

BERN TOWNSHIP



in the news.....

WINTER 2024

2023 in Review

Welcome to the new year! Bern Township wishes you a happy, healthy, and pleasantly memorable 2024.

Bern Township continues in our effort to be a high-quality municipality for our constituents. We did our best to continue to provide quality service at a decent cost to you. This newsletter will report to you some of the accomplishments and activities of our organization during 2023, another year that went by very fast, and glimpses of what is ahead for 2024. In the end, we hope you will consider this a strong and good community to live in, and that you are proud of Bern Township's accomplishments.

The world experienced some tough events in 2023. Some of these events included the continuing war in Ukraine, war between Hamas and Israel, a massive earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the Hawaiian wildfires, Canadian wildfires that affected air quality in the United States, catastrophic flooding across 10 countries in 12 days and significant drought in 40 years across the Horn of Africa. Other events included the crowning of Charles III as King of England, India passing China as the world's most populous country and the expansion of artificial intelligence.

Locally, the Epler Schoolhouse grand re-opening took place, a significant rain storm and flooding occurred on July 9, First Energy continued to work on getting approvals for the proposed transmission line and substation. First Energy also responded to resident complaints by removing the new red lights on top of the reconstructed transmission line in the northern area of the township.

Some of the public events held in Bern Township during 2023 included the annual World War II Weekend, a Fly-in Car Show at the airport, the Aviation Festival and Career Fair, Christmas in the

Air, Berks Fair, Junior High School Cross Country Race, Kris Kringle Run, American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Laney's Legacy Workout fundraiser and the Firefighters Memorial Ride Fundraiser.

We again thank our committee / board members and paid staff for their service to our community. We thank those who volunteer their personal time to serve our community for no compensation. All of you are very important to Bern Township and we recognize your dedication to the quality of life in your community. At Bern Township, in everything we do, we believe in providing the best service possible to our residents. We do this by continually training / learning, coming to work inspired and making our best effort. Welcome to Bern Township!!

For those of you new to Bern Township, residents and businesses, we welcome you to the community. Together, we can continue to make Bern Township a great place to be. ❖

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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
Brett Forry	Chief of Police

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
Systems Design 610-916-8500	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	TO BE DETERMINED
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,

Robby Drive)

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. Please use lids on cans.

Collection Dates:

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29;

May 6, 13, 20, 28; June 3, 10, 17, 24;

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26;

Sept. 3, 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

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. Please use lids on cans.

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:

April 4, 18; May 2, 16, 31; June 13, 27;

July 11, 25; Aug. 8, 22;

Sept. 6, 19; Oct. 3, 17, 31

District #2:

April 11, 25; May 9, 23; June 6, 20;

July 5, 18; Aug. 1, 15, 29;

Sept. 12, 26; Oct. 10, 24

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

Bern Township

Board of Supervisors

The township recognized savings to residents during 2023 in the amount of \$1,001,540.97 by securing grant funding, completing certain work in-house instead of paying consultants, bulk purchasing, renegotiating service agreements, staffing economies, engaging volunteer residents, selling equipment, working safely (our Experience Modification Rate is 0.809) and re quoting services for savings. The total dollars saved since 2006 is now at \$7,897,465.00. We continue to prepare five-year financial plans to maximize the power of your tax dollars. Our non-taxable land value is at 32%, causing a real estate tax loss of \$908,984.00. We continue to closely monitor our revenue and expenses on a monthly basis and conduct annual fiscal monitoring exercises to verify that our community is financially healthy.

The board approved a balanced budget of \$5,535,840 for 2024 that includes a slight tax increase. The tax increase is to support the addition of a road foreman and police officer, and to construct a building addition and renovate the police department to create a locker and shower space. The building HVAC system has become outdated and this will be addressed with the project. A property assessed at \$100,000 will pay an additional \$37.40 in township taxes. Trash (\$280 per unit), recycling (\$92 per unit) and light district fees remain at the 2023 levels for 2024. The total of tax increases since 2004 are 1.874 mills. A property assessed at \$100,000 is paying \$187.40 more today in township taxes than they did in 2004. We take tax increases seriously and we do our very best at minimizing them by carefully watching our finances.

The board approved the spending of American Rescue Plan funds for: Architectural, engineering and civil engineering costs for the proposed building addition, a police special services unit and a backhoe. Previously, a utility truck and a fork attachment for the wheel loader were purchased with ARP funds. The remaining ARP funds on hand are committed to the building addition and renovation project to reduce the amount of funds to be borrowed.

The board approved regulations for short term rentals including a fee structure for permitting.

The board also approved a renewal contract with the Animal Rescue League and construction contracts for the building project, the joining of the Blue Marsh Emergency Management Agency, accepted a

grant for the replacement of police tasers, approved the creation of a detective and administrative police sergeant positions and approved the promotion of Brett Forry to the Chief of Police position. ❖

2023 Finances

The General Fund revenue / income for the year totaled \$4,537,017.37. This amount is \$111,248.18 (2.5%) more than 2022. The following is a breakdown of the General Fund revenue amounts for 2023:

Real Estate Tax	\$1,746,661	39%
Act 511 Tax	\$1,789,157	39%
Permits & Licenses	\$209,173	5%
Fines	\$44,803	1%
Charges for Service	\$151,930	3%
State Pension Aid	\$186,492	4%
Gov't Revenue	\$82,220	2%
Reimbursements	\$254,335	6%
Police Services	\$72,246	1%

The General Fund expenses for the year came in at \$4,435,341. This amount is \$312,642 (7.5%) more than the expenses for 2022. The following is a breakdown of the township's General Fund expenses for 2023:

General Government	\$468,754	11%
Debt Service	\$0	0%
Fire Companies	\$50,277	1%
Police Protection	\$1,455,608	33%
Building Inspections	\$95,249	2%
Roads & Highways	\$625,016	14%
Recycling Center	\$84,415	2%
Pensions	\$489,051	11%
Insurances	\$1,016,971	23%
Equipment Escrow	\$150,000	3%

The general fund tax amount will slightly increase for 2024 by an additional 0.28 mills and the capital improvement tax will slightly increase by 0.094 mills. For a property assessed at \$100,000, the additional tax will be \$37.40. The breakdown of the total 4.56 mill tax is:

General Fund	4.20 Mills
Capital Improvement	0.21 Mills
Fire Protection	0.15 Mills

How do we compare with our neighbor's tax rates? The City of Reading (18.129 mills), Muhlenberg (5.7 mills), Leesport (8.72 mills), Lower Heidelberg (6.75 mills) and Spring (4.95 mills) are higher. Ontelaunee (4.05 mills), Penn (1.5 mills) and Centre (0.54 mills) are lower. ❖

Bern Township

Lawley's Disposal FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1970
Personalized Service To Meet All Your Sanitation Needs
• Residential • Commercial • Dumpster • Roll-Off
Call Now For Service
610-916-5999
www.lawleysdisposal.com
Your Cans Are In Good Hands!

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
April 13, 2024
Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
600 Governor Drive

Paper Shredding:
Pre-Registration Required
April 20, 2024
Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
600 Governor Drive

Please visit www.co.berks.pa.us/swa for info.

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. ❖

*Bern Township wishes you
a
happy and healthy 2024!*

BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY NEWS

BTMA Water Rates – Starting with the first bill you receive in 2024 there will be a small increase in the water rate. For residential customers, who are billed quarterly for water, the minimum bill will be \$66, a \$5.05 increase per quarter. For commercial customers who are billed monthly the increase is a flat \$10.00 per month. All minimums and overages remain the same.

BTMA has not raised water rates for more than 10 years. The Authority has had some major repairs including spending \$80,468.55 to fix a sinkhole in the West Shore Development. This sinkhole was caused by flooding. It was not a leak.

In the last two years one of BTMA's water suppliers has raised their rates by 8% and 10%. There have also been some costly water main breaks during the last two years.

All BTMA rates are posted on the Bern Township website (www.berntownship.org) on the BTMA page. All the rates for both water and sewer, plus any fees related to other services performed by the BTMA staff are on this page.

BTMA's Forms for Automated Clearing House are available on the Bern Township website, www.berntownship.org, or by requesting a form at the office either by phone, in person or by email.

If the form is completed and returned by the 20th of the month, your next BTMA bill can be deducted from your account on or around the due date of that next bill. The auto payment can be from a savings or checking account.

E-mail Delivery of Your Bill – Please consider having your monthly bill emailed to you. The price of a postcard stamp is now .53 cents. We can email you a form or stop in the office. Please **do not reply or send messages** to the address your bill is coming from. BTMA does not monitor the Gmail account our bills are sent from. The address was set up strictly to send bills. Btma@comcast.net is the BTMA's correspondence email used continuously throughout the day.

BTMA has been awarded a second grant through the Commonwealth Finance Agency. Both grants are being used to build two sewer pump stations to replace the two flow meters that record sewer flow to the Reading Regional Airport Authority. The present flow meters do not record accurately due to low flows, or they are getting clogged with rags, resulting in higher inaccurate flows to the sewer plant. Higher flows mean higher bills BTMA pays to the RRAA. The grant amount awarded was \$178,336, in total BTMA received \$389,075.01 which will cover most of the costs. ❖

Bern Township

Bern Township Committees

The various types of Bern Township Committees held meetings during the year to conduct business on behalf of the township.

Zoning Hearing Board

The Zoning Hearing Board met to consider variance applications for the Enersys solar panel project, a residential sunroom and a residential garage without a principal structure. Chris Becker and Ed Anewalt were appointed to the zoning hearing board to fill vacancies created by the retirement of Don Ottavianni and Todd Cameron, and Evan Jack was appointed to the alternate position. We thank Don and Todd for their many years of service to the township.

There were many zoning matters that the township worked to address during the year, including public gatherings with noise and trash, neighbor disputes and property maintenance matters.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission met 9 times through the year to review Land Development and Subdivision Plans to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

The commission recommended approval of land development plans for the Bern Township Municipal Building, S&L Mechanical, Lords & Ladies and the Penske / Hartman Farm District Service Facility. The commission also recommended approval of two residential plans.

The commission reviewed other land development projects including the Penske Collision and Repair Center, Garage Strength Sports and C&B Warehouse.

Jim Colflesh was appointed to the planning commission to fill a vacancy created by Glenn Sweigert's retirement and Jeff Piccioni was appointed to the alternate position. We thank Glenn for his years of service to the township.

The active construction projects during the year included the UGI Data Center addition, the Building "H" Warehouse behind the airport and the S&L Mechanical facility on James Drive. G&T Industries and Federal Express facilities near the airport were completed and occupied. The construction of Holiday Village apartments continued on Woodward Drive.

Solid Waste Advisory Commission

The Solid Waste Advisory Commission did not require any meetings during the year.

The recycling dumpster behind the township campus was removed and the service was discontinued due to the constant dumping of trash / building

materials and overflowing of the container. As a result of those issues, the road crew had to pull building debris out of the dumpster, dispose of paint cans left at the dumpster and also had to clean up the neighborhood after a thunderstorm scattered all of the material that was set on the ground outside of the dumpster.

The township's grant application to DEP for securing our yard waste site was approved. DEP will fund \$279,951.00 and the township will contribute \$31,106.00. These funds will allow the expansion of the yard waste center, fencing the site with access gates and access card system, the placement of security cameras and computer systems and software to manage the cameras and access cards. Illegal dumping again contributed to high costs which are over \$80,000 in 2023. DEP also approved a revision to our yard site permit to allow an expansion and to change the method of how the material is removed – from using dumpsters to using a grinding operation on-site and hauling away. Berks County also extended our agreement allowing us to use the site and to expand the operations. We thank Berks County for helping us to provide this important service to our residents. More information will be mailed to residents later this year with instructions on how to get an access card as we get closer to having the fencing and gates completed.

Recycling collections continue on Thursdays and collection of trash in the trash districts continue on Mondays. **Glass and plastics 3 through 7 are not recyclable for this contract period.** The hauler will not collect your recyclables if these materials are amongst them.

We know there have been issues with our recycling hauler. We apologize on their behalf if you have been missed during collections. We met with the hauler and explained that collection problems cannot continue. Their corrective action plan includes hiring more drivers (they have drivers in training currently), and they will implement electronic driving directions in the first quarter of the year. Each truck will have a computer tablet showing their route and they will need to check off each stop on the tablet, and the supervisor of the drivers will be more hands-on and will visit the township building on collection day.

Alan Taylor retired from the Solid Waste Advisory Commission after serving for 15 years. He was an original member of the committee when it was formed. We thank him for his years of service to Bern Township.

The township completed and submitted the 2022 Recycling Performance Grant application to

(Continued on Page 6)

Bern Township

Township Committees (Continued from Page 5)

DEP for 1,208 tons of recycled material and received an award of \$19,727.78 for our recycling efforts. We recycled 278 tons less than we did in 2021.

The township curbside recycling program collected a total of 199 tons of material in 2023 at a cost of \$18,866.05 to the township. This was approximately 21 tons less than 2022's amount (221 tons).

The total recycling of all materials in 2022 for residential and businesses, including yard waste, was over 2,270 tons, which is 1,470 tons lower than 2021.

Vacancies

We currently have vacancies on three of our township committees: The Solid Waste Commission, Zoning Hearing Board Alternate position and the Planning Commission Alternate position. If you have an interest in getting involved with any of these positions, please contact the township.

We thank all of the committee members for devoting their time on behalf of the township. We welcome the new members of the committees and hope all of you enjoy your service to our community. ❖

Police Department

The Bern Township Police Department responded to 6,715 events and requests during 2023.

In 2023, the Bern Township Police Department has undergone some changes. A new Chief of Police was appointed, a new Detective position was created and filled, and a new Administrative Sergeant position was created and filled. We also hired two new officers, which brought the compliment back to a 12-member department. Our goal in 2024 is to get the department up to 13 members, where it was over 10 years ago.

The Bern Township Police Department and Penn State Health (St. Joseph's Campus) hosted an active shooter exercise at PSHSJ in May of 2023. Run-Hide-Fight training was presented to medical center personnel and scene forensics processing review training was presented to law enforcement personnel. Personnel from the Muhlenberg Township Police, Northern Berks Regional Police, Spring Township Police, Berks County Sheriff's Department, and the Berks County District Attorney's Forensics Unit participated in the exercise.

The Bern Township Police Department was awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for \$142,990.00. This funding will be utilized to replace our aging police server, desktop workstations, and body worn cameras. Additionally, it will be used to implement a new in-car camera system for all our police vehicles.

The Police Department also received a foundation grant in the amount of \$122,461.00 to replace our aging Special Services Unit. This vehicle supports accident reconstruction activities, arson investigations, major crime scenes, evidence processing, and a command post for special events. We also received a foundation grant in the amount of \$54,919.00 to upgrade our aging department Tasers.

The department participated in the annual National Night Out Community event held at the Schuylkill Valley High School. It was a successful community event that fostered community-building and promoted police-community partnerships.

The department continues to actively participate in "Operation Schools-In" which is a safety initiative designed to maximize police presence around school buses and school bus stops.

The department continues to contribute to the Berks County Emergency Response Team (BCERT) with one tactical operator and one negotiator. Additionally, the department continues to contribute one officer to the Berks County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force, the Berks County High Crimes Task Force, and the Berks County Accident Reconstruction Team.

The department organized and hosted a County-Wide Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Detail within Bern Township during the month of October. The goal was to ensure Commercial Motor Vehicle compliance with the latest standards as well as enforcement and education to keep the motoring public safe as they transverse through the township.

The Police Department, in cooperation with the Berks Career and Technology Center, sent an officer to School Resource Officer Training. This weeklong training was completed in Mechanicsburg, PA. After the completion of the training, the department now has a certified School Resource Officer (SRO) to assist with incidents at the Berks Career and Technology Center. The addition of this Officer as an SRO will help facilitate the already good working relationship the department has with the Berks Career and Technology Center.

The department thanks the residents it serves for their continued support. The department understands that there needs to be a collaborative partnership between the department and the community it serves. We continue to strive to serve the residents of Bern Township as it states in our Core Values through Benevolence, Teamwork, Professionalism, and Dedication. ❖

Bern Township

Emergency Management Committee

A significant flooding event occurred on July 9th that caused damage to Bern Township and Berks County. Kevin Hinkle conducted storm damage assessments and sent the reports to the county emergency services department. The township has budgeted \$25,000.00 in 2024 for engineering costs to investigate revisions to stormwater systems as a result of this storm event.

Bern Township joined the Blue Marsh Regional Emergency Management Agency and Kevin was appointed the emergency management coordinator of the agency. The agency includes Jefferson Township, North Heidelberg Township and the Borough of Bernville. Township Supervisor Brian Eveland was appointed to the executive committee. All municipalities will share administrative costs for Kevin's certifications and classes, while each municipality will cover their own costs for any incidents that happen within their jurisdiction. We are pleased to be a part of this organization.

Kevin continued to receive training during the year by attending the monthly Berks Department of Emergency Services meetings, a Homeland Security exercise and evaluation program, a grant writing class and two FEMA Webinars on preparedness and disaster assistance.

Kevin has also been named the Chairman of the newly formed Berks County Emergency Management Working Group. The forming of this group is an effort to provide more emergency management support to the municipalities in Berks County.

The township provided a used police vehicle to Kevin for his business use. He is trying to secure money to pay for emergency lights, exterior markings and mobile computer for the vehicle. It is expected that the vehicle will be put in use this year.

Kevin attended the pre-planning meetings for the World War II Weekend event and staffed the Emergency Operations Center during the three-day event.

The Federal COVID emergency declaration was finally terminated on May 11, 2023. We are very glad that chapter is closed even though the virus remains among us. We offer our sincere condolences to anyone who may have lost a loved one to the virus.

The township updated the various emergency plans: the notification and resource manual which lists available resources and staff assignments for emergencies, the continuity of operations plan that lists alternative staffing, equipment and facilities to be used in the event of losing any of those resources, the hazard vulnerability assessment that



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PHYSICAL THERAPY**
THE SCIENCE OF MOVEMENT

**CARING FOR OUR
COMMUNITY**

1001 James Drive Suite A-14
Leesport, PA 19533
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Justin
Eisenhofer
PT, DPT, CSCS

- We care for every generation of your family with the highest levels of patient-centric care
- Accept all commercial and Medicare insurance plans
- No prescription? No Referral? Use direct access for 30 days!
- Flexible scheduling with morning and evening appointments available

lists potential man made or natural threats to our community and the township also adopted the Berks County Hazard Vulnerability and Mitigation Plan.

Please check the township website www.berntownship.org as Kevin continues to provide material for posting on the site. You will also find the "Bern Township Guide to Emergency Preparedness" on our website. This explains the things that you can do to be prepared for certain kinds of disasters ahead of time.

We thank Kevin Hinkle for his volunteer hours and greatly appreciate the professionalism that he brings to the Bern Township Emergency Management Coordinator position. The township would have faced a 2023 labor cost of \$21,454.00 if the emergency management coordinator was a paid position. ❖

Road Department

The road crew was busy with a large project on Washington Road during the summer. The Berks County Conservation District funded most of the project through a \$47,010 Low Volume Road Grant awarded to the township. We greatly thank the conservation district for their assistance on this project. The road crew members excavated the earth and installed catch basins, storm piping with a rock outfall in the woods, shoulder drainage piping along the road and placed an asphalt overlay on the road to mitigate future flooding in the area.

The road crew and the township engineer began designing the last stormwater management facility to be installed at Mayo Drive in Greenfields. This facility will help to manage the rainfall and be equipped with a rain garden type feature. The township road crew should be working on this installation sometime this year if all goes according to plan.

The township reached out to PennDOT and requested a traffic study be done at the West Leesport

(Continued on Page 8)

Road Dept. (Continued From Page 7)

Road and Route 183 intersection to verify if a left-hand turn arrow is warranted for southbound Route 183 traffic. We are pleased to announce that PennDOT determined that the arrow is warranted, and the Wawa developer hired Telco to make the changes. We thank Wawa and Telco for responding to the report so quickly and having the improvements installed in such a short period of time.

The 2022 road project was postponed until 2023 due to the high prices of asphalt. The 2023 road project will now include the resurfacing of Rickenbach Road, Homestead Drive, Possum Lane between White Oak Lane and Grange Road, White Oak Lane between Possum Lane and Old Bernville Road, Shurr Road and the milling / resurfacing of Barlow Avenue, Lockheed Avenue, Martin Avenue and Peters Road. The street improvements in Greenfields may be postponed until 2024 if the bids come in higher than expected.

The road crew members replaced a failing storm pipe at Rick Road and West Leesport Road during the year. The top of the pipe had failed at a few

locations. They also replaced deteriorating storm piping under Possum Lane and Shurr Road and repaired road base on Homestead Drive and Possum Lane in preparation for the 2023 road project.

The road foreman conducted two stormwater inspections during the year and did not find any illegal discharges or dumping of hazardous materials. The road foreman and assistant foreman conducted the yearly road inspection and updated the road inventory book.

While it is not a township road, we were pleased to see the improvement work completed at the Route 183 roundabout in 2023. The area looks much better and the grass is starting to grow.

The department members continued to participate in the Berks County Public Works Association, receive training on PA1Call responses, winter operations and other topics.

Projects scheduled for 2023 include construction of the last stormwater facility, stormwater projects, piping replacements, road repairs and increasing the size of the yard waste facility. ❖

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

Bern Township Recycling Districts

2024

www.berntownship.org

2024	Recycling District 1	Recycling District 2
January	11, 25	5, 18
February	8, 22	1, 15, 29
March	7, 21	14, 28
April	4, 18	11, 25
May	2, 16, 31	9, 23
June	13, 27	6, 20
July	11, 25	5, 18
August	8, 22	1, 15, 29
September	6, 19	12, 26
October	3, 17, 31	10, 24
November	14, 29	7, 21
December	12, 27	5, 19

Bern Township Solid Waste Advisory Commission

Jeff Thompson, Michael Gross,
Lisa McDonald, Brian Potts

PLEASE KEEP THIS FLIER UNTIL THE END OF 2024

Recycling District 1

SOUTH OF ROUTE 222 AND W OF ROUTE 183

Allison,
Almark,
Barlow,
Bernville Road (both sides),
Beverly,
Blessing,
Blossom,
Boeing,
Burdan,
Cathy,
Christina,
Cullum,
Curtis,
Dennis,
Dickinson,
Egle,
Ernst,
Eveland,
Fisher,
Frontier,
Golf,
Green Lane,
Heather,
Hilltop,
Hilltop Court,
Jeffrey,
Kercher,
Lahoma,

Leisch's Bridge Rd (South of Rt 222),
Lockheed,
Martin,
Mayo,
Meadow View,
Morrison,
Mull,
North Tulpehocken,
Oak Grove,
Palisades,
Penn-Bern,
Peters,
Poplar,
Prison,
Reber's Bridge,
Route 183 (both sides)
Scenic,
Seitz,
Shurr,
South Tulpehocken,
Stephen,
Suburban,
Sunshine,
Tully
Upper Van Reed,
Van Reed,
Victory Circle,
Wendy,

Recycling District 2

NORTH OF ROUTE 222 AND E OF ROUTE 183

Belfair,
Brossman,
Butter,
Cedar Hill,
Centre,
Chestnut,
Colonial Manor,
Crest,
Cross Keys,
Dunkleberger,
Eva,
Fairview,
Faller,
Grange,
High Meadows,
Hillview,
Homestead,
Jessica,
Leisch's Bridge Road (North of Rt 222),
Mahlon,
Main,
McCoy,
Mill,
Oak Circle,
Old Bernville,
Park,
Peach Blossom,
Possum,
Rick,
Rickenbach,
Robby,
Seidel's Run,
Seifrit,
Sillman,
Snyder,
Stinson,
Strause,
Sunny,
Tobias,
Twin Oaks,
Ulrich,
Washington,
West Leesport,
West Pine,
West Reeser,
White Oak,
Zeigler,

RECYCLING WILL ONLY BE PICKED UP ON THE DATES LISTED ON THIS FLIER.

NO recycling will be picked up on:

**New Year's Day,
Memorial Day,
Independence Day,
Labor Day,
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day**

Bern Township Township-wide Recycling Collection 2024 www.berntownship.org

To find out what district you are in look for your street on the other side of this page.

2024	DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2
January	11, 25	5, 18
February	8, 22	1, 15, 29
March	7, 21	14, 28
April	4, 18	11, 25
May	2, 16, 31	9, 23
June	13, 27	6, 20
July	11, 25	5, 18
August	8, 22	1, 15, 29
September	6, 19	12, 26
October	3, 17, 31	10, 24
November	14, 29	7, 21
December	12, 27	5, 19

Bern Township Solid Waste Advisory Commission
 Jeff Thompson, Michael Gross,
 Lisa McDonald, Brian Potts

The yearly recycling fee for each residence or apartment is \$92.
PLEASE KEEP THIS FLIER UNTIL THE END OF 2024

Place these items into your blue Recycling Container:

- aluminum cans
- bi-metal cans
- bottles #1 plastic
- bottles #2 plastic
- containers #1 plastic
- containers #2 plastic

- DO NOT use plastic bags
- Don't mix plastic and metal items with paper and cardboard or none of your recycling will be collected.
- Set recyclables out the night before collection day.
- Make sure materials are secure and container lid is firmly attached, especially in windy weather.

These items will NOT be accepted:

- automotive tires
- construction materials
- glass - NO glass items of ANY kind
- hazardous waste
- items containing Freon
- paint
- Styrofoam

Please keep these items separate from your other recycling:

- boxes
- cardboard
- corrugated boxes
- gift boxes
- gift wrap
- junk mail
- newspapers
- magazines
- paperback books
- paper - whole pages (put this paper into paper bags)
- paper - shredded (put this paper into paper bags)
- phone books

If paper items are mixed in with cans, bottles or other kinds of recycling items, then nothing will be collected.

- ALL large items listed above must be cut down to the size of a folded newspaper, then placed in paper bags or tied in a bundle.
- Please DON'T use PLASTIC bags!

Bern Township Trash District Collection Dates

2024

www.berntownship.org

Dates on which trash will be collected:

January	2, 8, 15, 22, 29
February	5, 12, 19, 26
March	4, 11, 18, 25
April	1, 8, 15, 22, 29,
May	6, 13, 20, 28
June	3, 10, 17, 24
July	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
August	5, 12, 19, 26
September	3, 9, 16, 23, 30
October	7, 14, 21, 28
November	4, 11, 18, 25
December	2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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From January 2024 the trash collection fee for each residence or apartment is \$280. Please keep this flier until the end of 2024

When it is & how much to put out:

- Put your trash out the night before your Collection Day.
- Trash District Collection will be on a MONDAY.
- BUT if New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving or Christmas fall on a MONDAY, THEN TRASH COLLECTION WILL BE ON TUESDAY.
- Six (6) bags or cans of trash will be collected per residence or apartment.
- One (1) bulk item can be put out for trash collection each week.

These items will NOT be collected:

- Appliances (large items)
- Automotive tires
- Construction debris
- Construction materials
- Hazardous materials
- Items containing Freon
- Oil-based or Specialty Paints

Bern Township Trash Districts

Bern Manor	Burdan Drive, Kercher Street, Mull Avenue, Portions of Prison Road
Greenfields	Greenfields Manor Greenfields to the City of Reading boundary Areas South of Reading Airport and Areas West of Rt 183
Northwest Area	Robby Drive, Brossman Court Park Road between: Zeigler Road & Centre Township boundary Portions of Ziegler Road between: Fairview Drive & Penn Township boundary
Riveredge Acres	Areas South of the Airport and East of Rt 183 (Woodward Apts. are not in Trash District.)
West Leesport Rd/Rick Rd	Area includes a small section of West Leesport Road between Old Bernville Road and Rick Road, and a small portion of the south side of Rick Road near West Leesport Road
Willows Area	Almark Way, Cathy Drive, Christina Drive

Bern Township Leaf & Yard Waste Curb-side Collection 2024

www.berntownship.org
Plastic bags will NOT be collected!

Branches, Sticks, Shrubs & Cuttings:

- MUST be bundled and tied together
- Maximum length four (4) feet long
- Must not weigh more than 40 pounds

Christmas trees: Please take to the Twp Drop-off area on Hilltop Rd

Leaves:

- Keep leaves separate from branches and sticks.
- Keep leaf piles away from parked cars.
- Please do not throw leaves into the trash!
- Leaves will not be vacuumed in the Spring, **ONLY** in the Fall.
- For Spring collections both leaves and garden residue **MUST** be placed in BIODEGRADABLE bags

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SPRING Curb-side Collection

Leaves and garden waste **MUST** be placed in BIODEGRADABLE bags for Twp pick up.

IMPORTANT - Residents must call the Township between March 18 & April 12, and schedule a time for their biodegradable bags to be picked up between Monday, March 25 and Friday, April 19, 2024.

COLLECTION PRECINCTS ARE THE SAME FOR BOTH SPRING AND FALL COLLECTIONS

COUNTY Precinct

Almark, Blessing, Blossom, Burdan, Cathy, Christina, Dickanson, Eveland, Hilltop, Hilltop Ct., Kercher, Meadow View, Mull, Palisades, Penn Bern, Prison, Reber's Bridge, Route 183 North of 2207 address), Scenic, Shurr, Suburban, Upper Van Reed, Van Reed (1000 to 1157 address), Victory Circle,

GRANGE Precinct

Brossman, Butter, Centre, Chestnut, Colonial Manor, Crest, Dunkleberger, Eva, Fairview (1342 to 1671 address), Grange, Mahlon, Main, Mill, Old Bernville (1228 to 1525 address), Park, Possum, Robby, Seyffrit, Snyder, Strause, Sunny, Tobias, White Oak (600 to 871 address), Zeigler

GREENFIELDS Precinct

Allison, Barlow, Beverly, Boeing, Cullum, Curtis, Dennis, Egle, Ernst, Fisher, Frontier, Green Lane, Golf, Heather, Jeffrey, Martin, Lahoma, Lockhead, Mayo, Morrison, North Tulpehocken, Oak Grove, Peters, Poplar, Route 183 or Bernville Rd (1600 to 2207 address), Seitz, South Tulpehocken, Stephen, Sunshine, Tully, Wendy, Woodward

SCHUYLKILL Precinct

Belfair, Cedar Hill, Cross Keys, Fairview (1000 to 1340 address), Faller, High Meadows, Hillview, Homestead, Jessica, Leisz's Bridge, McCoy, Oak Circle, Old Bernville (1000 to 1217 address), Peach Blossom, Rick, Rickenbach, Seidel's Run, Stillman, Stinson, Twin Oaks, Ulrich, Van Reed (804 to 998 address), Washington, West Leesport, West Pine, West Reeser, White Oak (200 to 551 address)

FALL Curb-side Collection

Monday October 14, to Friday October 18
Greenfields Precinct

Monday October 21, to Friday October 25
Schuylkill Precinct
Grange Precinct
County Precinct

Monday October 28, to Friday December 6
Greenfields Precinct
Schuylkill Precinct
Grange Precinct
County Precinct

- During Fall Collection **ONLY**, place your leaves in one pile at the curb, away from mailboxes, trees, flower beds and parked cars.
- No grass, sticks or stones should be placed in leaf piles.
- During Fall Collection only you do NOT need to call the Township to schedule an appointment to pick up loose leaf piles.
- No collections will be made on rainy days.
- **ONLY** use biodegradable bags. No plastic bags will be picked up.
- If you use biodegradable bags for Fall Collection please call the Township to schedule for your bags to be picked up.