
[nimbesei@westreadingborough.org](mailto:nimbesei@westreadingborough.org)

Philip Wert, Vice President  
Christopher Lincoln, Member

Suzanne Thompson, Member  
Nicholas Gardecki, Member  
David Amato, Member

#### MAYOR

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

#### BOROUGH MANAGER

Cathy Hoffman  
610-374-8273 x223  
[choffman@westreadingborough.org](mailto:choffman@westreadingborough.org)

#### BOROUGH ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Cynthia Madeira  
610-374-8273 x222  
[cmadeira@westreadingborough.org](mailto:cmadeira@westreadingborough.org)

#### 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. (except May)  
April 16th | May 22nd  
June 18th | July 16th | August 20th | September 17th

##### BUDGET

##### WORKSHOPS/COUNCIL MEETINGS

August 27th 7 p.m. | September 24th & 28th 9 p.m.  
October 12th 9 a.m. | November 9th & 26th 9 a.m.  
December 7th 9 a.m.

##### PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
April 3rd | May 1st | June 5th  
July 3rd | August 7th | September 4th

##### TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday 6:00 p.m.  
April 10th | May 8th | June 12th  
July 10th | August 14th | September 11th

##### RECREATION COMMISSION

1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
April 2nd | May 7th | June 4th  
July 2nd | August 5th | September 3rd  
*All meetings are held at West Reading Borough Hall  
in Council Chambers  
500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611*

#### Holiday Schedule

**April 19 – Good Friday**

**May 27 – Memorial Day**

**July 4 – Independence Day**

**October 14 – Columbus Day**

**November 11 – Veteran's Day**

#### Stay Informed!

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





## Council President - Nicholas Imbesi



With 2018 behind us, 2019 will bring about another year of expected growth for the Borough of West Reading. Borough Council will be working on many initiatives to improve the quality of life, increase parking capacity, and increase economic activity. You can expect the borough to begin rolling out our new parking program, which will be a private-public partnership with lot owners throughout the borough. We are confident that this program will help alleviate parking congestion on Penn Avenue and residential streets. Residents can also expect to see the completion of the last 21 parcels on the north side of the borough on Elm Street and Tulpehocken Avenue.

Some other projects you can expect to be done:

- All pedestrian signals and traffic lights on Penn Avenue (3rd to 7th) will be updated through a Green Light Go Grant.
- Museum Road/parts of 5th Avenue will be repaved.
- Some water and sewer infrastructure repairs/projects.

In addition, The West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation in partnership with the borough has many events planned throughout the year that bring thousands of visitors from around the country to our borough. The borough has also executed an agreement with Radsport to continue hosting the Criterium Bike

Race in the borough until the end of 2020 at no cost to the tax payers of West Reading.

Lastly, I know many are upset or concerned about the 2018 recent tax increase. I understand and get your frustration. The fiscal year of 2018 was rough, and we had to make a lot of tough decisions. I am confident that because of the actions council took, the borough is on a much better footing. The 2019 budget is the first budget in 5 years to be balanced with a surplus, and puts us on a path of fiscal responsibility. I will gladly meet with any resident or business owner to discuss the budget one on one.

I welcome everyone who might have questions, concerns, or ideas to please email me anytime at [nimbesei@westreadingborough.org](mailto:nimbesei@westreadingborough.org). And as always, please attend our multitude of monthly meetings to have your input and ideas heard. Our borough works best when we hear from you.

Thank you for taking the time to read my update. I look forward to what 2019 has in store for West Reading.

Nicholas Imbesi,  
President of Council

## Online Utility Payment

**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. 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.

A reminder email or the newly available text notification 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.

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

## Rain Barrels

### What are rain barrels?

A rain barrel is a rainwater collection system that stores rooftop runoff that can be used for irrigating gardens and lawns, while conserving water.

### Can I use a rain barrel?

Cisterns, rain barrels, vertical storage, and similar devices have been used for centuries to capture stormwater from the roofs of buildings. Capture and reuse encompasses a wide variety of water storage techniques designed to "capture" precipitation, hold it for a period of time, and reuse the water. Storage/reuse techniques range from small, residential systems such as rain barrels that are maintained by the homeowner to supplement garden needs, to large, "vertical storage" units that can provide firefighting needs. Storage/reuse techniques can be useful in urban areas where there is little physical space to

manage stormwater, some models even include planter boxes or flat backs for conserving space.

### Benefits of Rain Barrels

#### Environmental Benefits:

- Reduces roof runoff
- Conserves water use
- Reduces pollutants from entering streams
- Clean water for gardens, lawns, washing cars, etc.

#### Maintenance:

- Keep openings covered with a fine-mesh screen to prevent mosquito breeding; you can also use "dunks," a non-toxic bacteria to kill larvae
- Empty barrel frequently to keep stored water from developing odors. Baking soda (not vinegar) can also help.
- Check barrel and connections frequently

to remove debris

- Drain barrel and connections and place in storage during winter to avoid freezing damage

#### Application:

- Residence
- Business
- School
- Anywhere there is a rain leader from a roof!

*Take note: Water from barrel should NEVER be used for drinking, cooking or bathing!*



## Mayor - Andrew Kearney

Starting my second year as Mayor is even more nerve wracking as the various responsibilities have fully kicked in. There are meetings with residents, phone calls, emails, meetings with business owners, special events, committee projects, volunteering, tons of reading and on and on and on. It sounds grueling but it really is fun. Apart from the borough business, I was invited to and attended a great Christmas party by a resident and borough community servant. I met several West Reading residents at the party as well as other guests that night. I truly enjoyed getting to know them and sharing stories with them. It was such an enjoyable night with warmth, kindness, generosity and fellowship all around.

2018 also has shown me the critical importance of accurate and quick communication with borough residents. I urge you to visit the Borough's website and the West Reading Police Department's website for insight on borough services, events, business and sources for answers to common questions. For additional event

information, please visit the WRCRF's website at [www.wrcrf.org](http://www.wrcrf.org). All of the pertinent phone numbers, website addresses and email addresses are here in this publication.

We need to keep in touch with each other and starting that new habit can be difficult. So I ask that, if you can, get familiar with the borough's websites that can tell you more about the borough and where to turn for assistance and answers to questions in the off-business hours. There is actually some interesting insight into the work of the borough police force, the streets department, the incredible recreation department and the borough administration. In conclusion, thank you West Reading for being such a great neighborhood. You are kind, patient, generous and thoughtful citizens. Let's make 2019 another great year in West Reading.

Andrew Kearney, Mayor



## PEST ALERT » SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper, which was first discovered on September 22, 2014 in eastern Berks County, Pennsylvania. It is native to China, India, and Vietnam and was unintentionally introduced to Korea where it has become a major pest. This insect prefers to attach to the tree of heaven, but it will feed on many other host plants including grapes, apples, stone fruits and has the potential to greatly impact the grape, fruit trees and forest products industries. Early detection is vital for the protection of Pennsylvania businesses and agriculture.

**Identification:** The spotted lanternfly adult is approximately 1" long and ½" wide at rest. The forewing is gray with black spots and the wing tips are reticulated black blocks outlined in gray. The hind wings have contrasting patches of red and black with a white band. The legs and head are black; the abdomen is yellow with broad black bands. Young nymphs are black with white spots, and the last (4th) instar develop red patches.

**Hosts:** In the fall, adults congregate on tree of heaven, willows and other trees in groups of up to 20. Egg masses are laid on the trunk and branches of medium to large trees. After hatching in the spring, nymphs will move off the tree and search out new hosts, including several kinds of agricultural crops. In Korea, it has been reported to attack 65 different tree species, 25+ of which are known to grow in Pennsylvania.

**Symptoms and Signs:** Trees, such as tree of heaven and willow, will develop weeping wounds. These wounds will leave a grayish or black trail along the trunk. This sap will attract other insects to feed, notably wasps and ants. In late fall, adults will lay egg masses on host trees and nearby smooth surfaces like stone, outdoor furniture, vehicles and other structures. Newly laid egg masses have a gray mud-like covering that can take on a dry cracked appearance over time. Old egg masses appear as rows of 30-50 brownish seed-like deposits in 4-7

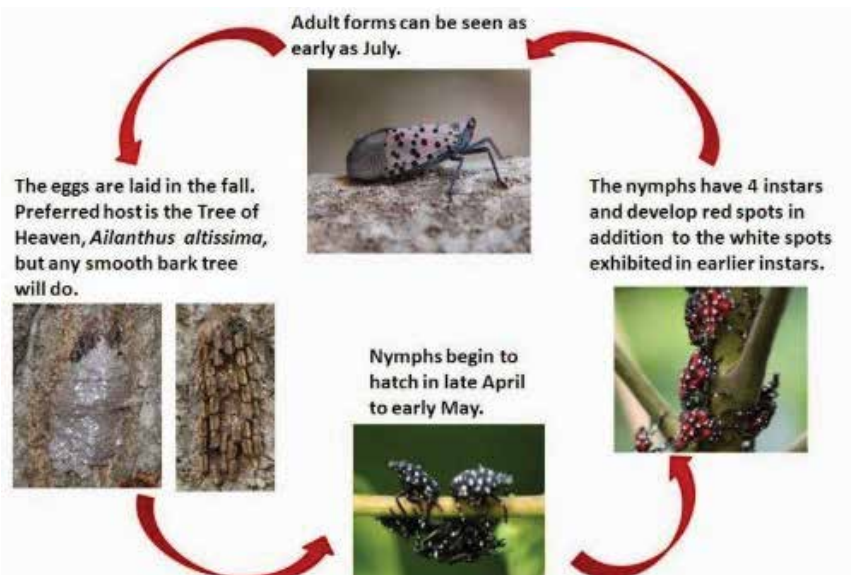
columns on the trunk, roughly an inch long.

**What to do:** If you see egg masses, scrape them off, double bag them and throw them away. You can also place the eggs into alcohol or hand sanitizer to kill them.

**Collect a specimen:** Specimens of any life stage may be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Entomology Lab for verification.

**Take a picture:** A photograph of any life stage (including egg masses) can be submitted to [badbug@pa.gov](mailto:badbug@pa.gov)

**Report a site:** If you can't take a specimen or photograph, call the Automated Invasive Species Report Line 1-866-253-7189 and leave a message detailing your sighting and contact information.



## West Reading Police Department - Chief Stephen Powell

As the weather begins to turn warm and pleasant, and more people begin to enjoy outside activities, please remember:

- Keep watch for children playing outside, and operate all motor vehicles in a safe and cautious manner, especially near the park, playground and pool.
- Always remember to lock your vehicle doors, raise all windows and never leave your vehicle running, unattended, even if only for a few moments. Always remove all portable electronics from view, and place them in secure locations such as the glove box, center console etc... When away from your vehicle.
- Always secure your homes when away, and ensure that all basement and first floor doors and windows are closed and locked at night. Ensure that all shrubbery is trimmed around your homes, so that officers on patrol have a good view of the residence and potential entry points.
- As the weather gets hot, please check on the welfare of your neighbors, especially if they are elderly and live alone.

- Please keep watch in your neighborhoods for unusual activities or suspicious persons. Do not hesitate to call police if you see or hear something suspicious or out of the ordinary at 610-373-0111.
- Please take an active role in the safety of our community.



Consider joining Crime Watch, meetings are held at Borough Hall on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm. (April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, and September 10). For additional information, Facebook members can "friend" West Reading Crime Watch for ongoing news on issues of interest as well as detailed information about current activities.

Did you know: You can follow the WRPD on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/WRPolice> and on twitter at: [www.twitter.com/WRPolice](http://www.twitter.com/WRPolice) for Police and Borough related information.

### Hours of Operation

The Police Department's front desk is open from 8am to 8pm Monday through Friday. If the Police Department is closed, no parking signs may be purchased and parking ticket payment may be made at the Administration office Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am to 5pm.

### Street Postings

Please check your street for sign postings, including those that are posted for the street cleaning program. Borough Crew Members may also post streets for other maintenance work. Signs are posted on posts, trees and stakes the day before scheduled maintenance work. Vehicles must be removed during the specified

times, or tickets will be issued. Signs will be removed when the work has been completed.

### Going on Vacation?

If so, we ask that you notify the Police Department by filing a vacation report to notify us that you will be away. This information will be of assistance whether you will be gone for an overnight trip or for a month. Having the information on file will be helpful if your vehicle will be parked on the street while you are gone in case your street is posted for maintenance work. It will also be helpful if we need to contact someone in the event of an emergency.

***Your Police Department wishes all Borough residents and visitors alike, a very safe and enjoyable summer.***



## National Night Out

**Tuesday, August 6, 2019**

Please join us from 5-9pm at the Pool for the 36th annual National Night Out. This event is FREE to all West Reading Borough Residents. Join us for fun, food, and games with your local Police Officers! National Night Out is a great opportunity for you to meet your West Reading Police Department Officers.

Hope to see you there!

## 2019 Tax Collector Sitting Dates

**Where:** West Reading Borough Hall, 500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA

**Time:** 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

### Dates:

Thursday, April 18	Friday, April 26
Monday, April 22	Monday, April 29
Tuesday, April 23	Tuesday, April 30





## Public Works Department - Director Dean Murray



### Keeping West Reading Moving and Open for Business

#### Street Cleaning

Street sweeping keeps roads safe by removing debris that clog storm drains and reduces the amount of pollutants that collect on Borough streets. To remind yourself of the street cleaning schedule in your neighborhood, enter a reminder in your smart phone calendar to make sure to remove your vehicle at the appropriate time to avoid a parking ticket. If a scheduled street cleaning day falls on a holiday, unless otherwise specified, that street would not be cleaned until the following regular cleaning day.

#### Upcoming Infrastructure Improvement Plans

- Pine Street Water Main & Service Line Replacement
- Fifth Avenue/Museum Road Paving – Pine Street to the bridge located near the pool.
- Lakeview Drive/Eighth Avenue Paving – Penn Avenue to Spruce Street
- Walnut Street – N 7th Avenue to Chiffon Way



These projects could present some inconveniences for residents and travelers alike. Please use extreme caution through changing traffic patterns and detour routes. Allow additional time as you travel through the Borough for the safety of all!

#### 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, but may also refer to an organization responsible for the administration of a developed area. And the number 4 refers

to the four words that start with the letter "S"; "Separate," "Storm," "Sewer," "System."

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, without treatment, into local streams and rivers. It's called a separate system because it's not connected to the sanitary sewer system, which drains wastewater from inside a home to a sewage treatment facility, or a private septic system.

Many rural developments have stormwater management structures, but only communities that the United States Census Bureau classifies as "Urbanized Areas," or UAs, based on population density, are required to become part of the MS4 program. Working together produces better results. You can do your part to help keep local water bodies clear and clean by preventing pollutants such as fertilizer, pesticide, motor oil, paint and litter from entering the waterways that degrade water quality and damages local aquatic habitats.

#### 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, etc. will ensure the meter reader can get to your reading device to obtain consistent water readings.

#### Go Green Program

Did you know that your yard waste could 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. The Borough Garage is located at 1st & Chestnut Streets; please call 610-374-8605 to schedule an appointment between the

hours of 7am to 4pm  
Monday through Friday.

#### Sewer Backups

As always, avoid flushing anything other than toilet paper. This means no feminine products/wipes, paper towels, washcloths, 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.

#### 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.

#### Contact Us

The Public Works Department constantly strives to keep the Borough as up-to-date and clean as possible. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Borough Garage at 610-374-8605 or Borough Hall. We are here for the residents and businesses alike.



## RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING GUIDELINES

CAN BE INCLUDED:	CANNOT BE INCLUDED:
Plastic bottles & containers	Plastic bags or plastic films
Cardboard & paperboard	Recyclables in plastic bags
Aluminum, tin & steel cans	Any soiled, wet or greasy material
Magazines & newspaper	Broken glass, ceramics, crystal & leaded glass
Glass bottles & containers	Plastic toys, bins, bulk items

## 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.



### ***Prior to beginning a project, 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.

### **Be a Good Neighbor...Take Pride in Your Borough**

What does it mean to be a "good neighbor" and how does that lead to taking pride in our community? Each one of us might interpret that to mean something different. Still, it might be worth considering what being a "good neighbor" and a prideful resident means in your neighborhood, from lifetime to new residents, people of all ages, and from all walks of life. With so much diversity, how can we work and live happily among each other?

Perhaps the first, and easiest way to being a "good neighbor" is to introduce yourself to anyone on your block and particularly those who share a property line with you. This simple act breaks down barriers and creates open dialogue of a respectful nature. Knowing the people who live around you provides a strengthened sense of pride in your home and neighborhood.

Next, take care of your property. This

doesn't have to mean that we all must have properties that are featured in the pages of magazines, but when living in a community there are reasonably courteous behaviors expected for the benefit of all. The following provides some examples:

- Curb your dog and then clean up after your dog. Walk your dog on a leash and be sure to carry plastic bags to clean up afterwards.
- Put your garbage cans out the night before pick up and put them away as soon as possible afterwards. Do not leave your garbage cans out – nobody wants to see your garbage every day of the week.
- Clean your front sidewalks, including weeds in the gutter – it really isn't anybody else's responsibility. Take the lead and think of the curb appeal for all. This includes mowing and weeding your property regularly throughout the summer, and expedited snow removal in the winter.
- Be mindful of your noise levels, particularly late in the evening and early in the morning.
- Be aware of your elderly neighbors, particularly in weather extremes. A friendly check in is the neighborly thing to do.
- "See Something – Say Something" - If you see something that looks suspicious, please report it...allow the police to determine what must be done, you don't know who you might help from this act.

I'm sure you can think of other ways to be good neighbors, making West Reading "Everybody's Hometown" in which we can all take great pride!



### Hiring a Contractor?

Hiring a contractor who can efficiently perform renovations to your home seems to cause more fear and anxiety than any other decision you will make about your home. How do you know you have the

right contractor, someone you can trust to do a good job for a fair price and stand behind their work? Unfortunately, there are no guarantees, but with due diligence and knowing what to look for you improve the odds of getting the right contractor.

### Investigate your contractor ~

Whether you obtain referrals from people you trust or end up blindly calling listings from the phone book, it's important to investigate your contractor.

- Ask for multiple references
- Look a prospective contractor up on Google
- Look them up on your local chapter of the Better Business Bureau
- Check Google for review, bad reports or law suits

Even after you have checked their credentials and spoken with the contractor, ask yourself:

- Did the contractor return your call promptly?
- Were they on time for your meeting?
- During the meeting, did the contractor answer questions to your satisfaction?
- Willingly provide references?
- Lay out his expectations for the job?
- Did you communicate well?

If your contractor can't understand you or vice versa, your house and budget could be in serious jeopardy.

### **Keep them honest!**

The bids you receive will tell you a lot about the people bidding. Was the bid ready when the contractor promised? It's a bad sign if the contractor breaks his first commitment to you. Was the bid outrageously high? The contractor is busy and only wants the job if you're willing to pay a premium for his time. Was the bid really low? This contractor either doesn't understand the scope of the job or deliberately underbid to get the job or will likely discover several unexpected problems not covered in the original contract and will require additional cash outlay.



## 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](https://www.facebook.com/westreadingfire) | Twitter: @westreadingfire



### Kauffman's Chicken BBQ

This Palm Sunday, April 14th we will be holding our annual Chicken BBQ at our station. Cost of the meal is \$9.00, and you will receive ½ of a chicken, baked potato, roll, butter, and applesauce. We also have a great selection of desert items available. You can pick the dinners up at the station on that day, or if you are a senior citizen resident of the borough we can deliver your meal to you. Call 610-372-9621 ext. 103 for more information or to order tickets.

### WRFD in Cyberspace

Please check out our website at [www.wrfire.com](http://www.wrfire.com). The website has given us an opportunity to give the public a better look at who we are and what we do for the community. Please check us out! Also, if you are a Facebook or Twitter user please search for "West Reading Fire Department" and "Like" our page to keep up to date on what's happening at the WRFD!

### Fire Safety

Please remember that with warm weather on the way, outdoor cooking on grills is right around the corner. Please make sure that if you use a gas grill you confirm that it is correctly connected and that you don't have any gas leaks before you turn it on. If you have even a small leak, it could cause a fire with dangerous consequences. Also remember to keep your grill away from your home or any other combustible structures. Also, an important thing to remember is to use any gas-burning grill outside, not inside your home. These grills produce carbon monoxide, which is colorless and odorless and can kill you. If you have any questions about using your gas grill, please give us a call.



Also remember to periodically check your smoke detectors, because a dead battery in your smoke detector will not help you in a fire emergency. Many of the homes that we visit on fire calls do not have operating smoke detectors, or they have none at all. Smoke detectors are a cheap way to keep your family safe, so please make sure they are in working order. We have smoke detectors available

for sale at our station at a cost of \$10.00 each and we can also install them in your home at no charge to you. We will also install owner provided smoke detector batteries for you at no charge if you are unable to do it yourself. Please give us a call for more information.

### Open Burning

Please be advised that open burning is illegal in the Borough of West Reading unless you apply for and receive a permit from the Codes Office. This means no open burning of leaves or other yard waste, or any type of outdoor temporary fireplace without prior authorization from the fire department. Please have consideration for your neighbors and refrain from burning anything in your yards this spring. If you have any questions please contact the Borough's Code Enforcement Department.

### Fire Extinguishers

We get calls at the station from residents all the time about fire extinguishers....what kind do I need for my home?? What can be done with old or used fire extinguishers?? We would love to help you!

We do not sell fire extinguishers here at the WRFD, but we would recommend that you visit any home improvement store or fire extinguisher vendor and look closely at the packaging to make sure you purchase an extinguisher that will work with the hazards you have in your home. Selecting the wrong fire extinguisher for the fire hazard can be very dangerous.

As far as old extinguishers or used units, if you don't feel comfortable throwing them away in the trash please bring them to the station any Wednesday night at 6:00 and we will dispose of them for you. Any questions please give us a call.

### 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 as a firefighter, fire police officer, or just to help out with non-fire related events please log on to [www.wrfire.com](http://www.wrfire.com) and download an application or visit us any Wednesday night to pick up an application.

## Community Shredding Event

Help protect yourself and your family from identity theft by having your personal and confidential information shredded and recycled during a community-shredding event, free of charge to Berks County residents on Saturday, April 20, 2019 from 8am to 2pm at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School located at 600 Governor Drive, Shillington. The Berks County Solid Waste Authority limits the number of boxes per vehicle to 10. Individuals only, no businesses will be accepted.

## 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).

## Recreation Department - Director Helen Moyer

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 edition to the park area slated to open in the spring of 2019 will be an 18-hole Disc Golf Course. Please stay tuned for further information!



### RECREATION HAPPENINGS



#### Easter Egg Hunt:

**Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019**

**Time: 12:00 PM -2:00 PM**

Hop on over to the West Reading Fire Department for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Be sure to bring your own basket big enough to fill with all the eggs you will find. There will also be Easter flowers for sale and homemade peanut butter and coconut cream eggs for sale. Children's photos can be taken with the Easter Bunny at a cost of \$3.00.

Pre-registration is required, forms can be found on the Borough's website or by visiting Borough Hall. The Easter Egg Hunt is open to West Reading Borough children up to 10 years of age. Please register by 5:00 PM on Friday, April 12, 2019.

#### Father Daughter Dance:

**Date: May 3, 2019**

**Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

There will be light refreshments, music, a memorable photo and every young lady will receive a gift. Tickets will be available to purchase after April 12, 2019.

Tickets are \$20.00 per couple and \$10.00 for additional siblings in the same household, and may be purchased at West Reading Borough Hall. The dance is for girls who are currently enrolled in grades K-6th and who attend Wyomissing Area School District or Sacred Heart schools. Deadline to purchase tickets is 5:00 PM on Thursday, May 2, 2019. Tickets will not be sold at the door.



#### Summer Playground Group:

Come and let your children enjoy their summer at our summer camp at the West Reading Pavilion. The program is for children ages 5-12. Your child/children will get to play with old friends and make new friends as well. There will be exciting trips and new things for them to learn along the way.

**Date: June 17th to August 9th**

**Cost: ½ Day Monday – Friday 9am to Noon \$150;**

**Cost: Field Trip Day \$75 (optional)**

**Cost: Full Day Monday – Friday 9am to 4pm \$300**

**Every Friday is Pool Day**, so bring your swimsuit and towel and get ready for some fun! **(9am to 1pm for ½ day program)**

**Field Trips:** The cost is \$75 per child whether they attend one or all of the scheduled field trips. Please don't send your child to playground on field trip days if he/she isn't attending. Playground Leaders will be accompanying the children on the field trips and there will be no one at playground to care for your child.

If you wish to have your child participate in the lunch program, the cost is \$200 for eight weeks. A healthy lunch is provided every day and a menu will be provided on the first day of camp.

#### Happenings in the West Reading Park:

##### Concerts in the Park:

**Date: June 30th, July 28th, August 25th, and September 29th**

**Rain Date: October 6th**

**Time: 2 to 7pm**

Bring your family and blankets or chairs, and join us on Sunday afternoons in the Park. There will be music, drinks, food and games. These events are hosted by West Reading Recreation and Pollen Consolidated. Bands will be announced at a future date, so please check our Facebook page or the Borough website for further information.

##### Movie in the Park:

Bring your family and friends to West Reading Park on June 22nd (rain date June 23rd) for the classic movie showing of "GREASE" and a car show. The car show will begin at 6pm and the movie will begin at dusk. There will also be light refreshments available for purchase.



##### Independence Day Celebration:

**Date: Thursday, July 4th**

**Rain Date: Friday, July 5th**

Swimming pool events will begin at 12pm and will continue to 6pm. There will be games, swimming and dancing on the pool deck. Entrance fee for the pool is \$8 for residents and \$14 for non-residents (pool members are free). Afterwards, come out and celebrate with food, drinks, music and a great fireworks display from 6pm – 9:30pm. Fireworks will begin at 9:30 pm. More information on the event will be posted at a later date.



## WEST READING POOL

### Pool Schedule

May 25 - 27, 2019 - Open Memorial Day Weekend Only (12:00 pm - 8:00 pm)  
 June 1 - 2, 2019 - Open Weekend Only (12:00 pm - 8:00 pm)  
 June 8 - August 4, 2019 - Open Every Day (12:00 pm - 8:00 pm)  
 August 5 - August 25, 2019 - Open Every Day (12:00 pm - 6:30 pm)  
 August 26 - 29, 2019 - Pool Closed  
 August 30 - September 2, 2019 - Open Labor Day Weekend Only (12:00 pm - 6:30 pm)  
 September 2, 2019 - Open Labor Day (12:00 pm - 4:00 pm)  
 September 2, 2019 - Reopen for Doggie Swim (5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)

### Swim Lessons:

Swim lessons are taught by a qualified water safety instructor. The cost for five ½ hour long swim lessons are as follows:

- Resident group rate: \$50
- Non-Resident group rate: \$75
- Resident semi-private lessons: \$75
- Non-Resident semi-private lessons: \$100

Dates and times are based on the instructor's availability. Group lessons consist of 3-5 members; semi-private lessons consist of 1-2 members.

Private lessons may also be arranged by visiting the front desk at the pool. All swim lesson forms will be available beginning Memorial Day weekend. Classes are limited to 3-5 students depending on skill level.

### Moonlight Swim:

Mark your calendars to join us at the pool for our Friday night moonlight swims!

**Dates:** July 5th, 12th & 26th

**Time:** 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

**Cost:** \$4 for residents/members; \$7 for non-residents

*Please Note: The July 5th date may be cancelled should the firework display be moved to this date.*

### Adult Moonlight Swim:

**Date:** Friday, August 2nd; Rain Date: Saturday, August 3rd

**Cost:** \$4 for residents/members; \$7 for non-residents

The pool will open at 8:30 PM with a movie start time of 9:00 PM. The movie selection is "JAWS". Must be at least 18 years of age or older to attend.



### Looking for more to do at the pool?

**Aqua Zumba Class:** Monday nights beginning June 24th from 6:30 - 7:15pm. Cost is \$8.00 per person.

**Aqua Glow Party:** Moonlight swims will begin with an Aqua Zumba Glow Party starting June 28th from 8:00 - 9:00pm. Rain date scheduled on Saturday, June 29th.

**Aqua Tabat Class:** This is a new class that features a more intense core workout. The class is offered every Thursday evening beginning on June 27th from 7:30pm - 8:30pm. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

**Family Aquatic Game Night:** This is a *new* event for the entire family! Pre-registration is required

and is open to children ages 6 and up. Children must be accompanied by a parent or a responsible adult. Admission: Ages 14+: \$10; Children under the age of 14: \$5. Please register for this class at the pool.

**Aqua Fit Kid Splash:** Does your child feel that the Aqua Zumba Class is too hard? Then this class is something they would enjoy! This 4 week Aquatics fitness class is for children ages 7-15. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 11am - Noon beginning on June 30th and will continue through July 21st. August rain dates will be determined, weather permitting. Pre-registration is required, and you *must register before June 22nd at either Borough Hall or West Reading Pool*. Admission is \$60 per participant, and space is limited to 20 children.

### Doggie Day at the Pool:

Come swim with your furry friend!

**Date:** Monday, September 2nd 2019

**Time:** 5 - 6:30 pm

**Cost:** \$10 (\$5 entrance fee & \$5 donation to the Animal Rescue League)

Please rinse your furry friend before and after your day at the pool. Clean water is available adjacent to the pool deck.



## 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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## SPRING/SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

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