



Washington

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

TOWNSHIP

On-Lot Septic Management Program

Washington Township has a Sewage Management Ordinance (No. 1995-1) that requires the routine maintenance of all on-lot septic systems in the Township.

This Ordinance is a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) requirement and requires that all on-lot sewage disposal systems be pumped out by a licensed and Township approved pumper/hauler selected by the property owner, at least once every three years with documentation of the pumping being provided to the Township from your hauler by December 31, 2023. Once you provide the Township. If you are not sure when you are due for your pumping, please contact the Township.

Why You Need Your Septic System Inspected

- Protect your property value. An unkept septic system can lower your property’s value and could lead to costly system repairs.
- Protect our eco-system. Contaminated wastewater poses a threat to our local environment. Malfunctioning septic systems can disperse bacteria and toxins to our natural waterways, which in turn can spread into our township’s wildlife, endangering native plants and species.

(continued on page 4)

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Washington Township Information



Contact Information

Township Office
Mailing and Shipping Address:
120 Barto Road
Barto, PA 19504
Telephone: 610-845-7760 • Fax: 610-845-8499

Please visit our website at:
www.washtwpberks.org for additional information!

Board of Supervisors:

Chairman: Thomas Powanda
Vice Chairman: David Moyer
Supervisor: Ronnie S. Long

Township Office Staff

Township Manager: Rich Sichler
email: rsichlerwashtwp@comcast.net
Treasurer: Missy J. Swanson
Township Secretary: Susan J. Brown
Administrative Assistant: Laurel Powanda

Public Works Department:

Roadmaster: Brian S. Mohr
Crew Member: Jacob Long
Crew Member: Barry Maust
Crew Member: Thomas C. Milewski, Jr.
Crew Member: Mike Nitroy
Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator: Gary Kellon

Meetings:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, Meeting Room 7:00 P.M.
July 27, Aug 24, Sept 28, Oct 16 & 17 (Budget-6:00 PM),
Oct 26, Nov 16, Dec 21

PLANNING COMMISSION, Meeting Room 7:00 P.M.
July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2,
December 7

WATER AUTHORITY, Meeting Room 6:30 P.M.
July 27, Oct 26

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL,
Conference Room..... 7:00 P.M.**
July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11

**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
Conference Room..... 7:00 P.M.**
July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18

OTHER COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

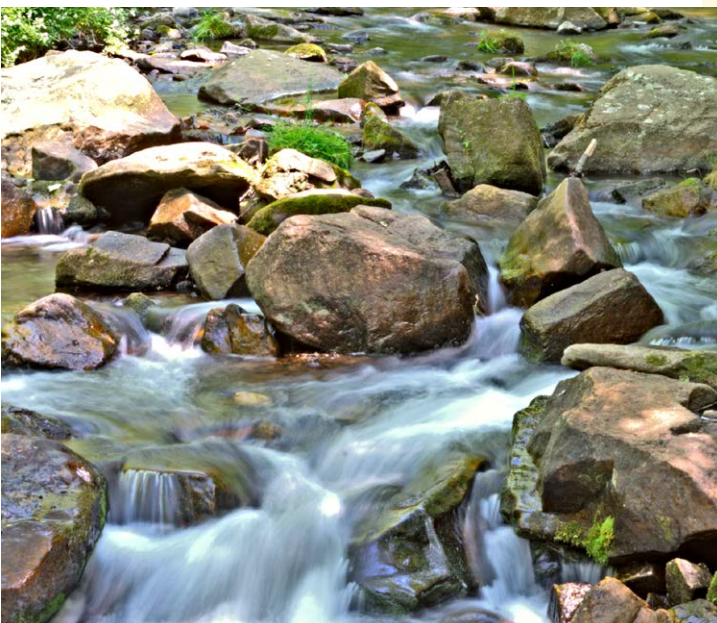
The following committees and Boards meet on an as needed basis with the meetings properly advertised on the Township web page and in the Reading Eagle

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ZONING HEARING BOARD

UCC BOARD OF APPEALS



ON-LOT SEPTIC MANAGEMENT

(continued from cover)

- Protect you and your neighbor's health. Wastewater can contain disease causing bacteria and toxic chemicals. If maintained properly, a septic system will filter and remove most of these dangerous substances. Otherwise, it can leak causing groundwater contamination, impacting the local groundwater that everyone in the Township relies on as our source of drinking water.

What You Need to Know

Licensed pumper/haulers are required to register with Washington Township and provide documentation from the PADEP. A list of registered pumper/haulers is available at the Township Building and on our website.

After your pumping occurs, a report will be completed by the pumper/hauler and provided to the homeowner. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to provide the completed report to the Township within 30 days of occurrence. This report will identify property owner information, the type and size of the system and any observed conditions which may be evidence of a system malfunction. If observed conditions are present, at the time of pumping, the Township will be notified and will recommend that the property owner contact the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer.

SEWER RATES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

Quarterly sewer rates were changed to \$300, a decrease of \$18.29 per quarter.

BILLING INFORMATION

Bills to be paid monthly, at a rate of \$100. Your account must be paid in full to take advantage of monthly plan. Bills may be placed in black mailbox outside of the township building, or mailed in.

ONLINE BILL PAY IS NOW AVAILABLE. We also accept credit/debit cards over the phone. For more details, please review www.washtwpberks.org. Checks/money orders should be made payable to **Washington Township**.

CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

A 2% discount is offered to residents whom pay their bill in full. Must be paid by March 31st, to take advantage of discount. The discounted price is \$1,176 for each Equivalent Dwelling Unit. Please note: anyone who fails to receive a bill for quarterly sewer rentals & charges- shall not be excused for non-payment. Neither will be granted an extension, or non-penalty because of no receipt of bill.

WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE U.S. MAIL SERVICE.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

TREE REMOVAL RESPONSIBILITY

Washington Township has taken a proactive approach to removing dead and dying ash trees located within the right-of-way for the Township roads. We are reminding all property owners of the hazard dead trees located within their property can pose. Property owners should check their properties and address all trees that can pose a risk to themselves and others. Trees that fall and cause damage to adjacent public and private property can be a serious liability to the property owner that can be avoided with the proper removal of hazardous trees.

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COMMUNITY ROOM RENTALS



The Community Room may be used for activities such as parties, showers, meetings, dinners and other approved gatherings and can accommodate 60 to 70 persons comfortably. It is equipped with a kitchen sink, refrigerator, microwave oven, standard stove, air conditioning and lots of counter space.

Rental fees are as follows:

- Residents: \$150.00 (\$60.00 for rental and \$90.00 security deposit)
- Non Residents: \$175.00 (\$75.00 for rental and \$100.00 security deposit)

Township Committee Members:

- \$100.00 (\$40.00 for rental and \$60.00 security deposit). Note: This is a one-time use per year per family at this rate for all Committee Members.

Meetings:

- \$75.00 (\$25.00 for rental and \$50.00 for security deposit). Does NOT include use of facilities except for coffee and light refreshments.

THE ABOVE RATES ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR FOUR (4) HOURS. AFTER THAT, \$15.00 PER HOUR WILL BE CHARGED.

It is best to phone or stop in the Township Office first to look over the facilities. If you are interested in a particular date to rent the community room the completed application and a check made payable to Washington Township will reserve the date.

PICNIC PAVILION RENTALS

Consider having your family reunion or birthday party at our large picnic pavilion, 30' x 70' at the Barto and Washington Community Parks. We have electricity, nine (9) 6' picnic tables and two (2) 8' handicapped tables. There is a port-o-potty nearby and walking paths to go to both the pavilion and port-o-potty. There is also a tot lot for the little ones to enjoy.

Rental Fees are as follows:

- Washington Township Residents: \$100.00 (\$50.00 for Rental and \$50.00 for Security Deposit) Please note: If no damage done to the pavilion area, the Security Deposit will be returned, thus the actual fee for a resident is \$50.00).
- Non-Residents: \$150.00 (\$100.00 for Rental and \$50.00 for Security Deposit) Please note: If no damage done to the pavilion area, the Security Deposit will be returned, thus the actual fee for a non-resident is \$100.00).

It is best to phone the Township Office FIRST if you are interested in a particular date to rent the pavilion to be sure that the pavilion is free for your special event. That way you can reserve the date, fill out the Application along with your check to reserve the pavilion and return to the Township Office.



IMPROVED PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR TOWNSHIP BILLS

Our online bill pay option saves you time and gives you more flexibility in how you pay your sewer bill. We have also have expanded our ability to take debit and credit cards for all Township bills.

ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION FOR SEWER BILLS

If you have an Internet connection and an email address, you can now pay your bill online. You are also able to “opt in” to paperless billing and receive an email notification when your bill is ready to view. It’s fast, it’s easy, and you no longer have to write a check each month or find a stamp when it’s time to send in your sewer payment.

You can also make a card payment for your current sewer bill by providing card information in person at the Township Office or by calling us at 610-845-7760

HOW IT WORKS

When you sign up for online bill payment, you will create a secure password that you use to access your personal account at www.xpressbillpay.com. Every quarter we'll send you a reminder email to let you know when your bill is online.

Then, just log in through your Web browser and view your bill. Select a payment type — credit card, debit card, or electronic funds transfer — enter the information, and you're done! It's that easy, and it only takes you a few minutes each month.

We're offering this service at the request of customers like you. Sign up today and see why so many people consider this the best way to pay their bills.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENT FACTS

- It's free to sign up for online bill payment at www.xpressbillpay.com.
- You can pay your bills with a credit or debit card, or you can transfer funds directly from your checking account.
- You can pay your bill from anywhere. Users outside the U.S. can contact our Payment Center anytime to make a payment or to set up an Auto Pay.
- No need to worry about late payments if you're out of town when your bill is due.
- After you complete the transaction, you can receive an email receipt to confirm that the payment went through.
- You can view up to a year's history of your account online, so you can compare your current bill to a year ago.
- If you'd like, you can select the Auto Pay option and your bill will be paid automatically each month.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

1. Go to www.xpressbillpay.com. We have partnered with **xpress** BILL PAY to provide you with online bill payment service.
2. Click on the “Sign Up” button on the top of the home screen. Fill in the email and password fields, then click in the “I’m not a robot” box and follow the prompts.
3. Complete the short registration form and click “Next.”
4. Go to your inbox and open the verification email and click “Verify Email.” Then select “Continue” to log in.
5. Select your billing organization and follow the prompts for linking your bill.
6. Once your bill is added to your account, you can add additional bills, view and pay your bill online, or setup a recurring auto payment schedule.

OTHER TOWNSHIP BILLS

Our new system allows the use of credit and debit cards for other Township bills such as permit fees and Community Room rentals. You can provide a card in person or over the phone by calling the Township Office at 610-845-7760.

2023 PAVING PROJECTS

In addition to our usual street repairs, the following major road projects are underway or planned.

Meitzler Road and Washington Road from Meitzler to Weinsteiger Road are being fully reconstructed using the Full Depth Reclamation process.

Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) is a cost efficient way to improve older roads that were not originally constructed with an adequate base to handle modern traffic. We find this on many of our smaller roads that were likely converted from a dirt road to a paved road with the simple addition of a blacktop surface. To rehabilitate these roads the full thickness of the existing asphalt pavement is pulverized and blended with the

underlying materials. Cement is added for strength and when cured the recycled road materials provide a strong base for a new paved surface.

The pulverization of the existing materials was performed by Recon Construction Services of York, Pennsylvania. Paving is being done by the Washington Township Public Works team with assistance from Douglass Township, Montgomery County.

Chip sealing is planned to be performed on the upper portion of Weisstown Road latter this summer.

Please look out for road closures and lane restrictions for these projects and always slowdown in our construction zones.



Thank You

Washington Township would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and 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 our residents. The Town would like to further request that citizens, in response, patronize these businesses first when given a choice and let them know that you saw their ad in this newsletter.



REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGN PROGRAM

To avoid delays with emergency responses to Township properties, Eastern Berks Fire Department has a program to provide road side reflective address markers and to document special conditions that responders should be aware of.

Green Address Markers

The first goal of the program is to have the driveways for all Township homes marked with reflective address signs. The standard sign is GREEN with reflective numbers on both sides. The signs can be vertical or horizontal. The reflective address numbers are to be located at the specific driveway that should be used by responders for each home to get them on the scene of an incident as quickly as possible, particularly during storm events and at night.

Red Address Markers

Some properties have existing conditions that can complicate responses due to long driveways, rough terrain, overhanging tree limbs, locked gates, bridges or limited access to water supplies. If residents of the property have any special needs this can also be documented. To assist responders in arriving at an incident with the necessary equipment, properties with special conditions can be documented ahead of time and this information made available to responders before they get in too far with the wrong equipment. Please note any special conditions on the application for a address marker. Eastern Berks Fire Department will make a site visit to evaluate the special needs of the property and if there is something that needs to be documented they will do so. The address markers for properties with special conditions will be RED to remind responders to check their database.

Things to consider:

Is your residence properly marked with a 911 reflective address sign?

Is your driveway over 1000 feet long?

Does your driveway have steep terrain, sharp turns, bridges, overhanging trees, or any other obstacles that may

impede Emergency Vehicles? (The largest fire truck is the size of a very large box truck).

Do you have any accessible water sources on your property?

Are there any people with Special Needs that live at the residence?

How You Can Help:

Eastern Berks Fire Department and Washington Township are partnering to not only bring awareness of these issues to your attention, but also to try and reach the goal of having all driveways posted with a 911 Reflective Sign.

Signs are available for purchase at \$15.00 dollars each.

That includes your address number for both sides of the sign.

If you need a RED sign, or not sure if your residence qualifies for a RED sign, a member from the fire company would like to meet with you to see if there could be difficulty reaching your home.

GREEN 911 signs: All other signs should be green. Many of you have already posted Green signs and as long they are in good shape, and clear of obstructions such as foliage, they do not need to be replaced.

Ordering:

Complete order form below or view on our website.

Your payment will be made out to "Eastern Berks Fire Company" and sent or dropped off at the Washington Township municipal office. You will be contacted when your sign is ready for pick-up at the township office. If you are unable to pick-up, delivery by fire company volunteers can be arranged.

We would like to thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Washington Township office at 610-845-7760 or email info@washtwpberks.org



REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGN ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

Phone: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Address Number Requested

Mounting Preference

_____ Vertical _____ Horizontal

RED BARN RECYCLING CENTER

Thank you for recycling! This valuable practice reduces the need for fossil fuel production, mining of minerals, and harvesting of forest trees. Your recycling efforts help fight the risks associated with **climate change**.

Recycling center hours of operation are on the **First Saturday** of the month from 9:00 - 11:00 AM; and on the **Third Wednesday** of the month from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. **The center is for Washington Twp. Residents only.** (No Wed. nights November-February due to winter weather)

The Red Barn recycling center is operated by **volunteers**.

Due to overall safety, **we only want the volunteers to be in the recycling center.** This reduces the number of people in there and minimizes contact. The volunteers will take the items from your vehicle and walk them inside. When arriving, the process is to stay within the cones and two vehicles will be attended to at a time at the doors.

Sorting of the recycling items is necessary so that the Red Barn can meet vendor requirements. **The volunteers**

don't have the time to sort your items. We need you to do this! Sort at home as follows. **Nothing else please!** **When in doubt, leave it out.** Also, the items need to be clean – please wash them out.

- #1 plastics
- #2 plastics, aluminum cans, paper, corrugated cardboard.
- #3 and higher plastics, tin cans, & cereal box type cardboard can be mingled together.

We are no longer taking glass because glass is not being recycled by our vendor due to a poor marketplace for recycled glass. No plastic bags accepted, even if it has a recycling symbol.

You can check the Berks County Recycling Center website for information about the different materials that can be recycled by Berks County residents at their Leesport facility at www.countyofberks.com/departments/solid-waste-authority

2023 Red Barn Recycling Dates

1st Saturday of the month
9AM - 11AM

JULY 1
AUGUST 5
SEPTEMBER 2
OCTOBER 7
NOVEMBER 4
DECEMBER 2

3rd Wednesday of the month
7PM - 8PM

JUNE 21
JULY 19
AUGUST 16
SEPTEMBER 20
OCTOBER 18

Volunteers ALWAYS wanted!

Accepted Materials

Items Accepted:

- Tin Cans
- Plastic Caps/Lids
- Aluminum Cans
- Newspaper
- Phone Books
- Bagged Shredded Paper
- Magazines
- Junk Mail
- Books (hard/soft cover)
- Cardboard
- Ink Cartridges
- Cell Phones
- Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

Items Not Accepted:

- Clear, Green, Brown Glass Containers
- Aluminum Foil
- Oil Containers
- Milk Cartons
- Light Bulbs
- Styrofoam containers
- Electronics
- Plastic Bags
- Batteries

Save the Earth

RED BARN RECYCLING CENTER OPENS AUGUST 1ST

HOURS: 9AM-11AM
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MEMBERS ONLY

- All material MUST be sorted
- Drop offs next to the barn door (public may not enter barn)

ITEMS TO BE DROPPED AT FRONT OF BARN:

- #1 Plastics
- #2 Plastics
- Aluminum
- Mixed paperboard, glass, steel

ITEMS TO BE DROPPED AT BACK OF BARN:

- Paper materials
- Flattened cardboard

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Summer 2023

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under 14 years of age. The whole family may
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