



FALL/WINTER 2025

# The Borough of WEST READING

*Welcome* to the Fall/Winter 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 . . .

*Hey West Reading,*

The leaves are falling, the air's getting crisp, and your borough's been busy behind the scenes (and on the streets).

Before we get lost in pumpkin-flavored everything and December calendars, let's take a minute to celebrate what matters: community, progress, and the people who make this place feel like home.

We've officially welcomed two new Police Officers and one new Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) to the West Reading Police Department. That's not just a staffing update - it's a reflection of our continued investment in public safety, community engagement, and showing up where it counts. Under Chief Tornielli's steady leadership, the West Reading Police Department has doubled down on presence, communication, and transparency on the Avenue, at community events, and in the conversations that shape trust. We are working on a department five-year strategic plan and it is well underway, built from internal working groups and community input. It's not just a document - it's a focused roadmap for safer streets, stronger relationships, and smarter, more connected policing.



Public Works? Crushing it - as always. From leaf pickup to prepping for snow season, they've been working early mornings and late hours to keep things clean, safe, and moving.

The Recreation Commission & borough committees continue to knock it out of the park, literally and figuratively, with programs that are inclusive, community-focused, and genuinely fun. None of it happens without the time, energy, and heart of our volunteers. And make sure to keep an eye out for the Tree Lighting Ceremony this December, it will come quick! (Trust me, it gets better every year.)

And speaking of events: Borough wide Trick-or-Treating is set for Friday, October 31st from 5 to 8 PM, so get your porch lights and candy bowls ready!

This borough works because you keep showing up. Whether it's speaking up at meetings, backing local businesses, volunteering your time, or just waving to a neighbor from the porch - West Reading is what it is because of you. We're closing out 2025 with momentum, and stepping into 2026 with purpose, grit, and a community that knows how to show up.



Let's keep building something we're proud of - together.

With gratitude, pride, and a whole lot of Borough Love, Samantha Kaag



**500 Chestnut Street | West Reading, PA 19611 | 610.374.8273**

Visit us at [www.westreadingborough.com](http://www.westreadingborough.com)



**Whether it's breakfast, lunch, dinner or a late night snack – stop by and try our wide variety of food menu items and homemade desserts.**

**BREAKFAST-LUNCH-DINNER**

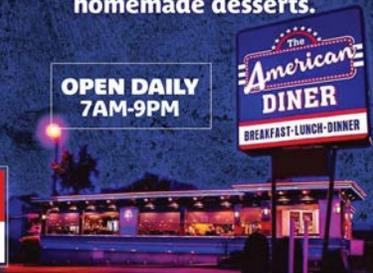
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# WEST READING BOROUGH DIRECTORY

500 Chestnut Street, West Reading, PA 19611 | Phone: 610-374-8273 • Fax: 610-374-8419 • [www.westreadingborough.com](http://www.westreadingborough.com)



## Borough Council

Ryan Lineaweaver, *President*,  
[rlineaweaver@westreadingborough.org](mailto:rlineaweaver@westreadingborough.org)

Philip Wert, *Vice President*

Patrick Kaag, *Pro-Tem*,

*Members:* Bethany Bower, Zachary Shaver,  
 Denise Drobnick, Zanna Leiendecker

## Mayor, Samantha Kaag

610-374-8273 x228, [skaag@westreadingborough.org](mailto:skaag@westreadingborough.org)

## Borough Manager, Randall P. Miller

610-374-8273 x220, [manager@westreadingborough.org](mailto:manager@westreadingborough.org)

## Borough Secretary, Cynthia Madeira

610-374-8273 x222, [cmadeira@westreadingborough.org](mailto:cmadeira@westreadingborough.org)

## Administrative Clerk, Stephanie Burkholder

610-374-8273 x221, [sburkholder@westreadingborough.org](mailto:sburkholder@westreadingborough.org)

## Public Works Director, Kerry Grassley

610-374-8273 x401, [kgrassley@westreadingborough.org](mailto:kgrassley@westreadingborough.org)

## Code Enforcement Secretary, Elba Beltran-del Rio

610-374-8273 x238, [ebeltrandelrio@westreadingborough.org](mailto:ebeltrandelrio@westreadingborough.org)

## Tax Collector, Cynthia Madeira

610-374-8273 x222, [taxcollector@westreadingborough.org](mailto: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](http://www.westreadingborough.com)

Also, while visiting the Borough website please register with the free CodeRED Emergency Notification System to receive time-sensitive, targeted location notifications of local events that may immediately impact your safety. If you do not have access to a computer or cell phone, call the West Side Regional Emergency Management Agency directly on 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

**When seconds count, you can count on CodeRED**

## West Reading Borough Meeting Schedule

**Borough Council, 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. & 4th Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.**

October 21st & 28th November 18th & 25th December 16th & 23rd

### Budget Workshops/Council Meetings

October 11th 9 a.m. October 28th 7 p.m. November 8th 9 a.m.

### Planning Commission, 1st Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

November 5th December 3rd January 7th

### Traffic & Infrastructure Committee, 2nd Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

November 12th December 10th January 14th

### Recreation Commission 1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

November 3rd (Mon.) December 2nd January 6th

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

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

October 13, 2025.....Columbus Day	December 24 & 25, 2025..... Christmas Holiday	January 19, 2026..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
November 11, 2025..... Veteran's Day	December 31, 2025..... New Year's Eve Day	February 16, 2026..... President's Day
November 27 & 28, 2025.....Thanksgiving Holiday	January 1, 2026..... New Year's Day	April 3, 2026..... Good Friday

## Utility Payment

### WATER/SEWER/ REFUSE BILLING SCHEDULE

Quarter	Months Billed	Bills Mailed	Due Date *
1st	January - March	April 1st	April 30th
2nd	April - June	July 1st	July 31st
3rd	July - September	October 1st	October 30th
4th	October - December	January 1st	January 29th

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

## Xpress Bill Pay – The Easiest Way To Pay Your Bill!

Visit [xpressbillpay.com](http://xpressbillpay.com) to establish a secure personal account with text or email reminders of quarterly bills. Xpress Bill Pay charges a fee for all payments made using a credit or debit card, or electronic check, to cover the costs associated with processing payments. A fee of 3.5% is assessed for all credit and debit card transactions. A \$1 fee is assessed for each electronic check processed. These transaction fees apply to all electronic payments, including Auto Pay.



## Committee Vacancies

**Join Us!** Help shape the future of your community by becoming a volunteer member of one of your local boards or committees. These resident-led groups help shape public policy, direct economic development, provide local services and make tremendous positive contributions to our quality of life. Public service is a valuable resource, and your time is greatly appreciated! You can make a huge difference by contributing just a few hours every month. Please refer to the Borough's website: [www.westreadingborough.com](http://www.westreadingborough.com) for a list of current boards/committees with vacancies. Typically, appointments are made during the annual Reorganization Meeting in January. However, appointments to fill vacancies can occur throughout the year.

## RECYCLING/TRASH INFORMATION

### COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

Residents of Berks County are encouraged to bring personal and confidential documents to the Berks County shredding event. Individuals only, no businesses will be accepted. Identification and pre-registration are required. Please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-paper-shredding-event-october-11-2025-registration-1335260432899?aff=oddtcreator>



**Saturday, October 11, 2025 8:00 AM – Noon (rain or shine)**

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

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

Help protect yourself and your family from identity theft by shredding:

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

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Looking for a responsible way to dispose of unwanted paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides at no cost to you? Visit the Berks County Household Hazardous Waste event. The event is free for all Berks County residents. Identification and pre-registration are required. Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berks-county-household-hazardous-waste-collection-october-18-2025-tickets-1323797807879?aff=oddtcreator>

**Toxic.Free.Home.**



Participate In Your Local Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

**Saturday, October 18, 2025 8:00 AM – Noon (rain or shine)**

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

Household hazardous waste is any household product that is labeled: caution, danger, flammable, explosive, toxic, warning, corrosive, poison, volatile or any combination of these characteristics. Placing these items in the trash or down the drain contributes to the pollution of our air and drinking water.

Acceptable materials:

- Oil paints & wood preservatives
- Paint thinners & solvents
- Weed killers & pesticides
- Asphalt & driveway sealants
- Pool chemicals
- Herbicides & fungicides
- Antifreeze & gasoline
- Transmission & motor oils
- Automotive paints
- Solvents & disinfectants
- Rug, oven & drain cleaners
- Button batteries, Lithium & NiCad batteries
- Floor & furniture polish
- Fluorescent bulbs

## BASIC HOW-TO TIPS FOR TRASH COLLECTION

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

- **Put your trash in a bag.** Bags prevent loose trash from sticking or freezing to the bottom of the can, where personnel cannot reach it.
- **Place containers where they can be accessed.** Place your container on a level, visible, and accessible area no more than 3 ft. from the street. The containers must be able to freely move to the truck (i.e. no parked vehicle obstructions or locked/tethered cans).
- **Place containers out on time.** Containers must be placed out by midnight the night before the scheduled collection day.
- **Put materials in the right containers.** Never mix trash or recyclables or yard waste together.
- **No liquids.** All trash should be drained and free from liquids before being placed in trash containers.
- **Recycling.** Make sure no food contamination ends up in your recycling container. Recyclables do not need to be bagged.
- **Yard Waste.** Yard waste can be disposed of between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays) by appointment at the Borough Garage. Please call 610-374-8605 to schedule an appointment. Yard waste may also be disposed of on the first Saturday of the month without an appointment at the Borough Garage from 9:00 a.m. to Noon during April through November. The address for the Borough Garage is 123 S. 1st Avenue, West Reading (1st Avenue & Chestnut Street).
- **Bulk Items.** A bulk tag may be purchased at Borough Hall for items that are too large to fit in your trash container.

## RECYCLING/TRASH INFORMATION

### What are the 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 business hours prior to the date of 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 if paid-for bulk items are taken by someone other than the borough trash 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 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 affixed to the item before it is picked up. The Freon Hotline can provide information on how to properly remove freon from your appliance at 1-888-GO-FREON (1-888-463-7366). Or you may contract with a local scrap hauler to dispose of your appliance.

#### Items Not Accepted for Curbside Collection:

- Computer Equipment such as desktops, laptops or tablets, keyboard, monitor, printer, etc. These items can be recycled at Staples, free of charge.
- Televisions, DVD Players, Stereos, Telephones, Vacuum Cleaners, Toasters. These items can be recycled at Goodwill stores, free of charge.
- Paint Cans (unless empty and dry).
- Tires, Motor Oil
- Propane/Gas Tanks, even if empty – Register for a semi-annual Berks County Household Hazardous Waste event.
- Hazardous Materials, including oil-based paint cans.

If you have experienced a missed collection, please contact Borough Hall at 610-374-8273.

### Single Stream Recycling

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

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

#### Materials Not Accepted:

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

#### Reminder:

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

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



## Best Stormwater Practices

In undisturbed landscapes, rainwater runoff is part of the natural hydrologic cycle. Vegetation, soils, and a wide range of organisms filter, absorb, and use rainfall in their living processes. Evaporation and transpiration takes place. Excess precipitation infiltrates into groundwater and flows into surface waters, recharging aquifers and supporting aquatic life. The entire system is affected when the landscape is changed: impervious surfaces (paved streets, parking lots, rooftops, etc.) prevent runoff from percolating into the ground and cause it to pick up debris, sediments, chemicals, and other pollutants as it moves over the ground.

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



## Snow Emergency

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

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

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

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

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



## Borough-Wide Trick-or-Treating

Friday, October 31, 2025, 5 PM to 8 PM

Gather ghosts and goblins, it's that time of year for costumes, jack-o-lanterns and candy corn! It is recommended as a safety precaution that a parent or responsible adult accompany children while walking the streets, and children should carry a flashlight after dark to be seen by vehicular traffic.

Suggestions for celebrating safely are:

- Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags.
- Wear a blinking light to help drivers see you.
- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.
- Cross only at intersections and designated crosswalks.
- Watch out for open flames in pumpkins.
- Only visit well-lit houses, don't stop at dark houses.
- Don't approach unfamiliar pets and animals.
- Don't cut through yards and stay out of backyards.
- Be polite and say "thank you".
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to an adult or the police.

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



## West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation

As the nights get longer and the mornings get colder, the Avenue begins to heat up. As we head into the Fall season, we begin to see the trees on the Avenue slowly change colors creating a postcard like setting. Enjoy shopping as the sun sets on our new Local Love night. Every 3rd Thursday through November we have over 20 retailers on all four blocks of our business district staying open till 8pm for shoppers. Take in the sights as many businesses will be decorating their storefronts with a fall theme as well as our new 14 large planters on the Avenue being decorated in a fall theme. With plenty of outside dining, enjoy lunch with friends on a beautiful fall

afternoon taking in the scenery.

As we head into winter, the Avenue continues to heat up with many of our restaurants offering winter seasonal menus and live music to enjoy. Join us on November 29th as part of our Small Business Saturday supporting local business and offering giveaways to our participants. If you really like the cold, then mark your calendars for our Ice and Spice Festival at the end of January. Over 20 businesses participating with live ice carving, music and activities for all. Whether it's a quiet morning, or a hoping Saturday night you're looking for, West Reading has it all.

## West Reading Farmers Market



WRFM is celebrating 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, raw local honey, hand-made ravioli, pierogi, and pasta, cooking oils, roasted coffee and tea, fresh cut flowers, herbal tinctures and body products, locally fermented cider, 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, through November. After Thanksgiving we will be bi-weekly on S. 6th Avenue from 10 AM - 12 PM. See our website for more info about our winter schedule: [westreadingfarmersmarket.com](http://westreadingfarmersmarket.com). We proudly present local artisan crafters on the Second

Sunday of the month: October 12 and November 9. Our market boasts free samples and tastings, 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!



## Public Works Department – Director Kerry Grassley

### Don't Believe the Hype... Flushable Wipes Clog Our System

I would like to ask all residents and business owners to please avoid flushing wipes, even if the packaging indicates otherwise. They can cause significant problems with your home plumbing and with public sewer systems. These wipes don't break down like toilet paper and can lead to clogs in pipes, pumps, and wastewater treatment facilities. Instead of flushing, always dispose of wipes in the trash. This helps protect your plumbing, the public sewer system, and the environment. A costly repair was needed recently to one of the sewer pumps due to these wipes.



### Leaf Collection

It is important to only place leaves at the curb for collection to avoid damaging the equipment. Please place branches in the planting strip area, separate from the leaves, for collection and feel free to contact our office at 610-374-8605 if we do not collect the branches in a timely manner. Please also try to keep trash from gathering within the pile of leaves placed curbside for collection. Public Works Crew Members try to sort through the roughly 300 tons of leaves before hauling them away, but this is quite time consuming.

### Snow Removal

Wintertime is quickly approaching, which brings the possibility of snow. Plow trucks often push snow onto the sidewalk area. Please know that we do not enjoy upsetting our residents after working so hard or even paying someone to clear your sidewalks of snow. To help prevent snow from being pushed onto your sidewalk place your snow in piles at your curb line to create a barrier to block the snow from coming back onto your sidewalk. If you place your snow in the street, we will plow it, and it will just come back onto your sidewalk and that just means that we are both fighting a losing battle. Also, please take note as to where your sewer and water lids are located to keep them accessible to allow us to be more efficient in the event of a sewer backup or water leak.



### Yard Waste

Please try to drop off yard waste only when the borough garage is open for collection. Bags dropped off after hours can get wet and spill out, or animals can dig through them, requiring crew members to do additional work. This is a wonderful community, and with some of the best people living in it. If you ever have a question, please don't hesitate to ask any of us; the guys will be more than happy to help. Also, please remember that with winter approaching, it's essential to help one another out. Tighter neighborhoods bring safer and cleaner communities.

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

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# West Reading Police Department

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



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, 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.

## Community Engagement & Department Highlights

Community engagement remains a priority for the West Reading Police Department. Our officers are committed to maintaining strong, visible relationships with residents, businesses, and community groups. In 2025, WRPD has:

- Participated in ongoing outreach at West Reading Elementary and Sacred Heart School.
- Collaborated with Spring Township and Wyomissing Police for the annual Citizens Police Academy.
- Played a lead role in organizing a successful National Night Out, with record community turnout.



We were also proud to provide coverage and community presence during French Fry Fest, Art on the Ave & Fall Festival events, and the WRRCF's seasonal celebrations along Penn Avenue.

## New Initiatives: Community Connect Tent Series

We've officially launched the *Community Connect Tent Series* - a mobile outreach program where officers set up around town for casual, face-to-face conversation with residents. This initiative encourages community dialogue, feedback, and visibility. Locations and times will be posted on our social media and CRIMEWATCH page. We hope to see you there!

## Department Improvements & Public Safety Initiatives

The department continues to invest in training, transparency, and responsiveness. This year:

- A pedestrian safety initiative launched in February continues borough-wide, alongside aggressive driving enforcement funded by the state Highway Safety Network.

- Two new officers graduated from the Reading Police Academy in June and began field training in July.
- A new Parking Enforcement Officer was hired.
- The Five-Year Strategic Plan is wrapping up - with projects targeting personnel development, community trust, and operational growth.
- We've enhanced patrol visibility around the Borough's parks and high-foot-traffic areas during evening hours to help deter criminal activity and increase peace of mind.

As always, we encourage the public to report suspicious activity and share concerns with us directly.

## Digital Tools to Stay Connected

You can access updates on cases, alerts, crime mapping, and community safety initiatives through our CRIMEWATCH page. The platform also allows residents to submit tips, request vacation checks, and engage with the department more efficiently.

Stay informed and connected with WRPD on:

- Our Webpage: [www.westreadingpolice.com](http://www.westreadingpolice.com)
- CRIMEWATCH: <https://berks.crimewatchpa.com/westreadingpd>
- Facebook: [facebook.com/WRPolice](https://facebook.com/WRPolice)
- Instagram: @westreadingpd
- Twitter/X: @WRPolice

## Stay Safe This Fall and Winter

As colder weather approaches, please keep in mind these safety tips:

- Be visible when walking in low-light conditions - wear reflective gear and carry a flashlight.
- Prepare your vehicle with snow brushes, blankets, and emergency kits.
- Avoid leaving your car running and unattended.
- Track deliveries and pick up packages promptly to prevent theft.
- Check on neighbors, especially elderly or vulnerable individuals, during major storms or extreme temperatures.
- Report all suspicious behavior. Don't wait - if you see something, say something.

## Final Note

The West Reading Police Department is proud to serve this community. Your partnership, feedback, and support matter. By working together, we can ensure West Reading remains a safe, welcoming, and connected borough for all.

*West Reading Police Department*



**Mission Statement:** It is the mission of the Code Enforcement Department to fairly, reasonably and with impartiality enforce the building codes, municipal codes and zoning ordinance of the Borough. Our goal is to ensure compliance with 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.

## Our Municipal Code Is Now Online!

Go to [ecode360.com/WE3192](http://ecode360.com/WE3192)



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### Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal

Thank you for shoveling your sidewalk, it's the neighborly thing to do! West Reading is a vibrant, walkable community, which is why it is vitally important to maintain public sidewalks and walkways in a manner safe for travel.

*We do not issue notices/warnings for snow and ice removal from public sidewalks on your property.*

Every owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, property agent or any other person responsible for property within the Borough must remove a clear path of at least 36" from public sidewalks within 36 hours following the end of a snow/ice event. In order to accommodate increased pedestrian traffic on Penn Avenue, a path of at least 48" shall be cleared within 24 hours following the end of a snow/ice event. All sidewalks must be maintained free of snow/ice by placing salt, sand or other abrasive or chemical material upon areas where melting and refreezing has occurred to render sidewalks safe for travel. If snow/ice is not removed within the time frame allowed, a fine for each offense will be assessed until the violation is corrected: Fine 1 - \$25; Fine 2 - \$50; Fine 3 and subsequent instances \$100 each.

Also, please be sure to clear snow away from fire hydrants as this will assist fire department personnel to extinguish a fire in the event of an emergency.

One never knows when you'll need a little neighborly assistance. Unfortunately, less than half of Americans actually know the people in their communities, a fact that becomes all that more acute when it comes to needing cups of sugar or dealing with snowstorm aftermath. Make an effort to get to know your neighbor and assist each other in staying safe.

*- Allow us to find ways to show neighborly kindness to all people -*



### Reminders

- 1) Trash collection is every Tuesday and Friday; recycling collection is every Wednesday.
- 2) Four (4) trash cans per household per trash collection day are allowed. Please store all trash in durable, water-tight containers to deter the attraction of rodents to your neighborhood. It is also recommended to mark your containers and lids with your address.
- 3) Please do not place trash/recycling out prior to noon the day before collection and promptly remove your receptacle(s) by midnight the day of collection.
  - Pet waste management is an important responsibility of dog ownership. The first step is picking up what your pet leaves behind. The second is making sure it is disposed of properly. A common misconception surrounding pet waste disposal is that Fido or Fluffy's waste serves as a natural fertilizer. Dog owners take note: this is not true. In fact, leaving pet waste on the ground or concentrating it in one specific area of the yard can seriously harm soil quality and can be dangerous for both families and their pets. Pet waste should always be picked up and removed from your property on a regular basis. It is recommended to scoop waste into a trash bag, then double wrap with another bag and place in the garbage to be collected and taken to the landfill.
  - Cars, trucks, RV's, motorcycles, trailers, etc. cannot be parked on the grass. Vehicles may only be parked on a stone, concrete or macadam pad. Prior to installing a parking pad, a zoning permit application is required.
  - In an effort to allow emergency personnel to quickly identify your home, the Borough requires all properties to be clearly marked in the front and rear of the property. The numbers should contrast with the background and be a minimum height of four inches.



## CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

- No soliciting without a permit – Going door-to-door for the purpose of soliciting, handing out flyers and door hangers, etc. requires first obtaining a borough solicitation permit. After a background check and receipt of a permit fee a borough issued ID badge must be worn at all times while soliciting. Hours available to solicit are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday only. If a solicitor comes to your door without a borough issued ID do not hesitate to contact the West Reading Police at 610-373-0111 to make a report. Please provide as much detail about the solicitor as possible. If you receive a brochure or letter from the solicitor, please mark the date received and turn it into the borough for processing.

### New Businesses

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



### Rental Property

Regulating the condition and operation of rental housing is a major challenge facing local governments across the United States. While a stock of sound, well-managed single-family rental properties can be a valuable community asset and most landlords are responsible owners, that is not always the case.

The responsibility for making sure that landlords maintain and manage their properties well falls to local governments, which has the authority to enforce codes and take a variety of other actions under the legal powers' municipalities are granted to regulate property. The goal of these regulations is to ensure to the extent possible that landlords who own property in the municipality are responsible stewards of

their properties, working with the municipality to ensure that neighborhoods remain safe and clean.

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

### Business Privilege Tax/License

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

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



*"Keep It Safe, Keep It Beautiful"*

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

### How do I report a streetlight outage?

Ensuring streetlights come on each night is very important to the safety of the community and can help reduce crime.

When a customer report is made to First Energy the utility line crews and troubleshooters are responsible for making streetlight repairs as quickly as possible.

#### To Report Street Light Outage:

- Call: 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) and say "streetlight" after the greeting.
- Online: [www.firstenergycorp.com](http://www.firstenergycorp.com)

#### When Reporting an Outage, Let Them Know:

- 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.
- What is wrong with the streetlight (damaged pole; broken light fixture; light is off at night, on during the day, or flickers).



## West Reading Fire Department – Fire Chief Chad T. Moyer

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



### Fire Prevention Week

The week of October 5th to 11th is Fire Prevention Week 2025. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home!". The goal this year is to educate everyone on how to buy, charge, and dispose of Lithium-ion batteries safely.

### Open House

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

### Smoke Detectors

Please call the station if you have questions about smoke alarms or if you need your batteries changed and are unable to do it yourself. We also have new smoke alarms for sale at a cost of \$10.00 each installed. Just call or email for more information!

### Fire Safety

We are now approaching the peak heating season, so it is important to keep some safety tips in mind. Make sure that you have a functioning Carbon Monoxide detector in your residence. Remember to keep all curtains or other combustible materials away from space heaters and also be careful to keep children away because just bumping a heater while playing could cause a fire. Also remember that natural Christmas trees can be a hazard if not properly cared for. Please remember to keep the water bowl in the stand full at all times and use only lights that are UL approved for indoor use and have been checked for any problems before they have been installed on the tree.



### Kiddies Christmas Party

Saturday December 13th from 2 pm until 4pm we will be holding our annual Kiddies Christmas Party for children of borough residents who are age 10 and under. Admission is free and all children will get to see Santa. Children who are West Reading residents will also receive a small gift. You will need to fill out an online registration form available through the link on our website. Santa will also be riding around the borough before the event in one of our fire trucks to wave and say hello and remind you of the event. Hope to see you there!

### Membership

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

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# Smoke Alarm

## Safety at Home



Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

### SAFETY TIPS

- **INSTALL** smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Larger homes may need **ADDITIONAL** smoke alarms to provide enough protection.
- For the best protection, **INTERCONNECT** all smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.
- An **IONIZATION** smoke alarm is generally more responsive

to flaming fires and a **PHOTOELECTRIC** smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination ionization and photoelectric alarms (also known as dual sensor alarms) are recommended.

- Smoke alarms should be **INSTALLED** away from the kitchen to prevent false alarms. Generally, they should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from a cooking appliance.
- **REPLACE** all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

### FACTS

- ! Roughly **two thirds** of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or working smoke alarms.
- ! Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in **half**.

### AND DON'T FORGET...

All smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month using the test button.



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## Recreation Department

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

### Facility Rentals

**The Bicentennial House** was introduced in 1976 by Elta K. Bitz. The Bicentennial House is a popular venue for small parties and special events. The building features a large gathering room, complete with a newly renovated full kitchen, as well as handicapped-accessible restrooms. There is also a small field in front of the facility for light recreational activities such as cornhole, grass volleyball, or bocce. The maximum capacity is 40 people. The borough also offers discounted weekday rates (Monday through Thursday) for both residents and non-residents (*excluding holidays*).

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

Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Information pertaining to rental fees for residents and non-residents for both facilities can be found on our website at [www.westreadingborough.com](http://www.westreadingborough.com)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Hayride & Haunted House: Friday & Saturday October 10th & 11th 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM. (RAINDATE Friday & Saturday October 17th & 18th)

Come see what all the excitement is about as you enjoy a semi spooky hayride through the playground area. Beware of our scary drivers who may take a turn down Spooky Lane to our pumpkin patch and wind up in the graveyard! Join us for some frightful fun at our annual haunted house held below West Reading pavilion! Creep through the halls of the pavilion where scary things lurk around every corner! If you are interested in volunteering your hauntingly good time during all the above dates and times, please contact the Recreation Director at 610-374-8273, ext. 243 Following the hayride, roast s'mores with the West Reading firefighters. There will be light refreshments available to purchase, games, and a chance to win a prize. Haunted House: \$9 per person, Hayride: \$8 per person, Games: \$1 each.

### Learn to Play Dungeons & Dragons Night: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 6PM

Come and learn how to play one of the most popular role-playing games for the last 30-plus years at the Bicentennial House. This is a night for beginners who are interested in learning the basics of D&D. We will also teach individuals how to play Shadowdark (just as fun). Cost is only \$5. We will have plenty of Mt Dew and Doritos for purchase for the traditional gamers!

### Holiday Tree Lighting: Friday, December 5, 2025 at 6 PM: RAINDATE, Monday, December 8, 2025 at 6PM

Join us at Delaney Circle for our 97th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! The tradition began in 1928 when the first tree lighting was held in front of Borough Hall with only a few council members in attendance. Little did our forefathers know, they launched what became a tree lighting tradition. The tree lighting ceremony was moved to Delaney Circle in the 1990's and has become our annual gathering place for all to enjoy a festive evening filled with singing, dancing, and a visit from the "Big Guy" himself to usher in the holiday season.

### Holiday Home Decorating Contest: Friday, December 12 – Sunday December 14, 2025 from 7 PM – 9 PM

The West Reading Recreation Department wants you to get into the holiday spirit this season! We invite you to decorate your home with all the bells and whistles! All registered homes will be judged from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Sunday, December 14th by our Recreation Commission. You do not need to be home to participate. Registrations will take place online with our signup genius. Our committee will look for creativity, originality, as well as presentation. Get those decorations up!

## Volunteer

Want to  
Volunteer?



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

Throughout the year, the Recreation Department hosts a variety of activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Battle of the West Reading Karaoke Stars, Christmas Tree Lighting, Haunted House & Hayride, Kid's Fishing Rodeo, and so much more. Every summer, borough children are invited to take part in the borough's playground program, which provides activities and field trips for children ages 6 -12.

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

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<b>OCTOBER 25</b>	<p><b>Community Trick or Treating</b></p> <p>10am to Noon</p>	<b>NOVEMBER 30</b>	<p><b>Advent Workshop</b></p> <p>8:45am</p>
<b>DECEMBER 21</b>	<p><b>Christmas Pageant</b></p> <p>10am</p>	<b>DECEMBER 24</b>	<p><b>Christmas Eve Services</b></p> <p>11am, 6pm, 7:30pm</p>

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