

BERN TOWNSHIP



in the news.....

FALL 2021

Bern Township Municipal Authority

BTMA welcomes Luanne Schettler to the office staff. Luanne has over 38 years of office experience and will be in the office on Mondays. While she is diligently training, please be patient as she learns the street names, the water / sewer territories and the computer programs.

The Board has approved an upgrade to the Visual Utilities Program. In late September, Diversified Technology will be installing the upgrade and one of the new features that it will provide to the customer is access to their account via a website controlled by Diversified Technology. More information will be available once the upgrade is completed and the office staff is trained.

Payment Options

BTMA has been offering ACH payments for several years. An application can be found on the BernTownship.org website or by calling the office. Your payment will automatically be deducted from your checking or savings around the 25th of the month. This payment method guarantees your payment will always be on time.

The Township / BTMA have a secured drop box at the Township Building which can be accessed 24/7 since it is located outside the main door on the left hand side. The box is emptied several times a day and first thing on the 26th of every month to collect all on-time payments (due the 25th). Any payments put in on the 26th will be considered late unless the 25th falls on a weekend or Holiday. Payments that are mailed should be mailed at least 5 days prior to the due date especially if they are mailed on a Saturday.

Payments can also be made at Tompkins Vist Bank located on Route 183 and West Leesport Road. Your payment stub is required since the bank DOES NOT have access to the BTMA billing system. Bank employees cannot look up the amount a customer owes. You may call the BTMA office to get balances on a water / sewer account.

Save Water & Money

Small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost. Check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems periodically, if you find any leaks, fix them! A 1/16" size of a continuous leak adds up to 74,000 gallons of water per quarter; a 1/8" size leak adds up to 296,000 gallons per quarter. Not fixing a leak is money down the drain!

In the bathroom, turn off water while shaving and brushing your teeth, this could save you around 8 gallons per day. Taking shorter showers can save water, showers alone use 5 gallons per minute. Water-saving showerheads can reduce water usage.

In the kitchen, wait for a full load of dishes. Eliminating one load of dishes per week will save the average family nearly 320 gallons of water. Make sure you scrape dishes instead of rinsing them first. Keep a pitcher in the fridge instead of running the tap until the water is cold.

In the laundry room, use only full loads of laundry or use appropriate load size settings. Wearing clothes more than once helps reduce laundry and save water. Consider purchasing EnergyStar rated washing machines, they use less water and energy per load. ❖

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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

Brian S. Eveland	610-587-0077
Irene Reed	610-926-7621
Jeff Thompson	610-371-9411
Dan Tobias	610-375-1664
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
Kevin Cogan	Assistant Road Foreman

Township Contacts

LTL Consultants 610-987-9290	Building Inspector / Zoning Officer
Lori Hozza 610-916-9919	Municipal Authority
Jamie Jamison 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	Meeting dates as needed
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, oil or epoxy paint cans or construction material

Collection Dates:

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27;

Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28;

Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28; Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25;

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 31

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, plastics #3 thru #7, batteries or large appliances.*

Collection Dates:

District #1:

Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2, 16, 30; Jan. 13, 27;

Feb. 10, 24; Mar. 10, 24; Apr. 7, 21;

May 5, 19

District #2:

Nov. 11, 26; Dec. 9, 23; Jan. 6, 20;

Feb. 3, 17; Mar. 3, 17, 31; Apr. 14, 28;

May 12, 26

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

Recycling Information

Berks County Recycling News:

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

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Date:

Pre-Registration Required

8:00 am to 2:00 pm rain or shine

October 23, 2021

Berks County Ag Center

1238 County Welfare Road

Paper Shredding:

Pre-Registration Required

8:00 am to 2:00 pm rain or shine

October 16, 2021

Berks County Ag Center

1238 County Welfare Road

Visit www.co.berks.pa.us/swa for more information.

Please note – latex paint is not a hazardous material and should not be brought to the county hazardous waste collections. Dry latex, water based, or acrylic paint can go in the trash. Follow these steps to get rid of it safely: If there is less than an inch of paint in the can, remove the lid and air dry. If there is more than an inch of paint in the can, mix the paint with cat litter and let it solidify. You can also use a paint hardener according to directions. Throw the can of dried paint in the garbage. Remove the lid, but do not take the paint out of the can. ❖

Fall Curbside Collection Schedule

The residential curbside collection of leaf and yard waste begins on Monday, October 18 and continues until Friday, 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 WILL NOT BE COLLECTED IF THERE ARE STICKS IN THEM.
- 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.
- Collections will not be made on rainy days.
- 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 unless you are using biodegradable bags. The Road Department will make collections per the following pre-set schedule:

Monday, Oct. 18 to Friday, Oct. 22

Greenfields Precinct

Monday, Oct. 25 to Friday, Oct. 29:

Schuylkill Precinct

Grange Precinct

County Precinct

Monday, Nov. 1 to Friday, 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 sent out at the beginning of this year. If you cannot find it, visit our website, stop by the township building to get another copy or call the township to ask. ❖

Lawley's Disposal FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1979
Personalized Service To Meet All Your Sanitation Needs
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Call Now For Service
610-916-5999
www.lawleysdisposal.com
Your Cans Are In Good Hands!

Bern Township

Security Alarms

The Bern Township Police Department encourages the installation and use of alarm systems by business owners and residential property owners. The use of alarm systems provides a timely alert to fires, intrusions, and other monitored conditions, and a deterrent to criminal acts on the monitored premises. Alarms provide warnings to homeowners if their house has been entered while they were away, reducing the chances of encountering an assailant hiding in your home. Alarm systems have a positive effect on the protection of lives and property.

Ordinance Number 275 of 2012 requires alarm systems installed in Bern Township to be registered with the Bern Township Police Department. There is no fee required for registration of alarms. The form required for alarm registration is available in the lobby of the Bern Township Municipal Building. The police department maintains a directory that includes the location of properties, owner(s) of properties, and information regarding emergency contact personnel. Alarm subscribers should ensure that their location and emergency contact information on file with the police department is correct and current, as this is vital to providing effective alarm response.

Persons testing alarm systems are required to make prior notification to their central station monitoring company, emergency call center, fire department, or the police department. The notification must include the date and time when the testing will occur. Fees may be assessed for repeated false alarm responses. Rather than considering fees, police department personnel would rather be able to readily contact home and business owners and work with them to eliminate the false alarms. ❖

Dead Deer

If you find a dead deer on the roadways, please report it to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for their attention to retrieve it. Their phone number is 610-926-3136. Due to the spread of the Chronic Wasting Disease, PennDOT will not collect dead deer in certain areas and the township does not have the resources to collect dead deer. ❖



Are you looking for work, need your high school equivalency diploma, or simply need assistance developing your career plan? The Young Adult Program at the PA CareerLink® of Berks County assists 17–24-year-olds living in Berks County with exploring their career and educational paths through counseling, paid work experience, high school equivalency classes, professional development and more!

Participants in need of their diploma can enroll in our High School Equivalency Program to obtain their diploma in around 2-4 months, with classes held every weekday. All costs are covered by the program and interested students can also participate in paid work to earn money while attending classes. Participants who have their diploma and are interested in paid work (internships) can earn between \$9-12 an hour working up to 30 hours a week at a variety of worksites. All enrolled participants work with a case manager to develop an in-depth career plan, which includes resume building, financial literacy, and learning valuable job skills.

To get involved in our program, email info@bccl.org or call 610-988-1300 to be signed up to learn more! Enrollment is based on program eligibility.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Language assistance services are available free of cost.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

For Equal Opportunity information or to file a complaint, contact:

Equal Opportunity Officer

Pennsylvania CareerLink® Berks County

1920 Kutztown Road, Suite F, Reading, PA 19604

eofficer@bccl.org

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

Bern Township

Dead Trees

As you drive around the county you might notice quite a few dead trees. These trees most likely are ash trees that have been ravaged by insects. Unfortunately, these trees will not go away by their own and can present a danger to persons or vehicles that are near them.

Please take a look at your property. Do you have dead trees near the roadway? Please be aware that if you have a dead tree that falls on the roadway and hits a passing car, you will most likely be responsible for the damages or injuries that the tree caused. This happened in the City of Reading at the Lindbergh Viaduct in March of this year. A dead tree fell on a moving car and the driver died as a result of their injuries.

If you have any dead trees near the roadway, we recommend that you have them removed to prevent accidents. Please understand that if the tree is outside of the township's street right of way, the township will not touch any trees as they are on private property. The township *may* remove the tree if it is totally within the street right of way. However, the township can only remove smaller trees as we do not have bucket trucks and our crew is not seasoned tree experts. For these reasons, we prefer the landowner takes care of dead tree issues to keep our community safe. ❖

Be the Change

Be the Change is the only nonpartisan and free civic engagement app that connects Pennsylvanians to their PA General Assembly members to take meaningful action on legislative issues.

With Be the Change, you can quickly share details on poor air quality, lack of public transportation, isolated food deserts, House or Senate bills, and much more. After sharing your thoughts and feedback, you'll receive a direct action or response from Senator Schwank. Don't want to post? You can still scroll through the public feed to see nearby Community Causes, learn about various issues, and organize around shared concerns with your neighbors to build healthier and safer communities!

The world is rapidly changing and so are the methods we use to advocate for legislative change. Authentic advocacy should be safe, simple, and personal. You can Be the Change by visiting www.ChangeOurState.com or finding Be the Change in the Apple App Store! ❖

Best Wishes to Steve

Assistant Road Foreman Steve Edwards retired in July of 2021 after a 17-year career with the Bern Township Road Department. Steve was hired by Bern Township in January of 2004. He became Assistant Road Foreman in 2014.

Steve can now enjoy much more fishing and camping and spending time with his puppy dog.

We thank Steve for his dedication and loyalty to Bern Township, and for his many years of service. No doubt, Steve will be enjoying some travels in his retirement. We wish Steve the best and know that he will be missed. ❖

Congratulations to our New Assistant Road Foreman

Bern Township is pleased to welcome one of our new employees to a new position. Kevin Cogan has been appointed to the Assistant Road Foreman position. A total of nine applications were received and four candidates interviewed through the process.

Kevin has been with the Bern Township Road Department since January of 2021. Prior to Bern, Kevin worked at Exeter Township for 12 years.

We wish Kevin a smooth transition to his new position and are certain that he will continue to serve the community very well. ❖

Welcome Gary

The township hired Gary Bechtel to fill a vacancy in the road department that was created in 2020. We welcome Gary to our staff. Prior to Bern, Gary worked at Lower Alsace Township. We are confident that he will serve our community well and we hope that his career at Bern Township is enjoyable. ❖

Welcome Officer Condon

The Bern Township Police Department is pleased to introduce its newest police officer, Andrew Condon.

Officer Condon previously joined the Reading Police Department and attended the Reading Police Academy, achieving the Act 120 certification required to serve as a municipal police officer.

After several months of service and successful completion of field training with the Reading Police Department, Officer Condon applied to join Bern Township police. Officer Condon is assigned to the Patrol Unit. We are happy to have the credentials and skills that he brings to our department. ❖

Building Permits

Building permit application forms are available on the Bern Township website at www.berntownship.org . After you get on our homepage, please scroll down the menu on the left hand side of the page. Click on “permits and licenses” and that will take you to a page that has all of the township permit forms.

If you would like to see all of our township ordinances, please visit www.generalcode.com . At the top of their home page, click on “code library”. This will take you to a map of the country. Click on the state of Pennsylvania and this takes you to a page showing different municipalities. Scroll down and click on Township of Bern and a page will open showing all of our codes. ❖

Bern Township Website

Visit our website at www.berntownship.org for more information on recycling collection dates, meeting dates and special interest information. We have posted various permit application forms on the website so that you can save a trip to the township building by printing the applications in the comfort of your home and / or office. ❖

Trash Districts

Please know that if you live in a trash collection district, you can put out one bulk item for trash each week of collection. Bulk items include large furniture and household items. Please be aware that the trash hauler considers a mattress and a box spring as two items – you will need to put them out separately for trash collection. Bulk items do not include appliances, large auto parts, construction and demolition debris, any items containing Freon, automotive tires or any item containing hazardous waste. ❖

Trash / Recycling Collection

Please remember to call the township on the day of collection to report a missed trash or recycling collection. Messages can be left on the township answering machine until midnight on the day of collection. By doing this, we can get the hauler to come back and collect your material. ❖

Communication Information

The township sends email blasts to inform the residents about current issues of the day. All email addresses are kept confidential. If you would like to sign up for this service, please call the township building at 610-926-2267 to provide your email address and street address. ❖

Important news inside that affects YOU!



“PRSRRT STD”
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
READING, PA
Permit No. 53

BERN TOWNSHIP
1069 OLD BERNVILLE ROAD
READING, PA 19605