



# WASHINGTON

Photo by  
Rod Martin

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

TOWNSHIP

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

There are openings on Township Committees including Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals, Zoning Hearing Board, Recreation Advisory Committee, Environmental Advisory Council and the Agricultural Advisory Council. Township Committee openings can also be found on the Township's 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. Depending on the event, volunteering with your kids can be a great opportunity to spend time with your family and meet other residents of the township. Volunteer applications can be found on the Township website or can be picked up at the Township office. If interested, please contact Township Manager Susan Brown at the Township office at 610-845-7760.



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120 Barto Road  
Barto, Pa 19504

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

Visit us at [washtwpberks.org](http://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:** David Moyer

**Vice Chairman:** Thomas Powanda

**Supervisor:** Romnie Long

## Township Office Staff

**Township Manager / Secretary:** Susan Brown  
email: [sbrown@washtwpberks.org](mailto:sbrown@washtwpberks.org)

**Treasurer:** Missy Swanson

**Administrative Assistants:** Darlene Mcilvee

## 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:** Phillip Anstey

## 2025 Meeting Dates:

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

January 6th 5:30 p.m. (supervisors reorganization)

January 7th 7:00 p.m. (auditors reorganization)

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

January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 20, December 18

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

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

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

October 13, October 14 (if needed)

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

January 23, April 24, July 24, October 23

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

January 9 (w/ reorganization), February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 7, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4

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

March 11, June 10, September 9, December 9

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

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

### **RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE 6:00 P.M.**

January 14 (w/ reorganization), February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 18, December 9





Your Eastern Berks Fire Department has begun to move into our recently purchased property at the intersection of Rt 100 and Hoffmansville Rd in Washington Township. Rescue Engine 97 is now housed in the building, and personnel respond there when that truck is required for accidents and fires. We have equipped that building with fire radios, internet, and response displays. Since that structure also contains an existing school bus business, which will continue to occupy much of the building, we will work with those renters to share more space. In September, we completed another season of fire and rescue protection for the racers, race cars, and spectators at Grandview Speedway on Passmore Road. It is a hot, dusty, and exhausting duty, but one we have performed for decades. In October each year, we visit local schools to make Fire Prevention presentations. Our 100% volunteer personnel use vacation days to teach fire safety to students at Washington Elementary, Bally Mennonite Preschool, St. Frances Academy, and other learning venues.

We constantly train in fire suppression, vehicle rescue techniques, hazardous materials handling, and medical emergencies; all while spending time raising money to buy the apparatus and equipment to protect you. We are pleased to announce that we recently signed a contract to have a new Attack truck (mini pumper) built in nearby Chester County for delivery next year, after the original supplier couldn't manufacture it until 2026. This unit will be able to get into the narrow rural driveways we often encountered in the township. The department appreciates the support and cooperation of the township, its officials and its residents.

## 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. 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.



## 5 TIPS for Exercising Safely in Cold Weather

Don't let falling temperatures stop you from exercising outdoors. By taking a few extra steps to stay safe, you can walk, run, ski, ice skate, and more.

- 1 Warm up and cool down.** Stretch or walk in place to prepare and restore your muscles before and after a workout.
- 2 Pick the right clothes.** Dress in several layers of loose clothing to trap warm air between them. Wear a waterproof coat or jacket if it's snowy or rainy, and don't forget a hat, scarf, and gloves.
- 3 Be extra careful in snow and ice.** Check sidewalks before using them. Wear nonskid, rubber-soled, low-heeled shoes to help prevent slipping.
- 4 Check the forecast.** If it's too windy, cold, icy, or wet outside, consider staying indoors and using an online workout video or your own routine.
- 5 Be prepared.** Know the signs of hypothermia, inform others of your outdoor whereabouts, and carry a fully charged mobile phone.



To learn more, visit [www.nia.nih.gov/health/exercising-outdoors](http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/exercising-outdoors).



## ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS

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Want to see your photographs in the next Township's Newsletter or on our website? The Township is always looking for amateur photographs to include in our newsletters or to be placed on our website. The photographs should include subjects, such as landscapes, sporting events, nature, or the environment. In order for your photographs to be considered, they should be taken only in Washington Township. Submit all photographs by email to [parks@washtwpberks.org](mailto:parks@washtwpberks.org). We will notify you if your photograph(s) has been selected for use by the Township.



*Thank you  
Deanna and Todd  
for your beautiful photos!*



In the fall of 2024, Washington Township enacted a revised ordinance for Chapter 76 – Parks, Recreation Areas and Open Spaces. A copy of the revised ordinance is located on the township's website. The ordinance includes revised rules & regulations for our parks and open spaces, and we encourage all user of our recreational facilities to become familiar with the revised ordinance.



## 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 (available on website) and a check made payable to Washington Township will reserve the date.



## PICNIC PAVILION RENTALS

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Consider having your family reunion or birthday party at our large picnic pavilions. We have pavilions available at both the Washington Township Park on Victoria Drive and the Barto Community Park on Barto Road. Each has electricity, nine - 6 person picnic tables and two - 8 person handicapped tables. There are port-o-potties nearby. Outdoor activities include a walking path, playground, basketball, and baseball & 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.



## ON-LOT SEPTIC MANAGEMENT

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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, 2025. 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.
- 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.

## 2025 SEWER RATES

### EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

Quarterly sewer rates were changed to \$280, a decrease of \$10.00 per quarter.

### BILLING INFORMATION

Bills to be paid monthly, at a rate of \$93.33. 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 into the township.

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Online bill pay is now available. We also accept credit/debit cards over the phone. For more details, please review information available at [www.washtwpberks.org](http://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 who pay their bill in full. Must be paid by March 31st, to take advantage of discount. The discounted price is \$1,097.60 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.**



## REMOVING SNOW AND ICE SAFELY



When the driveway and walkways are coated in a thick blanket of snow, it's time to get a shovel out for what some consider to be a dreaded chore. But before you tackle the first snowfall of the season, take some time to read these safety snow shoveling tips to help avoid any potential injuries.

Snow shoveling can lead to a number of health risks for many people, from back injuries to heart attacks. The mix of cold temperatures and physical exertion increases the workload on the heart, which may increase the risk of a heart attack for some. According to the American Heart Association, even walking through heavy, wet snow can place strain on your heart.

The following tips can help keep you safer when you set out to shovel:

- **Warm up.** Warm your muscles before heading out to shovel by doing some light movements, such as bending side to side or walking in place.
- **Push rather than lift.** Pushing the snow with the shovel instead of lifting can help reduce the strain on your body. When lifting snow, bend your knees and use your legs when possible.
- **Choose your shovel wisely.** Ergonomically designed shovels can help reduce the amount of bending you have to do.

- **Lighten your load.** Consider using a lighter-weight plastic shovel instead of a metal one to help decrease the weight being lifted.
- **Hit the pause button.** Pace yourself and be sure to take frequent breaks. Consider taking a break after 20 to 30 minutes of shoveling, especially when the snow is wet.
- **Consider multiple trips.** Consider shoveling periodically throughout the storm to avoid having to move large amounts of snow at once.
- **Keep up with snowfall.** Try to shovel snow shortly after it falls, when it's lighter and fluffier. The longer snow stays on the ground, the wetter it can become. Wet snow is heavier and harder to move.
- **Wear layers.** Dress in layers and remove them as you get warm to help maintain a comfortable body temperature.
- **Stay hydrated.** Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated while shoveling.

If you don't exercise on a regular basis, are middle-aged or older, or have any health conditions, such as heart disease or high blood pressure, you should check with your doctor before doing any strenuous shoveling. Consider using a snowblower or snow removal service as an alternative means of snow removal.



### Friendly Reminder to Residents about snow and ice removal requirements

Snow and ice not only pose a potential risk to you but also to others. As a property owner, you're responsible for making a reasonable effort to keep public walking areas around your property clear of snow and ice.

Please make sure that no sports equipment is left in the roadway or protrudes into the roadway. Basketball nets that are in or hang out into the township right-of-way make snow removal very difficult and potentially dangerous for our staff. The Roads Crew appreciates your assistance with making snow removal efficient and safe for all members of our community.



# The 12 Days of Christmas Safety

- Keep lit candles away from real trees, wreaths, boughs and garlands
- Keep poisonous sweets and chocolates away from your pets
- Keep your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources
- Make sure your tree has a stable platform so it doesn't tip over
- Choose an artificial tree that is labeled flame resistant
- If you have a real tree, make sure you water it regularly
- Check your lights for fraying, bare spots and kinks in the wire
- Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use
- Use an appropriate ladder or stepladder when putting up decorations
- No matter how tempting it may be NEVER drink and drive!
- When preparing the food, make sure you avoid cross contamination and clean your surfaces and utensils
- Make sure you reheat your leftovers to at least 74 degrees to avoid food poisoning

Merry Christmas



# 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.

## CENTURY 21 Longacre Realty

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## SPRING 2025 LOCAL EVENTS SCHEDULE



The Washington Township Recreation Advisory Committee plans to hold a couple of events this upcoming spring. While plans have not been finalized, we are looking to have an Easter Egg Hunt (including a Doggie Eastern Egg Hunt) and multiple Spring Plant Sales. Once we finalize the events' information, we will post the information on the township's website and our social media pages, including Facebook and Nextdoor.

Washington Township is also a member of the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee 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!

## KIDS CRAFTS - YARN WRAPPED CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS

What you need: green yarn, pom poms in various sizes and colors or small cut out color stars and circles, glitter pom poms are optional but certainly fun, cardboard, scissors, white school glue

Directions: 1) Cut the triangles out of cardboard (this being a job for the adult as cardboard can be quite tricky to cut. 2) Tie the yarn to the triangle, somewhere in the middle. You can add some glue to secure the yarn before continuing. 3) Add a generous amount of white school glue on one side of the triangle. 4) Start wrapping the yarn all around the triangle – make sure you wrap the yarn around all 3 sides of the triangle. 5) When you are happy with how the wrapped tree looks like, finish up by tying the yarn – make a knot and secure it with some glue. You can add more glue in order to glue on the pom poms (if you were super generous with the white school glue before, there might be enough already). 6) If you want to make this into a Christmas ornament just tie some yarn to the back/top of your Yarn Wrapped Christmas Tree Ornaments and you are ready to go.



HIC# PA 065759

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# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024 Recreation Advisory Committee

Mark Bedle, Chairperson & Secretary  
Dave Laxx, Vice Chairperson  
Tara Christman, Member  
Dwayne Henne, Member

## 2024 Board of Supervisors

David D. Moyer, Chairperson  
Thomas Powanda, Vice Chairperson  
Romnie S. Long, Supervisor  
Susan Brown, Secretary

## 2024 Township Staff

Susan Brown, Township Manager & Secretary  
Missy Swanson, Treasurer  
Darlene McIlvee, Administrative Assistant  
Brian Mohr, Roadmaster



## Special Thanks

Joan London, Township Solicitor  
John Weber, Township Engineer  
Tricia McCloskey, PARRC Regional Planner

## What We Do

The Washington Township Parks & Recreation provide benefits to community public health and economic development by managing approximately 100 acres of public access to our parks, nature preserve and open spaces. As a recipient of funds from the multiple foundations and state agencies in 2024, our park system will benefit immensely. These funds will allow for much-needed program upgrades, facility enhancements, and infrastructure projects to be completed.

## 2024 Highlights

- Submitted multiple grant applications to support 5 Park & Recreation projects, including Niantic Road Pedestrian Improvement, Barto Community Park Master Plan, Washington Township Playground Replacement, Township-wide Radio System Upgrades and Township-wide Security Upgrades.
- Grant Funding: Parks & Recreation submitted grant applications totaling \$552,760 and secured grants totaling \$56,050. Total recreation grants received 2023 – 2024 \$86,050.
- Finalized the Washington Township Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Plan.
- Began working on accomplishing the recommendations and goals contained within the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Plan.
- Conducted 4 community events, including two Famers Markets, Craft Fair and a Community Bonfire.
- Worked with the Township Manager to revise our biannual Township Newsletter and produced both a 2024 summer and winter Newsletters.
- Designed and received approval of a Parks & Recreation logo.
- Revised the Washington Township Parks and Recreation website, including the addition of general information, photographs and park maps.
- Coordinated and oversaw the start of a wetlands study at the Washington Township Park by Kutztown University students and faculty.
- Supported the Board of Supervisors in enacting a revised Parks & Recreation Regulations ordinance.
- Supported the Board of Supervisors in enacting a Parks & Recreation Board ordinance.
- Supported the Board of Supervisors in revising field rental agreements with 3 sport clubs that utilize our parks.
- Several improvements were made at the parks this year. Water well testing allowed for water to be available to residents at the Barto Community Park. Lighting upgrades were also completed at the Barto Community Park.
- Coordinated and assisted the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy with Spring Cleanup at 3 locations within the Township, including the West Branch Perkiomen Creek, Barto Community Park and Washington Township Park.
- Participated in the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee.
- Supported the Board of Supervisors in consolidating and renaming our two parks and nature preserve.

## Moving Forward

2024 was a great year for Parks & Recreation in Washington Township. The Recreation Advisory Committee spent the majority of their time building the foundation for a better park system in the future. The Recreation Advisory Committee, along with the Board of Supervisor and Township Staff, are excited to see what is instore for 2025. Looking forward, in 2025 we envision more events for our residents, developing master plans for the Barto Community and Washington Township Parks, and moving forward with the Niantic Road Pedestrian Improvement Project and Township-wide Radio Upgrades.

## Our Mission

We focus on preserving our natural resources and providing parks, trails, and recreation activities for residents to enjoy the outdoors, connect with others, make memories, and improve health. We...

- Renew, invest and provide stewardship of our parks.
- Ensure recreation for all.
- Promote Health and Wellness.
- Build community relationships
- Stay aware of ways to make our parks better.
- Enhance visitor experiences through well-maintained park facilities.





## Washington Township, Berks County 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.

### WHEN?

Recycling center hours of operation are:

First Saturday of every month from 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the months from March through October. (No Wed. nights November-February due to winter weather)

Materials are only accepted during these hours when the center is staffed by our volunteers.

### WHERE?

Red Barn Recycling Center  
120 Barto Road, Barto, PA

### WHO?

Washington Township  
residents only.



**Please do not enter the Red Barn Recycling Center,  
our volunteers will help you at the open door.**



### What to Recycle and Where on Scheduled Recycling Days

- Corrugated Cardboard – drop at the front door. No pizza boxes please
- Aluminum cans – drop at the front door. No pie plates please
- Comingled Recyclables – items other than those listed above can be placed in the Green dumpsters located in front of the Red Barn. No glass, #3 and #6 plastic is being accepted

### Tips

Nothing else please! When in doubt, leave it out. Also, the items need to be clean – please wash them out. The volunteers don't have the time to sort items. We need you to sort at home to keep the center operating smoothly.

You can check the Berks County Solid Waste website about other items such as electronics and appliances and special collection events at:  
[www.countyofberks.com/departments/solid-waste-authority](http://www.countyofberks.com/departments/solid-waste-authority)



Thank you for your cooperation and team work, and patience with occasional changes. And a big thank you to our long-term recycling partner, Cogle's Recycling. We are all working together to assure proper recycling and keep these materials out of the landfills and oceans.

Washington Township recycling team



## PROPOSED EMERGENCY SERVICES TAX

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The Washington Township Board of Supervisors has been in discussions with the Eastern Berks Fire Department (EBFD) and the Bally Community Ambulance Association (Bally EMS) about a proposed Emergency Services Tax in the Township. Because of the potential financial strains any additional taxes can have on residents of our Township, the Township Board of Supervisors will be placing the proposed Emergency Services Tax as a ballot initiative during the 2025 primary election. More information about this proposed Emergency Services Tax can be found on the township's website.

## 2025 PAVING & ROAD PROJECTS

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Our 2025 road paving projects will include application of oil & chips to sections of Countyline Road and the full depth reclamation on Stauffer Road. It is anticipated that these projects will begin after the end of the 24/25 school year. The township will also be working on repairing winter damage and general road surface maintenance throughout the year. Based on available information, the PADOT will commence work on the resurfacing of Route 100 and upgrades to pavement marking at the West Branch Perkiomen Creek bridge on Forgedale Road.

The Barto Road re-alignment plans have been finalized and we have been patiently waiting for the utility companies to move the necessary utility lines (work has started). The project is slated to move forward spring 2025 and be completed by the fall. We anticipate that during the construction phase of the project, there may be times when traffic will need to be detoured around Barto Road. The re-alignment project will add an additional 1.5 acres of park land to the Barto Community Park.

In addition to paving and road projects, the Township is planning to move forward with installing a crosswalk on Niantic Road at the Washington Township Park. The new crosswalk will allow park users to safely traverse Niantic Road.



### NEW PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

---

During the summer and fall of 2024, the new Washington Township Public Works Building was erected at the municipal facility. The project is slated to be completed by the end of 2024. The new Public Works Building serves for much needed storage and also includes a full size wash bay to help maintain our fleet of equipment and vehicles.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM

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The Public Works Department Christmas Tree Recycling Program will take place Thursday, December 26, 2025, through Monday, January 20, 2025. While the program is running, you may bring your Christmas tree to the municipal building.

Trees must be untied and have no decorations to make it easy to recycle them. Recycled trees will be chipped and used as mulch. Residents interested in obtaining the mulch for their own personal use, please contact Brian Mohr at [bmohr@washtwpberks.org](mailto:bmohr@washtwpberks.org).



# 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.

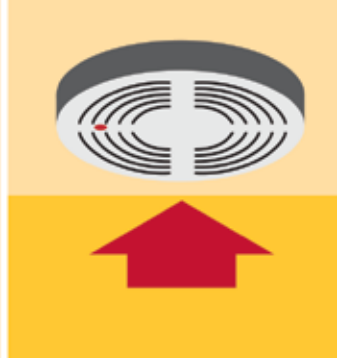


**2**

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).



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