

Winter 2026

WASHINGTON

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

TOWNSHIP

THE GRAND OLD LADY IN BARTO *By Luann Zambanini*

There is an old bridge that many people use daily. If I say the bridge at the "Barto Spring", many folks will know which bridge I mean. For those of you who don't know, this bridge is part of old Route 100 between Bechtelsville and Bally, just past Forgedale Road. I feel bad for this old bridge. She is the third bridge to support vehicles crossing the West Branch of the Perkiomen Creek. This old gal was built in 1908. Can you image what she has seen and heard in her 117 years of balancing across the creek?

She remembers hearing of the collapses of three local mines in Barto, one in recent history. I imagine in her time she supported many horses and carriages and all kinds of motor vehicles and I'm sure plenty of bicycles. She's been a good old gal for so many years.

She is single – I mean, a single lane bridge. So, you have to make sure you wait your turn to cross her. She's a unique old lady because once you do cross her going toward Bally, you have to make an immediate right turn. This has been causing the old gal some really rough times recently. It's the tractor trailers coming from Bally, following their GPS directions, that are causing her so much pain and suffering. You see she isn't a very friendly bridge to these truck drivers. It seems these folks can't make the turn and in her old age this gal has been hit by more tractor trailers than she is willing to admit to. The old girl has been patched many times on her side facing Bally. She will be the first to admit: that's not her best side.

She holds hands with her good friend, a local guard rail, but she's gone through a lot of close guard rail friends. As a matter of fact, her recent close guard rail friend is in sad shape and will probably be replaced soon.

So, keep in mind to be nice to the old gal as your cross on her steady back on your way to the "Barto Spring" when using old Route 100.



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120 Barto Road
Barto, Pa 19504



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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: David Moyer

Vice Chairman: Thomas Powanda

Supervisor: Romnie Long

Township Office Staff

Township Manager / Secretary: Susan Brown
email: sbrown@washtwpberks.org

Treasurer: Missy Swanson

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Boyer

Public Works Department:

Roadmaster: Brian Mohr

Crew Member: Jacob Long

Crew Member: Thomas C. Milewski, Jr.

Crew Member: Josh Berner

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator: Tony Schwenk

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee: Kyle Witman

2026 Meeting Dates:

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

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

REGULAR SUPERVISORS MEETINGS 7:00 P.M.

January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25
July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19,
December 17

SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETINGS 7:00 P. M.

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

BUDGET MEETINGS 6:00 P.M.

October 5, 6

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

January 22, April 23, July 23, October 22

PLANNING COMMISSION 7:00 P.M.

January 8 (w/ reorganization), February 5, March 5, April 2,
May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1,
November 5, December 3

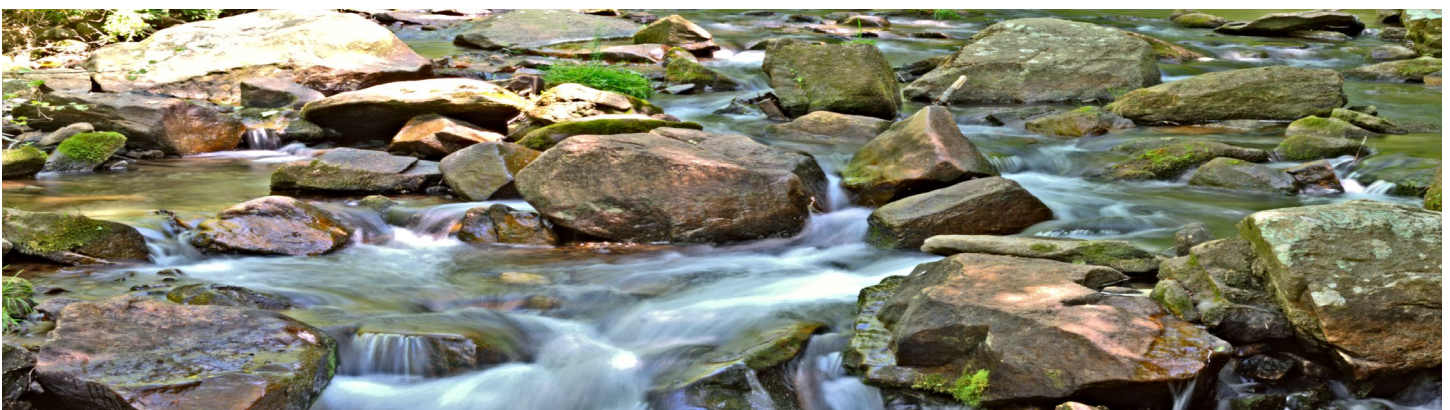
HEREFORD-WASHINGTON JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION 7:00 P.M.

March 10, June 9, September 8, December 8

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (AS NEEDED)

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD 7:00 P.M.

January 13, February 12, March 12, April 14, May 12, June 9,
July 7, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10,
December 8





The summer of 2025 began with damaging storms that slammed the region, and within a few hours we were sent to more than 20 calls for trees down, wires across roadways, water rescues, and flooded roads & basements.

Although we respond to crashes on a regular basis, there was one two-week period when we were sent to three motor vehicle accidents with fatalities within two weeks. Despite experience and training, those kinds of calls take a toll on our all-volunteer crew.

Before October ended, we had already reached 400 dispatches for the year as we continued to be busy with fires, accidents, medical assists, and numerous calls for trees and wires.

Our newest apparatus, "Attack 97" will be in service by the time you read this. At a cost of \$500,000, it will be able to reach many of our hard to access areas and is much less costly than paying over \$1,000,000 for a similar style full sized apparatus.

Talking about hard to access places, is your driveway one of them? We bought our new Attack truck to get at least one engine back some of the long narrow driveways in the township, but what if a ladder truck, full-size engine, or tanker is needed at your home or garage? Please read the article Will A Fire Truck Fit Down Your Driveway below, to see what you can do to make sure we can help you during a fire or other emergency event.

We continue to plan ahead to serve you and your neighbors, and are thankful for your support. You can follow us on our website - easternberksfire.com or on Facebook.

WILL A FIRE TRUCK FIT DOWN YOUR DRIVEWAY?

In the event of a house fire or wildfire in your area, firefighters may need to reach your home. If fighters cannot safely access your home, they will find an alternative way to get to you that may take longer - and when fighting fire, every second counts.

Help Firefighters Reach You

To enable firefighters and other emergency vehicles to locate and reach your home quickly it's Important to establish a safe route with adequate driveway access.

Step 1: Position your address sign to be visible from the road from either direction. See below.



Step 2: Make your home is visible from the road so firefighters can tell if it's safe to enter.

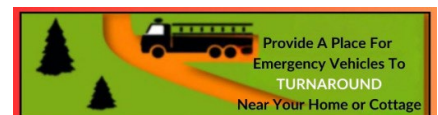
Step 3: Be sure your driveway's surface is firmly packed and is able to support the weight of emergency vehicles even in the spring when the ground is soft.



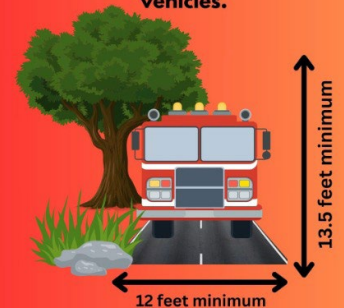
Step 4: Clear trees, branches or brush from your driveway so it is at least 12 feet wide and that there is at least 13.5 feet of clearance to allow fire trucks access.

Step 5: Check that your driveway is free of trees, fence posts or other obstructions that could restrict access. Prepare your driveway for emergency access that could make all the difference in reducing damage to your home or property during a fire or other emergency event.

Step 6: Create a space at the end of your driveway with adequate room for an emergency vehicle to turn around once it reaches your home.



Ensure driveway has adequate height and width **CLEARANCE** from vegetation for large emergency vehicles.



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.



ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS

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 parcs@washtwpberks.org. We will notify you if your photograph(s) has been selected for use by the Township.

*Thank you Lora, Luann for
your beautiful photos!*



Luann Zambanini



Photo by Lora Stull



Luann Zambanini

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

There are openings on Township Committees and boards including the Environmental Advisory Council, Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals and the Agricultural Advisory Council. Washington Township Committee openings can also be found on the Township website at 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.

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:

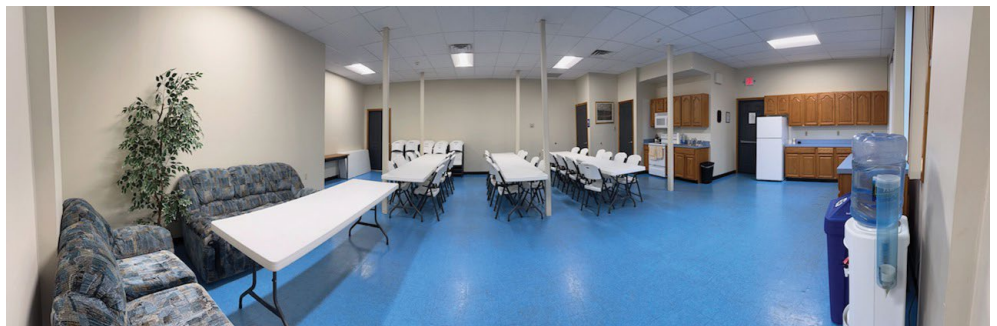
- \$100.00 (\$40.00 for rental and \$60.00 security deposit). Note: This is a one-time use per year per family at this rate for all Committee Members.

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

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.



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT

2025 Recreation Advisory Committee

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

2025 Board of Supervisors

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

2025 Township Staff

Susan Brown, Township Manager & Secretary
Missy Swanson, Treasurer
Lisa Boyer, 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 2025, our park system will benefit immensely. These funds will allow for much-needed program upgrades, facility enhancements, and infrastructure projects to be completed.

2025 Highlights

- Submitted multiple grant applications to support 5 Park & Recreation projects, including equipment replacement at Barto Community Park, a park and township surveillance system, restoration of the war memorial, resurfacing of the Meadowbrook connector trail and resurfacing of the Barto Trail at the Barto Community Park.
- Grant Funding: Parks & Recreation submitted grant applications totaling \$253,233 and secured grants totaling \$180,907. Total recreation grant funding received 2023 – 2025 was \$256,907.
- Prepared Request for Bid documents for the Barto Community Park Master Plan and selected a consultant for project. Commenced work on the Barto Community Park Master Plan.
- Continued working on accomplishing the recommendations and goals contained within the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Plan.
- Conducted 5 community events, including an Easter Egg Hunt, two Craft Fairs, a Famers Market and Fall Festival.
- Worked with the Township Manager to prepare our biannual Township Newsletter and produced both 2025 summer and winter Newsletters.
- Continued to revise the Washington Township Parks and Recreation website, including the addition of general information, and photographs.
- Continue to Coordinate and oversee the wetlands study at the Washington Township Park by Kutztown University students and faculty.

- Began work on possible development of a rail-to-trail along the former path of the Colebrookdale Railroad.
- Provided recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding multiple residential developments in the township.
- Supported the Board of Supervisors in renewing a field rental agreement with a sport club that uses our parks.
- Several improvements were made at the parks this year. Some new trash cans, bleaches and dog waster stations have been installed at the Barto Community Park. Revised Park Rules & Regulations signs have been installed at the parks.
- 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.

Moving Forward

2025 was a great year for Parks & Recreation in Washington Township. The Parks & Recreation Board spent the majority of their time continuing to build the foundation for a better park system in the future and holding events in our parks. The Parks & Recreation Board, along with the Board of Supervisors and Township Staff, are excited to see what is in store for 2026. Looking forward, in 2026 we envision more events for our residents, finalizing master plans for the Barto Community and Washington Township Parks, and putting the shovel in the ground on the Niantic Road Pedestrian Improvement Project.



2026 LOCAL EVENT'S SCHEDULE

The Washington Township Parks & Recreation Board plans to hold a couple of events this upcoming year. While plans have not been finalized, we are looking to have an Easter Egg Hunt (including a Doggie Easter 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 Facebook page. We also planned to celebrate the United States of America's 250th anniversary sometime around July 4th. A summer ice cream day will

also take place in August and the Fall Festival will return this fall, both at the Barto Community Park

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 and explore the recreational activities that our region has to offer!

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.



Ways to Help NATIVE BEES

- Plant native trees. Trees provide a large nectar source from their blossoms and habitat for some bees.
- Plant native plants that bloom during the spring, summer, and fall to provide a continuous food source.
- Avoid using herbicides, pesticides, and insecticides. Find organic ways to garden and remove pests.
- Provide water and habitat such as bare soil in your garden for ground-nesting bees, leave plant stems standing in winter, dead trees or fallen logs, or bee nesting houses.
- Participate in citizen science opportunities to help count bees like the Bumble Bee Watch, Great Sunflower Project, and more.
- Spread the word! Let others know how they can help.



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MUNICIPAL BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT

During the fall of 2025, the Washington Township Municipal Building has been undergoing a major renovation. The renovation project is slated to be completed by the end of 2025. The municipal building was purchased used by the township just under two decades ago and has not undergone any major renovations since its purchase. This renovation will include the reconfiguration of the entrance vestibule, multiple offices and the conference room, to provide a better user experience and a more efficient work environment for township staff.

2026 SEWER RATES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

Quarterly sewer rates were changed to \$265.00, a decrease of \$15.00 per quarter.

BILLING INFORMATION

Bills to be paid monthly, at a rate of \$88.33. 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. 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 \$1,038.80 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.**

NOTICE

PLEASE ONLY FLUSH TOILET PAPER DOWN THE TOILET!



ON-LOT SEPTIC MANAGEMENT

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, 2026. 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.

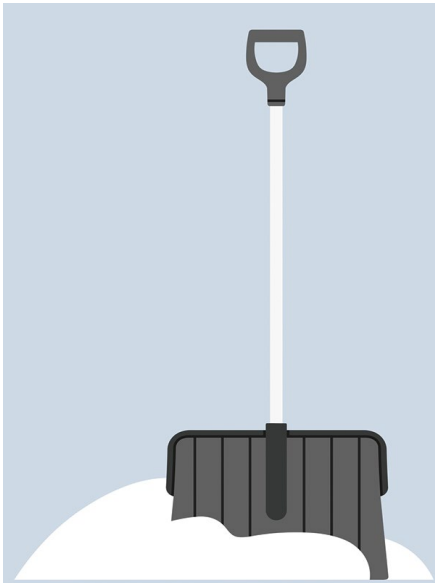
What You Need to Know

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.

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.

2026 PAVING & ROAD PROJECTS

Our 2026 road paving projects will include full depth reclamation on Barto Road from the new section at football field parking lot out to Route 100 and full depth reclamation for the entire section of Stauffer Road. It is anticipated that these projects will begin after the end of the 25/26 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 does not have any planned projects in the Township during 2026.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you have any concerns with state (PADOT) road

conditions, please contact PADOT District 5 at (610) 929-0766 or file a complaint at <https://customer care.penndot.pa.gov/eCCC/eCCC.nsf>. PADOT roads located within the Township include Forgedale Road, Dale Road, Old Route 100, Route 100, Hill Church Road, Chestnut Street, Mill Street, Hoffmansville Road and Niantic Road.

In addition to paving and road projects, the Township is planning to move forward with installing a parking lot guiderail and sidewalk & crosswalk on Niantic Road at the Washington Township Park. Permitting work for this project began in late 2025. The new crosswalk will allow park users to safely traverse Niantic Road.

PAPER PLATE TREE

This Paper Plate Christmas Tree is easy and fun for kids to make this holiday season. This Christmas tree twirler makes a great kids' room decoration or classroom decorations and older kids will enjoy it too. What you need:

- A paper plate
- Green paint & brushes
- Colored or painted printer paper
- Scissors, glue stick, stapler
- Hole punch
- Bakers Twine or ribbon / yarn
- Stickers to decorate your tree ornaments

Directions:

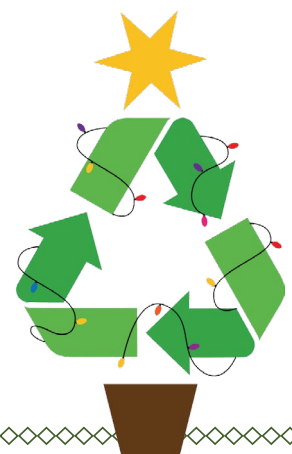
- Paint your paper plate a lovely Christmas tree green. Let it dry and paint the reverse side.
- While waiting for the paper plate to dry, you can start cutting out some circles for ornaments and two paper stars. 12 ornaments should be enough, and they can be decorated before applying to the tree.
- Once your paper plate is dry, get your scissors and cut a spiral into your paper plate to make the Christmas tree twirler. It should look a bit like a snail.
- Note: the thicker your snail twirls the more compact your Christmas tree will be, the thinner, the taller it will be.
- Take a piece of string and tie a knot one end.
- Next, glue your paper stars to the top of your tree – make the string stick between the two stars.
- Take your hole punch and make holes into your ornaments and into your Christmas tree paper plate. On the paper plate, try and spread them out evenly.
- Tie on each ornament with a piece of string. Now this can be great fine motor skills for younger kids. They can thread the string, and you can knot it onto the tree for them.



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Public Works Department Christmas Tree Recycling Program will take place Friday, December 26, 2025, through Monday, January 19, 2026. 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.



WINTER STORMWATER SOLUTIONS



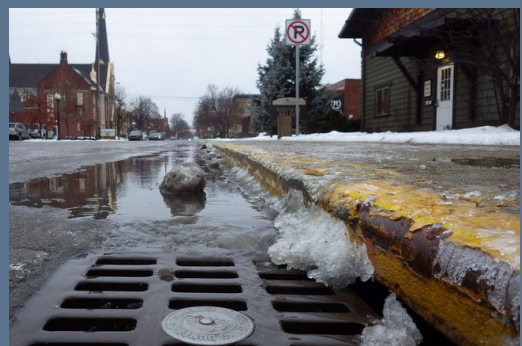
WINTER 2026

As snow and ice accumulate, winter maintenance can have a big impact on our streams, rivers and drinking water. When snow melts, it carries everything in its path - road salt, pet waste, automotive fluids and litter - directly into storm drains and waterways. See the tips below for how you can help keep our community's water clean this winter!

WINTER STORMWATER TIPS FOR YOUR PROPERTY

- **Shovel First, Salt Last:** Clean snow early and often to reduce the need for salt. If you must use salt - do so sparingly and sweep up left over salt after ice melts.
- **Choose Eco-Friendly Deicers:** Avoid products containing sodium chloride (rock salt) which harms plants, pets and aquatic life. Use sand or non-clumping kitty litter for traction instead of chemical deicers.
- **Manage Snow Piles Wisely:** Pile snow on grassy areas where it can slowly melt and soak into the ground. Avoid stacking snow on top of storm drains or near waterways.
- **Store Chemicals Safely:** Keep deicing products, fertilizers and antifreeze in sealed containers. Store them off the ground and away from drains. Check your garage for leaks and clean spills immediately with absorbent material.

SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE AT HOME TO PROTECT LOCAL STREAMS & CREEKS!



Learn more at:

www.perkiomenwatershed.org



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
- Shredded paper - put into a paper (not plastic) bag so that it doesn't blow all over the parking lot when the dumpsters are emptied

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.

**Berks County Paper Shredding Event October 11, 2025 and Hazardous Waste Collection
October 18, 2025. More Information available at:
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



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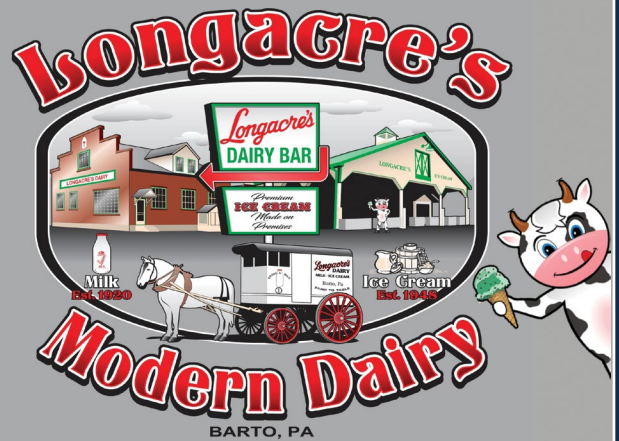


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THANK YOU

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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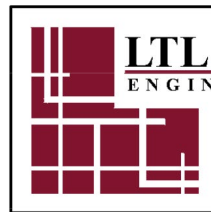
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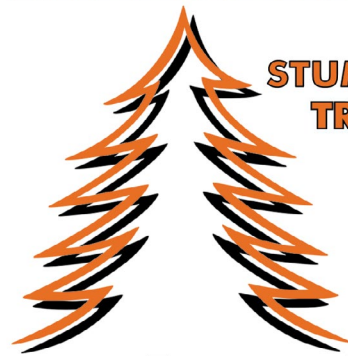
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