

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 40 No. 2 Fall 2025/Winter 2026

Borough of Wyomissing

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wyomissingboro.org

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BOROUGH NEWS & NOTICES

Stay updated with the latest borough news and notices by signing up for our "Notify Me! Alerts" email subscription, found on our community page at wyomissingboro.org.



WYOMISSING PUBLIC LIBRARY



Whatever your age and interests, the Wyomissing Public Library has something for you! Our growing collection and wide variety of programs—story hours, yoga, book clubs, chess clubs, movies and more—provide opportunities to learn, grow, have fun, and connect with friends and neighbors.

The library offers a variety of engaging weekday **programs for young children**. Highlights include Mother Goose on the Loose—a fun mix of nursery rhymes, music, and movement for children up to age three—held Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Preschoolers aged three and up can enjoy Preschool Storytime every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., and Builders, Blocks and Books on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Tail Waggin' Tutors gives children of all ages the chance to read and interact with a gentle therapy dog on the first, second, and third Tuesday of each month. And every Wednesday, before the building opens to the public, the library offers Sensory Friendly Library Time for toddlers, preschoolers, and their families to explore hands-on, sensory-rich activities in a calm and welcoming setting.

For older children, the library offers Dungeons & Dragons, Youth Chess and a variety of special programs. For instance, Red Creek Wildlife Center recently presented a program about local wildlife, and introduced a few of their furry and feathered ambassadors, including a rescued opossum, hawk and vulture.

Meanwhile, **programming for adults has expanded**. Community Conversations, a series of moderated discussions about current issues, will focus on the future of US healthcare at our next session this Fall. To celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday this year, the library recently began a Jane Austen Book Club, perfect for fans of English literature. Chair yoga with Linda Zogas has resumed on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Other offerings include Art for Adults, chess, bridge games, and a variety of health and wellness programs.

...CONTINUED INSIDE



LIBRARY CONTINUED...

From bestsellers to biographies, the library offers a wide variety of books to suit every interest and reading level. Library cardholders can choose from thousands of books, eBooks and e-Audiobooks, as well as music and movies, all available for free. Patrons can also use our online catalog to request materials from any Berks County Public Library and then pick up those items at WPL. This allows our patrons to enjoy a wider selection of titles, with greater convenience and quicker access to popular items. We also offer free home delivery for patrons who are unable to get to the library.

To explore all the programs and events the library has to offer, visit wyopublib.org to view our calendar and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

The primary mission of Borough government is to serve and support our residents. Public safety—Police, Fire, and EMS—remains our highest priority. Strong infrastructure, from our streets to our water and sewer systems, is equally vital. And it is our parks, recreation programs, and reliable refuse and recycling services that make Wyomissing such a special community.

Partnerships also matter. Working side by side with our outstanding schools and neighboring municipalities strengthens us all. At the same time, our commercial districts are essential to keeping Wyomissing affordable. The revenues generated there allow us to maintain the quality of life our residents deserve. We take pride in the redevelopment successes already achieved—from the Knitting Mills and Wyomissing Square, to the Tower Health/Drexel Medical School campus and several new apartment communities. More progress is on the horizon.

That said, three major projects continue to demand our attention:

- **The former Reading Motor Inn**

Once an obsolete hotel, the site has begun its transformation. Two wings have already been converted into studio apartments, with plans for two new multi-story buildings.

- **The Crowne Plaza (formerly the Sheraton)**

After delays, redevelopment is finally underway with plans for a revitalized, first-class hotel. Though both projects have faced hurdles, we remain committed to seeing them through.

- **The Berkshire Mall**

Perhaps our biggest challenge, progress here has been slowed by ownership's reluctance to meet expectations, forcing us into court proceedings. Promises have been made and postponed, but we remain vigilant and persistent in advocating for the future of this important property.

With little space left for new development, our focus must be on renewing and reimagining what we already have. That work is ongoing, and we will keep you informed as each step unfolds.

Frederick C. Levering

Frederick C. Levering
Mayor, Borough of Wyomissing

FROM THE CHIEF WYOMISSING POLICE DEPARTMENT

SEASONAL SAFETY TIPS FROM THE WYOMISSING POLICE DEPARTMENT

As the leaves fall and temperatures drop, the Wyomissing Police Department encourages all residents to take a few simple precautions to stay safe throughout the fall and winter months. A little planning now can help prevent accidents, injuries, and headaches later in the season.

Drive Safely in Changing Conditions

With shorter days, slick roads, and unpredictable weather, fall and winter driving can be tricky. Slow down—especially in school zones and residential areas—and give yourself extra time to brake. Check that your headlights, tires, and brakes are in good condition, and always clear ice and snow from your vehicle before hitting the road.

Be Alert for Pedestrians

Earlier nightfall makes it harder to see people out walking, running, or playing. Drivers, please stay alert and reduce your speed in high-foot-traffic areas. Pedestrians should wear reflective clothing and use sidewalks and crosswalks whenever possible.

Keep Your Home Safe and Warm

Before lighting the fireplace or plugging in a space heater, have your heating systems inspected to ensure they're clean and safe. Never leave space heaters unattended, and keep them away from curtains, furniture, and other flammable items. Also, this is a good time to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries if needed.

Prevent Holiday Package Theft

As online shopping ramps up for the holidays, so do package thefts. If possible, have deliveries sent to a secure location or use tracking alerts to stay updated. If you spot suspicious behavior in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to report it.

Check on Neighbors

Cold weather can be especially tough on older adults and those who live alone. A quick call, knock on the door, or offer to help can make a big difference this time of year.

We're proud to serve the residents of Wyomissing and remain committed to keeping our community safe, connected, and informed. If you have questions, concerns, or witness suspicious activity, don't hesitate to contact the Wyomissing Police Department. Let's all look out for one another this season—stay warm and stay safe!



FIRE WYOMISSING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Station Number
610-375-4436



JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE

As part of Fire Prevention Week, the Wyomissing Fire Department invites all residents to our Annual Open House on Wednesday, October 8th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Fire Station located at 1259 Penn Avenue. This family-friendly event is a great opportunity to meet the dedicated firefighters who serve our community, explore the fire trucks and equipment up close, and learn important fire safety tips that could save lives. Whether you're bringing curious kids or just want to brush up on home safety practices, there's something for everyone. Come out, ask questions, and help us promote fire prevention across Wyomissing.

WHEN SECONDS COUNT, YOU CAN COUNT ON

 **CodeRED™**



CodeRED is a **FREE** emergency notification service provided to all residents within **Wyomissing Borough** that will notify you of emergency or general information through **phone calls, text messages, emails, and the CodeRED Mobile Alert app**. The system will be used to keep you informed of local events that may immediately impact your safety.

The CodeRED® system will be used to send critical and time-sensitive communications such as: **Missing Persons/Children, Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Evacuation Notices, Weather Related Necessities, Criminal Activity, Shelter in Place/Lockdowns, Boil Water Advisories, Large Local Events.**

You must enroll to be on the notification list for Wyomissing Boro. Visit the Wyomissing Borough website and click on the CodeRED icon to enroll and also to download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app available in the App Store or Google Play. If you do not have access to a computer or cell phone, call the office at 610-898-8060 for assistance in signing up.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: “Charge Into Fire Safety” – October 5–11

Fire Prevention Week™ returns this October 5th through 11th with a powerful and timely message: **“Charge Into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.”** This year, the Wyomissing Fire Department, along with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), is focusing on the safe use, charging, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries—because while these batteries power much of our modern lives, they can also pose serious fire risks if not handled properly.

Lithium-ion batteries are found in everything from cell phones and laptops to power tools, e-bikes, and scooters. And while they're incredibly useful, they also require a little extra attention. A damaged battery or one that's charged improperly can quickly turn into a fire hazard.



Here's what you can do to keep your home and family safe:

- **BUY SMART** – Before you purchase anything with a lithium-ion battery, check that it's been tested and certified by a nationally recognized lab. Products without this certification—often sold online at steep discounts—can be dangerous.
- **CHARGE SAFELY** – Always use the charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer. If your charging cable is frayed, bent, or only works when you twist it a certain way, it's time to replace it. And remember: devices should be charged on a hard, flat surface—*not on your bed, couch, or under a pillow.*
- **KNOW WHEN TO UNPLUG** – Once your device is at 100%, unplug it. Overcharging can increase the risk of overheating and fire. For larger items like e-bikes, scooters, or power tools, charge them outdoors on a dry, flat surface away from anything flammable, wet, or easily knocked over.
- **RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY** – Never throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or your curbside recycling bin. They can cause fires in garbage trucks or recycling centers. Instead, drop them off at an approved battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a site near you.

This Fire Prevention Week, let's all take a moment to check our devices, chargers, and habits around battery-powered items. A few simple precautions can go a long way in protecting your home—and your community—from a dangerous and preventable fire.

For more information, contact the Wyomissing Fire Department or visit nfpa.org/fpw.

REFUSE, RECYCLING

Leaf Collection Tips for Fall

There's no denying it—fall in Wyomissing is breathtaking. The vibrant canopy of reds, yellows, and oranges is one of the things that makes our community so special. But with all that beauty comes one of the Borough's biggest seasonal challenges: *leaf collection*.

Each autumn, the Wyomissing Public Works team shifts gears into full fall operations mode, with leaf pickup taking center stage. Our goal is to keep roads clear, storm drains flowing, and neighborhoods looking their best. With thousands of trees lining our streets and parks, this is no small task—and we appreciate your help in keeping things running smoothly.

To assist our crews and help speed up the process, here are a few friendly reminders:

- **Pile it high and tight** – Please rake your leaves *into a tight pile close to the curbline*. Avoid spreading leaves out into the street, as wide piles slow down our vacuum equipment and pose traffic and drainage issues.
- **Keep sticks and grass separate** – Leaves only, please! *Twigs, branches, and grass clippings* jam the vacuum tubes and can bring a route to a halt. These items should go in large paper kraft bags for regular yard waste collection.
- **Once-a-week collection goal** – We aim to collect leaves from each street *at least once per week*. That said, delays can occur due to equipment issues, high leaf volume, or inclement weather. We appreciate your patience as we make our rounds.
- **Hold off after collection** – If your leaves were just picked up, consider holding off a few days before putting out more. This helps reduce the chances of clogged storm drains if we get hit with heavy rainfall.

Our team covers a lot of ground each day—literally. The more efficiently we can move through the Borough, the more consistent our service can be. Your cooperation really does make a difference.

And while it may feel like a never-ending game of rake, pile, repeat, we encourage you to take a moment to enjoy the season. Wyomissing's tree-lined streets may test our patience in the fall, but they reward us year-round with shade, beauty, and a sense of place that few communities can match.

Thank you for working with us to keep Wyomissing beautiful, safe, and leaf-free—one curbside pile at a time.



Last day of leaf pickup is Monday, December 15th.

YARD WASTE REMINDERS:

For your convenience, the Borough of Wyomissing offers a Yard Waste Program for its residents. Below is a simple FAQ outlining the program for the remainder of this calendar year.

What MAY I set out for yard waste collection?

Yard waste material is considered to be grass clippings, leaves, and twigs.

What items are NOT considered yard waste?

Firewood, stumps, dirt, rocks, and trash.

How should I prepare my yard waste?

Yard waste must either be in biodegradable paper yard waste bags or refuse type containers with handles and lids removed.

Where can I purchase yard waste bags or containers?

Yard waste bags may be purchased at the Borough Hall, both bags and containers can be purchased at any home improvement retailer.

May I use labeled recycling containers for yard waste collection?

No. Recycling containers marked with any recycling insignia containing yard waste will NOT be collected.

Is there a weight limit on yard waste bags or containers?

Yes. The weight limit per bag or container is 40 pounds.

Are branches considered yard waste?

Yes. However, branches may not be larger than six-inches in diameter and four-inches in length.

The 2025 Yard Waste Program and collection for this year will end on December 12th, 2025.

WYOMISSING PARK & SHADE TREE COMMISSION

If you have been to the Parklands recently you may have noticed some changes. After reviewing the Parkland Stewardship study prepared by Flora Teeter and Berks Nature last year, the Borough has been hard at work to seek out grant funding and take steps to support the wildlife and beauty of the parklands. Our first step has been to start the relocation of the Creek Trail near the Old Mill parking lot. This is part of an effort to reduce erosion in the Wyomissing Creek and will be accompanied with a native tree planting along the path this fall. Planting native trees along the banks to replace the invasive Honeysuckle will increase wildlife habitat, attracting song birds and pollinators while also stabilizing the stream bank.

This work, and other projects the Borough will have to take to ensure the resiliency of the parklands, needs the support of our community. Jen Reimer, Chair of the Park & Shade Tree Commission, is organizing volunteer help from the community. If you are interested in being a part of the planting efforts this Fall or want to volunteer with the Commission's Outreach program, please reach out to Jen at jReimer@wyopd.org.

You can also protect our parklands by thinking about the plants in your own garden. Some common garden plants such as barberry, burning bush, honeysuckle, and butterfly bush are considered invasive in Pennsylvania. Replacing them with a native plant species such as Red Chokeberry, Virginia Sweetspire, and Sweet Pepperbush will help support our native songbirds and pollinators and keep those invasive plants from escaping your garden and displacing native species in the parklands.

PLAY

PARKS & RECREATION CORNER

The mission of the Wyomissing Recreation Board is to provide excellence in the delivery of programs, events, and services; provide well-maintained, safe park areas and recreational facilities; enrich the physical and social development of our children while maintaining a safe environment; and meet the recreation needs of the community and enrich the lives of our residents.

As much as we hate to say goodbye to the long days of sunshine, poolside afternoons, and the sound of kids laughing across our playgrounds, there's something undeniably magical about the arrival of fall in Wyomissing. The air gets a little crisper, the trees put on a spectacular show, and our community shifts gears—from flip-flops to flannels, from popsicles to pumpkin spice.

Summer gave us everything we could've hoped for—sun-soaked fun, parades, and a community that showed up in every way. The Wyomissing Pool was buzzing with energy from the first splash of Memorial Day Weekend to the last cannonball Labor Day Weekend. Our Summer Playground Program welcomed hundreds of children for another season of games, crafts, and lifelong memories. Concerts echoed through the parks and stargazers enjoyed the wonders of the night sky.

But don't pack away your outdoor spirit just yet—fall is bringing its own flavor of fun! Whether you're ready to lace up your shoes for our Fall Walk Series or you're more of a cozy-sweater-and-hot-cider kind of neighbor, there's something for everyone. Keep your eyes peeled for details on upcoming favorites like the *Spooky Hollow Halloween Carnival*, our

Boo'ing Season House Decorating Contest, and the ever-popular *Lighting of the Greens* and *Holiday Marketplace* in December.

And yes, Movies in the Park is back for a special fall showing—because there's just something extra cozy about watching a movie under the stars in a hoodie, surrounded by falling leaves and friends. Pack a blanket, bring your favorite snacks, and enjoy a crisp evening of outdoor cinema.

This is one of the best times of year to get outside and explore the Parklands. Whether you're walking along the winding trails along the creek, or simply sitting on a bench and watching the leaves drift down like confetti, the Parklands comes alive in fall. It's the perfect backdrop for peaceful solitude, dog walks, family strolls, or spontaneous leaf-pile jumping. So go ahead—breathe in the fresh air and take in the beauty that surrounds us.

So grab your hoodie, dust off that Stanley, and come join us. The sun might be setting a little earlier these days, but there's still plenty of time to play. As always, thank you for being part of what makes Wyomissing such a vibrant and welcoming place to live and work.

SPOOKY HOLLOW HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Happy Hollow Playground is set to transform into a world of magic and mischief as we celebrate the ninth annual Spooky Hollow Halloween Carnival! On Saturday, October 18th, the ordinary will give way to the extraordinary, as potions bubble, spells swirl, and the spirit of Halloween fills the air.

This family-friendly favorite is packed with thrills and treats for every ghost, goblin, and pumpkin in between. From games and spooky crafts to plenty of candy and delicious food options, the carnival promises a cauldron full of fun. Laughter and excitement will echo across the playground as surprises unfold throughout the evening, making memories that last far beyond Halloween night.

As the sun sets, the magic continues on the softball field. Gather your family, grab some cozy blankets and chairs, and settle in under the stars for a Halloween-themed movie screening—the perfect way to wind down after an afternoon of festivities.

Admission is FREE! While you enjoy the enchanting atmosphere, treat yourself to tasty bites and savory snacks from our food vendors, available for purchase.

Be sure to check WyomissingREC.com and our social media pages for updates.

Date: Saturday, October 25th

Time: 2:00 to 5:00 PM

Location: Happy Hollow Playground

Rain Date: Sunday, October 26th

Wyomissing's Holiday Season Begins with the

Lighting of the Greens

& HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

The Borough's most anticipated holiday tradition is almost here! On Saturday, December 6th, Wyomissing will once again come together at the historic Stone House lawn and pond for the Lighting of the Greens & Holiday Marketplace—the official start of the holiday season. Each year, this cherished celebration signals to families across the Borough that it's time to light up homes and hearts for the most magical time of year. The grounds will be transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland, filled with holiday cheer and warmth.

Children can delight in festive activities and experience the joy of the petting zoo, while holiday melodies from the Wyomissing Band and upbeat sounds from our DJ fill the air. Seasonal treats from local vendors will be on hand, offering flavors that capture the spirit of the season. As you wander through the Holiday Marketplace, discover unique crafts, handmade goods, and thoughtful gift ideas—perfect for holiday shopping close to home. Don't forget to stop inside the Stone House, where Santa will be waiting by the cozy fireplace to hear special wishes and spread holiday cheer.

The highlight of the evening comes at 5:00 PM, when the community gathers for the moment we've all been waiting for—the illumination of the greens. As the switch is flipped, the Stone House grounds glow with thousands of sparkling lights, sending a magical signal across Wyomissing: it's time to deck the halls, light the lights, and celebrate together.

The Lighting of the Greens & Holiday Marketplace is more than just an event—it's a memory-making tradition that brings the entire community together. Don't miss this unforgettable start to Wyomissing's holiday season!

Date: Saturday, December 6th

Location: The Stone House Lawn

Time: 2:00 to 5:00 PM

Rain Date: December 7th

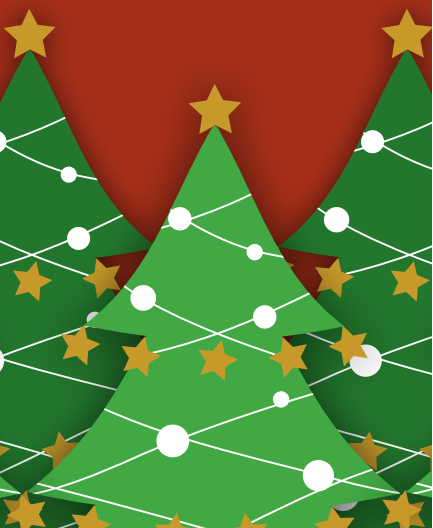
CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Christmas trees will be collected by the Borough and recycled from Monday, January 5, 2025 through Monday, January 26, 2026. There will be no pick-ups after this date. Please place trees where normal refuse and recycling are collected.



Borough of Wyomissing
Borough Hall
22 Reading Boulevard
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-376-7481

or Current Resident



SNOW & ICE POLICY

When winter weather brings icy conditions or snowfall of one inch or more, safety becomes our top priority. If the Borough determines that refuse and recycling collection will still take place, residents with alleyway service must place their containers at the curb in front of their homes until the alleyway is deemed safe and passable by the hauler. This precaution helps prevent accidents and delays—navigating alleyways too soon can lead to property or vehicle damage if a truck slides, or even cause further service interruptions if the vehicle becomes stuck.

This policy applies to all alleyways in the Borough. Even if some alleys appear clear, service will remain curbside until *all* alleyways are accessible, ensuring consistency and safety for our crews. Homeowners are responsible for clearing a space for their refuse and recycling containers during snow and ice events.

Please monitor the Borough's website homepage for updates regarding refuse and recycling during winter weather. Timely information will help keep collections running as smoothly and safely as possible throughout the season.

ADOPT-A HYDRANT *HELP US HELP YOU*

