

The Borough of

Fall/Winter 2023

WEST READING



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7:00am — 9:00pm	By Appointment Only	Free Estimates • Senior Discount	A: Reading, PA

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

Ryan Lineaweaver, President
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Christopher Lincoln, Pro-Tem
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Patrick Kaag, Member
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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police Richard Tornielli
Emergency Calls – 911
Non-Emergency Calls 610-373-0111

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

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 (click "visit our CodeRED program details page") to receive time-sensitive, targeted location notifications of local events that may immediately impact your safety. Or you may text WSREMA to 99411 to receive a link directly to your mobile phone or call the West Side Regional Emergency Management Association directly at 610-898-8060 for assistance.

Messages for the following types of events can be received via phone call, text message, email, or through the CodeRED Mobile Alert App:

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



WEST READING BOROUGH MEETING SCHEDULE

BOROUGH COUNCIL

3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m. (except May)

October 17th & 24th • November 21st & 28th • December 19th & 26th

BUDGET WORKSHOPS/COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 7th 9a.m. • October 24th 7p.m. • November 4th 9a.m.
November 28th 7p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

October 4th • November 1st • December 6th

TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

October 11th • November 8th • December 13th

RECREATION COMMISSION

1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

October 3rd • November 7th • December 5th

**All meetings are held at West Reading Borough Hall
500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611**

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

October 9, 2023 – Columbus Day
November 10, 2023 – Veteran's Day
November 23 & 24, 2023 – Thanksgiving Holiday
December 22 & 25, 2023 – Christmas Holiday
December 29, 2023 – New Year's Eve Day
January 1, 2024 – New Year's Day
January 15, 2024 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 19, 2024 – President's Day
March 29, 2024 – Good Friday

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 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.



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 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/recycling hauler. These items must be recycling 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 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 on 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 submit it to the Borough for processing.

New Businesses

There are a lot of factors that go into opening a new business including zoning approval, sign permits, building permits, and parking requirements, to name a few. If you are thinking about opening a new business in West Reading, please reach out to our office so that we can help streamline your approval process. We are always excited to have new businesses open in West Reading and want to help you become part of the West Reading community.

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.

Business Privilege Tax/License

West Reading Borough appointed Burkheimer Tax Innovations as the collector of Business Privilege Taxes and Licenses. As a reminder to all business and rental property owners, if you earn an income in West Reading you are required to file a Business Privilege Tax form with Burkheimer Tax Innovations each year. Burkheimer is actively seeking business and rental property owners that have not submitted their annual tax forms and collecting back taxes with penalties. If you have not yet paid your Business Privilege Tax or obtained a Business Privilege License, please contact Burkheimer Tax Innovations at 610-599-3140 or via email at BPT@hab-inc.com.



Please note that Berks EIT will continue to collect Business Privilege Taxes for the Wyomissing Area School District.

"Keep It Safe, Keep It Beautiful"

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



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West Reading Fire Department - Fire Chief Chad T. Moyer

Emergencies- DIAL 911 | Non-emergency- 610-372-9621 | website: www.wrfire.com
Email: cmoyer@WestReadingBorough.org | Facebook: www.facebook.com/westreadingfire



Fire Prevention Week

The week of October 8th to 14th is Fire Prevention Week 2023. This year's theme is "Cooking Safety Starts With YOU". The goal this year is to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safer when cooking.



have a functioning Carbon Monoxide detector in your residence. Remember to keep all curtains or other combustible materials away from space heaters and be careful to keep children away because just bumping into 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 always keep the water bowl in the stand full 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.

Open House

We will be hosting an Open House at the station on October 11th starting at 6:30pm until 8:30pm. We will have fire prevention displays for the entire family, refreshments, and our fire apparatus and station open for tours. Please plan on stopping by and enjoying the evening with your local firefighters!



Smoke Detectors

Please call the station if you have questions about 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. Just 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. Make sure that you

Kiddies Christmas Party

Saturday, December 16th from 2 pm until 4pm we will be holding our annual Kiddies Christmas Party for children of borough residents who are age 10 and under. Admission is free and all children will get to see Santa. Children who are West Reading residents will also receive a small gift. You will need to fill out an online registration form available through the link on our website. Santa will also be riding around the Borough before the event in one of our fire trucks to wave and say hello and remind you of the event. Hope to see you there!

Membership

We are always looking for a few good residents! We accept membership applications starting at the age of 14. If you are interested in volunteering with West Reading Fire Department, please log on to www.wrfire.com and download an application or visit us any Wednesday night at the station to pick up an application.

Community Shredding Event

Residents of Berks County are encouraged to bring personal and confidential documents to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority's shredding event. Individuals only, no businesses will be accepted. Identification and pre-registration are required. Please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-paper-shredding-event-october-14-2023-registration-628627500777>



Saturday, October 14, 2023 8:00 AM – Noon (rain or shine)

Berks County Agricultural Center
1238 County Welfare Road
Leesport, PA 19533

No plastic bags will be accepted. No binders, binder clips, metal, or any type of trash. Please make sure that you only bring confidential paper materials for shredding. No need to remove staples. Five (5) boxes per vehicle maximum.

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States according to the FBI. Approximately 7 million Americans become victims of identity theft each year. Have your personal and confidential documents shredded and recycled.

Help protect yourself and your family from identity theft by having your personal and confidential information shredded, such as:

- Obsolete tax documents
- Bank statements / canceled checks / credit card statements and receipts / credit card offers
- Financial account statements
- Insurance documents
- All sensitive information: birth dates, social security numbers, signatures, passwords, and pins
- Legal documents
- Credit reports and histories
- Any document you want safely destroyed



Police Department – Police Chief Richard Tornielli

Emergencies Dial 911 • WRPD Station 610-373-0111 • Office Hours Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday Closed

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, Zea, helping to keep the community safe. The Police Department is open to the public from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. We can be reached after hours and on weekends by calling 610 373 0111.

Community involvement is an important part of ensuring that West Reading remains an outstanding place to live. The Police Department is very active 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
- West Reading Elementary Center Field Day Lunch Program
- 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. In addition, we would also like to recognize and thank our local partners, The West Reading Fire Police, for all of their assistance throughout the year. The members of these organizations are all volunteers and give up their own time to serve the community.

As we move through the fall and winter months, 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. 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, and Race? 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.

West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation

West Reading has grown by leaps and bounds in the past six years, and we are proud of the ways our business owners have worked to improve how they do business and most recently how they have worked to improve their store fronts most notably in the 400 block. To date the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation has funded \$24,000 in facade grants to help our businesses compete and grow. This funding came from the Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development and the Wyomissing Foundation. We have also had a couple major redevelopment projects happen in the 400 block. The old A to Z building, now the West Reading Motor Club stunning renovation and we are happy to see them fully open after COVID slowed down their progress and the Noodl building that has helped bring a creative vibe to the Avenue. Collectively they are making the 400 block a go-to destination. Barley Mow added on to their business not too long ago and is working on expanding even more by going up. The West Reading Shopping Center is also getting a face lift that will help spruce up the center and these shops that are in the heart of our business community. This is just the beginning as West Reading continues to grow and draw even more businesses and customers year over year.



We recently discovered software called Placer.AI that can give us real time statistics based on cell phone data. With help from the county and Placer.AI, we have found West Reading is the 47th most visited destination in America per capita. We also found out our events bring in close to 50% more people than we originally guesstimated or approximately 27,000 people to Art on the Avenue and close to that at our Fall Fest. Pretty mind blowing if you think about it. Berks County has a lot to be proud of and we are happy to see West Reading has become a destination helping to draw people from all over the state and beyond.



Public Works Department- Director Kerry Grassley

Hello, my name is Kerry Grassley (front and center below) for those of you who don't know me. I have been employed by West Reading Borough since October 10, 1995. I am your Public Works Director. I would like to share some information with you to help us serve our residents in the best and most efficient manner possible.

First, for those of you who don't know, when we collect your leaves with the street sweeper, we recycle them. Previously we paid to have them dumped at a landfill, now we haul them to a local business to use as compost material. This small change allows the Borough to apply for grant funding to purchase equipment. This year the Borough was awarded \$349,960 to purchase a new front-end loader and a new 20-ton dump truck.



In order to keep our agreement with the local business to continue to be able to apply for grant funding I need some help from you. It is important to only place leaves at the curb for collection to avoid damaging the equipment. Please place branches within the planting strip area, separate from the leaves, for collection and feel free to contact our office if we do not collect the branches in a timely manner. Please also try to keep trash from gathering within the pile of leaves placed curbside for collection. Public Works Crew Members do try to sort through the roughly 300 tons of leaves before hauling them away, but this is quite time consuming.

Secondly, wintertime is quickly approaching, which brings the possibility of snow. Plow trucks often push snow onto the sidewalk area. Please know that we do not enjoy upsetting our residents after working so hard or even paying someone to clear your sidewalks of snow. To help prevent snow from being pushed onto your sidewalk

place your snow in piles at your curb line to create a barrier to block the snow from coming back onto your sidewalk. If you place your snow in the street, we will plow it, and it will just come back onto your sidewalk and that just means that we are both fighting a losing battle. Also, please take note as to where your sewer and water lids are located to keep them accessible to allow us to be more efficient in the event of a sewer backup or water leak.

Thirdly, based on the number of complaints received regarding the high cost of plumbing service companies to unclog single-family property owner responsible sewer lines, Borough Council unanimously voted to allow the Public Works Department to jet or snake the private line from the street to the home. Borough Council felt this was the best way to protect residents from being taken advantage of. I tip my hat to Borough Council for their actions and believe that we are the only municipality in the county that provides this service to their residents.

I thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Public Works Director. Hopefully we will continue to adapt and grow to be the best Borough we can be. The Public Works Department is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



Utility Payment

Xpress Bill Pay » Electronic Utility Payment Notice

Beginning October 1, 2023, Xpress Bill Pay will be assessing a fee for all payments using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check to cover the costs associated with processing utility payments. In the past, the Borough has paid all processing costs associated with these electronic payments. The Borough can no longer absorb these costs.

Xpress Bill Pay will assess a transaction fee of 3.5% for all credit and debit card transactions. A \$1.00 per transaction fee will be assessed for electronic check processing. These transaction fees will apply to all electronic payments, including Auto Pay.

Transaction fees are only assessed at the time of payment. Features such as online bill display, email/text notifications, and paperless billing will remain free of charge. Likewise, bill pay transactions that are offered by many banks and credit unions that allow you to set up automatic payments for bills will not incur fees.

WATER/SEWER/REFUSE BILLING 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.

Auto Pay Customers

We recommend that you login into your Xpress Bill Pay account to review your Auto Pay configuration and the associated transaction fees. If you are unwilling to accept the transaction costs required for processing your Auto Pay, you will need to deactivate your Auto Pay. If you set up your Auto Pay directly with the Borough of West Reading, you will need to contact the Borough to update or deactivate your Auto Pay.

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. Please refer to the Borough's website: www.westreadingborough.com for a list of current boards/committees with vacancies. Typically, appointments are made during the annual Reorganization Meeting in January. However, appointments to fill vacancies occur throughout the year.





WEST READING
recreation

Recreation Department

The role of the West Reading Recreation Department is to create and provide a diverse number of programs, services, and events for our borough residents. The borough is home to a 21-acre park which features facilities including a cutting edge pickleball court, 9-hole disc golf course, baseball/softball fields, stone pavilion, gravel track, volleyball court, walking trails, basketball courts (play host to the storied West Reading Summer Basketball League) along with a community swimming pool.

Facility Rentals

The Bicentennial House was introduced in 1976 by Elta K. Bitz. The Bicentennial House is a popular venue to host small parties, and special events. The building has a large gathering room, complete with a full kitchen as well as handicapped accessible restrooms. There is also a small field in front of the facility for light recreational activities. The maximum capacity is 40 people.

The West Reading Pavilion was built in 1939 by Wyomissing Industries, who helped provide funds for the stone field house. This recreational facility also has a tot-lot, playground, and outdoor exercise area. The Pavilion is available for gatherings and small parties. The maximum capacity is 40 people.

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 at www.westreadingborough.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Hayride

Friday & Saturday October 20 & 21st 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Come see what all the excitement is about as you enjoy a hayride through the playground area. Beware of our scary drivers who may take a turn down Spooky Lane to our pumpkin patch and wind up in the graveyard! Following the hayride, roast s'mores, and hot dogs with the West Reading volunteer firefighters. There will be light refreshments available to purchase, games, and a chance to win a prize at the Duck Pond. Hayride: \$8 per person • Duck Pond: \$1 per person

Haunted House

Friday & Saturday October 14, 20 & 21 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Join us for some frightful fun at our annual haunted house held at the West Reading Pavilion! Creep through the halls of the pavilion where spooky things lurk around every corner! If you are interested in volunteering your hauntingly good time during all the above dates and times, please contact the Recreation Director at 610-374-8273, ext. 243. The fee to enter the haunted house is \$9.



Holiday Tree Lighting

Friday, December 1, 2023 at 6 PM

Join us at Delaney Circle for our 95th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! The tradition began in 1928 when the first tree lighting was held in front of Borough Hall with only a few council members in attendance. Little did our forefathers know, they launched



what would become a tree lighting tradition. The tree lighting ceremony was moved to Delaney Circle in the 1990's and has become our annual gathering place for all to enjoy a festive evening filled with singing and dancing to usher in the holiday season. Following the ceremony at Delaney Circle, please join us at Reading City Church for an opportunity to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus! Hot dogs and beverages will be available for purchase at the event.

Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Sunday December 17, 2023 7 PM – 9 PM

The West Reading Recreation Department wants you to get into the holiday spirit this season! We invite you to decorate your home with all the bells and whistles! All registered homes will be judged from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Sunday, December 17th by our Recreation Commission that will look for creativity, originality, and presentation. Registration will take place online with our signup genius. You do not need to be home to participate, just please remember to turn on your lights!

Volunteer

The Borough's Park and Recreation Department provides fun and safe activities for Borough families. We have a Recreation Commission which meets regularly to discuss and plan upcoming events and projects. We are always looking for volunteers. Feel free to join us if you have the time to get involved.



Throughout the year, the Recreation Department hosts a variety of activities including the Father/Daughter Dance, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Tree Lighting, Haunted House & Hayride, Kid's Fishing Rodeo, 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.

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

THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES!

Thank
you

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.



Commercial Field Inspector

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Cell: 570-479-6967
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Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Looking for a responsible way to dispose of unwanted paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides at no cost to you? Visit the Berks County Household Hazardous Waste event. The event is free to all Berks County residents. Identification and pre-registration are required. Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-household-hazardous-waste-collection-october-21-2023-tickets-628608122817>

Saturday, October 21, 2023 8:00 AM – Noon (rain or shine)

Berks County Agricultural Center
1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

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 water.

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, building materials, hazardous waste, tree branches, items with Freon, etc. will not be accepted. These items must be recycled at a recycling center or hauled away by a private hauler. 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.



Stormwater Management

Traditionally, our water infrastructure such as storm drains and culverts has treated precipitation as something to dispose of rather than something to protect. This infrastructure channels rainfall and snowmelt into storm drains and pipes, and dumps it into receiving waters, often far from its place of origin. The consequences are the loss of groundwater recharge, reduced base flows in streams, increased flooding, and lower water quality.

Instead of channeling stormwater into pipes and drains, a more natural method of water management has benefits for the environment and economy.

Natural stormwater management refers to management approaches that accomplish one of three things:

- Use soil and vegetation in a constructed technique, such as rain gardens or green roofs, to mimic natural hydrologic processes like percolation through soil and plant uptake and transpiration.
- Preserve natural features, such as floodplains with a natural vegetation buffer along streams that can slow, filter, and store polluted runoff.
- Minimize or disconnect impervious surfaces (such as pavement), using methods such as rain barrels, narrower streets, and permeable paving.

Though these approaches are not as “natural” as other techniques, they still protect the natural water cycle by slowing or infiltrating precipitation rather than sending it directly into storm sewers or nearby streams.

These approaches, when used properly, help maintain a more natural watershed, which in turn keeps our rivers clean and our communities healthy.

What are the impacts of “impervious surfaces”?



Impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and roofs associated with sprawling urban development significantly changes natural river flow patterns and the recharge of underground water supplies.

Rainfall cannot soak into the ground through these surfaces and thus does not replenish groundwater supplies. Impervious surfaces also increase the amount and speed of water entering rivers and other water bodies.

The result is an increase in the severity and frequency of floods, the displacement and destruction of habitat for fish and other water dependent species, and a decrease in base flows in our streams and water in our aquifers.

The benefits of green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure solutions (such as permeable pavement, green roofs, and rain gardens) reduce the stormwater runoff that flows into sewer systems and triggers sewage overflows. Green infrastructure practices make cities act more like forests by capturing rainwater where it falls, filtering out pollutants and reducing large volumes of runoff.

From rain gardens to green roofs, green infrastructure practices decrease pollutant loadings into waters, which can reduce illness from recreational contact or polluted drinking water. Green infrastructure solutions can also improve air quality and mitigate the urban heat island effect. Green infrastructure can mitigate localized flooding.

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