

The Borough of WEST READING

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

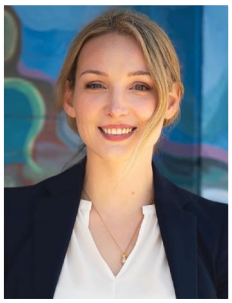
Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2025 Edition of the Borough of West Reading Newsletter. We hope you find the information in this newsletter to be helpful and informative. As always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts and opinions with us. Together we can all keep West Reading a place we love to call home.

Sincerely, *Borough Council*

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From Our Mayor . . .



Samantha Kaag, *Mayor*

Hello West Reading Family,

Spring has sprung, and I couldn't be more excited about the warmer days and the fresh energy they bring to our town. It's a great time to be in West Reading, and as your mayor, I'm looking forward to the many ways we can enjoy this season together.

We're launching something I'm truly passionate about—the West Reading Green Initiative through the West Reading Environmental Advisory. It's all about taking small, everyday actions to protect our environment. We'll start with community recycling drives with the Public Works Department, community clean ups, and workshops that are not only informative but also a lot of fun. Keep an eye out for the events on social media, I hope to see many of you there, rolling up your sleeves and learning alongside your neighbors.

As we enjoy the sunny days ahead, let's also remember to support our local shops! Every meal, every purchase, helps keep our community vibrant and thriving. So, whether it's a morning coffee or a weekend brunch, your choices make a big difference!

The Berks County Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday, May 17th, is another date to mark on your calendars. It's a day to come together in gratitude for those who've served our country. Bring your family, meet your neighbors, and enjoy the parade.

And, of course, there's Art on the Avenue on June 21st. It's more than just an event; it's a showcase of the amazing talent we have right here in West Reading and Berks County. Expect everything from live performances to interactive art projects - perfect for a family day outing. There are so many fun activities coming up so be on the lookout for them on Facebook at Visit West Reading.

This season is about more than just enjoying our beautiful borough; it's about coming together as a community. I'm so proud to be part of this community and to serve as your mayor. I can't wait to see all the great things we'll do together this spring and summer.

Here's to enjoying the sunshine and making memories!

Best wishes,
Samantha Kaag
Mayor of West Reading

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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*, Zachary Shaver, *Member*
Denise Drobnick, *Member*, Zanna Leiendecker, *Member*
Bethany Bower, *Member*

Mayor, *Samantha Kaag*
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610-374-8273 x220, *manager@westreadingborough.org*

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610-374-8273 x401, *kgrassley@westreadingborough.org*

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

- Missing Persons/Children
- Evacuation Notices
- Criminal Activities
- Shelter in Place/Lockdowns
- Boil Water Advisories
- Road Closures/Parking Alerts

West Reading Borough Meeting Schedule

Borough Council, *3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. (except May)*
April 15th May 21st (Wed) June 17th July 15th August 19th September 16th
Budget Workshops/Council Meetings
August 26th 6 p.m. September 23rd 6 p.m.
October 11th 9 a.m. November 8th 9 a.m.
Planning Commission, *1st Wednesday 6:00 p.m.*
April 2nd May 7th June 4th July 2nd August 6th September 3rd
Traffic & Infrastructure Committee, *2nd Wednesday 6:00 p.m.*
April 9th May 14th June 11th July 9th August 13th September 10th
Recreation Commission 1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m. *(except August at the Bicentennial House)*
April 1st May 6th June 3rd July 1st August 4th September 2nd
All meetings are held at West Reading Borough Hall
500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

April 18th ..... Good Friday
May 26th ..... Memorial Day
July 4th ..... Independence Day
September 1st ..... Labor Day
October 13th ..... Columbus Day

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.*

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. When you sign up for online bill pay, you will get a secure password to access your personal account at www.xpressbillpay.com. A reminder email will be sent to let you know when your bill is online. You also have the option to keep our planet happy and healthy by requesting to go paperless.

Please Note: Online payments are not an option for real estate taxes or code department fees. Please Also Note: A transaction fee of 3.5% will be assessed for all credit and debit card transactions. A $1.00 per transaction fee will be assessed for electronic check processing.



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

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Looking for a responsible way to dispose of unwanted paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides at no cost to you? The Governor Mifflin Intermediate School, located at 600 Governor Drive Shillington will be hosting a hazardous waste disposal event on **Saturday, April 12th from 8am to 12pm rain or shine**. This event is free to all Berks County residents, pre-registration is required. Please visit **www.co.berks.pa.us/swa** to register. Household hazardous waste is any household product that is labeled: caution, danger, flammable, explosive, toxic, warning, corrosive, poison, volatile or any combination of these characteristics. Placing these items in the trash or down the drain contributes to the pollution of our air and drinking water.



COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT



Looking for a way to dispose of personal and confidential documents? The Governor Mifflin Intermediate School, located at 600 Governor Drive Shillington will be hosting a community shredding event on **Saturday, April 19th from 8am to 12pm rain or shine**. This event is free to all Berks County residents. A maximum of five boxes are allowed per vehicle. Please visit **www.co.berks.pa.us/swa** to register. Help protect yourself and your family from identity theft by having your personal and confidential information shredded.

2025 Trash & Recycling Calendar

January

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= Trash Collection = Recycling Collection

Bulk Trash - Items may be placed out on a regular trash day with a bulk tag purchased from the Borough and affixed to the item you wish to dispose of. Tags must be purchased a minimum of 48 hours prior to collection. For more information please call or visit Borough Hall or the website. **Items not accepted for curbside collection:** computer equipment, televisions, tires, motor oil, propane/gas tanks, hazardous materials.

Our Municipal Code is Online (*Go to ecode360.com/WE3192)*

WHERE DOES ALL THE WATER GO?

The average person uses approximately 13 cubic feet per day. That's just over 401 cubic feet per month for each person in your house. Multiply that by a family of 4 and water usage can easily reach 1,604 cubic feet per month. An average of 14% of residential water is lost through leaking fixtures or pipes inside your home. So how can you reduce the amount of water you use? It's easy to check how much water is used and whether you have a leak in your home.

Be a Leak Detector

An easy way to check whether you have leaks in your house is to read your water meter. Learning to read your water meter can pay off. First, turn off all the water in your house. Next, go to your water meter and jot down all the numbers you see. Also, look at the flow indicator gauge, which is a small red or black dial. If it is moving, then there is a leak inside the house. If it is not moving, then you do not have a serious leak, but you may have a slow leak such as a toilet periodically refilling itself.

To check for slow leaks, read your water meter before and after a period when no water is being used. This may be when you plan to leave the house for a period of time like going to work, running errands, or shopping. If the readings are different after a period of time (at least one hour), then you have a leak. Some areas to check for leaks include toilets, faucets, malfunctioning water softeners, swimming pools, water heaters and faulty irrigation valves. Other leaks can be harder to find such as underground leaks, foundation leaks and leaks behind walls. These may require the assistance of a plumber to locate. Even a small drip can add up to big bucks.

A leaky pipe is usually pretty obvious. Visually inspect the pipes in your home and look for any tell-tale watermarks on walls or ceilings. Be sure to look under each sink in your home and around the floor of the toilet. Check the pressure relief valve on your hot water heater. Often times once the relief valve opens, it continues to leak until the valve is replaced. These valves can be dripping on the floor around the hot water heater or may be plumbed outside. If you find a leak, contact a plumber or someone well versed in this type of repair.

In the yard, check the outside hose bibs or any other above ground water line. Signs of an outside leak include a wet spot, actual flow of water over the ground surface, or green algae growing in the area. Also, look for any leaks around the valve on the hose bibs and backflow preventers. Pay attention to your hose. Left unattended, a garden hose can pour out hundreds of gallons of water in just one hour. Check all hoses, connectors and spigots regularly to make sure they are in good working order. Replace or repair damaged or leaking hoses, nozzles, spigots and connectors. Outfit your hose with a spray nozzle so water flows only as needed. When finished, turn it off at the faucet instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks.

Clothes and dishwashing machines have hoses and connections that can wear over time and begin leaking. Check the hoses often. If you are going on vacation, consider turning the water off to these units to avoid a major event if the hose breaks while you are away. Operate the clothes and dishwasher only when you have a full load.

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 flowerbeds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and control weeds.
- Add compost or organic matter to the 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 the 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.

2025 Tax Collector Sitting Dates

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

Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Dates: Thursday, April 17, Monday, April 21, Wednesday, April 23 & 30, Friday, April 25, Tuesday, April 29

Please note that payments can also be made at Borough Hall during normal business hours.

Questions regarding your tax bill can be directed to the Deputy Tax Collector at 610-374-8273 ext. 225 or email taxcollector@westreadingborough.org.

Tax payments are accepted in full in the form of cash, check or money order made payable to West Reading Borough Tax Collector.



Code Enforcement

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.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a permit for...?

Any work beyond basic repair or a non-structural alteration may require a building permit issued by the Borough's Building Code Official for both residential and commercial properties. The best course of action is to contact the Code Department at 610-374-8273 ext. 238 and ask if a permit is required for your project. Be prepared to provide a detailed scope of work for the project and identify the property as residential or commercial. Change in use may require zoning approval.

Am I responsible for maintaining the alley behind my house?

Yes. Typically, the property owners on each side of an alley are responsible to maintain to the center of the alley for the width of each respective property. This includes the alley pavement surface as well as grass, weeds, trash, etc., that may be found in the alley, regardless of how it ended up there. Weeds on the other side of your fence along the alley are still part of your property, and therefore your responsibility to trim and/or spray.

Why does the Borough need to inspect the home I'm selling?

Anyone selling a property in the Borough is responsible to certify that there are no uncorrected violations of any housing, building, zoning, and safety or fire codes. The Borough performs an inspection and records any apparent violations. It is required that all violations be corrected prior to settlement, or the responsibility to correct said violations may be transferred to the buyer, who will have time to complete the work following the sale of the property.

Where exactly is my property line?

Absent physically apparent monuments or property corner pins, the Borough cannot independently verify property lines on behalf of private property owners. Property owners are encouraged to engage a Professional Land Surveyor to prepare a site plan and physically set corner markers. This information is useful for locating potential property improvements such as fences and garages, laying out additions to the primary structure, and to satisfy property line disputes, if necessary.

What are the new Bulk Trash Collection Guidelines?

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Tags must be purchased a minimum of 48 hours prior to collection.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Refunds are not issued in the event that paid-for bulk items are taken by someone other than the borough refuse hauler.
8. 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 on 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 (desktop, laptop or tablet, keyboard, monitor, 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)

Keep West Reading Sidewalks a Step Above the Rest!

Sidewalks are an important aspect of our community and keeping them safe and accessible is necessary for all residents and visitors to enjoy. Borough ordinances require that sidewalks remain free and clear of obstructions and tripping hazards. Obstructions include, but are not limited to shrubs, bushes, flowers, tree branches, and other plant materials. If you have any questions or concerns regarding sidewalk responsibilities, feel free to contact the Code Department office.

Animal Code Red



It is important that we protect our animals from the extreme heat of spring and summer. The Borough's Animal Control Officer may declare a "Code Red" when the National Weather Service (NWS) predicts a heat index of 95° F. or above. During a "Code Red", owners shall not allow an animal to remain unattended or unsupervised outdoors. Notification of a "Code Red" will be made on the Borough website at least eight hours before it is in effect.

Reminders

1. Grass and weeds must always be maintained at a height of less than 10". All grass/weeds in the planting strip and along the alley are the property owner's responsibility.
2. 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.

Did you Know that in West Reading:

- No more than 3 domestic animals (cats or dogs) are allowed per residential housing unit.
- It is unlawful to permit any animal (including cats) to be at large in a public area without controlled restraint.
- The Borough's Animal Ordinance prohibits the tethering of an unattended dog.
- Allowing a dog to bark continuously for a period of 10 minutes or intermittently for 30 minutes or more is prohibited.
- You must pick up after your animal, both in public and on private property, and dispose of the waste in a sanitary manner.

"Keep It Safe, Keep It Beautiful" A cooperative effort of the Borough of West Reading and its neighborhoods.

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

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

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

Also remember to periodically check your smoke detectors, because a dead battery in your smoke detector will not help you in a fire emergency. Many of the homes that we visit on fire calls do not have operating smoke detectors, or they have none at all. Smoke detectors are a cheap way to keep your family safe, so please make sure they are in working order. We have smoke detectors available for sale at our station at a cost of $10.00 each and we can also install them in your home at no charge to you. We will also install owner provided smoke detector batteries for you at no charge if you are unable to do it yourself. Please give us a call for more information.

Open Burning

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

Fire Extinguishers

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

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

As far as old extinguishers or used units are concerned, if you don't feel comfortable throwing them away in the trash, please bring them to the station any Wednesday night at 6pm 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.

Chicken BBQ Fund Raiser

We will be holding our annual chicken BBQ on Sunday April 14th, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Meals include ½ chicken, baked potato, applesauce, and a roll & butter. All meals will be prepared by **Kauffman's Chicken BBQ**.

To get your tickets: speak with any West Reading Fire Department member, purchase online via the link on the Borough website, or purchase them on the day of the BBQ (a limited number of walk-in sales will be available). Pre-orders that are not picked up by 3:00 p.m. will be donated to feed those in need.







Public Works Department

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping keeps roads safe by removing debris that clog storm drains and reduces the number of pollutants that collect on Borough streets. To avoid clogging the sweeper we ask that you please place Borough tree branches in the planting strip/sidewalk area. Be mindful of street sweeping signs that are posted on the street where you park. To remind yourself of the street cleaning schedule place a reminder in your smart phone 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



- 400 Block of Chestnut Street Paving
- 600 Block of Court Street Paving
- 100 and 200 blocks of South 6th Avenue Paving
- 400 Block of Ann Street Paving
- 500 Block of Spruce Street Paving
- 700 Block of Cherry Street Paving
- Reading Avenue 7th Avenue through Delaney Circle Paving
- **Alley Paving Repairs** – Cowboy Alley (located between Lakeview Drive & South 7th Avenue, 700 block Spruce Street and the 700 block of Wayne Avenue (subject to change)
- **Water Line Replacement** – We are waiting to find out if we will be rewarded grant funding for two water line replacement projects on the 100 and 200 blocks of Olive Street and the 000 of block of South 6th Avenue.

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!

Sewer Backups

Backups can be caused by a multitude of problems such as grease build up, tree roots, feminine products, towels/wipes, toys, etc. Therefore, we want to remind all residents and businesses to avoid flushing anything other than toilet paper.

At any time, day, or night when a sewer backup occurs at your home or business your first call should be to the Borough. As part of your sewer maintenance fee, the Public Works Department will plunge the sewer trap located near your home/business 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. The Borough maintains the sewer system from the curb to the main.

To report a sewer backup 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.

Go Green Program

Yard waste may be disposed of between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday 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 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon during the months of April through November.

The following types of yard waste will be accepted:

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

The Borough Garage is located at South 1st Avenue and Chestnut Street. The program is open to West Reading residents only, proof of residency is required.

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 to keep yard waste out of the landfill.

How Do I Report a Street Light Outage?

Ensuring streetlights come on each night is very important to the safety of the community and can help reduce crime. When a report is made to First Energy the utility line crews and troubleshooters are responsible for making streetlight repairs as quickly as possible. To report a streetlight outage:

- Call: 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) and say "streetlight" after the greeting.
- Online: www.firstenergycorp.com click "Outages" and "Outdoor Lighting Problem" to answer questions such as:
  - Your name and phone number (in case they need more information).
  - Address where the streetlight is located (nearest house or business address and the nearest cross street).
  - Numbers on the metal plate(s) on the utility pole (see image right).
  - What is wrong with the streetlight (damaged pole, broken light fixture, light is off at night, or on during the day, or flickers).



West Reading Police Department

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

Hours of Operations

To better serve our residents and visitors, the West Reading Borough Police Department (WRPD) administrative office hours are:

- Monday to Friday - 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM
- Closed Saturday and Sunday
- In an emergency, please dial 911 for an immediate police response.

As always, the Officers of the WRPD are here to serve you 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. If you need to speak to an Officer or require a police response (non-emergency related) and the WRPD administrative office is closed, please call (610) 373-0111.

If the Police Department is closed, no parking signs may be purchased, and parking ticket payments may be made at the Administration Office at the West Reading Borough Hall building during normal business hours.

Street Postings

Please check your street for no parking 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?

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 going for an overnight trip or for a month. Having the information on file will be helpful if your vehicle is 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.

The West Reading Borough Police Department now offers a convenient, online, "Vacation Notice" form to our West Reading Borough residents. Located on our Webpage (under the "Forms Column" and then "Vacation Notice" form) or at the following link: https://berks.crimewatchpa.com/westreadingpd/23545/post/new-online-vacation-notice-form.

Borough residents can complete the online form any time; 24 hours-a-day/365 days-a-year. Although we are happy to provide this online service to our Borough residents, as always, you may contact our administrative staff directly to provide this information either by phone (610-373-0111) or in person at the WRPD located at 500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, during our normal business hours listed above.

Have a safe trip and we will be here for you when you return!

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

- Keep a 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 neighborhood for unusual activities or suspicious persons. Do not hesitate to call the police if you see or hear something suspicious or out of the ordinary on 610 373-0111.

The WRPD has a proud history of engagement with the residents and businesses in our vibrant community. Over the years, our police officers and community members have worked collaboratively to build trust, open lines of communication, and enhance the safety and well-being of everyone in our community. We are delighted to announce that in the near future, we will be introducing new and innovative community-police relations initiatives. These initiatives are designed to further strengthen the bond between law enforcement and our community, fostering even greater collaboration and understanding. As we look forward to these exciting developments and build upon our proud history of engaging with the community, we invite each and every one of you to actively participate in these efforts. Together, we can create a safer, more connected, and harmonious environment for all.

Introducing Crime Mapping: A Valuable Tool for Our Community

The West Reading Police Department is excited to introduce our new crime mapping function available through Crimewatch on our webpage. The crime mapping function is a valuable resource designed to enhance public safety and awareness in our community. This innovative tool allows residents to access and explore crime data in a user-friendly and interactive way.

With crime mapping, you can:

- View crime incidents in your neighborhood and surrounding areas.
- Stay informed about trends and patterns in your community.

This tool is an essential part of our commitment to transparency and community engagement. By providing easy access to crime data, we aim to empower residents to take an active role in preventing and reporting crime. We believe that an informed community is a safer community.

We invite you to explore our crime mapping function and take advantage of this valuable resource. If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Together, let's work towards a safer and more informed West Reading.

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

The officers and staff of West Reading Police Department wish all Borough residents and visitors alike a very safe and enjoyable spring and summer.

West Reading Farmers Market

WRFM is entering our 19th season as 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, pastured meats and poultry and eggs, cheeses, local raw honey, hand-made ravioli and pasta, olive oil, roasted coffee and tea, fresh cut flowers, herbal tinctures and body products, locally fermented cider, wine, and beer. We encourage our value-added producers to use local ingredients wherever possible.

We pop up on the 500 block of Penn Ave. & S. 6th Ave. every Sunday 10 AM - 1 PM, rain or shine. See our website for our bi-weekly winter schedule. We celebrate local artisan crafters every Second Sunday of the month. Every market boasts live music, free samples, and our main goal is to be 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!

Spring Is In The Air



As the days are slowly getting longer, the temperatures are slowly warming up and the Avenue is gearing up for a fun filled spring and summer. Enjoy a casual stroll up and down the Avenue on March 16th for our 2nd annual March Madness Chili Cook-Off, with over 20 businesses participating. Stop by each business, taste their special chili and vote on who is the best. If live music is your thing, join us for

2nd Friday's beginning in May with live music on the Avenue. Do you love craft beer and pretzels? Join us for our annual Craft Pretzel and Beer Festival on Saturday, April 26th. Enjoy over 90 vendors, all kinds of food and live music. Are you a beer connoisseur? Be part of our VIP tasting event with over 15 local home brewers showcasing their different brands. Looking for something even bigger, join us for Art on the Avenue on Saturday, June 21st as we shut down the whole Avenue with over 200 vendors and 18 live music acts on 3 stages throughout the day. Whether you just want a quiet walk on the Avenue with your coffee, or you want to live it up and dance to live music with 20,000 of your friends at Art on the Avenue, our downtown business district has it all.

WEST READING

Recreation Department

Director of Recreation – Michael Esterly



The purpose of the Recreation Department is to create, as well as provide a diverse number of programs, services, as well as events for 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.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.atonementwyo.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 16-20 | 9am – 11:30am

All children ages 3 through 5th grade
(age 3 by 3/16/25 and potty trained)

For more info and to register, visit atonementwyo.org

WHO IS my neighbor?



ATONEMENT CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
Established 1976



Registration for 2025-26 school year is **NOW OPEN** for ages 2-5!

Contact **Jen Dauber** at **jdauber@atonementwyo.org** to schedule a tour.

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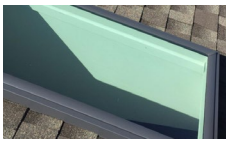
Don't Fuss... Call Us!

610.372.4480

Get ready for Spring and say goodbye to Old Man Winter

Call to find out more about your FREE roof inspection and gutter cleaning!!







economyroofingpa.com

Recreation Ramblings

West Reading Kids Fishing Rodeo
Saturday, April 12, 2025 Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The West Reading kids fishing rodeo is back for 2025! Registration is $10 and the event is open to borough children from ages 4-13. Registration forms are available at borough hall, or on the borough's website. A free T-shirt will be provided to all registered participants, along with prizes for netting a golden trout. Fishing will begin at 9:00 AM, with awards at 12:15 PM. There will be NO registrations accepted on the day of the rodeo.

Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 13, 2025 Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the West Reading Pavilion! Be sure to bring your own basket! The Recreation Commission will have concessions available for sale. The Easter Egg Hunt is open to West Reading Borough children up to 10 years of age. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photos as well!

Summer Playground Program
Monday, June 9, 2025 – Friday, August 1, 2025

Have your children enroll at our summer playground program held at the West Reading Park and Pavilion! Our summer playground program is for children ages 6-12 years of age. Your child will have the opportunity to make new friends, connect with old friends, partake in our field trips, as well as learn about many new activities that our trained staff will lead.

Pricing: Half Day Monday through Friday 8 AM to 12:00 PM - $250 (Resident) $350 (Non-Resident)

Pricing: Field Trip Day $155 (optional add on)

Pool Day Every Friday! Be sure to come prepared with your swimsuit and towel and get ready to cool off! Half Day program campers swim from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM!

Field Trips: Pricing for the field trip package is $155 per child. There are no refunds for unattended trips. Playground management and staff will not accept any field trip forms the day of the trip. Please do not send your child to the playground on field trip days if they are not attending, as our staff will be on the field trip with the children. Some of our trips for the 2025 season include Dutch Lanes, Reading Museum and Planetarium, and more!

West Reading Park Goings-On
Vines & Vibes/Plant Fest

Date: Sunday: May 18th. 2025
Time: 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Bring friends and family, along with your chairs and blankets for an afternoon of food, adult beverages, live music, and fun for everyone! There will be a plant swap, numerous vendors, and more throughout the day at West Reading Park and Pavilion.

Independence Day Bash

Date: Friday, July 4, 2025
Time: 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The West Reading Pool staff will have games, contests, prizes, music, and more during the 4th of July weekend at the West Reading Pool.



West Reading Pool

Pool Schedule

May 24 – 26, 2025 – Open for Memorial Day Weekend Only (12:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
May 31 – June 1, 2025 – Open Weekend Only (12:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
June 7 – August 3, 2025 - Open For Season Every Day (12:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
August 4, – August 24, 2025 – Pool Hours Shortened (12:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
August 25 – August 29, 2025 – Pool Closed
August 30 – August 31, 2025 – Open Labor Day Weekend Only (12:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
September 1, 2025 – Open Labor Day (12:00 PM – 5:00 PM)
September 1, 2025 – Reopen for Pups at the Pool (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM)

Pool Rates

Resident Daily Rate: $10 per person **Must show ID**
Non-Resident Daily Rate: $20 per person **Must show ID**

Membership Rates:

Resident	Age 3-12	$90
	Age 13-60	$130
	Age 61+	$70
Non-resident	Age 3-12	$165
	Age 13-60	$215
	Age 61+	$165

Wyomissing/Sacred Heart Students
$10 per person **(must show school ID, no exceptions!)**
6-day pass (available to residents only) $50 per person

Swim Lessons:

Resident $100 per child **Non-resident** $200 per child.

Members Only Raffles at the West Reading Pool (NEW)

Members ONLY will have a chance to purchase tickets to potentially win great items this summer including a Yeti Cooler, Blackstone Grill, Flat Screen TV, and more! You MUST present your pool membership card to purchase raffle tickets.

Aqua Zumba/Hydro Jump

Dates and times TBA. Check out the borough website, as well as our social media pages, for updates!

Pups at the Pool



Come and swim with your furry friend!
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025
Cost: $10 ($5 entrance fee, and $5 is donated to the Humane Society)

Please rinse off your furry friend prior to entering, as well as exiting the pool. Clean water is available adjacent to the pool deck.

FITZY'S HALLOWEEN 5K

JOIN US FOR OUR 21ST ANNIVERSARY EVENT!

5K RUN & 2.5 MI WALK



Fitzy's 5K is a fun-filled, family-oriented, community event sponsored by Lauren's Foundation. It is held each year on the last Sunday of October in Berks County, PA. This event raises money to support our charitable funds and features kids and adult costume contests, music, entertainment, food trucks, children's activities, games and more!

Everyone from competitive runners to those out for a leisurely stroll participate! Unique medals for age-group winners, team competitors, costume contest winners and terrific awards for the top 3 male & female finishers.



KID'S TRICK OR TREAT DASH



After you run, watch or participate with your child for our Trick or Treat Dash! Kids 12 & under will receive a FREE goodie bag - and treats to fill it will be provided!



HEALTH SERVICES FAIR

Free consulations with local health-care practioners, therapists and educational activities with Drexel Medical School students!



KID'S ZONE FUN!

Delta Phi Epsilon sorority sisters from Drexel University provide FREE supervised play for kids (for 2+ years old).

GIFT-OF-LIFE

Learn about the Gift-of-Life organ and tissue donation process and how it saves lives! Become a donor!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025, WEST READING PLAYGROUND

505 SYCAMORE RD. WEST READING, PA 19611

REGISTRATION OPENS 5/1/25 AT WWW.RUNSIGNUP.COM!



HOW TO STAY SAFE
when a thunderstorm threatens

Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards

Prepare NOW

- **Know your area's risk of thunderstorms.** They can occur year-round and at any hour.
- **Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- **Identify sturdy buildings close** to where you live, work, study, and play.
- **Cut down or trim trees** that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- **Consider buying surge protectors,** lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances, and electronic devices.
- **Secure outside furniture.**

Survive DURING

- **When thunder roars, go indoors.** A sturdy building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm.
- **Pay attention to weather reports and warnings** of thunderstorms. Be ready to change plans, if necessary, to be near shelter.
- **When you receive a thunderstorm warning** or hear thunder, go inside immediately.
- **If indoors, avoid running water or using landline phones.** Electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines.
- **Protect your property.** Unplug appliances and other electric devices.
- **If boating or swimming,** get to land and find a sturdy, grounded shelter or vehicle immediately.
- **If necessary, take shelter in a car with** a metal top and sides. Do not touch anything metal.
- **Avoid flooded roadways.** Turn Around Don't Drown®. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Be Safe AFTER

- **Listen to authorities and weather forecasts** for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flash flooding.
- **Watch for fallen power lines and trees.** Report them immediately.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A THUNDERSTORM WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

When thunder roars, go indoors.

Move from outdoors into a building or car.

Pay attention to alerts and warnings.

Unplug appliances

Do not use landline phones.

SOURCE: https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/thunderstorm-information-sheet.pdf

FEMA
FEMA V-1009
Catalog No. 17233-10



Safety with E-Bikes and E-Scooters

The popularity of electric bikes and electric scooters (e-bikes and e-scooters) has taken off over the past few years. Lithium-ion batteries are usually the source of power for both, and if not used correctly, or if damaged, those batteries can catch on fire or explode. Whether you use e-bikes or e-scooters as your main way of getting around, or just for fun, there are important safety tips to keep in mind when charging or storing these devices.

THE PROBLEM

- Damaged or defective batteries can overheat, catch fire, or explode.
- Lithium-ion battery fires give off toxic gases and they burn extremely hot.

SAFETY TIPS

- Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.
- Always follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- Only use the battery and the charger that were designed for, and came with, the device.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Only charge one device or device battery at a time to prevent overloading the circuit.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Do not store batteries in direct sunlight or inside hot vehicles, and keep them away from children and liquids.
- Store e-bikes, e-scooters, and batteries away from exit doors and anything that can get hot or catch fire.
- Only have device repairs performed by a qualified professional.
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take the batteries to a battery recycling location or contact your local waste department for disposal instructions.

SIGNS OF A PROBLEM

Stop using the e-bike or e-scooter if you notice any of these problems with the battery: unusual odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, smoking, or not keeping a charge.

If you see a fire...

- Leave the building immediately
- Don't try to fight the fire
- Call 911

LEARN MORE

Visit nfpa.org/ebikes

Information sourced from nfpa.org/ebikes





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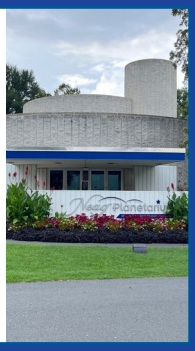
THANK YOU

This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.



READING PUBLIC MUSEUM

500 Museum Rd, Reading, PA 19611
www.readingpublicmuseum.org
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West Reading, PA 19611

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Spring/Summer 2025

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