

# BERN TOWNSHIP



*in the news.....*

FALL 2018

## **The Spotted Lanternfly**

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper that was first discovered on September 22, 2014 in eastern Berks County. It is native to China, India, Vietnam and was unintentionally introduced to South Korea where it has become a major pest. This insect prefers to attack the tree of heaven, but it will feed on many other host plants including grapes, apples, stone fruits and has the potential to greatly impact the grape, fruit tree and forest products industries.

Trees will develop weeping wounds when the lanternfly is feeding. These wounds will leave a grayish or black trail down the tree trunk. This waste will attract other insects to feed, notably wasps and ants.

When first hatched, the lanternfly appears black with white spots. As they age, their appearance changes to red and black with white spots. After reaching adulthood, their appearance changes to gray wings with black spots and the wing tips are reticulated black blocks outlined in gray.

The spotted lanternfly begins hatching in May and June. The adult appearance takes place in July. The egg laying process happens between September and December. The adults die off when freezing weather occurs but the egg masses survive until spring. Adults will lay eggs on tree trunks, branches and smooth surfaces like stone, outdoor lawn furniture, fence posts, rusty metal, firewood, vehicles, building structures and other items. Newly laid egg masses have a gray mud-like covering that can take on a dry cracked appearance over time. Old egg masses appear as rows of 30-50 brownish seed like deposits in 4-7 columns on the trunk, roughly an inch long.

If you see egg masses, scrape them off, double bag them and throw them in your trash. If you find a spotted lanternfly on your property, you should try to

destroy it. Each female will lay up to 200 or more eggs in the fall. You can kill spotted lanternflies by swatting or crushing them. They will hop away from you and try to get away. The spotted lanternfly is not known to bite humans. To keep the insect from getting high into your trees, you can wrap the tree trunk with a sticky band. There are certain insecticides that may kill the insect. We recommend that you check at your local garden center.

We also have learned the mixture of one tablespoon of Dawn dishwashing liquid to two cups of water in a spray bottle is effective at killing the insect while not harming your plants much. Also, check the ground below tall trees after a rain storm for insects that got knocked off. We thank Wayne for this information.

All of Berks County is now in the quarantine area, including Bern Township. You must first inspect anything that you are taking out of the

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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](http://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 Wednesday at 7:00 pm
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. 8, 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26;**

**Nov. 2, 9, 16, 24, 30; Dec. 7, 14, 21, 29;**

**Jan. 5, 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22;**

**Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26**

*Visit [www.berntownship.org](http://www.berntownship.org) to view the 2018 trash flyer*

**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 clear, brown and green glass containers, plastic, tin, Bi-metal and aluminum cans in recycling container. Place newspapers in paper bags or bundle. Cut cardboard and place in paper bags or bundle. **Items NOT collected for recycling:** paint cans, tires, batteries or large appliances.*

**Collection Dates:**

**Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25; Nov. 8, 23;**

**Dec. 6, 20; Jan. 4, 17, 31; Feb. 14, 28;**

**Mar. 14, 28; April 11, 25**

*Visit [www.berntownship.org](http://www.berntownship.org) to view the 2018 recycling flyer*

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

**Visit [www.berntownship.org](http://www.berntownship.org) to view the 2018 leaf and yard waste flyer**

# Clean Water

## *Spotted Lanternfly (Continued from Page 1)*

area for egg masses or insects. This is important to prevent the spread of the insect. Look for and destroy any egg masses you find. The spotted lanternfly is in Bern Township and can greatly impact the quality of life in your yard. For more information, go to: [www.agriculture.pa.gov/spottedlanternfly](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/spottedlanternfly) for the PA Department of Agriculture. You can also reach out to the Penn State Extension Master Gardener Volunteers at <https://extension.psu.edu/county-offices> or you can call the Spotted Lanternfly Hotline at 1-888-4badfly. ❖

## **Car Washing**

How can you wash your car without harming your local waterways? Everyone enjoys a clean car. Did you know that by cleaning your car and letting the wash water run off into the storm drain, you are allowing pollution to enter the local waterways?

Water from washing cars contains dirt and soap, oil, grease and metals such as copper, nickel and zinc. These materials can be toxic to fish, birds and other wildlife that live in local waterways.

The water entering the stormwater network flows straight to local waterways without any filtering or treatment. By applying the following recommendations, you will be doing your part in keeping the local waterways cleaner.

### ***If washing your car at home:***

- Wash your car on a lawn so that soapy water will not run into a street or storm drain.
- Use rags to wipe the brake dust off of the wheels before washing.
- Use a nozzle on your hose to conserve water.
- Avoid using soap and other chemicals (such as spray on wheel cleaners). Even biodegradable soap can be toxic to wildlife.
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down a sink or toilet or onto the grass when you are finished.

### ***Car wash fundraisers:***

- Wash cars on a field instead of a parking lot, so soapy water will not run into storm drains, streets or gutters.
- Contact local commercial car washes for discounted passes that you can sell at a higher price to raise funds.
- Hold the event at a commercial car wash and ask them to donate part of the profits if you help to advertise.
- Partner with a self-serve car wash to host the event at their facility and wash cars for tips.



COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL DISPOSAL SERVICE

*"Your Cans Are In Good Hands"*

## Lawley's

Disposal & Container Service, Inc.

P.O. Box 778  
Leesport, PA 19533

(610) 916-5999

- Hold a neighborhood or park clean up. Take pledges for the amount of trash collected or the area cleaned. Following these tips will keep our lakes, streams and rivers clean for our recreational enjoyment! ❖

## **MS4 Matters**

*What is an MS4 and where do MS4 regulations come from?*

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) prohibits the discharge of pollutants into the United States waterways without an associated permit. Pennsylvania and its Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) regulate the discharge of pollutants through multiple programs in order to meet the runoff related requirements set forth by the federal CWA. The MS4 program in particular regulates and permits discharges from **municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4)**. An MS4 is a system of stormwater conveyances (i.e. storm drains, pipes, ditches and outfalls) that drain directly to waterways and are owned by a state, city, town, village or other public entity.

Bern Township is a regulated MS4, therefore the township is required to develop and implement a stormwater management program which incorporates six minimum control measures to reduce contaminated stormwater runoff:

- Public education and outreach
- Public Involvement and participation
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site water runoff control
- Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance

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# Clean Water

## *MS4 Matters (Continued from Page 3)*

Untreated or uncontrolled stormwater runoff is the leading cause of impairment to our local waterways and the number one cause of water pollution throughout the United States. Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt (yes, excess dirt in our waterways is a pollutant) and other pollutants then flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal water, completely untreated. Pennsylvania's MS4 program is ultimately aimed at protecting water quality through pollution reduction at a municipal level.

Be the solution to stormwater pollution! Clean up pet waste, oil and chemical spills, do not litter, use fertilizers sparingly and sweep it off sidewalks and driveways, fix oil and radiator leaks on your vehicles or tractor, don't put oil or trash in storm drains, don't put grass cuttings in the street and prevent mud runoff from your property to keep our rivers and lakes clean. ❖

### **Storm Water**

Stormwater controls are becoming more involved and complex for Pennsylvania municipalities. These regulations begin at the Federal level with the EPA. They are then passed on to the State level to the DEP. They are then passed on to your local municipalities.

Townships must apply to the DEP for a stormwater permit similar to how some residences and businesses must secure stormwater permits when building new buildings or expanding existing facilities. Our engineer helped us with this complicated application in 2017. The work involved amounted to a budget cost of \$50,200.00. However through the efforts of the engineer economizing his hours and township staff assisting him, the final cost of the work came in at less than \$29,000.00.

The township must explain to DEP how we will capture and treat our stormwater before it leaves our municipality. We also must develop a program to inspect our stormwater outfalls for illicit (illegal) discharges and how we will deal with any that are found. We are required to educate the public on the importance of clean stormwater. We do this through our newsletter and by posting information on our website. We have to describe how construction projects are monitored during construction and how stormwater facilities are inspected after the improvements are in place. We

must establish housekeeping practices for our own properties and operations and establish a training program for our staff to have them be knowledgeable with these practices and operations. All of this information was included in our permit application.

The water quality in the streams and rivers in and next to Bern Township is not totally clean. The Tulpehocken River is impaired by nutrients. The tributaries to Plum Creek are impaired with pesticides. The Schuylkill River is impaired by PCB's. The tributaries to the Schuylkill River are impaired by nutrients and siltation. Finally, the Irish Creek is impaired by siltation.

In order to improve the water quality of these streams and rivers, the township will need to construct facilities in three locations to meet the requirements of DEP to capture and treat or clean our stormwater before it gets to the streams and rivers. Bern Township has identified three sites for these facilities. The first location is at one of either two locations along Ziegler Road, between Center Road and Fairview Drive, or along Butter Lane. The second location is at Snyder Road immediately adjacent to Grange Road. The third location is at Mayo Drive and Fisher Road. Preliminary designs of these facilities include infiltration trenches at each location. The infiltration trenches would be located within the township roadway right of way.

The estimated cost to install these facilities, using an outside contractor, is \$85,000.00. Unfortunately, the township does not have the financial resources to implement that type of program. Therefore, the township estimated the cost to construct the facilities using our own road department staff. The total construction and engineering / permitting cost using this type of program is estimated to be \$54,000.00. The township will also maintain these facilities with our road department staff at an estimated cost of \$1,500.00 instead of outside contractors at an annual cost of \$2,500.00.

The township must install all of these facilities before 2023. Each of the three facility projects will likely be installed in separate years to minimize the overall financial impact to the township in any given year. At this time, we expect to finance the projects through our annual General Fund Budget. ❖

# Recycling

## Fall Curbside Collection Schedule

The residential curbside collection of leaf and yard waste begins on Monday, October 22 and continues until Friday, December 21. 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 paper 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, Oct. 22 to Friday, Oct. 26:**

Greenfields Precinct

### **Monday, Oct. 29 to Friday, Nov. 9:**

Schuylkill Precinct  
Grange Precinct  
County Precinct

### **Monday, Nov. 12 to Friday, Nov. 21:**

Greenfields Precinct  
Schuylkill Precinct  
Grange Precinct

### **Monday, Nov. 26 to Friday, Dec. 21:**

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 21. **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. ❖

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## 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

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates:

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

October 20, 2018

Berks County Agricultural Center

### Paper Shredding:

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

October 13, 2018

Berks County Agricultural Center

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## Yard Waste Recycling Program

The Bern Township Yard Waste Recycling site is located at 1316 Hilltop Road next to the Berks County Recycling Center. Operating hours are from dawn to dusk. The facility is open to all township residents. Commercial landscapers, lawn mowing companies or any other business is prohibited from using the yard waste site.

Township residents can take branches, Christmas trees, shrubs, flowers, garden plants and leaves to the yard waste site.

The township does not accept appliances, bags, brick, concrete, containers, construction materials, lumber, metal, rocks, root balls, soil or trash at the yard waste site. Violators will be prosecuted.

Please place your material as close to the back wall of the bin as possible when visiting the yard waste site. This helps to allow more space for others to use, especially on the weekends. We thank you for your cooperation.

This program is a service the township provides to our taxpayers. Illegal dumping increases our cost of providing this service and we may be forced to pass on those costs to taxpayers. Please report any illegal use of the yard waste site immediately so we may continue to provide this service to you at a reasonable cost. ❖

# IMPORTANT NEWS

## **Important News for YOU**

### ***Trash / Recycling Information***

If your trash or recycling was missed or not collected, you must call the township on the same day that the collection was missed. Calls can be made as late as midnight to 610-926-2267 and messages can be left on the phone.

For those of us who live in the trash district, collections are every Friday. Collections are on Saturday if there is a Holiday during the work week (please refer to our informational flyer on our website). We can put six bags or cans of trash out for collection plus one large item such as furniture or mattresses. Please note that if you put two bags in one can, the hauler will count the two bags and not the one can. The hauler will not accept appliances, tires, hazardous materials, construction debris or materials, items containing Freon or paint.

For those of us who live in the recycling district, collections are every other Thursday. Collections are on Friday if there is a Holiday during the work week (please refer to our informational flyer on our website). Cardboard and paper must be kept separate from our cans, glass, plastics and aluminum. The hauler will not accept construction materials, building products, tires, hazardous waste, paint or Styrofoam.

### ***Electronic Recycling***

A reminder to residents that the PA DEP implemented a mandate in 2013 covering the disposal of electronics. The Covered Device Recycling Act 108 prohibits the following electronic devices from disposal at landfills: desktop and laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals and televisions. These items cannot be placed at the curb for trash collection. Instead, they must now be recycled through a community program. We recommend that residents take their electronic items to the County Recycling Center, located at 1316 Hilltop Road.

### ***Communication Information***

The township sends email blasts to residents to communicate regarding issues such as trash and recycling collections, snow emergencies, newsletters, road projects and other "hot" topics of the day. All email addresses are kept confidential. If you would like to sign up for this service, please call the Township Building to provide your email and street address.

### ***Finally.....Thank You***

Thank you. To all of you who support the township, whether you purchase a newsletter

ad, make contributions, volunteer your time, help your neighbors, give advice on the spotted lanternfly, send notes of appreciation, participate in a crime watch, fertilize the soccer field, operate a business and provide a job to your employees, fight fires, save lives, report a burned out street light or a pothole, help find a lost person or a lost animal.....thank you. You are what makes a difference in our community and helps our community to be a pleasant place to be. ❖

### **Impact of Wipes on Pipes**

Blockages often occur in residential and municipal sewer systems from accumulation of disposable wipes in wastewater treatment systems. The pipes, pumps and other equipment that process flushable waste in wastewater treatment systems are often not capable of handling such waste.

Disposable wipes have a variety of different uses – from sanitary cleansing to make-up removal. The appeal of disposable wipes is that they are easy to dispose of and are often now being labeled as "flushable". There is an active debate surrounding whether or not wipes branded as "flushable" are able to biodegrade quick enough to run efficiently through sewerage systems. Several studies over the past several years have provided evidence to suggest that wipes branded as "flushable" are clogging wastewater systems.

The Detroit Michigan Metro area has experienced clogging to screens and pumps within their wastewater treatment and they claim the problem is wipes. The wipes caused a temporary, 15 mile road sewer bypass to collapse causing a sinkhole. Due to this event, wastewater officials in the Detroit Metro area are now urging citizens to flush only toilet paper and human waste.

Officials were discussing whether they should install a cutter on the system pump, an additional expense, in the already \$70 to \$75 million repair project. The large sewer line collapse condemned three houses and caused officials to urge more than 500,000 residents and tens of thousands of businesses to curb water use for months.

In Vancouver, Washington, sewer officials say wipes are a big part of a problem that has caused the city to spend more than \$1 million in the last five years replacing three large sewage pumps and eight smaller ones that were routinely clogging. Officials

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# 2017 in Review

## **Emergency Preparedness for**

### **Pets, Service Animals and Livestock**

If you have pets, service animals or livestock, it's important to include them in your emergency planning. As you begin to think about disaster preparedness for your animals, keep in mind that what's best for you is usually what's best for your animals. If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT** leave your pets behind. However, because many public shelters will not allow any pets inside except for service animals, you should plan ahead for different shelter options that will work for both you and your pets. Below are some guidelines to help you prepare to meet the needs of your pets, service animals and livestock during an emergency.

### **PETS, SERVICE ANIMALS**

Include the following in your emergency supply kit for your pets and service animals:

- enough pet food and bottled water for at least three days (one to two weeks if possible);
- medicines;
- veterinary records for each of your pets (including a note that allows rescuers to give your pet medical treatment if needed);
- registration and/or adoption papers;
- emergency contacts;
- cat litter/pan or bags;
- manual (non-electric) can opener;
- food dishes and water bowls;
- spoon;
- pet first aid kit;
- cloth or thermal blanket;
- collar and leash with tags;
- treats; and
- favorite toy(s) in your emergency kit.
- Talk to your veterinarian about evacuation and emergency care for your animals.
- Develop a buddy system with trusted neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is able to care for or move your pets if you are unable to do so.
- For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot take pets. As you prepare your emergency plan, make sure you find an emergency animal shelter in your area (kennels, adjoining farms, state and local fairgrounds, Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team, etc).

- Know ahead of time which hotels will accept pets.
- Have a portable crate, collar and leash ready for your pets.
- Keep all vaccinations (shots) up to date.
- Make sure you have more than one way to identify your pets (like having a dog license and microchip). Identification tags should be up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. You may also want to have your veterinarian give your pets microchips and/or tattoos as a more permanent way to identify them.
- Have a copy of medical records and a list of necessary medicines on hand. Make different lists for each of your pets.
- If you must leave animals behind, place a sign high on your house (like a window or door) that will be easy for rescuers to see. Make sure the sign includes the type and number of animals which remain. Leave plenty of food and water with feeding instructions for rescuers. Keep the animals in the safest part in your home for the type of emergency you are experiencing. For instance, if flooding is likely do not keep your animals in the basement.

### **LIVESTOCK**

- Prepare an evacuation plan for livestock. Your plan should include a list of resources such as trucks, trailers, pasture and/or feed which might be needed in an evacuation. The plan should also list a person or persons (along with their phone numbers) who will be able to unlock gates and doors and make it easy for emergency workers to reach your animals.
- If you must leave animals behind, place a sign high on the building (like a window or door) that will be easy for rescuers to see. Make sure the sign includes the type and number of the animals which remain. Leave plenty of food and water with feeding instructions for rescuers.

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**Wipes in Pipes (Continued from Page 6)**

say the wipes don't break down from the time they are flushed in a home or business to when they reach the sewer's pumping stations, and that when the pump tries to pull the wastewater in, the wipes circulate and tie themselves in a knot, which plugs the pump. Crews then have to go out and pull the pump out of the pumping station and "de-rag" it to get the wastewater flowing again.

BTMA does experience problems with rolled up disposable wipes getting caught and blocking the flow meters or getting into the pumps. These wipes do not break down as advertised causing expensive repairs at pump stations. Flushing these wipes can also cause a blockage in your sewer pipes which will be an expensive plumbing bill for you. **PLEASE ONLY FLUSH TOILET PAPER!** ❖

**Emerg'y Preparedness (Continued from Page 7)**

- Have halters and lead straps available.
- Have a copy of medical records and a list of necessary medicines on hand. Make different lists for each animal.

For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, go to: [www.ready.pa.gov](http://www.ready.pa.gov) ❖

**BTMA NEWS**

BTMA would like to welcome Annette Schaeffer to the staff. Annette replaces Mariane Sammel who worked at BTMA for 12 years, her smiling face and great work ethic will be notably missed.

Annette is looking forward to meeting some of BTMA's friendly customers, working every Monday and other days when needed. A lifelong Berks County resident, Annette is a physical fitness enthusiast and loves her Duncan Donut's coffee.

BTMA would like to thank Mr. Kurt Lowther who recently resigned his position on the BTMA Board when his term expired. Mr. Lowther was a valuable, long time member of the BTMA Board. His expertise and knowledge of water and sewer systems will be greatly missed.

Mr. Fredric Gurman has been appointed to the BTMA Board by the Bern Township Supervisors for a 4 year term. Mr. Gurman is a long time resident of Bern Township and is retired from the FAA as an air traffic controller. He loves music and teaches art classes in his spare time. BTMA thanks him for accepting the position and welcomes him to the 5 member BTMA Board. ❖

**Important news inside that affects YOU!**



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

**BERN TOWNSHIP**  
1069 OLD BERNVILLE ROAD  
READING, PA 19605