



# 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. If this is your year for pumping, documentation must be provided to the Township from your hauler by December 31, 2024.

Reminder letters will go out in the fall of 2024 for those who still need to have their septic tanks pumped. If you are not sure when you are due for your pumping, please contact the Township.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Washington Township Information.....	3	Picnic Pavilion Rentals .....	6	Smoke Alarms .....	9
Sewer Billing Information.....	4	Winter 2023-2024 Events Calendar.....	7	Red Barn Recycling Center .....	10
Public Works Department.....	4	2023 Paving Projects .....	8	Reflective Address Sign Program.....	10
Volunteers Needed .....	5	2024 Tax Rates.....	8		
Community Room Rentals .....	6	PARRC Membership.....	8		

[washtwpberks.org](http://washtwpberks.org)

120 Barto Road  
Barto, Pa 19504



Phone: (610) 845-7760  
[info@washtwpberks.org](mailto:info@washtwpberks.org)



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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](http://www.washtwpberks.org) for additional information!

## Board of Supervisors:

**Chairman:** Thomas Powanda  
**Vice Chairman:** David Moyer  
**Supervisor:** Rommie Long

## Township Office Staff

**Township Manager:** Rich Sichler  
email: [manager@washtwpberks.org](mailto:manager@washtwpberks.org)  
**Treasurer:** Missy Swanson  
**Township Secretary:** Susan Brown

## Public Works Department:

**Roadmaster:** Brian Mohr  
**Crew Member:** Jacob Long  
**Crew Member:** Barry Maust  
**Crew Member:** Thomas C. Milewski, Jr.  
**Crew Member:** Josh Berner  
**Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator:** Gary Kellon

## 2024 Meeting Dates:

Meetings will be held at the Washington Township Municipal Building located at 120 Barto Road, Barto, PA 19504

January 2nd 5:30 p.m. (supervisors reorganization)  
January 3rd 7:00 p.m. (auditors reorganization)

### **REGULAR SUPERVISORS MEETINGS 7:00 P.M.**

January 25, February 22, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27,  
July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 21,  
December 19

### **SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETINGS 7:00 P. M.**

February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, August 8,  
September 12, November 14, December 12

### **BUDGET MEETINGS 6:00 P.M.**

October 14, October 15 (if needed)

### **WATER AUTHORITY (IF NEEDED) 6:30 P.M.**

January 25, April 25, July 25, October 24

### **PLANNING COMMISSION 7:00 P.M.**

January 4 (w/ reorganization), February 1, March 7, April 4,  
May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5, October 3,  
November 7, December 5

### **HEREFORD-WASHINGTON JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION 7:00 P.M.**

March 12, June 11, September 10, December 10

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (IF NEEDED) 6:00 P.M.**

January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8,  
August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9

### **RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9,  
August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10



# SEWER BILLING INFORMATION

- For the second year in a row, Township sewer rates have been lowered. The sewer rate dropped 3.33% starting January 1, 2024. The 2024 rate for a typical residential service is \$290.00 per quarter.
- A 2% Discount rate is applied for prepaying the full year by March 31st, 2024 with a payment of \$1,136.80 for a typical residential service.
- Bills may be paid monthly at a rate of \$96.67 per month. Your account must be paid in full before beginning a monthly payment plan.
- Multiple payment options are available:
  - Placed in the drop box located at the Township Building, available 24/7
  - Mailed to 120 Barto Road, Barto PA 19504
  - Paid online 24/7 with credit, debit or EChecks, information available at [www.washtwpberks.org](http://www.washtwpberks.org)
  - Paid in person or over the phone during business hours with credit, debit or EChecks
  - Your check or money order should be made payable to Washington Township, cash payments are not accepted
- For questions on your sewer bill please call 610-845-3697 or 610-845-7760



## SEWER BILL DUE DATES:

**March 31st**

**June 30th**

**September 30th**

**December 31st**

\*Please Note: Any person who fails to receive a bill for quarterly sewer rentals and charges shall not be excused for non-payment, and shall not be granted an extension of the period of time during which such bill is payable without penalty because of non-receipt of the bill. WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE U.S. MAIL SERVICE.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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### SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Please make sure all sports equipment such as basketball hoops and goals are not located within the Township right of way. Basketball hoops can pose a danger to our road crew during snow events. Please store them a safe distance from the road surface.

# VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

There are openings on Township Committees including Recreation Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Council. Washington Township Committee openings can also be found on the Township website at [www.washtwpberks.org](http://www.washtwpberks.org).

Not all volunteers need to be committee members! If you are a township resident and would like to volunteer your time to participate with the planning efforts or just on the day of an event, Washington Township would like to hear from you. Volunteer applications can also be found on the Township website or can be picked up at the Township office. If interested, please contact Township Manager Rich Sichler at the Township office at 610-845-7760.



## 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.



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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 pavilions. We have pavilions available at both the Washington Township Park on Niantic Road and the Barto Community Park on Barto Road. We have electricity, nine (9) 6 picnic tables and two (2) 8 handicapped tables. There is a port-o-potty nearby. Outdoor activities include a walking path, basketball and sports fields (when not in use with our sports teams partners).

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.



# WINTER 2023-2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

*Premier community events in the Pottstown region*

## JANUARY & FEBRUARY EVENTS



### **15th Annual Polar Bear Swim & Bonfire**

Monday, January 1st at Riverfront Park, 140 College Dr., Pottstown. Registration begins at 9:30am, and the plunge happens promptly at 10:30am. After the plunge, warm up at the bonfire and grab a pork hotdog with sauerkraut for good luck. Proceeds from food sales benefit Pottstown Parks and Recreation.



### **ArtFusion Artist and Instructor Show**

January 13-March 2, 341 Beech St. #1, Pottstown. Visit the ArtFusion gallery for works by students and instructors. For more information, visit their website: [artfusion19464.org](http://artfusion19464.org)



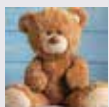
### **Pottstown Regional Public Library**

500 E. High St. Pottstown. Got cabin fever? Meet with friends or make new ones at the many programs offered by PRPL. In addition to books and computers, the library offers card games, art classes, lectures, LEGO club, teen time, Dungeons & Dragons, bilingual story time, and much more. Check it out at: [pottstownregionalpubliclibrary.org](http://pottstownregionalpubliclibrary.org)



### **A Spinning Workshop with Ruth Konrad**

Saturday, January 27th, 11:00am to 3:00pm. Pottsgrove Manor, 100 W. King St. Explore the art of spinning wool fibers into thread. Participants will sit at a wheel and learn the techniques to transform raw wool into usable yarn! Expert spinner, Ruth Konrad, will share stories of the natural fibers that were used to make yarn and thread for textiles. Ages 12+. Registration Required and space is limited. Materials Fee-\$60 per person, participants are encouraged to bring a bagged lunch. Weather dependent.



### **Pottsgrove Sleepover-A Stuffed Animal Adventure**

Friday, Feb. 23rd drop-off by 3pm, pick-up on Saturday, Feb. 24th at 11:00am. Pottsgrove Manor, 100 W. King St. Pottstown. Bring by your children's favorite toys to Pottsgrove Manor for an overnight adventure! The plushies, dolls, and teddy bears will explore the 18th-century home and bed down for the night. Your kids can watch online, seeing their toys snuggling under the covers in our historic rooms. When it's time to pick up their friends, make-and-take crafts will be a keepsake to remember the fun night of history! Ages 2-12; Registration Required.

*Information provided by Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee – [parrc.net](http://parrc.net)*

## **2023 PAVING PROJECTS**

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Our 2023 road paving season included extensive work to Meitzler Road and a portion of Washington Road, and the resurfacing a portion of Heydt's School House Road.

We ended the season with the resurfacing of the parking lot that serves the Township Building and Barto Park. In addition to paving the parking lot, lights were upgraded to LED units under a grant program and new pavement marking were applied. A big thanks goes out to Douglas Township, Montgomery County who partners with us in doing larger projects.



## **2024 TAX RATES**

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The Washington Township Supervisors have approved lowering the Township Real Estate tax rate for 2024 9.26%, from a rate of 2.70 mills to 2.45 mills. You will have to look closely to see this on your bill as the reduction only applies to the Township portion of the bill. The County and School District Real Estate tax rates are both going to increase for 2024 and will overshadow the progress made on taxes by the Township.

## **PARRC MEMBERSHIP**

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Washington Township has joined the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee (PARRC) to partner with nearby communities that share recreational events and resources. Please look at the upcoming events that are posted on their web site at [www.parrc.net](http://www.parrc.net) and explore the recreational activities that our region has to offer!





# Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

# 1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.

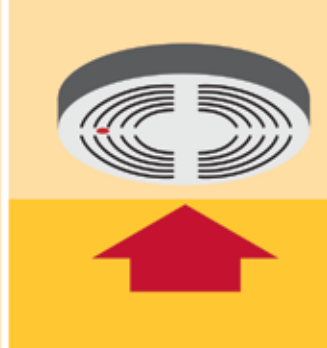


# 2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

# 3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



# 4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

# RED BARN RECYCLING CENTER

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Thank you for recycling!

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. (No Wed. nights November-February due to winter weather)  
**The center is for Washington Twp. Residents only.**

The Red Barn recycling center is operated by **volunteers, and we can always use more volunteers.**

Due to overall safety, **we only want the volunteers to be in the recycling center.**

For 2024 our recycling center is accepting the following materials:

- Corrugated Cardboard – please separate and drop off at the front of the Red Barn.
- Aluminum Cans – please separate and drop off at the front of the Red Barn. No pie plates or foil accepted
- Comingled plastics, metal and cereal boxes – please place in the small brown dumpsters located in front of the Red Barn. No glass is being accepted
- Newspaper, mail, office paper and magazines – please place in the green dumpster at the rear of the Red Barn

No plastic bags accepted, even if it has a recycling symbol. Take plastic bags to the grocery stores.

**Nothing else please! When in doubt, leave it out.** Also, the items need to be clean – please wash them out. No pizza boxes. **The volunteers don't have the time to sort your items.** We need you to do this! Please sort at home.



You can check the Berks County Solid Waste Facility website about other items, such as electronics and appliances.

Thank you for your cooperation and team work, and patience with occasional changes. We are all working together to assure proper recycling and keep these materials out of the landfills and oceans.

*Washington Township Environmental Advisory Council and the recycling team*

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# REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGN PROGRAM

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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. The price per sign has increased to \$30. Eastern Berks Fire Department is providing the signs as a public service and only charges the actual cost of the signs. Please contact the Township at 610-845-7760 to order your sign.

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Winter 2024



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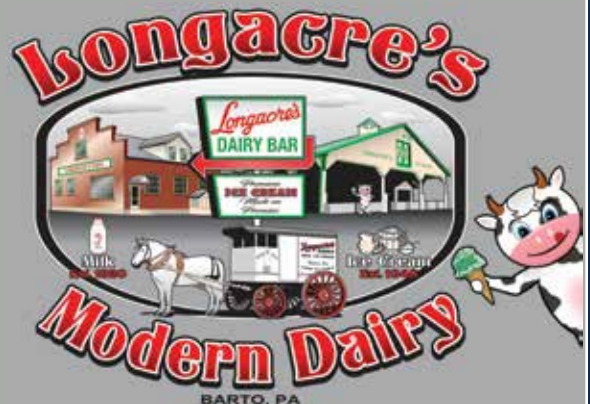
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