

# BERN TOWNSHIP



*in the news.....*

FALL 2019

## **Trash & Recycling Collection Schedules Changing!**

The current contracts and schedules for trash collection, in the trash districts, and recycling collection are ending on December 31, 2019. Bern Township requested proposals for a new three-year contract, to begin on January 2, 2020 and end on December 31, 2022. Bids were received on August 27, 2019.

**A.J. Blosenski** is the successful recycling hauler. **Recycling collections shall be every other Thursday in 2020. The day of collection will depend on which recycling district you live in. Please see the recycling flyer insert.** Residents shall use their recycling cans for commingled aluminum and tin cans, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and containers. **Glass is not included and should not be placed in your recycling can.** Newspapers, paper and cut-up cardboard shall be placed in paper bags, in a separate container from the commingled cans and plastics, or separately bundled and tied together with string. Do not place any recyclables in plastic bags for collection.

**Republic Services** is the successful trash hauler. **The trash district collections shall be every Monday, beginning on January 6, 2020.** Residents can still put out six 35-gallon cans or bags, for a total of 210 gallons, plus one bulk item every week. There is no spring or fall cleanup.

The township will advertise the days of collections in the Reading Eagle as we get closer to the end of the year. We will also send the notice to residents by e-mail, for those who are on our e-mail list. ❖

Please help to support your newsletter by purchasing ad space. Please call 610-926-2267 for information. We thank the businesses that have supported your newsletter

## **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

On July 27, 2019, the Greenfields Fire Company Fire Police Unit participated in a parade in Shartelsville. Out of approximately nine Fire Police / Special Service Units, the Greenfields Fire Police won first place. The award was based on the presentation of the unit, the personnel, for the equipment carried and its readiness for response.

The other units and fire companies at the parade recognized the Greenfields Fire Police for their accomplishment. This is the result of the unit members working hard to build the unit into a now well-known and well-recognized fire police unit.

This award, along with the increased call volume due to the effectiveness of the unit and the equipment it provides, and with the invitation to other fire police companies to demonstrate the unit and to honor the Greenfields Fire Police Unit for a job well done in assisting them, proves that hard work and effort has paid off!

Congratulations to the Greenfields Fire Police Unit on their first place award and a special well deserved thank you to those who have put forth the effort and have made the unit to what it has become! ❖

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# BERN TOWNSHIP

1069 Old Bernville Road

Reading, PA 19605

Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Fri - 8:30 am to 12 pm

Phone: (610) 926-2267

Fax: (610) 926-9028

www.berntownship.org

## TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Lucille M. Brady	610-376-5039
James Dailey	610-926-1941
Irene Reed	610-926-7621
Jeff Thompson	610-371-9411
Boyd C. Wagner	610-372-2121

## SUPERVISORS MEETING

1st Tuesday of the Month - 7:00 pm

### Township Staff

Brian Potts	Manager
Diane DeJesus	Secretary / Treasurer
Wesley Waugh	Chief of Police
Steve Edwards	Assistant Road Foreman

### Township Contacts

LTL Consultants 610-987-9290	Building Inspector / Zoning Officer
Lori Hozza 610-916-9919	Municipal Authority
Jamie Neuin 610-916-8955	Tax Collector
Berks Envirotech 610-375-7640	Sewage Officer
Kevin Hinkle For emergencies call 911	Emergency Management

**Non-Emergency** for Police, Fire, Rescue & Medical  
610-655-4911

### Township Monthly Meetings

Planning Commission	2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm
Municipal Authority	4th Wed. at 11:00 am
Solid Waste Commission	2nd Wednesday in Mar. & Sept. at 7:00 pm
Zoning Hearing Board	Meeting dates as needed
Recreation Board	Meeting dates as needed

### POLLING PLACES

1st Precinct	Bern Township Municipal Building
2nd Precinct	Ontelaunee Grange Hall
3rd Precinct	Greenfields Fire Co. Social Hall

## TRASH COLLECTION INFO

**Bern Township Trash Collection Districts:**

**Greenfields / Riveredge Acres**

**Orchard Hill Area**

(West Leesport & Rick Road)

**Bern Manor Area**

(Prison Road, Kercher & Mull Ave, Burdan Drive)

**Willows Area**

(Cathy & Christina Drive, Almark Way)

**Northwest Area**

(Ziegler, Park Roads, Brossman Court)

**About Bern Trash Collections:**

*Every week - six (6) 35 gallon bags or cans per household, one (1) bulk item per week allowed*

*NO items containing Freon, automotive tires, hazardous waste or construction material*

**Collection Dates:**

**Sept. 7, 13, 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25;**

**Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 30; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 28;**

**Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24;**

**Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27**

**CALL 610-926-2267 the day of collection to report a missed trash collection - messages can be left on the answering machine until midnight**

## RECYCLING COLLECTION INFO

**About Bern Recycling Collections:**

*Every other week*

**DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS!**

*Place #1 and #2 plastics, tin, Bi-metal and aluminum cans in your recycling container.*

**NO GLASS.** *Place newspapers in paper bags or bundle. Cut cardboard and place in paper bags or bundle. Items NOT collected for recycling: glass, paint cans, tires, styrofoam, batteries or large appliances.*

**Collection Dates:**

**Sept. 12, 26; Oct. 10, 24;**

**Nov. 7, 21; Dec. 5, 19;**

**2020 Collection Dates:**

**District #1:**

**Jan. 2, 16, 30; Feb. 13, 27; Mar. 12, 26;**

**April 9, 23; May 7, 21; June 4, 18**

**District #2:**

**Jan. 9, 23; Feb. 6, 20; Mar. 5, 19;**

**April 2, 16, 30; May 14, 28; June 11, 25**

**CALL 610-926-2267 the day of collection to report a missed recycling collection - messages can be left on the answering machine until midnight**

# BTMA & Recycling News

## Fall Curbside Collection Schedule

The residential curbside collection of leaf and yard waste begins on Monday, October 21 and continues until Tuesday, December 10. Be prepared and plan ahead so that you do not miss the opportunity to have your material collected.

### Please follow these helpful tips:

*Do not place branches, sticks or other yard waste in your leaf piles.*

- LEAF PILES CONTAINING STICKS WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.
- Place leaves in one pile at the curb, away from mailboxes and flower beds OR place leaves in biodegradable bags at the curb.
- Garden waste must be placed in biodegradable bags.
- Plastic bags will not be collected.
- Branches and sticks are to be bundled. Bundles should not exceed 4 feet in length and not exceed 40 pounds.
- Place your material at the curb or street line **before** the scheduled collection week for your area.

You do not need to call the township to request collections in the fall. The Road Department will make collections per the following pre-set schedule:

### Monday, Nov. 11 to Wednesday, Nov. 27:

Greenfields Precinct  
Schuylkill Precinct  
Grange Precinct

### Monday, Dec. 2 to Tuesday, Dec. 10:

Greenfields Precinct  
Schuylkill Precinct  
Grange Precinct  
County Precinct

Please take your live Christmas tree to the Township Drop-Off area on Hilltop Road.

The road department **WILL NOT** return after December 10. **PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY!**

If you are not sure which precinct you are located in, please refer to the recycling flyer that was included with our first newsletter of this year. You can visit our website or stop by the township building to get another copy if you cannot find the recycling flyer. ❖



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## BTMA News

Effective with the Feb. 1st, 2020 sewer bill (for the month of Jan., 2020) the Basic Sewer Rate will decrease. The new rate for 3,000 gallons/mo. will be \$65.00 for all BTMA sewer customers.

BTMA would like to thank Tom Krick for his service to the BTMA Board. Mr. Krick resigned his seat in May. The Board would like to welcome Danielle Pappas as the newest member to the BTMA Board. ❖

## Berks County Recycling News:

[www.co.berks.pa.us/swa](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa)

### Electronic Waste & Tire Recycling:

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

8:00 am to Noon

Fees apply for tires

County Recycling Center

1316 Hilltop Road, Bern Township



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**IT PAYS TO RECYCLE !**

# Recycling News

## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR RECYCLING BIN

The collection, recycling, and reuse of many common household materials conserves natural resources, diverts waste from landfills, and supports the employment of more than 66,000 workers of Pennsylvania's recycling marketplace. Approximately 11.6 million residents have convenient access to recycling, and many of those have access to one of the more than 1,050 curbside collection programs. In 2015 alone, Pennsylvanians recycled over 7.75 million tons of resources. Despite these figures, potentially recyclable material continues to be lost each year due to growing contamination. Following a few simple guidelines at the recycling bin can greatly impact the safety, quality, and effectiveness of the recycling stream.

### *Materials that cause problems*

The most common materials that cause problems include plastic bags, plastic film, garden hoses, and wiring. Never include any material that may bind or restrict sorting machinery. Sortation lines are routinely shut down due to the inclusion of these materials, which must be manually removed and disposed of by workers.

Never include any potentially hazardous material in your curbside bin. Examples are propane tanks, broken glass, needles, etc. In addition to contributing to contamination in the recycling stream, these materials are dangerous to the haulers and workers handling this material.

### *Commonly accepted and unacceptable material*

While not all inclusive, below are some of the most common items to keep in and out of the recycling bin.

#### *Include:*

- Plastic #1 and #2 bottles and containers only
- Aluminum and tin cans
- Cardboard and corrugated boxes
- Magazines and Newspapers
- Junk mail, phone books
- Office paper, paperback books
- Cereal boxes, gift wrapping

#### *Do not include:*

- Glass jars or containers - clear, green or brown
- Plastic bags or plastic films
- Recyclables in plastic bags
- Any soiled/wet/greasy material
- Food waste

(Cont.)

- Disposable polystyrene containers / styrofoam
- Ceramics, crystal and leaded glass
- Plastic toys, bins, bulk items
- Propane tanks
- Construction material

### *Preparing your recycling bin*

**Clean recyclables.** A quick rinse in most cases is adequate in removing food waste residue. However, if the container or material is heavily soiled with food waste residue or grease, and cannot be cleaned, it should be discarded in the trash.

**Dry recyclables.** After rinsing out containers, ensure all containers are free of excessive moisture. Moisture itself can contaminate the recycling stream as it greatly degrades the quality and recoverability of cardboard and other fibre based materials.

**Put in the correct recyclables.** Only include recyclables our program collects. Some material may potentially be recyclable; however, if your local recycling program does not collect the material, do not include it in your bin. Incorrect material causes contamination and good recyclable material can end up in the landfill.

**Follow your local recycling program's instructions.** Know what recyclables can be accepted by your local recycling program to reduce contamination in the recycling stream. Check with the township building to see what materials are handled by your program. ❖

## BERKS COUNTY RECYCLING

The Berks County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) manages recycling operations at the full-time recycling center on Hilltop Road in the township. Residents of any municipality in the County with more than 5,000 residents with a population density of more than 300 people per square mile are required to have access to curbside recycling, which means they can place their recyclable materials at the curb outside of their house on certain days of the month for recycling. Everyone in the County has drop-off recycling locations within a short drive.

Despite the widespread access to recycling, many residents still do not make an effort to recycle.

The SWA adopted a recycling plan, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in October 2014, to achieve a 40% recycling rate across Berks County by 2024. Achieving this

(Continued on Page 7)

# Septic Systems

## MANAGING YOUR ON-LOT SEPTIC SYSTEM

About 25 percent of all housing units in Pennsylvania use on-lot septic systems for the treatment and disposal of household wastewater.

An important factor in keeping on-lot septic systems operating properly and preventing system failure is homeowner maintenance. By properly managing your on-lot septic system, you are protecting your own drinking water and the health of your family. You are also protecting water resources in your community. Another important reason for properly maintaining your septic system is money.

Malfunctioning septic systems are expensive to repair or replace. Improper maintenance by a property owner may cause septic system failure. It is far less expensive to maintain your on-lot septic system by having it inspected and pumped on a regular basis than it is to replace a malfunctioning system.

It's important to know the basic components of the system and how to keep them functioning properly. A few common sense precautions may help to keep your septic system working well for a long period of time. Most on-lot septic systems have two basic parts. The first part is a septic tank that is designed to intercept, hold and partially treat solids contained in wastewater coming from the home. The second part is a soil absorption area such as a drainfield or a sandmound to facilitate treatment and dispersal of clarified wastewater after it leaves the septic tank.

The septic tank is a large container into which the wastewater flows. When you flush a toilet, wash a load of clothes or take a shower, the wastewater flows into the septic tank. Bacteria in the septic tank help break down the solids in the wastewater into liquids and gases. Not all solids break down, however. Those that don't will accumulate at the bottom of the septic tank and form sludge. The sludge must be pumped out periodically to keep the system functioning properly.

Liquids without the solids flow out of the septic tank to a distribution box or dosing tank, which is then directed to the soil absorption field. This effluent exits through pipes into a layer of gravel and then percolates through the soil for additional treatment to remove harmful, disease causing microorganisms, organics and nutrients. Bacteria in the soil neutralize many of the contaminants in the wastewater.

In some areas unsuitable for conventional septic tank-absorption field systems, sand mound systems

have been installed. The major difference between the two systems is the use of a pumping station to deliver the wastewater at intervals to the mound absorption field.

Learn the location of your septic tank and drainfield. Have on hand a sketch or map showing the tank and field in relation to your house and private water well. Have the septic tank inspected regularly by a professional and pumped out when needed. Keep a record of inspection, pumping and other maintenance.

Water conservation is probably the most effective way to prevent septic system failures. Reducing water use in the home reduces the flow through the system, allowing more time for solids to settle and digest in the septic. It also decreases the chances of overloading the soil absorption field. In addition, divert roof drains and surface water from driveways and hillsides away from the drainfield.

Be careful of what you dispose of in the toilet or in your drains. Never put plastics or any other non-degradable items into your septic tank. Household chemicals can destroy bacteria in your septic tank. Garbage disposals can add unnecessary solids and grease to your system.

Do not plant trees or shrubbery in the drainfield because roots may wrap around the distribution lines and even puncture pipes. Do not cover this area with a hard surface, such as concrete, that would prevent soil contact with air. Do not allow heavy equipment to run over the drainfield and compact soil or damage distribution lines. Do not enter a septic tank. The gases contained in the tank can kill you.

Do not make or allow major repairs to your septic system without obtaining the required Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection permits. For information on regulations or required permits, contact the Bern Township Sewage Enforcement

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# Township Information

## *Managing Your Septic (Continued from Page 5)*

Officer: Berks Envirotech at 610-375-7640.

Remember, homeowner maintenance is important! Take time to educate everyone in your household about the importance of practicing good on-lot septic system management habits. Additional information and factsheets are available at the Penn State Extension website. We thank the Penn State Extension for this article. ❖

## **Your Address – More Than Just Package Delivery**

Most of us go on through our day not thinking much about the address of our home or business. We use it so frequently; it is as common to us as our last name. It is on our checks, our bills, our identification, everywhere important to our daily lives. Hopefully, this is all your address ever means to you. However, approximately 200,000 times a year in Berks County, someone calls 911 to report an emergency. Some of these calls are on roadways, in the wilderness, or in other locations where there is no physical building involved. Most though, involve the need to send emergency services to a home or business.

We are on the cusp of the most significant change in the delivery of 911 since the implementation of e911 that permitted cellular locating technology. This nationwide initiative called NextGen911 is, of itself, not the subject of this information piece, but significant information can be found by searching the Web for the term. NextGen911 is intended

to improve efficiency, reduce costs, ensure the ability to summon help from all electronic devices regardless of the technology, assist 911 Centers in supporting neighbors experiencing technical issues or a surge in calls and speed the ability to locate callers. The magic of this technology is highly dependent on the data available to match against the call, and this means that the data must be accurate, complete, and comport to national standards that allows it to match the other data in the system. A lack of consistency, or inaccuracy in the data, will result in the call being potentially misrouted and, once getting to the right 911 Center, causing a further difficulty in sending the correct help.

The County is working closely with the local municipalities to ensure we are prepared to evolve our 911 delivery system. This is going to result in the need for some structures to be readdressed. This is not a step taken lightly. Everyone involved understands the impact that changing your address can have **on** your life. Consider though, that an unclear address could **cost** you or your loved one your life.

The hope of this article is that an awareness of the intent and need, will help to assuage the concerns of those that might be impacted by these changes, and encourage them to work hand in hand with their local township/borough/city by embracing the change. Also, to ask that property owners consider whether an emergency responder coming to their property location could easily and quickly find the structure.

If the house is back a lane or common driveway, is there an indication at the public street to use the lane to find the structure? Is the building marked with numbers that are large enough to be visible from the street? What about at night?

The intent of all of these efforts is not to create cost, difficulty, or inconvenience for the property owners/occupants. It is absolutely about doing everything that can reasonably be done to get help to someone having an emergency where seconds may be the difference between life and death.

# Township Information

Please work closely with your local government officials if you receive notice that your address has been identified as being problematic. Even better, if you are aware that your address is:

- Out of order, or otherwise not in sequence with neighboring addresses;
- Inclusive of letters (eg. 123 A Main Street);
- Part of an area where odd numbers and even numbers are not separated on the two sides of the street;
- Using a street name that does not match the street signs on your street;

Don't wait for the local government to call you. Reach out to them and help them to identify these potential problems and work with you to fix them. ❖

## Census 2020

Census Day is April 1, 2020! Make sure Bern Township's story is told by responding to the 2020 Census. Census responses provide data that can attract new businesses and the jobs that come with them. Your response also informs where over \$675 billion in federal funding is spent each year in states and communities. That includes money for things like: Medicare Part B; Special Education; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Cooperative Extension Service; Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant; and Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities.

Responding is safe. Your personal information is kept confidential by law.

Responding is easy. To complete the Census, answer a handful of questions online, by phone or by mail. Choose the option that works best for you.

Every person counts. Whether it's funding in communities across your state or helping determine the number of seats your state will have in the U.S. House or Representatives and every count makes an equal impact.

For more information go to [2020Census.Gov](http://2020Census.Gov) ❖

## Recycling Dumpster Issues

We have been finding a large amount of trash, including furniture and carpeting, at our recycling dumpster behind the municipal building. While we think the persons responsible for this most likely

live outside of the township, we are providing this article to help all understand that only recyclable materials should be placed in the dumpster. Please do not place items around the dumpster. When we need to deal with trash and debris it increases the cost of having the dumpster which gets passed on to all of us taxpayers. Thanks for your help. ❖

## Firefighters Wanted!

Would you like to make a difference in your community? Would you like to be part of a team that protects our most important investment – our home or business? Would you like to be the person that saves someone from a burning structure? You could be that person if you are willing to devote the time and training. Greenfields Fire Company is looking for volunteers who want to make a difference in their community. If you are interested, they welcome you to contact the station today at 610-374-9283, or you can stop by the fire station on any Monday night to find out how you can help. ❖

## Berks Recycling (Continued from Page 4)

goal will require everyone's active participation.

In 2018 the County recycled 190,875 tons of material representing 58% of our waste stream, surpassing the statewide goal of 35% as well as the County's goal of 40%, including all recyclable materials.

Make sure you know exactly what items are accepted for recycling through your program, set up containers in your house to store recyclables for recycling, and know the Bern Township schedule for pick-ups and the location of the Berks County Recycling Center at 1316 Hilltop Road in Bern Township. Make sure your recycling is clean and only contains items specifically listed for recycling so it doesn't contaminate other recycling. Never put in items that are not specifically listed since that will contaminate other clean recyclable materials causing all of the material to be disposed of as trash.

Some people refuse to recycle because they believe that "it all ends up in the landfill anyway". Is it true? Do recyclable materials really end up in the landfill?

*(Continued on Page 8)*

**Berks Recycling (Continued from Page 7)**

Unfortunately, it does happen in rare circumstances. Recycling is a business. The recyclable aluminum cans, newspaper, copy paper, glass and plastic are collected, sorted, and sold for a profit. In some economic conditions, when the price for the recyclable materials falls well below the cost for disposing of them in landfills or markets are unavailable, collection programs may change and certain materials may no longer be accepted causing those recyclable materials to end up in the landfill. This happens when there are not enough manufacturers buying the recyclable materials to make new products or when the recyclable materials are too heavily contaminated with trash and / or unacceptable materials.

What can you do? While you have little control over the national and global economic policies that affect recycling markets, there are things that you can control.

**Buy recycled-content products.** Look for products that are made from recyclable materials. Every time you buy recycled-content paper at the office supply store, for example, you are creating markets for the paper that you recycle at home or work. Buying products made from recycled

paper, glass and plastic helps ensure that those materials do not end up in a landfill. You can even buy gold and silver jewelry made by recycling those precious metals from old electronics.

**Rinse out those glass and plastic containers before you recycle them.** Rinsing out the containers helps avoid odors in your recycling bin at home. They also help avoid odors at the recycling facilities, and prevents contamination of all recycled materials.

**Make sure that you only recycle materials that are specifically listed as acceptable materials.** When people mix trash with their recyclables, it increases the cost of recycling, decreases the value of the recycled materials, and makes it more expensive to make new products out of the recycled materials. As a result, some of those materials might end up in a landfill instead of in new products. Be sure to know what you can put in the recycling bin and what you should put in the trash. Most recycling programs, for example, do not accept pizza boxes, but far too many people toss them in their recycling bins.

**Please do not put recyclables in plastic bags for recycling collection.** This is considered contamination and causes problems with the sorting lines.

Information on recycling can be found at the SWA website at: [www.co.berks.pa.us/swa](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/swa). ❖

**Important news inside that affects YOU!**



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