

The Borough of **WEST READING**



In This Issue



Welcome from Borough Council	2	Community Shredding	5
Borough Directory.....	2	Earth Day	5
Holiday Schedule	2	Public Works.....	5
Stay Informed	2	Police Department.....	6
Census 2020	3	National Night Out.....	6
Recycling Guidelines.....	3	Fire Department	7
Online Utility Payment.....	4	Code Enforcement Department	7
Water Conservation Tips.....	4	Recreation Department	9
Community Garden.....	4	West Reading Pool.....	10
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal.....	5	Trash/Recycling Calendar.....	10

500 Chestnut Street | West Reading, PA 19611 | 610.374.8273

Visit us at westreadingborough.com

COMMONWEALTH AUTO-TAGS

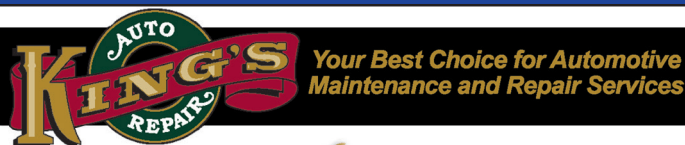
SERVING BERKS SINCE 1983

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



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.

Seasonal Savings
\$100 Value

\$25
Valid 3/1/19-5/31/19

\$25
Valid 6/1/19-8/31/19

\$25
Valid 9/1/19-11/30/19

\$25
Valid 12/1/19-2/28/20

732 Penn Avenue, West Reading, PA 19611
610-376-3892

Restrictions apply, call for details.

The American DINER

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

Breakfast
All Day
Lunch & Dinner
Specials



411 Penn Avenue
West Reading, PA 19611
T: 610-376-5565
www.americandinerreading.com

10% off Food for Service Members

The American Diner is honoring and thanking the brave year-round!

10% Discount on Food for all active, reserve & veterans of the Armed Forces, National Guard, Firefighters, Police, EMTs, Paramedics, & First Responders.

Proof of service is required, please provide valid photo ID & member ID. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts or offers. Beverages, tax, and gratuity are not included in the discount.

**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

2

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 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, Member
Jennifer Bressler, Member
Nicholas Gardecki, Member
Patrick Kaag, Member
Samantha Kaag, Member

MAYOR

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

BOROUGH MANAGER

Nicholas Imbesi
610-374-8273 x220
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

BOROUGH COUNCIL

3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
April 21st | May 19th | June 16th | July 21st
August 18th | September 15th

BUDGET WORKSHOPS/COUNCIL MEETINGS

August 25th 7 p.m. | September 12th 9 a.m.
September 22nd 7 p.m. | September 29th 7 p.m.
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.
April 1st | May 6th | June 3rd | July 1st
August 5th | September 2nd

TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
April 8th | May 13th | June 10th | July 8th
August 12th | September 9th

RECREATION COMMISSION

1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m. (except August)
April 7th | May 5th | June 2nd | July 7th
August 3rd | September 1st

*All meetings are held at West Reading Borough Hall
in Council Chambers*

500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

May 25th – Memorial Day
July 3rd – Independence Day
September 7th – Labor Day
October 12th – Columbus Day
November 11th – 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 or the West Reading Borough Facebook page.



Also, while visiting the Borough website please register with the CodeRED Emergency Notification Program to receive time sensitive notifications of local events that may impact your safety.

CODE RED
Emergency Communication Made Easy.

It is hard to believe that the 2020 Census is already underway. This year, for the first time, the Census will take place online.

Here's some Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the decennial census?

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the census provides the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs that impact housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. They are also used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

What this means to our local community is how much money we receive in federal funding. Estimates show that for every person uncounted, Berks County could lose up to \$2,093 per person per year in federal funding. That totals to over \$350 million given our projected undercount from the previous census (16,000 people).

Why is it important to me?

Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals and fire departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

How can I respond?

In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail if you prefer. Responding should take less time than it takes to finish your morning coffee.

Why participate?

- We'll give you 675 billion reasons! If you suffered damages from the flooding rains, you need to be counted! If you drive on roads or over bridges that need to be repaired, you need to be counted! If you send kids to school or subsidized daycare, if you use free lunches at school, if you go to the senior center or use our playgrounds, you need to be counted! There's approximately \$675 billion in small business loans, federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities distributed annually; all based upon Decennial Census counts. This money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs and infrastructure. The money will end up in someone's community. Do all you can to make your claim so we can have those dollars - OUR DOLLARS - end up here in West Reading!
- It's CONFIDENTIAL!! Even those who are not US Citizens need to be counted to ensure proper allocation of these funds. With all applicable laws and privacy policies nobody should fear completing the census. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies! The information collected can be used for statistical purposes only. Additionally, all Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information and any violations comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.
- It's your civil duty and completing the census is mandatory! Respond or Census Enumerators will come knocking! If a response is not received for your address by the end of April 2020, you will likely see a Census Bureau worker knocking at your door! Do your part and BE COUNTED!

Avoid Scams!

The U.S. Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security Number
- Money or donations
- Your bank account or credit card numbers
- Anything on behalf of a political party

If a website, e-mail, or person claiming to be from the Census Bureau asks you for one of these things, you may be the target or victim of a scam.

Did you know that the United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790?

New Recycling Guidelines

The recyclables that can be picked up at Pennsylvania curbsides have changed due to buying restrictions in China. New guidelines take curbside pickup "back to basics." The fact is that some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. So please remember these three basic rules the next time you recycle:

- Recycle clean bottles, cans, newspaper and cardboard.
- Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.
- **No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.**

You'd be amazed by how big of an impact just following these simple rules can have!

Items that will be accepted:

- Newspapers and inserts (tied/bundled)
- Cardboard (tied/bundled)
- Magazines and catalogs
- Metal food and beverage containers
- Plastics #1, 2 & 5 only
- Glass

Office paper will no longer be accepted.



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 e-mail or text notification will be sent to let you know when your bill is online. You also have the option to keep our planet 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 31st
3rd	July - September	October 1st	October 30th
4th	October - December	January 1st	January 29th

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

How do I test if my toilet is leaking?

Toilets are the most likely place for home water leaks, but are often the least noticeable. A leaking toilet can waste thousands of gallons of water per month. If left untreated, this problem can cause your water bill to increase, so you should get this fixed as soon as possible. A new toilet may be required, but test it first as there may be a simpler fix. Be sure to check the flapper to make sure it is working properly. If the flapper is leaking, this will keep triggering the fill valve to fill the tank. To see if the flapper is leaking, here is a simple test:

- Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank.
- Allow it to sit for 15-20 minutes (don't flush).
- If the color leaks into the toilet bowl, there's a leak.

First check the flapper to see if sediment or debris has built up around it, if not then it may be time to replace the toilet.

Community Garden

Did you know that West Reading has a Community Garden?

The 38-plot garden is located at 128 S. Second Avenue and is open to residents and businesses of West Reading to grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers. A few benefits of participating in a community garden are:

- A place to befriend your neighbors
- A place to learn
- A place for children (and adults) to explore nature
- A place to practice teamwork
- An opportunity to identify community assets
- A space to grow low cost, fresh fruits and vegetables

Reserve your plot at the community garden for the 2020 season! Sign-up sheets are available at Borough Hall or you can inquire on the West Reading Community Garden Facebook page!



Outdoor Water Conservation Tips for Residents:

- When mowing your lawn, set the mower blades to 2-3 inches high. Longer grass shades the soil improving moisture retention, allowing it to grow thicker and develop a deeper root system.
- Only water the lawn when necessary. If you water your lawn and garden, only do this once per week, if rainfall isn't sufficient. Avoid watering on windy and hot days. Water the lawn and garden in the morning or late in the evening to maximize the amount of water, which reaches the plant roots (otherwise most of the water will evaporate). Use soaker hoses to water gardens and flower beds. If sprinklers are used, be sure they don't water walkways and buildings. When you water, put down no more than 1 inch (set out empty cans to determine how long it takes to water 1 inch) each week. This watering pattern will encourage more healthy, deep grass roots. Over-watering is wasteful, encourages fungal growth and disease, and results in the growth of shallow, compacted root systems that are more susceptible to drought and foot traffic.
- Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and control weeds.
- Add compost or an organic matter to soil as necessary, to improve soil conditions and water retention.
- Collect rainfall for irrigation in a screened container (to prevent mosquito larvae growth).
- When washing a car, wet it quickly, then use a bucket of water to wash the car. Turn on the hose to final rinse (or let mother nature wash your car when it rains).
- Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, decks and porches, rather than hosing off these areas.



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Looking for a responsible way to dispose of unwanted paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides at no cost to you? Berks County residents can bring their hazardous household waste items to the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School located at 600 Governor Drive, Shillington on Saturday, October 24th from 8am to 2pm rain or shine. For a list of acceptable materials to bring to the collection site please visit www.westreadingborough.com or call the Berks County Solid Waste Authority at 610-478-6362.



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, October 17th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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.

West Reading Earth Day 2020: Pick Up PA



Come out and help us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! Gather your neighbors to revitalize West Reading on Sunday, June 28th, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pick Up Pennsylvania is a program of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, supporting the national Great American Cleanup initiative. Join over 4 million volunteers across the nation in the largest annual community improvement program.

Volunteers will work to pick up litter throughout the park and our community. There will be crafts and activities available for children to participate in addition to raffle prizes and educational material which will be hosted at the Pavilion. Refreshments will also be provided for volunteers.

Please register upon your arrival at the Pavilion. Supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and safety vests will be provided. Please wear comfortable clothing and outdoor shoes. This is an opportunity for students to obtain Community Service hours. An electronic recycling collection site will be available.

Follow the event on Facebook! If you are interested in being a local sponsor or providing in-kind donations, please contact jennahiester@gmail.com.

MEET neighbors, LEARN something new, HELP your community!

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. Be mindful of the street sweeping signs that are posted on the street where you park. There are a few additional streets that may be added to the street sweeping program, so be on the lookout for additional signage. 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 next scheduled cleaning day.

Upcoming Infrastructure Improvement Plans - Tentative due to COVID-19.

- **Penn Avenue Handicap Ramp Repairs** – Fourth Avenue through Seventh Avenue
- **Penn Avenue Paving** – PennDOT project
- **Pine Street Paving** – Entire length
- **Fifth Avenue Paving** – Pine Street to Spruce Street
- **Sycamore Road Paving & Handicap Ramp Repairs** – Fifth Avenue to Linden Lane*
- **Linden Lane Sanitary Sewer Line Repairs** – *Dependent on receipt of grant funding*

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 during your travel through the Borough for the safety of everyone!

Go Green Program

Did you know that your yard waste can be disposed of at the Borough Garage?

If you wish to drop off these items, please contact the garage at (610) 374-8605 to schedule an appointment between the hours of 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. Or, yard waste may be disposed of on the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 AM to Noon during the months of May through November without an appointment.

The following types of yard waste will be accepted:

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Garden waste
- Hedge clippings
- Tree branches (cut 4' or shorter and no thicker than 4" in diameter)

The Borough Garage is located at South 1st Avenue and Chestnut Street. The program is open to West Reading residents only. No contractors are permitted at the drop off site. We reserve the right to refuse large quantities or unsuitable materials. The yard waste will be transported to an area facility and converted into mulch, keeping yard waste out of the landfill.



What can we do to help keep stormwater clean?

There are numerous things we can all do on a daily basis to keep pollution out of our waterways. The following methods are just a few things we can all do to help improve water quality in our streams, rivers and lakes:

- Never dump anything into storm drains, swales or streams.
- Pick up litter from the street before it reaches the storm drains.
- Use limited amounts of fertilizer.
- If you must use pesticides, search for an environment-friendly brand.
- Recycle motor oil, paint, and other hazardous chemicals. Never dump such materials down the drain or into the storm system.
- Recycle glass, plastics and aluminum.
- Always pick up your pet's waste to prevent harmful bacteria from entering our water!

Working together produces better results and a better chance to receive grant funding for improvements. Help us help you! Please do not throw, dump or wash anything into the streets or storm drains!



Sewer Backups

As always, we ask that residents please remind all family members and that businesses post signs in public restrooms to avoid flushing anything other than toilet paper. Should a sewer backup occur 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 saving you the expense of hiring a plumber. If the clog is located between your home and the curb line, we will notify you of the need for plumbing services. During normal business hours (Monday-Friday 8am-5pm) 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.

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.



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



National Night Out

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Please join us from 5-9pm at the Field House for the 37th 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!

Hours of Operation

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

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.

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



WRFD in Cyberspace

Please check out our website at 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

Now that warm weather is 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 an inexpensive 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 Department. 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 asking what kind of fire extinguisher do I need for my home?? Or, 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 p.m. 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 and download an application or visit us any Wednesday night 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.

Property Maintenance Information

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



How Do I Report a Code Violation?

To report a code violation, please submit a written complaint form which can be obtained by either contacting the Code Enforcement Department to have a form faxed, mailed or e-mailed to your attention; visit our website at: www.westreadingborough.com; or visit Borough Hall located at 500 Chestnut Street. To stay current on ordinance regulations visit www.ecode360.com/WE3192 for a complete searchable list of the Borough of West Reading municipal code.

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 lifelong 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:

- 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. 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!

Burn Permits

Did you know that a burning permit is needed prior to using any type of chimenea or outdoor fireplace unit? All portable fireplace units must be located a minimum of 25' from all structures in the yard area. This permit application must be approved by the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal and is renewable on an annual basis.

Door-to-Door Solicitation

A solicitation permit is required for any type of door-to-door solicitation. Following a background check and issuance of a permit, a Borough issued ID badge is provided to the solicitor and must be worn at all times while soliciting. Hours available to solicit in the Borough are from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday only. If a solicitor comes to your door without a Borough issued ID badge do not hesitate to contact the West Reading Police Department 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.

Trash Information

- 1) 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.
- 2) Four (4) trash cans per household per trash collection day are allowed. Please do not place bulky items out for regular trash collection. One bulk item per household per month may be placed out for collection on the first Friday of every month.
- 3) Please do not place trash/recycling out prior to noon the day prior to collection and promptly remove your receptacle(s) by midnight the day of collection.
- 4) Trash collection is every Tuesday and Friday; recycling collection is every Wednesday.
- 5) Electronic items such as televisions, microwaves, refrigerators and air conditioners will not be removed by the trash/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.

Reminders

- 1) Pet waste management is an important responsibility of dog ownership. The first step is picking up what your pet leaves behind. The second is making sure it is disposed of properly. A common misconception surrounding pet waste disposal is that Fido or Fluffy's waste serves as a natural fertilizer. Dog owners take note: this is not true. In fact, leaving pet waste on the ground or concentrating it in one specific area of the yard can seriously harm soil quality and can be dangerous for both families and their pets. Pet waste should always be picked up and removed from your property on a regular basis, in fact, Borough regulations specify pet waste must be removed on a daily basis from private property and immediately from public property or property owned by another.
- 2) Animals At Large – It is unlawful for any person to allow an animal to be without controlled restraint at any time.



Continued from page 8

- 3) Noise by Animals – Pet owners are responsible to prevent continuous noise for a period of 10 minutes or intermittently for 30 minutes or more to disturb any person at any time of the day or night unless a person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon private property or causes to tease or provoke the animal.
- 4) Grass and weeds must be maintained at a height of less than 10" at all times. All grass/weeds in the planting strip and along the alley are the property owner's responsibility.
- 5) Trees, shrubs, hedges or other vegetation must not extend into the sidewalk space, streets or alleyways. Growth shall not be at a height of less than 8' over any sidewalk or pedestrian walkway or 16' over any roadway. Please do not throw weeds, grass clippings and/or hedge clippings into the street.

- 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 4".

"Keep It Safe, Keep It Beautiful"

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

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 use of the 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 is a 9-hole Disc Golf Course with pro and amateur tee pads. Both courses can be played for an 18-hole course.



RECREATION HAPPENINGS

Father Daughter Dance:

Date: TBD

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Join us for our 15th Annual Father-Daughter dance for a 1950's themed Sock Hop at the West Reading Fire Department located at 223 Playground Drive.

There will be light refreshments, music, a memorable photo and every young lady will receive a gift. 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. Dates to purchase tickets will be determined at a later date.

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 15th to August 7th *Dates are subject to change.*

Cost: ½ Day Monday – Friday 9am to Noon

Field Trip Days 9am to 3pm: \$150

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 \$80 per child whether they attend one or all of the scheduled field trips. Please do not send



your child to the playground on scheduled field trip days if he/she will not be attending the field trip. Playground Leaders will be accompanying the children on the field trip days and there will be no one at the 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: *Dates are subject to change.*

Date: June 21st , July 19th , August 16th, and September 20th **Rain Date:** October 4th

Time: 2 to 7pm

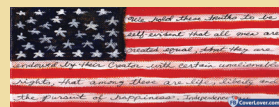
Bring your family and blankets or chairs, and join us on Sunday afternoons in the Park. There will be music, drinks, food and games. These events are hosted by West Reading Recreation and Pollen Consolidated. Bands will be announced at a future date, so please check our Facebook page for further information.



Independence Day Celebration:

Date: Thursday, July 4th

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). Due to the holiday falling on a Saturday this year, West Reading Borough will not be offering a display of fireworks. Shillington's Community Day Event will be offering a firework display on July 4th.



HAPPENINGS AT THE WEST READING POOL

Pool Schedule

Dates are subject to change.

May 23 - 25, 2020 - Open Memorial Day Weekend Only (12:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

May 30 - 31, 2020 - Open Weekend Only (12:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

June 6 - August 2, 2020 - Open Every Day (12:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

August 3 - August 30, 2020 - Open Every Day (12:00 pm - 6:30 pm)

August 31 - September 4, 2020 - Pool Closed

September 5 - September 6, 2020 - Open Labor Day Weekend Only (12:00 pm - 6:30 pm)

September 7, 2020 - Open Labor Day (12:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

September 7, 2020 - Reopen for Doggie Swim (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

	Resident	Non-Resident
Under age 2	Free	Free
Age 3-12	\$71.00	\$95.00
Age 13-60	\$107.00	\$145.00
Age 61+	\$45.00	\$95.00
Age 61+ Employee of Borough Business	\$71.00	N/A
Daily Rate	\$8.00	\$14.00
6 Day Pass	\$40.00	N/A
Spectator Fee	\$5.00	\$5.00
Family Pass 2 Adult, 2 Children under 17	\$300.00	N/A
Additional Child	\$25.00	

Early Bird Registration Pricing

A 5% discount will be offered to those that reside in the Borough of West Reading, and who purchase their membership, in full by 5:00pm on Friday, May 1, 2020. The discount does not apply to the family rate.

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 17th, 24th & 31st

Time: 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

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

Adult Moonlight Swim:

Date: Saturday, August 8th

Rain Date: Sunday, August 9th

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: Tuesday nights beginning June 16th from 6:30-7:15pm. Cost is \$8.00 per person.

Aqua Glow Party: Aqua Zumba by Moonlight Glow Party on Friday, July 10th and Friday, August 21st. Doors open at 8:30pm.

Aqua Tabat Class: This class features a more intense core workout. The class is offered every Sunday morning beginning on July 12th from 11:00am-12:00pm. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

Aqua Hydro Jump: This new aqua fitness class utilizes a trampoline that is fixed to the bottom of the swimming pool with suction pads. This aquatics fitness class will begin on Thursday, June 18th from 6:30-7:30pm. Cost is \$15 per participant, and space is limited to 20 participants.

Doggie Day at the Pool:

Come swim with your furry friend!

Date: Monday, September 7th

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

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

If you would like more information regarding any of our programs, please contact Helen Moyer at 610-374-8273 x243.



2020

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
1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
26 27 28 29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30 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	1 2	1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	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 7	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
29 30 31	28 29 30	27 28 29 30	27 28 29 30 31

■ = Trash Collection ■ = Recycling Collection ■ = 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.



Borough of West Reading

500 Chestnut Street
West Reading, PA 19611

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

*****ECRWSSDDM***

POSTAL CUSTOMER



SPRING/SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

hometownpress
A CBN Company

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

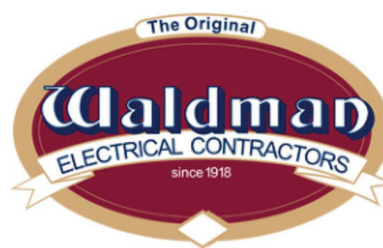


Commercial Lawn Service | Residential Lawn Service

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

West Reading, PA 19611

610.780.2038



(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.