

BERN TOWNSHIP



in the news.....

FALL 2024

Trash & Recycling Collection Schedules Staying the Same!

The current contracts and collection schedules for trash collection, for the trash districts, and recycling collection are continuing into 2025 and will end on December 31, 2025.

Recycling collections shall continue to be every other Thursday in 2025. The day of collection will depend on which recycling district you live in. Please see page 2. Residents shall use their recycling cans for commingled aluminum and tin cans, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and containers. 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.

The trash district collections shall continue to be every Monday, beginning on January 6, 2025. Residents can still put out six 35-gallon cans or bags plus one bulk item every week. There is no spring or fall cleanup.

The township will be sending out our typical annual flyers via email, to those on our email list, as we get closer to the end of the year.

During 2025, the township will request proposals from the trash and recycling haulers for the next contract period, which will start in January 2026 and end in December 2028. It is possible that the collection schedule could change in 2026 if we have different haulers securing the contracts. We will communicate any 2026 scheduling changes before the end of 2025. ❖

Bern Township has a Road Foreman

We are pleased to announce that Bern Township has hired Bobby Turner to be our new road foreman.

Bobby worked at Maxatawny Township as their road foreman for the last eight years. Before that, he worked for LTS Supply, Weber Steel Services and Ransome Caterpillar.

Bobby is a dedicated public works road foreman known for his expertise in maintaining and enhancing transportation infrastructure. Bobby's career revolves around ensuring roads are safe and efficient for his community.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Bobby finds joy in the pursuit of hunting and relishing the challenges and rewards of outdoor adventures. His greatest pleasure, however, lies in spending cherished moments with his family. ❖

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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
Bobby Turner	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
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	Victory Baptist Church
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 Road, 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:

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

Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;

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

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 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:

Sept. 6, 19; Oct. 3, 17, 31, Nov. 14, 29;

Dec. 12, 27; Jan. 9, 23; Feb. 6, 20;

Mar. 6, 20; April 3, 17

District #2:

Sept. 12, 26; Oct. 10, 24; Nov. 7, 21;

Dec. 5, 19; Jan. 3, 16, 30; Feb. 13, 27;

Mar. 13, 27; April 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

Yard Waste Site Changes

Changes are coming at the yard waste site on Hilltop Road. The costs of brush removal have significantly increased over the last few years, from \$38,621 in 2019 to \$86,145 in 2022 due to illegal dumping. 2024 was on a pace to set a new record cost before the center was closed. DEP awarded the township a grant of \$310,249.00 to expand the yard waste site, to enclose the site with fencing and gates, to implement an access card system to enter and exit the site, the installation of security cameras and a computer system with software to manage the access system and monitor the camera views. DEP will fund \$279,224 and Bern Township will fund \$31,025. We have started to make improvements to the site this year and will be implementing the card access system for the beginning of 2025. Letters will be sent to residents explaining how the system will work. Residents will need to pay a small fee for the access cards. We would have liked to leave the yard waste center as it is, however we need to mitigate the alarming increases in yard waste processing and restricting it only to Bern Township residents.

Unfortunately, we had to close the center due to the nature of the construction work - it is best not to have residents using it while we have heavy equipment operating in it. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we improve the center. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused you and look forward to getting the center open again as soon as possible. ❖

Fall Curbside Collection Schedule

The residential curbside collection of leaf and yard waste begins on Monday, October 14 and continues until Friday, December 6. 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. 14 to Friday, Oct. 18
Greenfields Precinct

Monday, Oct. 21 to Friday, Oct. 25:
Schuylkill Precinct
Grange Precinct
County Precinct

Monday, Oct. 28 to Friday, Dec. 6:
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 6. **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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Bern Township

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

October 19, 2024

Berks County Ag Center

1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport

Paper Shredding:

Pre-Registration Required

October 12, 2024

Berks County Ag Center

1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport

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

Bern Township Police

In the end of 2023 and beginning of 2024, the Bern Township Police Department hired three new Police Officers. All three come to us with large amounts of skill sets along with a wealth of knowledge in the police field. We would like to take the time to introduce them to the Bern Township Community.

Officer Hector Santiago brings to Bern Township 20 plus years of police experience. He was a K-9 Officer in the City of Reading and holds certifications as a Police Mountain Bike Officer and Evidence Technician. Additionally, he is an Instructor at the Reading Police Academy. He is also a member of Lodge 71 & Lodge 9's Fraternal Order of Police Critical Incident Stress Team (CISM). Santiago also possesses the skill set of being Bilingual which has been an enormous asset to our community and police department.

Officer Brian Johnson brings to Bern Township almost 30 years of experience. He was also a K-9 Officer in Schuylkill County. Brian is a Taser Instructor and an Evidence Technician. He brings with him extensive Supervisory experience at all levels. Brian also is certified in Weights & Measures for overweight vehicles. Additionally, he has received basic SWAT training and is a certified Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) instructor.

Officer Lance Lillis brings to Bern Township over 25 years of experience. Officer Lillis held various positions and ranks with the City of Reading before

coming to Bern Township. He also brings extensive Supervisory experience with the various assignments he has held. Officer Lillis is certified as a Police Mountain Bike Officer. He has received training from the Pennsylvania State Police through their Leadership Development Program as well as training from the FBI involving Active Shooter incidents.

The Department organized and hosted a County-Wide Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Detail within Bern Township during the month of April. 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 traverse through the township. There were 47 trucks inspected, 17 traffic citations issued, 7 trucks taken out of service and 2 drivers taken out of service.

On behalf of all the involved police departments and their staff, we would like to thank everyone for participating in our National Night Out Community Events. We thank the businesses, communities, fire departments and emergency medical service agencies who always help bring it all together. We thoroughly enjoy this event because we can witness the communities for which we serve come together and connect with their local law enforcement partners.

National Night Out events take place all over the country. Our goal is to create positive relationships between our neighbors and law enforcement to bring back the true essence of law enforcement and communities working together as one TEAM. We want to be able to build a positive relationship with all families, neighbors and community members to let them know that we are here to support them by creating a safe environment where we can all live, work and relax. The best way to prevent crime is to know and work with your neighbors, communities and local police departments.

The last two years our National Night Out celebrations where collaborative efforts between the Bern Township, Fleetwood, Hamburg, Tilden and Northern Berks Regional Police Departments. By joining our communities together, we can foster stronger relationships with the police. This collaborative effort between police and community creates safer neighborhoods for all!

Thank you again for your generous support as we work together to make our communities and neighborhoods a better place to live. ❖

Bern Township

Committee & Board Changes

Our volunteer committees and Boards have recently gone through some changes. Chuck Koch moved out of the township and resigned from the Bern Township Municipal Authority Board. We thank Chuck for his many years serving as chairman of the board. We are excited to welcome Gloria Heffner to the BTMA board and look forward to working with her.

Todd Cameron also moved out of the township and resigned his position on the Bern Township Zoning Hearing Board. He also served for many years and we thank him for being involved with his community. We are excited to welcome Chris Becker to the Zoning Hearing Board and look forward to working with him.

Kathy Gees-Larue retired from the alternate position for the Bern Township Zoning Hearing Board. We thank Kathy for her interest in serving her community. We are excited to welcome Evan Jack to the alternate position for the Bern Township Zoning Hearing Board.

Finally, one of our original members of the Bern Township Solid Waste Advisory Commission, Alan Taylor, retired from his position. We thank Alan for his efforts in helping to get the advisory board started and his interest in his community. We are excited to welcome William Bundy to the Solid Waste Advisory Commission and look forward to working with him.

We currently have vacancies on two of our township committees: Zoning Hearing Board Alternate position and the Planning Commission Alternate position. If you have an interest in getting involved with any of those 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. ❖

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. ❖

Bern Welcomes New Road Crew Member

We are delighted to announce the addition of Kevin Gray to Bern Township’s public works team. Kevin will be joining us as our new Equipment Operator. With his extensive background in public works, Kevin brings knowledge and experience to our organization. Kevin has an impressive 9-year background in the public works sector. In his role Kevin will be responsible for maintaining roadways and other projects with the road crew. He has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to public works, which we believe will benefit our ongoing and future projects. Kevin’s hiring will bring our public works department back to five members. Please join us in warmly welcoming Kevin Gray to the Bern Township family. ❖

BTMA REMINDERS

BTMA Payment Methods – There are several ways to pay your water & sewer bills. BTMA accepts cash at the office window; checks can be mailed, brought to the office window or put in the drop box located outside the Township building; payments are accepted at the Tompkins bank on Bernville Rd (Rt. 183) with your payment stub. BTMA also offers Automatic Clearing House of your payments, this form of payment guarantees your payment will be on time. You can contact the office for an application for ACH payment. We do NOT accept credit cards for payment, however, if you login to DOXO and search Bern Township Municipal Authority you can pay with a credit card on line. DOXO charges a fee and BTMA will receive via email your info for the sewer payment amount only.

BTMA can also have your monthly bill emailed to your inbox. Depending on your computer security the first month’s bill may go to spam or junk, you just need to let your security system know to allow emails from the BTMA billing email address which is a Gmail account. No matter how you receive the BTMA bill, if it is not received it does not constitute you not paying. If you do not receive your bill by the 5th of any month, please contact the office, we can email you another copy or tell you the amount due. We have been receiving bills with yellow stickers from the post office that are undeliverable even though when we call the customer they are

(Continued on Page 6)

BTMA Reminders (Continued From Page 5)

receiving their mail, so receiving your bill by email could be more efficient. All payments are due by the 25th of the month. Please call the office if you would like an application to have your bill emailed to you.

For those customers who use on-line banking to pay their bill. BTMA receives a paper check for those payments, it can take up to 10 days for BTMA to receive your check along with other on-line banking checks. BMTA might receive your check days after it was taken from your account. BTMA dates your payment when it is received in the office, so if you wait till the last minute to put your payment thru it most likely will arrive after the due date and, therefore, you would be assessed a penalty.

Please remember to conserve water during the summer months. It has been a hot summer with periods of no rain. Conserving water will insure there is plenty of water if we experience a drought period.

PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH anything down your toilets but toilet paper. Flushable wipes, napkins, paper towels, kitty litter, etc. block up the flow at the meter pit, which distorts the actual flow. When the

flow isn't consistent the meter reports higher flow causing the cost of treatment at the sewer plant to increase. BTMA has had problems consistently at the flow metering in the West Shore Development. With your cooperation BTMA can keep sewer rates as is.

The outdoor drop box is available for check payments, **DO NOT** put cash in the drop box. The inside drop box is no longer available. Please **DO NOT** try to put payments in it, the lock broke and that box will not be used in the present or the near future.

BTMA also offers ACH payment either from a checking or savings account. Your payment comes out of your account on the 25th of each month. This is a great option for those who lose their bills or have not received them in the mail and those who don't want to be bothered to remember to make a payment during the month. Please call the office for an application. ❖

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Important news inside that affects YOU!



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