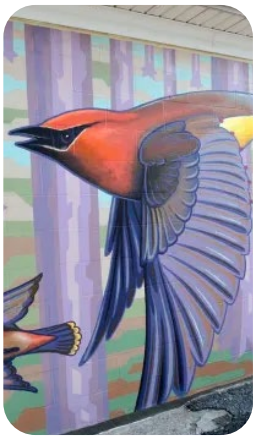
The Borough of WEST READING

Spring/Summer 2024



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Sr. Loan Officer



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610-334-0633 *Cell*
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Sunday By Appointment Only

CONTACT

Tony: (610) 698-5890
Free Estimates • Senior Discount
E: tonystanley1985@icloud.com
A: Reading, PA

Welcome

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2024 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

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

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

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

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

WEST READING BOROUGH MEETING SCHEDULE

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

April 16th • May 21st • June 18th • July 16th • August 20th • September 17th

BUDGET WORKSHOPS/COUNCIL MEETINGS

August 27th 7 p.m. • September 24th 7 p.m. • October 5th 9 a.m.
October 22nd 7 p.m. • November 2nd 9 a.m. • November 26th 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

April 3rd • May 1st •June 5th • July 3rd • August 7th • September 4th

TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

April 10th • May 8th • June 12th • July 10th • August 14th • September 11th

RECREATION COMMISSION

1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

April 2nd • May 7th • June 4th • July 2nd • August 5th • September 3rd

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

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

March 29th – Good Friday
May 27th – Memorial Day
July 4th – Independence Day
September 2nd – Labor Day
October 14th – Columbus Day

Utility Payment

Xpress Bill Pay » Electronic Utility Payment

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.

WATER/SEWER/REFUSE BILLING SCHEDULE

Quarter	Months Billed	Bills Mailed	Due Date *
1st	January - March	April 1st	April 30th
2nd	April - June	July 1st	July 31st
3rd	July - September	October 1st	October 31st
4th	October - December	January 1st	January 31st

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

Please Also Note: Effective October 1, 2023 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.

2024 Tax Collector Sitting Dates

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

Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Dates: Monday, April 22 & 29, Tuesday, April 23 & 30, Wednesday, April 17, Friday, April 26

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.

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 current list of boards/committees with vacancies.

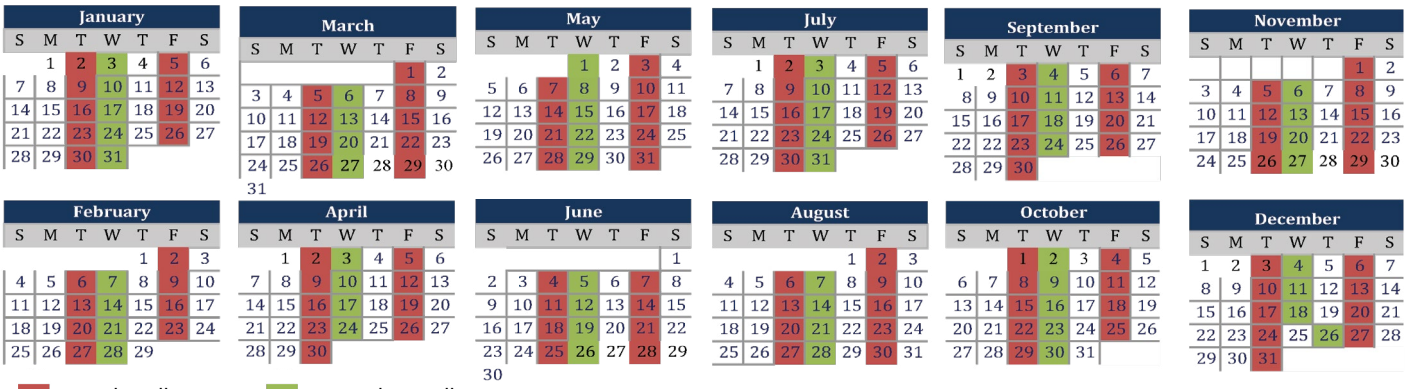


Household Hazardous Waste Disposal



Looking for a responsible way to dispose of unwanted paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides at no cost to you? The Governor Mifflin Intermediate School, located at 600 Governor Drive Shillington will be hosting a hazardous waste disposal event on **Saturday, April 13th 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.

2024 Trash & Recycling Calendar



= 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 business 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.

New Bulk Refuse Collection Policy



An increase in the number of bulk items placed out for collection has, in part, caused an increased refuse disposal rate for residents' community wide. Therefore, the following guidelines are being established to provide better convenience as to the date of disposal while implementing a fee to offset the cost of bulk item disposal.

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.
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, a 3.5% processing fee will be assessed on credit and debit card transactions.
3. A limit of two bulk items per household may be collected per week and may be placed out for collection on any regular refuse collection day.
4. Tags must be purchased a minimum of 48 business 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 Mondays, the deadline to schedule a pickup is Wednesday 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. If purchasing a new appliance, ask the company delivering the new appliance to take the old appliance. 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), items can be recycled at Staples, free of charge.
- Televisions (can be recycled at most stores that sell them, 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)

Contact the Berks County Solid Waste Authority office at 610-478-6362 for the disposal of hazardous materials.

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 20th 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.

West Reading Farmers Market

The West Reading Farmers Market opening day is Sunday, May 5th and features the very best in locally grown food every **Sunday from 9am - 1pm** in the 500 Block of Penn Ave + on 6th Ave! The producer-only market features locally grown fruits and vegetables sustainably raised meats, poultry and farm fresh eggs, fresh cut flowers, artisan baked goods and breads, local beer & wine, kombucha, hand-made pasta, local honey, and value-added products made with locally sourced ingredients. We are committed to supporting and promoting the rich agricultural history of Berks County!

West Reading Farmers Market, 500 Block of Penn Ave + 6th Ave
Every Sunday, 9am - 1pm (May-Dec), 1st/3rd Sunday, 10am - 12 noon (Jan-Apr)

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6, 2024
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM
FREE to all West Reading Borough Residents
Join us for fun, food, and games!
National Night Out is a great opportunity for you to meet your West Reading Police Department Officers.
Hope to see you there!

Help Us Protect Your Drinking Water

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) require municipalities to inventory water service lines on both the water system side and customer side and to provide a report to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by October 16, 2024. Therefore, the borough requests your assistance in completing an important survey to document the material of your water service line from the water meter to just outside of your home or business. The inventory will help identify and prioritize the replacement of high-risk materials that could potentially be a source of lead in drinking water. Results of the survey may allow the borough to obtain grant funding to replace water service lines at no cost to you. Please answer all questions and detach the survey to submit to the borough via mail, email at info@westreadingborough.org, drop box, text message to 484-869-5025, or in person at your earliest convenience.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

The type of my water service line from the water meter to just outside of my house or business is best described as the following:

❑ Lead ❑ Galvanized Steel ❑ Copper ❑ Plastic ❑ Other _____ ❑ Unknown

❑ I am unsure and would like someone from the borough to assist me in identifying the material.

I have determined the type of my water service line as follows:

❑ I have observed the material and know what it is.

❑ I have been provided some form of documentation of the water service line material.

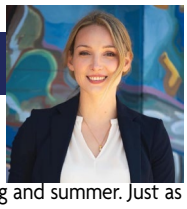
❑ It is my best guess ❑ Other _____

My house or business was built in one of the following time periods:

❑ Prior to 1960 ❑ 1960 to 1988 ❑ After 1988 ❑ I am unsure

Our Municipal Code is Online – Go to ecode360.com/WE3192

Greetings from the Mayor



Embracing the Vibrancy of Spring and Summer in West Reading

Hey there, West Reading!

As the buds begin to bloom and the days grow longer, I am filled with a sense of anticipation for the renewal that accompanies the arrival of spring and summer. Just as nature awakens from its winter slumber, our community experiences a rejuvenation of spirit and vitality, and truly comes to life.

Our park system starts to burst with vibrant colors, inviting people to gather for picnics at the Museum and throughout our park system. Games like the ever-popular Pickleball start back up, the pool starts to fill with people on the first weekend of June, and leisurely strolls along the Avenue for shopping, grabbing food, and relaxing in the warm weather slowly become more frequent.

I encourage each of you to embrace these beautiful outdoor spaces and to join in the wonderful events happening right here in West Reading like one of our biggest ones, Art on the Avenue happening on June 15th! We also have many other wonderful events on the Avenue and around West Reading, held by residents, the WRCRF, and business owners looking to invigorate the Avenue and borough. Keep an eye on social media to stay updated on events.

This season also provides an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to the well-being of our community. Whether it's participating in neighborhood clean-up initiatives like the EAC's Spring Clean-up on April 21st and the BBB Clean Ups that happen once a month, supporting local businesses both on and off the Avenue to show your love for small business, or volunteering your time to our ever-growing Recreation Department with all the wonderful events they host, or to other community-engaged groups/committees that align with your interests, there are countless ways to make a positive impact right here in West Reading. Contact the borough and/or your elected officials for ways to get involved!



West Reading has been working tirelessly, and the positive changes are clear to see. We have wonderful staff, wonderful departments and department heads, and a dedicated police department, all contributing to our borough's success. Our elected officials are just a small part of the amazing work our staff does daily, but I am so grateful for the dedication and commitment they have demonstrated - in the present and past. I am incredibly proud of where we are in West Reading and am honored to continue working with such dedicated individuals to foster positive growth. Thank you for entrusting me and giving me the opportunity to contribute to the well-being and betterment of West Reading.

As we embrace the spirit of renewal that a new year brings, let us also take a moment to reflect on the challenges we faced together. Last spring, the Palmer's disaster shook our community to its core, but through resilience and unity from so many kind and warm-hearted people, we rallied together to support those affected and build a stronger community and show support. The strength and compassion displayed during that difficult time serve as a testament to the unwavering and kindhearted spirit of our borough. As we move forward, let us continue to be there for one another and spread love and kindness throughout our community.

In the weeks ahead, I eagerly anticipate seeing West Reading come alive with energy and enthusiasm. Let us continue to embrace positivity and as spring's transformation turns into summer let's welcome it with open hearts and a renewed sense of optimism for the future.

Wishing you all a joyful and rejuvenating Spring and Summer season!

Samantha Kaag

Mayor of West Reading

Code Enforcement Department



Mission Statement:

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.

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 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.

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.

continued on next page

Code Enforcement Department *continued*

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.

Be Green While Protecting Our Streams

Protecting Pennsylvania's Waterways Starts at Home

Turfgrass has become a major component of Pennsylvania's flora. In fact, according to DCNR, Pennsylvania now contains over 2 million acres of lawn. Selecting a proper turfgrass management program, whether it is on a private lawn, sports field, public park, or golf course, is essential to protecting our local waterways.

Know What Your Lawn Needs

When looking to apply nutrients to your lawn, make sure you are aware of what your lawn needs and what the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law allows. To determine your lawn's nutrient needs, it is best to first soil test. Soil tests provide specific recommendations for nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium. Following the soil test recommendations ensures that you are applying only what your lawn needs, thus reducing nutrient loss and fertilizer cost. Test kits can be purchased for a nominal fee from your local Penn State extension office.

The Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law

In July 2022, Pennsylvania adopted a new fertilizer law designed to minimize the movement of nutrients into our waterways. Anyone who applies fertilizers should be aware of the following nutrient limitations:

- Nitrogen is limited to 0.9 pounds of total nitrogen and 0.7 pounds of available nitrogen per 1000 ft2 per application.
- No phosphorus can be applied unless establishing or repairing turf.
- Both the nitrogen and phosphorus rates can be adjusted based on soil test recommendations and/or if using an enhanced efficiency fertilizer.

In addition, when applying fertilizer, applicators must follow specific environmental conditions to prevent direct movement of fertilizer nutrients into our streams.

- Do not apply if heavy rain is expected.
- Keep fertilizer away from drainage ditches, storm drains, or water.
- Maintain a 15-foot buffer from the banks of all waterways.
- Remove fertilizer that lands on impervious surfaces (i.e. driveway sidewalks, roads) back onto the application area.
- Do not use as a snow or ice melt material.

Lawn Care Considerations

Nutrient management is not the only tool that can be used for limiting nutrient loss. There are many additional lawn care considerations that can be used to promote a healthy lawn while protecting our local waterways. A few examples are listed below.

Fertilizer may not be the solution. If your lawn is not looking as healthy and green as you would like, sometimes fertilizer is not the answer. Applying fertilizer without understanding the underlying soil can result in a waste of money and nutrients. There are many soil health factors that play a critical role in maintaining your lawn. Reducing soil compaction can improve root growth and water infiltration. Maintaining an appropriate soil pH is essential to promoting proper nutrient availability. Soil texture and organic matter content influence water movement, nutrient availability, and the microbial ecosystem of the soil. A healthy soil supports a healthy lawn.

Raise your mower deck. Set your mower deck to 3 inches or higher. A taller lawn provides shade that discourages weed growth and promotes strong root development helping lawns to withstand environmental stress. Alternatively, you can use low mow turf species, such as fine fescue blends, that do best when mowing is limited. A taller, healthier lawn slows water movement and increases infiltration keeping moisture, soil, and nutrients where they are needed most.

Mulch your grass clippings. Keeping your clippings in place returns valuable organic matter and nutrients to your lawn.

Working Together for Clean Water

Environmental stewardship requires teamwork. Help protect Pennsylvania's waterways by being wise when you fertilize! For more information on the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law, visit the Department of Agriculture's website at www.agriculture.pa.gov/fertilizer

West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation

As the days are slowly getting longer, we know that spring and summer are right around the corner. My name is Nick Price and as the seasons change, I'm excited to announce my new role as the Main Street Executive Director. As my predecessor Mark Ratcliffe slowly works his way to retirement, I'm excited to lead the charge as spring is near. As a life-long Berks County resident, I thoroughly understand and love how West Reading has become such a popular shopping, art, music and restaurant destination and I look forward to continuing that vibe in the future.

We have an exciting spring and summer planned with our first event being the Pretzel and Beer Fest on Saturday, April 27th from 11am-5pm. Join us for a tasting of many craft beers from local breweries and be sure to come hungry as we'll have all kinds of pretzel creations that will make your mouth water.

Be sure to mark down the date and make an afternoon of it.

Art on the Avenue will be back again, this year on Saturday, June 15th from 11am-7pm. This year marks our 30th year of the event. Join us as the Avenue is lined with the best artists, craftsmans, breweries and restaurants. Each year the event has continued to grow, and we are looking forward to another successful day. Enjoy a fun, community and family-oriented event that will be sure to be a memorable experience.

For more information on all our happenings, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram at Visit West Reading or visit our website at www.visitwestreading.com. Any questions, feel free to contact me at nick@visitwestreading.org Live Your West Life.

Police Department – Police Chief Richard Tornielli

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.

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

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

Fire Prevention Week

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 March 24, 2024 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**, and the price is $12.00 per meal.

To get your tickets: speak with any West Reading Fire Department member, reserve your tickets by calling 610-372-9621 ext. 4 and leaving a message, or purchase them the day of the BBQ (a limited number of walk-in sales will be available). Pre-orders that are not picked up by 2:00 p.m. will be resold.

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

- **South Fifth Avenue Paving & Curbing Repairs** – Penn Avenue to Oak Terrace
- **Spruce Street Paving & Curbing Repairs** – 200 & 400 blocks
- **Grape Street Paving Repairs** – Fourth Avenue to Fifth Avenue
- **Alley Paving Repairs** – Park Alley (behind Playground Drive & Parkview Road)
- **Water Line Replacement** – 500 block of Spruce Street
- **Water Line Replacement –** 500 block of Spruce Street (grant funded 2024/2025 project)

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.

continued on page 9

Public Works Department *continued*

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).



Recreation Department

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.

RECREATION RAMBLINGS

Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, March 23, 2024 Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the West Reading Fire Department! 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!

West Reading Kids Fishing Rodeo

Saturday, April 13, 2024 Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The West Reading kids fishing rodeo is back for 2024! Registration is $10 and the event is open to borough children ages 4-13. Registration forms are available at borough hall, or on the borough's website and must be submitted by 5pm on Friday, April 5, 2024. 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 the awards at 12:15 PM. There will be NO registrations accepted on the day of the rodeo.

Candyland Dance

Saturday, April 20, 2024 Time: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

An evening featuring music, memorable photos, and light refreshments. Tickets will be available for purchase on February 12, 2024. Ticket prices are $20 per couple and $10 for additional siblings in the same household and may be purchased at West Reading Borough Hall. The dance is for children who are currently enrolled in grades K-6th who are enrolled at Wyomissing Area School District, or Sacred Heart schools. Deadline to purchase tickets is 5:00 PM on Friday, April 12, 2024. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Summer Playground Program

Monday, June 10, 2024 – Friday, August 2, 2024

Have your children enroll at our summer camp program held at the West Reading Park and Pavilion! Our summer camp program is for children ages 5-12 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 many new activities that our trained staff will lead.

Half Day Monday thru Friday 8 AM to 12:00 PM - $400 (Resident)
Field Trip Day $150 (optional add on)
Half Day Monday thru Friday 8 AM to 12:00 PM - $550 (Non-Resident)

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 $150 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 camp 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 2024 season include Dutch Lanes, Reading Railroad Heritage Museum, Reading Museum and Planetarium, and more!

West Reading Park Goings-On

Vines & Vibes/Plant Fest

Date: Sunday: May 19, 2024
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: Sunday, June 30, 2024
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 25 – 27, 2024 – Open for Memorial Day Weekend Only (12:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
June 1 – 2, 2024 – Open Weekend Only (12:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
June 8 – August 4, 2024 - Open Every Day (12:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
August 5 – August 25, 2024 - Open Every Day (12:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
August 26 – August 30, 2024 – Pool Closed
August 31 – September 1, 2024 – Open Labor Day Weekend Only (12:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
September 2, 2024 – Open Labor Day (12:00 PM – 5:00 PM)
September 2, 2024 – Reopen for Pups at the Pool (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM)

Aqua Zumba/Hydro Jump:

Dates and times TBA. Check on 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 2, 2024
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

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	$85
	Age 13-60	$125
	Age 61+	$65
Non-resident	Age 3-12	$160
	Age 13-60	$210
	Age 61+	$160

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.

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Spring/Summer 2024

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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.

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