

The Borough of WEST READING

Fall/Winter 2024-25

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2024-25 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*

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From Our Mayor . . .



Samantha Kaag, *Mayor*

Hello West Reading,

As we watch the leaves change to autumn and then give way to winter's chill, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and community spirit. This fall, we're excited to celebrate once again on the Avenue with Fall Fest, and our fantastic Recreation Department and Commission have lined up plenty of activities to keep the kiddos engaged—be sure to check our website and keep an eye on social media for upcoming events!

Earlier this year, we had the pleasure of welcoming Randy as our new Borough Manager. Randy has already made a tremendous impact, and we're excited about the fresh perspectives and energy he brings to our team. I also want to extend a special thank you Cindy for all her hard work during that transition! Also, to our Public Works team for their unwavering dedication and hard work over the past few months. Their efforts in maintaining and improving our borough are truly appreciated.

Our Police Department has been running exceptionally well under the leadership of Chief Richard Tornielli, who is now officially marking his first year with us. It's been wonderful to see how seamlessly he has settled in and contributed to our community's safety and well-being. His leadership is making a positive difference, and I'm confident that our community is in excellent hands.

Looking ahead, Halloween Trick-or-Treating will be on Thursday, October 31st, from 5-8 pm. And don't forget, our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in December is just around the corner! As we prepare for the colder months, please remember to winterize your home and stay safe during the season.

Thank you for making West Reading a place where community spirit thrives. Wishing you all a season filled with warmth, happiness, and cherished moments!

Best wishes,
Samantha Kaag
Mayor of West Reading

Fall Menu Specials



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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*, rlineaweaver@westreadingborough.org
Philip Wert, *Vice President*
Patrick Kaag, *Pro-Tem*
Bethany Bower, *Member*; Zachary Shaver, *Member*; Denise Drobnick, *Member*; Zanna Leiendecker, *Member*

Mayor, *Samantha Kaag*
610-374-8273 x228, *skaag@westreadingborough.org*

Borough Manager, *Randall P. Miller*
610-374-8273 x220, *manager@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, *Kerry Grassley*
610-374-8273 x401, *kgrassley@westreadingborough.org*

Code Enforcement Secretary. *Elba Beltran-del Rio*
610-374-8273 x238
ebeltrandelrio@westreadingborough.org

Tax Collector, *Janice Kaucher*
610-374-8273 x225, *taxcollector@westreadingborough.org*

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 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, Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Evacuation, Weather Related Necessities, Criminal Activity, Shelter in Place/Lockdowns, Boil Water Advisories and Large Local Events.*

West Reading Borough Meeting Schedule

Borough Council, *3rd & 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.*
October 16th (Wed.) & 22nd November 19th & 26th
December 17th & 23rd (Mon.)

Budget Workshops/Council Meetings
October 5th - 9 a.m. November 2nd - 9 a.m.

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

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

Recreation Commission, *1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.*
October 1st November 4th (Mon.) December 3rd

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

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

October 14, 2024	Columbus Day
November 11, 2024	Veteran's Day
November 28 & 29, 2024	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24 & 25, 2024	Christmas Holiday
December 31, 2024	New Year's Eve Day
January 1, 2025	New Year's Day
January 20, 2025	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 17, 2025	President's Day
April 18, 2025	Good Friday

Utility Payment

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 30th

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

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.

RECYCLING/TRASH INFORMATION

COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

Residents of Berks County are encouraged to bring personal and confidential documents to the 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-12-2024-registration-901900256947?aff=affiliate1**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024
8:00 AM – NOON *(rain or shine)*
BERKS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

Absolutely no plastic bags will be accepted. All paper materials must be in cardboard boxes, paper bags or reusable totes. Five (5) boxes per vehicle maximum. Please be sure to only bring confidential paper materials for shredding free of binder clips, metal or any type of trash.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

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-19-2024-tickets-901896987167?aff=affiliate1**

Participate In Your Local Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024
8:00 AM – NOON *(rain or shine)*
BERKS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
1238 County Welfare Road Leesport, PA 19533

NEW BULK TRASH COLLECTION GUIDELINES

- Residents may purchase a small, medium, or large bulk tag, per item at Borough Hall for items that are too large to fit in your trash container. Larger items must be broken down into manageable bundles.
- Residents must provide contact information, the date and address for collection, and a description of the item(s) to be collected. Payment options include cash, check or charge.
- A limit of two bulk items per household may be collected per week and may be placed out for collection on any regular trash collection day.
- Tags must be purchased a minimum of 48 hours prior to collection.
- Bulk tags must be affixed to the item that you want to dispose of. It is the responsibility of the resident to securely affix the tag to the item.
- Bulk items may weigh no more than 75 pounds nor exceed 5 feet in length. Larger items may be dismantled to fit these parameters while remaining a single tag item.
- Refunds are not issued in the event that paid-for bulk items are taken by someone other than the borough refuse hauler.
- Metal pickup is free for residents but must be scheduled in advance. Metal pickups occur on Monday mornings, the deadline to schedule a pickup is Friday afternoon. To schedule a metal pickup please call Borough Hall at 610-374-8273. Appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioning units, dehumidifiers, water coolers, and freezers must have the freon removed, and have a Certified Freon-Free sticker to be picked up. The Freon Hotline can provide information on how to properly remove freon from your appliance at 1-888-GO-FREON (1-888-463-7366). Or you may contract with a local scrap hauler to dispose of your appliance.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CURBSIDE COLLECTION:

- Computer Equipment such as desktop, laptop, tablet, keyboard, monitor, and printer (can be recycled at Staples free of charge)
- Televisions, DVD Players, Stereos, Telephones, Vacuum Cleaners, Toasters (can be recycled at Goodwill stores, free of charge)
- Paint Cans (unless empty and dry)
- Tires, Motor Oil
- Propane/Gas Tanks (even if empty)
- Hazardous Materials (including oil-based paint cans)

If you experience missed stops, please contact Borough Hall at 610-374-8273 to report the matter.

BASIC HOW-TO TIPS FOR TRASH COLLECTION

The following are some tips to make sure you are served properly and consistently:

- **Put your trash in a bag.** Bags prevent loose trash from sticking or freezing to the bottom of the can where personnel cannot reach.
- **Place containers where they can be accessed.** Place your container on a level, visible, and accessible area no more than 3 ft. from the street. The containers must be able to freely move to the truck (i.e. no parked vehicle obstructions or locked/tethered cans).
- **Place containers out on time.** Containers must be placed out by midnight the night before the scheduled collection day.
- **Put materials in the right containers.** Never mix trash or recyclables or yard waste together.
- **No liquids.** All trash should be drained and free from liquids.
- **Recycling.** Make sure no food contamination ends up in your recycling container. Recyclables do not need to be bagged.
- **Yard Waste.** Yard waste can be disposed of between the hours of 7am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday (except holidays) by appointment at the Borough Garage, please call 610-374-8605 to schedule an appointment. Or yard waste may be disposed of on the first Saturday of the month without an appointment at the Borough Garage from 9am to Noon during the months of April through November. The address for the Borough Garage is 123 S. 1st Avenue, West Reading (1st Avenue and Chestnut St).

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

The Borough of West Reading values making the earth a better place to live by offering enhanced recycling services. In an effort to recycle as much material as possible ***please recycle the following:***



- Glass food and beverage containers (brown, clear or green)
- Aluminum and tin cans
- Plastics with symbols #1 through 7
- Newspaper (clean & dry, no food contact)
- Cardboard (dry & flattened, no food contact)
- Magazines/Telephone Books/Paperback Books/Office Paper/Junk Mail/Gift Wrapping/ Paperboard/Gift Boxes
- Cartons (i.e. juice, milk, broth, wine, cereal)

REMINDER:

- All glass containers must be empty and free of metal caps and rings and contain less than 5% food debris.
- All tin cans, bi-metal cans, and aluminum cans must be empty and contain less than 5% food debris.
- All aerosol cans must be empty with less than 5% content.
- All plastic containers must be empty, caps removed and less than 5% food debris.
- All fiber must be dry and free of food debris and other contaminating material.
- Tissues, paper towels or other paper that has been in contact with food is not acceptable.

Loads not meeting the above specifications may be rejected in whole or in part by the company.

Materials Not Accepted:

- Microwave trays
- Ceramics or porcelain
- Plastics (without number recycle symbol)
- Household items such as cooking pots, toasters, etc.
- Mirrors
- Coat hangers
- Window or auto glass
- Styrofoam
- Glass cookware/bake ware
- Plastic grocery bags, tableware, food wrappers, bubble wrap
- Light bulbs
- Shredded paper

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT STORMWATER?



We are all part of a watershed. Watersheds are land areas that drain to the nearest body of water. For example, if you are in western Pennsylvania, you are part of the Ohio River watershed, while eastern Pennsylvania lands may ultimately drain to the Chesapeake Bay. Smaller local creeks and streams also eventually drain to a larger local water body.

- **Flooding:** When excess water has nowhere to go, flooding can impact property and cause damage to land and structures. Flooding can also be a public safety issue that affects entire communities.
- **Pollution and Health Impacts:** Stormwater picks up anything that is on the ground and carries it along with it. Animal waste, chemicals, pesticides, oil, and sediment – all end up in waterways and potentially in our sources of drinking water.
- **Streambank Erosion:** Uncontrolled stormwater can cause streambank erosion, leaving bare soil and exposing tree roots. This can lead to property damage and cause issues with streambank stability.
- **Sedimentation:** Erosion and runoff, can also lead to sedimentation. Sedimentation of waterways from runoff causes changes to aquatic habitats. Undesirable plant growth increases, water becomes more turbid or cloudy, which leads to disruption of aquatic ecosystems. Sedimentation also fills in waterways, which can increase the flooding potential.
- **Impacts to Groundwater Recharge:** If stormwater isn't sinking into the ground, it can affect recharge of groundwater resources. This can affect water levels in drinking water wells as well as impacting levels in surface water.
- **Impacts to Recreational Opportunities:** Stormwater runoff can cause polluted waterways which can lead to restrictions on boating, swimming, and fishing in recreational areas.

Making changes to how stormwater is managed can go a long way to reduce negative impacts. Even small actions by individual homeowners like using a rain barrel, choosing permeable landscaping surfaces, or installing a rain garden can make a difference. Stormwater affects everyone!



West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation

As the nights get cooler, so does The Avenue. As we put the heat and construction behind us, we embark on the change of the seasons. Break out your fleece and stroll the Avenue on a crisp fall morning enjoying a warm coffee and seeing the sights and sounds of fall. Enjoy a beautiful evening as the sun goes down listening to live music and enjoying a nice libation with friends and family.

As we get into the holiday season, enjoy shopping at our wide array of eclectic and unique retailers. Support small business, chat with friends and enjoy everything we have to offer to the community.

Nick Price, Main Street Executive Director

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" must 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.

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 store all trash in durable, water-tight containers 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) **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.
5) Cars, trucks, RV's, motorcycles, trailers, etc. **cannot be parked** on the grass. Vehicles may only be parked on a stone, concrete or macadam pad. Prior to installing a parking pad, a zoning permit application is required.
6) 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.
7) **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 solicitation permit. After a background check and receipt of a permit fee a borough issued ID badge must be worn at all times while soliciting. Hours available to solicit are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday only. If a solicitor comes to your door without a borough issued ID do not hesitate to contact the West Reading Police at 610-373-0111 to make a report. Please provide as much detail about the solicitor as possible. If you receive a brochure or letter from the solicitor, please mark the date received and turn it into the borough for processing.

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, this 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.

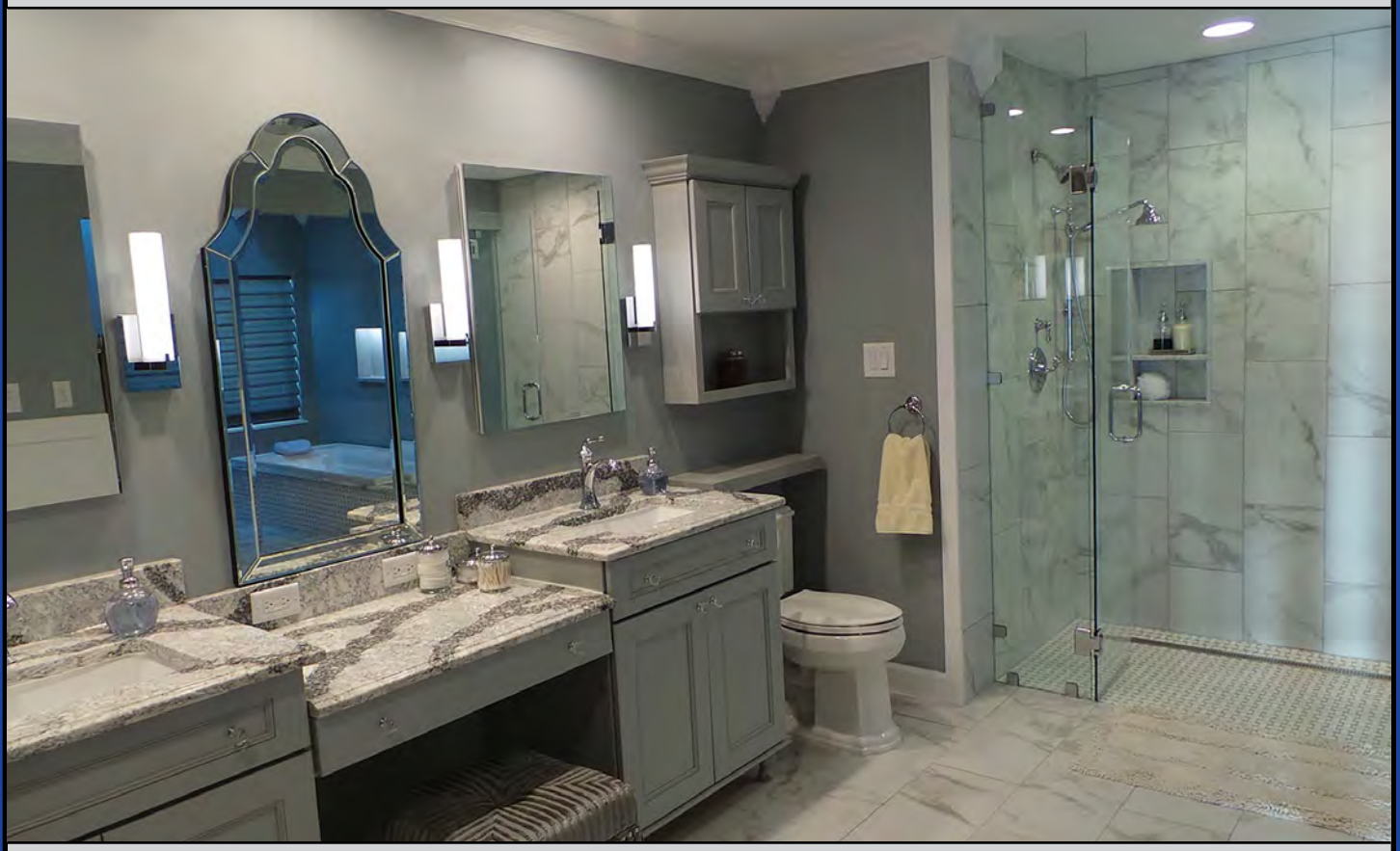
Safety inspections improve and maintain the quality of West Reading's rental properties. The inspections help educate property owners and renters about our safety requirements, encourage proper maintenance for safety, and increase communication between rental property owners, their tenants, and West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

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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 6th to 12th is Fire Prevention Week 2024. This year's theme is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!". The goal this year is to educate everyone on the importance of having working smoke detectors in your home.

Open House: We will be holding an Open House at the station on Wednesday October 9th starting at 6:30pm and running 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!

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 have a functioning Carbon Monoxide detector in your residence. Remember to keep all curtains or 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.

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!



Kiddies Christmas Party: Saturday December 14th from 2pm 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 to pick up an application.

Police Department – Police Chief Richard Tornielli

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



Community engagement 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 and business community. Throughout the year, we participate in many events, both on our own and with other Law Enforcement agencies. Some of these events include:

- **Outreach activities** at the West Reading Elementary Center and 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 partners in local organizations, especially the West Reading Fire Police, for all their assistance throughout the year. The members of these organizations are all volunteers and give up their own time to serve the community.

Another way that the West Reading Police Department engages with the community is through our social media and CRIMEWATCH site. As part of our efforts to maintain transparency and trust with the community we serve we recently completed an upgrade to our CRIMEWATCH site. This upgrade allows subscribers to view crime mapping and details of our activities to maintain public safety in our community. The CRIMEWATCH site is also a great source of information and provides ways for subscribers to engage with the police department. The site can be reached through the WRPD webpage.

Did you know??? You can follow the WRPD on:

- Our Webpage at: www.westreadingpolice.com
- Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com/WRPolice
- Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/westreadingpd/
- Twitter at: www.twitter.com/WRPolice

As we move through the fall and winter months, please keep in mind some simple things you can do to help us prevent crime in our community: **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.

The West Reading Police Department would like to thank our residents and business community for all the assistance and support we receive from them. By working together, we can create a safer, more connected, and harmonious environment for all.

Public Works Department – Director Kerry Grassley



Hello, my name is Kerry Grassley 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.

In order to keep our agreement with a local business to continue 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. Branches in piles of leaves often times can clog and possibly damage the leaf sweeper. 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.

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.

Please try to only drop yard waste off while the borough garage is open for collection. Bags that are dropped off after hours can get wet and spill out or animals dig through the bags giving crew members added work. This is a wonderful community and with some of the best people living in it. If you ever have a question, please feel free to stop anyone of us to ask a question, the guys will be more than willing to help. Also please remember with winter around the corner to please help each other out, tighter neighborhoods bring safer and cleaner neighborhoods.

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.

SNOW EMERGENCY

A snow emergency may be declared by the Mayor if significant snow falls, or dangerous weather conditions are forecast. A snow emergency declaration means that both residents and borough service providers need to prepare for inclement and possibly dangerous weather conditions.

Once a snow emergency has been declared, removing snow within the travel lanes on snow emergency routes is the priority. Routes are designated to provide primary feeders for traffic moving through the borough. Also, they link schools, hospitals, bus routes and fire stations. The streets listed below have been designated with priority status:.

- **Buttonwood Street** - Entire Length
- **Fifth Avenue** - Delaney Circle (Traffic Circle) to Museum Road
- **Museum Road** - Entire Length
- **N. Fourth Avenue** - Entire Length
- **Parkside Drive North** - Entire Length
- **Parkview Road** - Entire Length
- **Penn Avenue** - Entire Length
- **Pine Street** - S 3rd to S 5th Avenue
- **Reading Avenue** - Delaney Circle to 8th Avenue
- **Reading Avenue** - Delaney Circle to N 4th Avenue
- **Seventh Avenue** - Penn Avenue to Parkside Drive North
- **Third Avenue** - Penn Avenue to Sunset Road

Any vehicle not removed from the snow emergency routes will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

If a snow emergency occurs during a business day, contact Borough Hall at (610) 374-8273 when all vehicles are removed to request plowing of your block.

West Reading Farmers Market

WRFM is a year-round outdoor producer-only market which means every vendor is a hand-picked, small-scale farmer (produce, livestock, or dairy) or food business located within 50 miles of West Reading. Each item is grown, raised, or hand made. Our goals include educating our customer base on the benefits and positive impact of committing to supporting locally grown and produced foods. We offer a variety of seasonal vegetables and fruits, artisan pastries, organic breads and sweet treats, meats, eggs, cheeses, raw honey, ravioli, olive oil, roasted coffee and tea, fresh cut flowers, herbal tinctures and body products, cider, wine, and beer. We encourage our value-added producers to use local ingredients wherever possible.



We set up on the 500 block of Penn Avenue every Sunday 10 AM - 1 PM through November 24, rain or shine. See our website for our bi-weekly winter schedule. This season we've added Second Sundays to the market, where local artisan crafters are invited to join us. Every market boasts live music, free samples, and our main goal of being a gathering place for those that have a love of local foods, all while assisting our vendors in getting their goods to the community. Please take part in supporting our vendors each Sunday as they show up rain or shine to nourish your family. If knowing where your food comes from is important to you, THIS is the market for you! See you on the Ave!

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 for 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 for 40 people. The borough also offers discounted weekday rates (excluding holidays).

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.

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

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 a family dance, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Tree Lighting, Haunted House and 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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

HARVEST HAYRIDE & HAUNTED HOUSE:

Friday & Saturday October 11th & 12th
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.
(RAINDATE: Friday & Saturday October 18th & 19th)



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! 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 Following the hayride, roast s'mores 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. ***Haunted House: $9 per person, Hayride: $8 per person, Games: $1 each.***

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING: Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 6 PM:
(RAINDATE: Friday, December 6, 2024 at 6PM)



Join us at Delaney Circle for our 96th 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 became 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.

HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST:

Friday, December 13 – Sunday December 15, 2024 from 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 between the hours of 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 13th through December 15th by our Recreation Commission. You do not need to be home to participate. Registrations will take place online with our signup genius. Our committee will look for creativity, originality, as well as presentation. Get those decorations out!



Borough-Wide Trick-or-Treating



Happy Halloween! Gather ghosts and goblins, it's that time of year for costumes, jack-o-lanterns and candy corn! The annual family-friendly community Trick-or-Treat event will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Suggestions for celebrating safely are:

- Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Wear a blinking light to help drivers see you.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags.
- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them.

Mayor Samantha Kaag and the West Reading Police Department wish all who take part a fun and safe Halloween!

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