

Photo by
Luann Zambanini

 Summer 2026

WASHINGTON

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP RECREATION NEWS

In the Spring of 2026, Washington Township began working on a Park Master Plan for the Barto Community Park. A park master plan is a long-range plan for outdoor spaces, facilities and recreational programs. It creates an outline for the community's parks & recreation including its vision, priorities, goals & needs. Your input is essential to shape the future growth and development of the Township Park System and its recreational offerings! Be on the lookout for a public survey this summer, a presentation this fall and an opportunity to provide public input.

Moving forward, the Township is continuing to pursue additional funding to facilitate the development of a Park Master Plan for the Washington Township Park. We anticipate that that Master Plan will include the modernization of the current park facilities and the addition of more recreational opportunities, including shade trees, gathering areas, pickle ball courts and walking & biking trails. Some of the other park and recreation projects that the township is looking to complete include a Niantic Road crosswalk and new playground at the Washington Township Park and the replacement of the very old Barto Trail at the Barto Community Park.



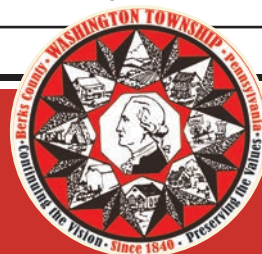
TOWNSHIP ELECTION INFORMATION

This year's General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Washington Township has two voting precincts with two polling places. Precinct 1's polling place is the Township's Municipal Building located at 120 Barto Road, Barto, PA. Precinct 2's polling place is Mstar Church located at 100 Limekiln Road, Bechtelsville, PA. Polling places are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, with the busiest times of day to vote being early morning and evening. Please use the below link to determine your correct polling place:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlacelInfo.aspx>

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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: Romnie Long

Vice Chairman: Thomas Powanda

Supervisor: Matthew McClusky

Township Office Staff

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

Treasurer: Missy Swanson

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Boyer

Administrative Assistant: Christine Krall

Public Works Department:

Roadmaster: Brian Mohr

Crew Member: Jacob Long

Crew Member: Thomas C. Milewski, Jr.

Crew Member: Josh Berner

Crew Member: Gary Arndt

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator: 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 7:00 P.M.

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

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD 7:00 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



EASTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



The first months of 2026 have been business as usual for your Eastern Berks Fire Department. We have responded to structure fires, brush fires, accidents, medical assists, and numerous calls for trees and wires. We have averaged almost 40 calls a month this year.

New leadership as of February, Chris Schaeffer has accepted the ranks of the fire chief at EBF. Chris was previously Deputy Chief since our merger in 2011 and has hit the ground running in February with several interesting calls along with his first house fire in Bechtelsville as chief.

Our newest apparatus – an “Attack” Engine is now in service and operates from our Barto station on Route 100 along with our Rescue/Engine.

Our 2026 donation letter has been sent out to you in the mail. We are looking forward to the response of the community, in addition to revenues from a fire tax which is now being received from all 5 of our first due municipalities we can concentrate our volunteer time on more important things to serve our communities best.

We continue to train weekly, as so we are ready for today and preparing for tomorrow!

Please consider volunteering with EBF and support your community, because without volunteers like us there is no EBF when your neighbors, friends or family need to call 911. You can find us at our website - easternberksfire.com or on Facebook.

BERKS BOOK BOXES

When you visit the township’s municipal building, you may notice the white newspaper box labeled Berks Book Boxes. Inside you’ll find an assortment of books from different genres and topics, all ready to read for the next person looking for a good book.

Berks Book Boxes is designed to provide an easily accessible book stop at convenient, public locations for those passing by. Similar to a Free Little Library, the books inside each box are available for anyone to select and take home for free with no obligation to add or return a book—just immerse yourself in the joy of reading! Of course, anyone interested in donating a gently used book to the collection may place their book inside the box for future readers to enjoy.

Please note: Berks Book Boxes are not library book drops and will not be monitored. Make sure to return any library books to a Berks County Public Libraries location near you.



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.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

Our 2026 road paving projects will include the repair of Kulp's (from Hillcrest Road to the Hereford Township line), Barto and Stauffer Roads. It is anticipated that these projects will begin during the summer and fall of 2026. The completion of these projects will be based on available funds.

In addition to paving projects, the Township is moving 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are openings on Township Committees and boards including the 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.

NOTICE

PLEASE ONLY FLUSH TOILET PAPER DOWN THE TOILET!

	Menstrual Products	
	Cosmetic, Sanitary and Baby Wips	
	Paper Towels and Tissues	
	Wrappers and Trash	

PLACE ALL OTHER ITEMS AND TRASH IN THE GARBAGE OR RECYCLING BINS ONLY, EVEN IF IT IS LABELLED FLUSHABLE!

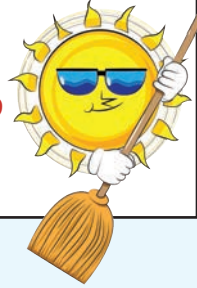
THANK YOU, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

SUMMER / FALL 2026 LOCAL EVENT'S SCHEDULE

July 25th
**250th Anniversary
 Summer Fun Day**
 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm



August 1st
**Summer
 Clean-Up**
 9:00 am to
 11:00 am



September 5th
**Farmers Market
 House Plant Sale**



October 3rd
Fall Festival



December TBD
**Bonfire &
 Christmas
 Tree Lighting
 Ceremony**



Event details can be found on our Parks & Recreation Facebook page or the Township website. All events will be conducted at the Barto Community Park.

Washington Township is also a member of 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 and explore the recreational activities that our region has to offer!

Washington Township Summer Cleanup 2026

The annual Cleanup event is scheduled for all township residents!
 Multiple Vendors will be present. Some fees apply – see below.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
 Red Barn Recycling Center
 120 Barto Road, Barto, PA 19504



ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ONLY:

Old appliances, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, scrap metal, hot water heaters, air conditioners, grills and e-waste (rechargeable batteries- nickel cadmium & lithium), home computers, laptops, and flat screen monitors.

Tires: Car and light truck tires fee is \$6, Larger tires and car/truck tire with rim will be \$7

Batteries: Car, Truck, Tractor & Lawn Mower - \$3

NO: Liquids, paints, chemicals or TV's will be accepted.



This event is ONLY for Township Residents
 Regular Red Barn Recycling will also be conducted on this day



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



Luann Zambanini



Rachael Kehler



Vicki Bentz



Luann Zambanini

PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY

Butter Valley Golf Course has been a place where neighbors come together — for a round with friends, a family outing, or a quiet afternoon on the fairway. We're grateful to call this community home and look forward to seeing you on the course.



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RED BARN RECYCLING CENTER



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





Hummingbirds



Eight fascinating hummingbird facts you may not know:

- A hummingbird can remember every flower it visits - and knows how long it will take that flower to refill.
- Hummingbirds are the only bird species that can fly backwards.
- Hummingbirds have weak feet and cannot walk very well.
- They can twist their wings 180 degrees - creating lift in both the upstroke and downstroke.
- They can see ultraviolet light.
- Flight muscles make up 30 percent of a hummingbird's weight.
- Hummingbirds can fly 30 mph and dive 60 mph.
- Hummingbirds have one of the highest metabolisms of any animal.
- The ruby-throated hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris* (pictured), is the only breeding hummingbird species in Pennsylvania.

Four Ways to Protect the Birds You Love

-  **Start at Home.** Create safe places for birds to rest and nest in your community by using fewer pesticides, letting dead trees stand, installing birdbaths, and growing native plants. School grounds, balconies, parks, vacant lots, yards, gardens, and other common areas can all be "bird-scapes."
-  **Get Talking.** When it comes to climate change, research shows that people's climate opinions are informed most by what they hear from their peer group. So, talk to friends and family about the birds you love.
-  **Champion Bird-friendly Solutions.** Energy efficiency, renewable portfolio standards, and other proactive measures reduce emissions and will limit the effects of global warming on birds. Make sure your elected leaders know about these options and check out the range of solar opportunities available for individuals and communities.
-  **Show Your Community That Birds Matter.** Ask your local leaders what they are doing to protect wildlife in the face of climate change. Consider a field trip with your community group to a nearby Audubon Nature Center or Sanctuary to emphasize the local bird species at risk. Reach more people by writing a letter to your newspaper, sharing why birds matter to you.

SUMMER STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows over lawns, driveways and streets, picking up pollutants along the way and carrying them straight into our waterways. This summer you can help to reduce stormwater runoff by following the tips below!



SUMMER STORMWATER TIPS FOR YOUR PROPERTY:

- **Water Wisely:** Water lawns early in the morning or late evening to reduce water loss through evaporation. avoid overwater which can lead to runoff.
- **Use Fertilizers & Pesticides Sparingly:** Only apply when necessary and follow label instructions. Never apply before rain is expected!
- **Mow Smart:** Keep grass longer (3") to absorb more water. Leave clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer - never blow into streets or storm drains!
- **Wash Cars the Right Way:** Take your car to a commercial car wash where water is treated. If washing at home, do it on grass or gravel so water can soak in.
- **Try a Summer-Friendly Project:** Plant Native flower, shrubs or trees that soak up rain. Install a rain barrel to collect and reuse stormwater!

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



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THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES

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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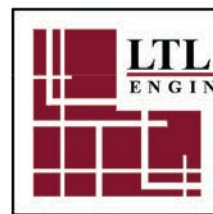
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