

The Borough of **WEST READING**

In This Issue



Welcome from Borough Council	2	Public Works Department	4-5
Borough Directory.....	2	Police Department.....	5
Holiday Schedule	2	Fire Department	6
Stay Informed	2	Code Enforcement Department	6-8
Online Utility Payment.....	3	Recreation Department	9
Water Conservation Tips.....	3	Trash/Recycling Calendar.....	9
Committee Vacancies.....	3		
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal.....	4		

500 Chestnut Street | West Reading, PA 19611 | 610.374.8273

Visit us at westreadingborough.com

COMMONWEALTH AUTO-TAGS

SERVING BERKS SINCE 1983

VEHICLE TITLES • REGISTRATIONS
DRIVERS LICENSES • RESTORATIONS
NOTARY PUBLIC

Mon - Fri: 8:30 - 8:00 Sat: 8:00 - 4:30
No Appointment Needed

West Reading
734 Penn Avenue
610-372-9998

Exeter
4720 Perkiomen Ave
610-779-2111



*Your Best Choice for Automotive
Maintenance and Repair Services*

732 Penn Avenue
West Reading, PA 19611

610-376-3892

www.kingsautorepairinc.com
kingsautorepair@comcast.net



**36 Month/36k Mile
Warranty on Parts and Service**

Free Pickup and Delivery
within 5 miles of the Shop

Free Roadside Assistance*
with any purchase over \$25.00

*Covers up to \$75.00 per occurrence. Call for details.

**Scan With
Your
Smartphone
For Special
Offer**



Restrictions apply, call for details.



Commercial Lawn Service | Residential Lawn Service

*Lawn Service • Shrubbery Trimming
Mulching • Spring and Fall Leaf Cleanup*

West Reading, PA 19611

610.780.2038



MORTGAGE America
www.mortgagebankamerica.com



Christopher D. Nein
Senior Mortgage Consultant
NMLS # 128621

1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 120, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Phone: 610-376-1755 Fax: 610-376-1759

Voice Mail: 610-682-5875 E-mail: cnein@ptd.net



Licensed by PA Dept of Banking
NMLS #128501 Branch NMLS #129974

**NEED EXTRA MONEY?
CRIME TIPS EQUAL
CASH.** alertberks.org
CRIME ALERT BERKS COUNTY

**TEXT ALERTBERKS AT 847411
WITH A CRIME TIP OR CALL
1.877.373.9913**

PLANNING TODAY FOR YOUR CEMETERY NEEDS IS THE

ultimate gift

Let our caring professionals give you
a tour of the cemetery so you can begin
planning your cemetery burial estate.

- > Bring peace of mind to the family
- > Have your loved ones know your wishes
- > Relieve the burden on family members
- > Lock in today's prices > Customize terms
- > Conserve life insurance

Call for an appointment and let one of our Family
Service Counselors explain our complimentary
Personal Planning Guide.



FOREST HILLS
MEMORIAL PARK

391 NEVERSINK ROAD, READING, PA 19606

610-779-2550 ForestHillsMP.com

BERKS COUNTY
MEMORIAL GARDENS

201 EVANSVILLE ROAD, FLEETWOOD, PA 19522

610-926-2325 BerksCountyMG.com



Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2020 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



BOROUGH COUNCIL

Jack Gombach, President
jgombach@westreadingborough.org
Philip Wert, Vice President
Christopher Lincoln, Pro-Tem Member
Samantha Kaag, Member
Ryan Lineaweaver, Member
Patrick Kaag, Member
Jennifer Bressler, Member

MAYOR

Andrew Kearney
610-374-8273 x228
akearney@westreadingborough.org

BOROUGH MANAGER

Nicholas Imbesi
610-374-8273
nimbessi@westreadingborough.org

BOROUGH SECRETARY

Cynthia Madeira
610-374-8273 x222
cmadeira@westreadingborough.org

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

Stephanie Burkholder
610-374-8273 x221
sburkholder@westreadingborough.org

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Dean Murray
610-374-8273 x401
dmurray@westreadingborough.org

CODE ENFORCEMENT MANAGER

Cathy Hoffman
610-374-8273 x223
choffman@westreadingborough.org

TAX COLLECTOR

Janice Kaucher
610-374-8273 x225
taxcollector@westreadingborough.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Chad Moyer
Emergency Calls – 911
Non-Emergency Calls 610-372-9621

BOROUGH MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are open to the public.

BOROUGH COUNCIL

3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m. & 4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m. (as needed)
October 21st (Wednesday) & 27th | November 17th & 24th | December 15th & 22nd

BUDGET WORKSHOPS/COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 10th 9 a.m. | October 27th 7 p.m. | November 14th 9 a.m.
November 24th 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
October 7th | November 4th | December 2nd

TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
October 14th | November 10th (Tuesday) | December 9th

RECREATION COMMISSION

1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
October 6th | November 2nd (Monday) | December 1st

*All meetings are held at West Reading Borough Hall in Council Chambers
500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611
(Please Note: Meetings may be held via Zoom. Contact Borough Hall
or visit the website for up-to-date information.)*

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

October 12, 2020 – Columbus Day	December 31, 2020 –
November 11, 2020 – Veteran's Day	Office closed at Noon
November 26, and 27, 2020 –	January 1, 2021 – New Year's Day
Thanksgiving Holiday	January 18, 2021 –
December 24, 2020 –	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Office closed at Noon	February 15, 2021 –
December 25, 2020 – Christmas Day	President's Day
	April 2, 2021 – Good Friday

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

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 emergencies or incidents can be received via phone call, text message, and email or through a CodeRED Mobile Alert App:

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

CODE RED
Emergency Communication Made Easy.



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. 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. A reminder email will be sent to let you know when your bill is available online. Online invoices 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

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 30th
3rd	July - September	October 1st	October 29th
4th	October - December	January 1st	January 31st

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

Water Conservation Tips for Residents

The Facts on Leaks:

- Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. These are all easily correctable.
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.
- Keep your home leak-free by repairing dripping faucets, toilet flappers, and showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts don't require a major investment.

- Most common leaks can be eliminated after retrofitting a household with new WaterSense labeled fixtures and other high-efficiency appliances.



Leak Detection:

- Check your water meter located in the front of your basement before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.
- One way to find out if you have a toilet leak is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Make sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.

Faucets and Showerheads:

- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers.
- Leaky faucets can be fixed by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary. If you are replacing a faucet, look for the WaterSense label.
- Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench. If you are replacing a showerhead, look for one that has earned the WaterSense label.

Toilets:

- If your toilet is leaking, the cause is often an old faulty toilet flapper. Over time this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper – a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.
- If you do need to replace the entire toilet, look for a WaterSense labeled model. If the average family replaces its older inefficient toilets with new WaterSense labeled ones, it could save 13,000 gallons per year. Retrofitting the house could save the family nearly \$2,400 in water and wastewater bills over a lifetime.

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

- Zoning Hearing Board
- Planning Commission

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



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 24th and Sunday, October 25th from 8am to 2pm rain or shine. This event is free to all Berks County residents (identification is required) and you must pre-register. Please visit www.co.berks.pa.us/swa or call 610-478-6362 to register. 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.



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, 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.

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. Plastic bags will not be accepted. The Borough Garage is located at 1st & Chestnut Streets. We ask that you please call 610-374-8605 to schedule an appointment between the hours of 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

Leaf Collection

The street cleaning program has been a great success! Street cleaning days will continue to be used for leaf collection. Please be sure to have your leaves raked out onto the street closest to the curb. Branches and other heavy debris should be separated from the leaves by placing these types of materials in the planting strip. Branches and large debris will be collected at random times. Please remember to remove your car from a street that is posted for street sweeping to avoid a parking ticket.



Reducing Stormwater and Flooding



The recent heavy rain events have made us all aware of what can happen when repeated rainstorms and intense showers occur: runoff, overflowing of streams, erosion, property damage, power outages, hazardous traveling conditions, and flooding. We can't turn the rain on and off as we see fit and the damaging storms can never be fully tamed to our desires. We can, however, remain aware of the influence we have on the environment when we build, farm and reshape the land and streams to meet society's wants and needs.

Rainfall happens and with it comes the inevitable runoff and damaging impacts. What we as a society do to address the influences we have on our environment will have far reaching implications on the health, safety and welfare of future generations as well as on us here and now.

Here are a few suggestions about what you can do to help make a difference.

- Disconnect your rain gutters from impervious surfaces (such as driveways and sidewalks) and direct the flow to grassed areas or into infiltration beds (dry wells).
- Install a rain barrel and use the collected rainwater for watering flowers and gardens.
- Allow a buffer of native grasses and other vegetation to grow along streams, ponds, or wetlands. This will help filter pollutants, protect the stream channel and bank from erosion, and provide a better habitat for aquatic based animals.
- Convert small low-lying areas into rain gardens. These can consist of small gardens of water tolerant plants and bushes that will help retain and infiltrate runoff.
- One of the best ways you can reduce the impacts of stormwater is to reduce the pollutants that can be carried in runoff into streams, reservoirs and water supply intakes. Always properly dispose of household hazardous waste including cleaning solutions, paints, oils, batteries, solvents, pesticides, sealants, fertilizers, etc. When applying fertilizers or pesticides to your lawn or garden, only apply the recommended amount, and do not apply just before a rainstorm, or near a water body.

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 our road crew personnel can get to your reading device to obtain consistent meter readings.



continued on next page

Public Works Department - *continued from previous page*

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 removing the need to hire a plumber. During normal business hours contact Borough Hall at 610-374-8273 and outside of normal business hours contact the non-emergency Police line at 610-373-0111. A member of the Public Works Department will be dispatched to your location to assess the situation. 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 to make the necessary 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 we 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.

West Reading Police Department – Chief Stephen Powell

The West Reading Police Department consists of 15 sworn Police Officers, 2 Parking Enforcement Officers and 2 Administrative Aides. In addition, the WRPD is proud to have our K-9 Officer, ZEA, helping keep the community safe. The Police Department is open to the public from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday to Friday. We can be reached after hours and on weekends by calling 610 373 0111. You can also follow the WRPD on social media at:



Crimewatch/WR Police Site Page: www.westreadingpolice.com • **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/wrpolice>

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

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 any 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.

As we finally move out of 2020 and into 2021, the officers and staff of the West Reading Police Department wish our residents, visitors and business owners a happy and healthy new year!

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.

West Reading Fire Department - Fire Chief Chad T. Moyer

Emergencies- DIAL 911 | Non-emergency- 610-372-9621 | website: www.wrfire.com | Email: westreadingfire@hotmail.com
Facebook: West Reading Fire Department | Twitter: @westreadingfire



Fire Prevention Week

The week of October 4th to the 10th is Fire Prevention Week 2020. This year's theme is "Serve up FIRE SAFETY in the kitchen!" The goal this year is to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves, and those around them, safe in the kitchen.

Open House

We will be holding an Open House at the fire station on October 7th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be fire prevention displays for the entire family, refreshments, and our fire apparatus and station will be open for tours. Light refreshments will be available, so please plan on stopping by and enjoy an evening with your local firefighters!

Smoke Detectors

Please call the fire station if you have questions regarding smoke alarms or if you need your batteries changed and are unable to do it yourself. We also have new smoke alarms for sale at a cost of \$10 each installed. Call or email for more information!



Fire Safety

We are now approaching the peak heating season, so it is important to keep some safety tips in mind. Remember to keep all curtains and

any other combustible materials away from space heaters, and also be careful to keep children away because just bumping a heater while playing could cause a fire. Also remember that natural Christmas trees can be a hazard if not properly cared for. Please remember to keep the water bowl in the stand full at all times and use only lights that are UL approved for indoor use and have been checked for any problems before they have been installed on the tree.

Kiddies Christmas Party

Our annual Kiddies Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for children of Borough residents ages 10 and under. Admission is FREE and all children will get to see Santa and receive a small gift. A registration form must be filled out and can be found on our website or at Borough Hall to receive a free ticket to the event. Santa will also be riding around the Borough before the event in one of our fire trucks to wave and say hello and to remind you to stop by. 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 on to www.wrfire.com and download an application or visit us any Wednesday night around 6:30 pm to pick up an application.

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

Tyler Berg
Code Enforcement Officer
610-374-8273 ext. 239
t.berg@sdei.net

Keith Yeager
Code Enforcement Officer
610-476-6152
k.yeager@sdei.net

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

Prior to beginning any 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.

Our Municipal Code Is Now Online!

Go to ecode360.com/WE3192

Access | Navigate | Share | 24/7

powered by eCode360

continued on next page

Code Enforcement Department *continued from previous page*



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 ~

Reminders

- 1) Trash collection is every Tuesday and Friday; recycling collection is every Wednesday.
- 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.

Please remember to store all trash 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.

- 3) Please do not place trash/recycling out prior to noon the day before collection and promptly remove your receptacle(s) by midnight the day of collection.
- 4) Electronic items such as washers, dryers, televisions, microwaves, refrigerators and air conditioners will not be removed by the trash/recycle 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 for more information.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) In an effort to allow emergency personnel to quickly identify your home, the Borough requires all properties 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.
- 8) 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 8 a.m. to 9 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.



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 to 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.

Safety inspections improve and maintain the quality of West Reading's rental properties. The inspections help educate property owners and renters about our safety requirements, encourage proper maintenance for safety, and increase communication between rental property owners, their tenants, and West Reading Borough.

Rental Property Safety Inspection Criteria

When a Borough inspector comes into your living area to perform a safety inspection, they look for the following:

Exterior:

- Legible and visible address numbers on the front and rear of the property and proper unit identification.
- Foundations and walkways appear to be in functional condition and walkways are clear from obstruction.
- Exterior walls are free of major cracks; appear weather tight.
- Exterior stairs, guardrails, landings, decks, balconies, treads, risers, and balusters are in good condition and free from visible structural defects and deterioration.
- Chimneys are in good condition and free of visible defects.
- Exterior doors open and shut properly, have a locking mechanism and glazing intact.
- Sanitation – exterior property is free of debris and no visible signs of rodent infestation.
- Swimming pool – water appears clean and clear. Pool gates and enclosures are in-place.
- Windows can be opened, have a locking device, and window panes intact.
- Window screens, if installed, are in good condition.

Interior:

- Interior stairs, guardrails, landings, treads, risers, and balusters are in good condition and free from visible structural defects and deterioration.
- Sanitation – interior is free of debris and visible signs of rodent infestation.
- Electrical power to the rental unit, outlets and switch covers are in place, overhead lighting is operable and secure; no exposed, sliced, or bare wires.

- GFCI's in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry, unfinished basement, garage and outdoor receptacle areas.
- Receptacles – two provided in each habitable space, one in the bathroom, one in the laundry room.
- Light(s) are operable in public halls, interior stairs, toilet room, kitchen, bathroom, laundry room and furnace room.
- Smoke alarms are working and installed on the ceiling or wall outside of bedroom(s), in each bedroom, on each story, and in common hallways.
- Carbon monoxide detectors are installed at every level.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Heat is provided to the unit, but not solely by portable units.
- Bathroom(s) contain a bathtub or shower, lavatory, toilet and are provided with hot and cold water.
- Kitchen contains cooking appliance, refrigeration and sink with hot and cold water.
- Sanitary sewer connection is provided to every sewage generating fixture.
- Roof – there is no visible evidence of leaks to the interior of the structure and visible holes in the roofing materials.
- Egress shall provide a safe, continuous and unobstructed path of travel from the building to a public way.

If a safety inspection fails, the item or items must be repaired to meet the inspection requirements. A reinspection will be required.

Personal Testimonial on the Rental Inspection Process

Below are testimonials from residents that have gone through the inspection process.

"A rental inspection lets you, as a renter, know that the rental space you are moving into is safe for you and your family to reside."

"With regards to the inspector being inside your living space, they are not there to say that you have dirty dishes in the sink or there are kids' toys on the floor. Their job is to make sure the structure is safe and up to code. It protects you as well as the landlord. As an individual, it is your responsibility to protect your family. Having your place up to code does that."

"The officials that are in your town or city are there with the purpose to protect the residents. Talk to them. They are more than willing to assist and point you in the right direction. No, they cannot give legal advice, but they can advise you on where to find the information."

Knowledge is the key to making yourself and your community successful.

"Keep It Safe, Keep It Beautiful"

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

Recreation Department - Director Helen Moyer

Due to Covid-19 our normal fall events such as Harvest Hayride, Haunted House, Trunk-or-Treat and Mother Son Dance have been cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to our residents.



RECREATION HAPPENINGS

Halloween Decorating Contest

Please join us for a Halloween Decorating Contest while we observe social distancing regulations. Similar to the Holiday Home Decorating Contest, the Recreation Department will judge your Spooktacular Halloween decorations on Sunday, October 25th. There is no need to be home or to register for this contest, just please make sure your lights are on from 6 pm to 8 pm. The following is a list of prizes:



- 1st Place – A complimentary single pool pass or playground program registration.
- 2nd Place – A complimentary 10-day pool pass.
- 3rd Place – A complimentary 5-day pool pass.

Halloween Treat Bag:

In lieu of going door-to-door this Halloween the Recreation Department will be hosting a Halloween Treat Bag pickup on Friday, October 30th from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Pavilion. Please register your child by October 23rd by visiting Borough Hall for a registration form. This event is open to residents ages 13 and under.

Holiday Tree Lighting

The Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony will also be a little different this year. We request Borough residents to

participate by lighting up the Borough with their holiday lights. On Friday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. the new 22' Christmas tree at Delaney Circle will be lit. Nonno Alby's Wood Oven Pizza and Plow Farms generously donated this Christmas tree to the Borough after a storm damaged the previous Christmas tree. Please share a BIG thank you to these two business owners for the kindness they have provided to West Reading residents, businesses and visitors alike!

Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Get into the holiday spirit this season by decorating your home. All West Reading homes will be judged on Sunday, December 13th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. by the Recreation Department. There is no need to be home or to register for this contest, just please make sure your lights are on! The following is a list of prizes:

- 1st Place – A complimentary single pool pass or playground program registration.
- 2nd Place – A complimentary 10-day pool pass.
- 3rd Place – A complimentary 5-day pool pass.



2021

January	April	July	October
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31			31
February	May	August	November
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28	30 31	29 30 31	28 29 30
March	June	September	December
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31

Red = Trash Collection

Green = Recycling Collection

Blue = Bulk* & Trash Collection

* One bulk item per household may be placed out for collection along with regular trash.

Please Note: Items such as tires, appliances, batteries, and electronic items will not be collected. 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 for more information.

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.

Hear What You've Been Missing



SALES • SERVICE • REPAIRS



Kevin E. Rowley - Owner
610-781-9001

Advanced Hearing Aid Center

www.advancedhearingaidcenterpa.com

EXETER • BOYERTOWN • TOPTON • KUTZTOWN

FREE

Hearing Exam

ADVANCED HEARING AID CENTER
610-781-9001

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Exp. 10/31/20

\$250 OFF

Any Digital Hearing Aid

ADVANCED HEARING AID CENTER
610-781-9001

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Exp. 10/31/20

WE ARE OPEN AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU 7AM - 9PM • 7 Days a Week

- Indoor and Outdoor Dining with Limited capacity for Indoor Dining
- Serving Full Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Menu
- Senior Citizens Menu
- 10% OFF for Service Members with proper ID
- Carryout and Delivery Available through DoorDash

*Welcome Back to All
of Our Loyal and
New Customers*

411 Penn Avenue, West Reading
610-376-5565
americandinerreading.com



THE HEALTHCARE YOU NEED, CLOSE TO HOME!

Urgent Care

Tower Health Medical Group

2101 State Hill Road, Suite #5

Wyomissing, PA 19610

610-898-2490

Quick Care

Tower Health Medical Group

3703 Perkiomen Avenue Exeter

Reading, PA 19606

610-898-7570

OPEN 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. | 7 DAYS A WEEK



TOWER HEALTH

Advancing Health.
Transforming Lives.

TowerHealth.org



Borough of West Reading

500 Chestnut Street
West Reading, PA 19611

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 609

*****ECRWSSDDM***

POSTAL CUSTOMER



FALL / WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER



This Community Newsletter is produced for
the Borough of West Reading by Hometown Press
215.257.1500 • All rights reserved®



To Place An Ad Call Kathy Ruediger at Hometown Press • 215-527-7664 • katruedy@gmail.com



**SYSTEMS DESIGN
ENGINEERING, INC**
"A Passion for Engineering Excellence"

ENGINEERS • PLANNERS • SURVEYORS •
CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS •
PRE-ENGINEERED STEEL BUILDINGS

1032 James Drive, Leesport, PA 19533 • Ph: 610-916-8500 • www.sdei.net



(610) 372-0151
Toll Free (800) 672-0151

517 Franklin Street
West Reading, PA 19611

www.waldmanelectric.com
E-Mail: service@waldmanelectric.com



NOW HIRING!!!

WHY WORK WITH US?

- Be Your Own Boss
- Enjoy Outside Sales Independence
- Proven Products
- Flexible Schedule
- Generous Commissions

Rewarding Work That Fits Your Life!

Call for Information 215-257-1500 x106

Email your resume to gregory.cbn@gmail.com

West Reading Drug Store® By Esterbrook

610-375-4366 | westreadingdrug.com
538 Penn Avenue, West Reading, PA 19611

**FREE DELIVERY
FREE COMPLIANCE PACKAGING**



610-376-6542
esterbrookpharmacy.com

301 S. 7th Avenue, Suite 145, West Reading, PA 19611

Esterbrook Pharmacy and West Reading Drug Store...partners in your community and in your healthcare. Locally owned and operated by the Esterbrook family.