

Wernersville 2023 Spring Newsletter

Borough Council Meetings-1st Wednesday of every Month @7PM
Mayor: Melissa Dean ~ President: David Latino ~ Vice President: James Swartz
Councilmen: Robert Gordon, James Pierce, Linda Dapcic-Angst, Linda Palm, Keegan Worley
Secretary: Debra Pierce and Tax Collector
Assistant Secretary: Jennifer Velez
Borough of Wernersville ~ 100 North Reber Street ~ PO Box 167 ~ Wernersville, PA 19565
Phone 610-678-1486 ~ Fax 610-678-5983
Office Hours are Daily 9:00 to 2:00 Monday through Friday

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Trash Day is on EVERY <u>WEDNESDAY</u> Morning! If a holiday falls on or before a trash day, pick-up will be the following day. The affected Holidays will be Memorial Day (5/29), 4th of July, and Labor Day (9/4). Due to these holidays, Trash will be picked up on Thursdays during those weeks.
- Recycling Day is on EVERY <u>THURSDAY</u> Morning! Recycling will be collected on Friday if a Holiday falls in that week. Due to Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day, Recycling will be picked up on Fridays during those weeks.
- **Street Sweeping** will occur the week of April 24th, Weather Permitting. Please watch for signs.
- Wernersville Annual Yard Sale: will be Saturday May 13th and Sunday May 14th.



- **Memorial Day Parade:** Monday, May 29th at 10am (starting and ending at the Western Berks Fire Department).
- Flag Day Ceremony: @ the Heidelberg Heritage Society Lerch Tavern, Wednesday, June 14th at 7pm. Bring your old flags and lawn chairs if needed.

News from the Mayor

Melissa Dean

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

At the time of this writing it has not been much of a winter, but as we all know, Pennsylvania's Mother Nature is on her own schedule so don't go putting away that snow blower just yet. But alas, this winter may yet pass without a measurable snow.

As the weather gets warmer I remind and encourage you to maintain your properties and lawns. Not just for the benefit of our community and fellow neighbors, but for those visiting our beautiful borough.

This spring and summer there will be plenty to do locally. So, keep up to date with events and news by following the Mayor on Facebook and Instagram.

Eat, Shop, Spend Local in our Wonderful Wernersville!



Yard waste can be taken to South Heidelberg drop off. The gates are open 7AM-8PM (April 1 through October 31) and 7AM-6PM (November 1 through March 31).

Directions: go past the Moyer Nissan building, take the first left onto Point Road. Drop-off is to the right.

Please Note: will need an access card to use the Yard Waste Drop off Site

Please be kind to Workers and Pedestrians

Keep tree limbs, trash cans and cars off of the sidewalk and curb

DO NOT blow cut grass out into the street. It is a safety hazard and harmful to the environment.

BOROUGH PARKS - The parks are closed when they are being mowed because of safety reasons. They are also closed from dusk to dawn.

From the Codes Department: Just a friendly reminder

All fences, sheds, decks, patios and the like require, at a minimum, a zoning permit prior to construction or installation. Also, as the warmer weather approaches, you may think about relief from the heat in the form of a swimming pool. Please be aware, that all swimming pools, whether in-ground, temporary or permanent, that are designed to hold 24 inches or more of water must comply with zoning and building codes. All swimming pools that are designed to hold 24 inches or more of water have specific electrical and barrier (safety) requirements through the state building code. A zoning and building permit is required prior to the installation and use of those swimming pools holding 24 or more inches of water.

Additionally, the Borough enforces the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code as the regulation for the maintenance of properties and building within the Borough. This code includes but is not limited to, the maintenance of buildings such as peeling paint, structural members, roofing materials etc. The code also regulates the appearance of properties related to the outdoor storage of materials or debris that are not designed to be stored outside. This includes rubbish and garbage. Please be advised that the Borough may begin actively patrolling for property maintenance violations. If you see something that may be in violation of the property maintenance code, feel free to file a complaint with the Borough Office.

Any questions pertaining to codes please call Kraft Code Services at 610-775-7185.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



Learn More about Stormwater and MS4

Various public educational events take place throughout Berks County that are available to the public to learn more about stormwater and its associated stream pollution.

Check out the following website for more information: http://berkscd.com/berks-ms4-program/overview

Why Should I Care About Stormwater?

We are all part of a watershed. Watersheds are land areas that drain to the nearest body of water. For example, if you are in western Pennsylvania, you are part of the Ohio River watershed, while eastern Pennsylvania lands may ultimately drain to the Chesapeake Bay. Smaller local creeks and streams also eventually drain to a larger local water body.

■ Flooding

When excess water has nowhere to go, flooding can impact property and cause damage to land and structures. Flooding can also be a public safety issue that affects entire communities.

■ Pollution and Health Impacts

Stormwater picks up anything that is on the ground and carries it along with it. Animal waste, chemicals, pesticides, oil, and sediment – all end up in waterways and potentially in our sources of drinking water.

■ Streambank Erosion

Uncontrolled stormwater can cause streambank erosion, leaving bare soil and exposing tree roots. This can lead to property damage and cause issues with streambank stability.

Sedimentation

Erosion and runoff, can also lead to sedimentation. Sedimentation of waterways from runoff causes changes to aquatic habitats. Undesirable plant growth increases, water becomes more turbid or cloudy, which leads to disruption of aquatic ecosystems. Sedimentation also fills in waterways, which can increase the flooding potential.

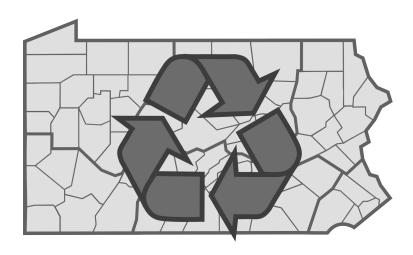
■ Impacts to Groundwater Recharge

If stormwater isn't sinking into the ground it can affect recharge of groundwater resources. This can affect water levels in drinking water wells as well as impacting levels in surface water.

■ Impacts to Recreational Opportunities

Stormwater runoff can cause polluted waterways which can lead to restrictions on boating, swimming, and fishing in recreational areas.

Making changes to how stormwater is managed can go a long way to reduce negative impacts. Even small actions by individual homeowners like using a rain barrel, choosing permeable landscaping surfaces, or installing a rain garden can make a difference. Stormwater affects everyone!



KEEP RECYCLING SUCCESSFUL-SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

YES: White envelopes, computer paper, brown grocery bags, magazines & catalogs, chipboard/box board, white & colored ledger paper, newspaper, notebook paper, paper egg cartons, construction paper, soft covered workbooks, telephone & paperback books, junk mail, Juice boxes, milk cartons, aluminum cans, tin & bi Metallic containers: (including aerosol cans) aseptic milk/juice containers, aluminum foil (pie plates, eg), plastic containers 1-7, frozen food cartons.

NO: GLASS, Trash, diapers, clothing, **styrofoam**, bags, caps, lids, food, compost, yard waste, paper towels, mirrors, window glass, light bulbs, propane tanks, medical waste, Styrofoam peanuts. Reminder: NO PLASTIC BAGS.

**Please Note: If any of these items are put out with your recycling, the hauler will not take your recycling.

LIQUIDS must be emptied from bottles and cans before they are placed into the recycling bin.

Any questions please call the Borough Hall at 610-678-1486.

WHO MUST COMPLY? All Businesses and residents in the Borough must comply. Each calendar year, Businesses and residential properties not included in the Borough's collection program, are required to report how much you recycle and where the materials were marketed.

ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION: The Solid Waste Authority has an electronic-waste collection center located at 1316 Hilltop Rd., Leesport. The center is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8AM to 12 noon. They accept all electronic Items, TV (limit2), VCR, microwave, air conditioners, and fluorescent light bulbs, etc. This is free for all residents. There is a fee for businesses and an appointment is needed. Call 610-478-6362 if you need more information.

TRASH COLLECTION: Pick- up is every Wednesday. If a Holiday is on a weekday and falls on a weekday (M-F) on or before Trash and/or recycling pick up, pick-up will be the following day. The holidays that may affect trash pick-up are Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Four Bags/Containers per home. If you have a large bulk item, you must CALL Advanced Disposal/Waste Management at 610-440-3700 and give the account # 603-9052 to schedule a bulk item pick up, at an additional charge.

Please be sure to BAG cat litter and dog/animal waste before placing it in your container.

Curbside Yard Waste Collection will be on Monday, June 19th. YOU MUST call the Borough office at 610-678-1486 to SCHEDULE your pick-up by June 16th. Place items out the night before, we will be picking up early. Yard waste (limbs, branches, shrub trimmings, etc.) should be tied and properly bundled, maximum size 48"X18"X18" will be collected. Trimmings should be properly tied or placed in an open container. NO TRIMMINGS IN PLASTIC BAGS AND ABSOLUTELY NO GRASS WILL BE COLLECTED.



Paper Shredding

Sat, Apr 22, 2023, 8 AM – 12 PM (Registration is required) Governor Mifflin Intermediate School 600 Governor Dr Shillington, PA 19607

Household Hazardous Waste - Free to Berks County Residents April 15, 2023 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Registration is required) Governor Mifflin Intermediate School 600 Governor Dr Shillington, PA 19607

You can register for these events through the County of Berks http://www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/swa/pages/default.aspx

Wernersville Annual Yard Sale

Get your treasures and trinkets ready for the annual yard sale to be held Saturday May 13th and Sunday May 14th. Set up a table at your house and your items could be someone else's find. Make a day of it.

Come and Support the Women's Club of Wernersville

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the South Heidelberg Township Building Community Room.

Visitors are welcome and new memberships are available!

Call Helen with any questions, 610-678-1377 Website: WomensClubofWernersville.org

Keep Trees Trimmed

Please keep trees in your front yard and in the shade tree space (between the sidewalk and street) trimmed so that they are not hanging down over the sidewalk and street. Trees must be trimmed to no less than 7 feet about sidewalk and no less than 15 feet above the street. Please make sure that you are keeping your sidewalks clear of any tree limbs, bushes, brush, debris and weeds etc. so that they are safe for pedestrians. If you have any bushes or trees close to the sidewalk, please make sure they are trimmed.

WEEDS: Please make sure you keep your sidewalks and curbs weed free. It is the responsibility of the resident/homeowner to maintain the sidewalk and pull or spray weeds along the curb.

HOME ADDRESS: all home addresses should be easily visible from the street in case of emergency.

SELLING YOUR HOME? The Wernersville Borough requires an inspection prior to making settlement on the sale of a home in the Borough, under Ordinance 545. Please contact us for the form and fee for this inspection. All homes must also have Sidewalk and Curbing, under Ordinance 530. If they do not have sidewalk and curb prior to the sale, it would need to be installed by the new buyer within 120 days after settlement.

The Wernersville Memorial Day Parade



Monday, May 29th at 10am.



Parade will start and end at the Western Berks Fire Department.

ORDINANCES TO KNOW:

DOG ORDINANCE - An ordinance is enforced in the Borough that dogs must be on a leash, muzzle, and/or similar restraining device; or in an enclosure from which they cannot escape. Also, dogs are NOT allowed in any of the Borough Parks.

ANIMAL WASTE ORDINANCE - Animal owners must clean up animal waste and dispose of properly in a sealed bag or container and deposit in trash receptacle.

DOG LICENSES - All dogs in Berks County must have a license. To obtain a license contact the County of Berks.

WEED REMOVAL ORDINANCE - Requires all grass, weeds, and other vegetation, in excess of 6 inches to be cut. The owner of any rental or vacant property shall carry out the same requirements.

PORTABLE BASKETBALL NET ORDINANCE - These are not allowed to be placed on the planting strip overhanging into the street or placed in the street.

FIRE PITS/OPEN BURNING - Fire pits are permissible if they are being used for cooking food. No Open burning of items such as furniture, recyclables, or yard waste, etc. is permitted.

TRAILERS - No Trailer, whether attached to or not attached to a vehicle, shall be parked, or stored on any Borough Street for a continuous period exceeding 24 hours.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES - No commercial vehicle with a Gross weight of 10,000 pounds or more shall be parked on a Borough street for more than one (1) hour. This includes Tow Trucks, car carriers and low boy trailers.

Don't forget to vote Tuesday, May 16th.

There is a Flag box for your old/damaged American Flags at the Borough Hall. The Borough Hall is open Mon-Fri 9am-2pm.

Gun Permits can be obtained every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Borough Hall from 9am to 3pm. **Please note, you must register online with the Sheriff's office for an appointment**

The Borough no longer has a medication drop box, however there is a medication drop box at the South Heidelberg Police Department on Mountain Home Road.

Reminder from the Tax Collector:

Please make sure your Tax Bill Number is on your check! If you are using Bill Pay make sure you give your Bill #.

SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023







SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPOINT

J. MATTHEW HOOK TO THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF POLICE

The Township of South Heidelberg is pleased to announce the Board of Supervisors have appointed J. Matthew Hook to the position of Chief of Police. Chief Hook will be responsible for continuing the high level of professional and proactive community policing to the citizens and communities that the SHPD services.

Chief Matt Hook was born and raised in Chester County and is a graduate of the Coatesville Senior High School. After High School he attended and graduated from West Chester University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Chief Hook met his wife while they were both students at WCU. Chief Hook then attended the Delaware Community College Police Academy Graduating in 2003. Within months of graduating the Police Academy he was hired and began working for the WCU Police Department. While at WCUPD, Chief Hook was a Patrol Officer and a member of the Special Tactics and Response Team which was a patrol response to active shooters and was also a member of the bike patrol.

After getting married Chief Hook and his wife decided to settle in Berks County. Chief Hook was hired by SHPD and started working in May of 2005. While at SHPD Chief Hook has had many responsibilities to include, Patrol Officer, community relation events, liaison for the Berks County Youth Aid Panel, Intelligence Liaison Officer for the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC), in charge of the Speed Watch Program, bike patrol, a member of the Berks County DA Drug Tasks force, Highway Safety Network grant coordinator, former President of the Police Officers Associations and an ALICE certified instructor.

Chief Hook was promoted to Corporal in 2019 where he supervised a platoon of patrol officers on day-to-day operations. He was promoted to Acting Chief/Officer In Charge in December of 2022 and has overseen the department since. Chief Hook was appointed to the permanent position of Chief of Police by the South Heidelberg Board of Supervisors on 2/28/2023.

Borough of Wernersville Community Survey

1. How would you rate each of the following services in the Borough of Wernersville?

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		EXC	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	KNOW		
Fir	w Enforcement	4	3	2	1	8		
	re Protection	4	3	2	1	8		
Amb	oulance service	4	3	2	1	8		
Em∈	ergency 911	4	3	2	1	8		
Was	ste Management	4	3	2	1	8		
Roa	ads/Streets	4	3	2	1	8		
Snc	ow Removal	4	3	2	1	8		
Cod	de Enforcement	4	3	2	1	8		
Par	rks and Recreation	4	3	2	1	8		
Ani	imal Control	4	3	2	1	8		
Sid	dewalk/Pedestrian Safety	4	3	2	1	8		
Sto	orm Drainage	4	3	2	1	8		
Str	reet Lighting	4	3	2	1	8		
Lib	orary Service	4	3	2	1	8		
Pos	stal Service	4	3	2	1	8		
Tra	affic Speed Control	4	3	2	1	8		
Bor	rough Council Performance	4	3	2	1	8		
Bor	rough Administration Performanc	e 4	3	2	1	8		
Bor	rough Social Media	4	3	2	1	8		
Eng	gaging Residents/Community	4	3	2	1	8		
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or	improve services offered to th	e comm	unity	γ?		Y	es	No
. Are	e there children under the age	of 18	in yo	our ho	useho	ld? Y	es	No
. Add	ditional Comments:							
								-
								-

Please return the survey to the Borough Hall Mailbox at your earliest convenience. Thank you for taking the time to help us to serve the community better! If you are willing to volunteer for a committee, please call the Borough Hall at 610-678-1486.





100 N. Reber Street, Wernersville, PA 19565 • wernersvillepl@berks.lib.pa.us | 610-678-8771 • berkslibraries.org/wernersville

What's happening at your library? Anime Club for teens meets every first Monday night, Cook the Book is every fourth Monday afternoon at 3pm, and our Adult Book Club meets every fourth Tuesday. There's Storytimes, Fiber Arts Nights, and Family Craft Nights throughout the month, plus other super awesome things you can look forward to!

Registration for the following programs is preferred but not required. Except for the Doula Night, they are perfect for Cub Scouts, Brownies, and Homeschoolers. Teens and adults are welcome and encouraged to attend. All attendees will be entered in a drawing to win a 4-person Longwood Gardens pass at every event, including the Doula Info Night.

April 10 at 5:30 P.M.

Kids Can Cook: A Longwood Gardens Read Workshop

Miss Gabrielle will read Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie by Robbin Gourley, a story about Edna Lewis and life in Freetown, Virginia. Then we will join Mr. Tim to make strawberry shortcake and discuss the recipes found in the book. All attendees will be entered to win a 4-person pass to Longwood Gardens. A variety of fruit and vegetables will be available to sample for those who cannot have strawberries.

April 20 at 5:30 P.M.

Wiggly Worms

Part of the Berks County Conservation District's Workshops for a Sustainable Tomorrow. Learn all about worms and the important role they play in the environment. We will read *A Diary of a Worm*, conduct worm "experiments", and learn how you can use worms at home to compost your food scraps.

April 21 at 5:30 P.M.

STEM Friday: A Longwood Gardens Read Workshop

Just in time for Earth Day, Miss Gabrielle will read and discuss *Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie* by Robbin Gourley. Attendees will then learn about the growth cycle of plants, and put together small pots of dirt and seeds to grow at home, just like Edna did when she was a little girl in Freetown, Virginia. A variety of vegetable and flower seeds will be available to take home.

April 27 at 6:30 P.M.

Doula Info Night

A doula is a professional labor assistant who provides physical and emotional support to you and your partner during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Anyone who is curious, already pregnant, and even those with children who are thinking of another should attend and learn how a doula can help you and your family. Refreshments provided. Registration preferred but not required. All attendees will be entered in a drawing to win a 4-person Longwood Gardens pass.

May 18 at 5:30 P.M.

Digging Deeper: The Importance of Soil

Part of the Berks County Conservation District's Workshops for a Sustainable Tomorrow and the Longwood Gardens Read. The workshop begins with a special featured book *Black Food: Stories, Art & Recipes from Across the African Diaspora* by renowned Chef Bryant Terry. Afterwards, we will dive into the role soil plays in supporting life on Earth, examine soil samples, create a recipe for soil, and make a soil shaker. Every child will receive an envelope of Truelove tomato seeds (a Philly-based seed company) to take home and plant in their soil, and 3 adults will receive copies of books from the Longwood Gardens Read program.

May 19 at 5:00 P.M.

Observing Pollinators: A Citizen Science Event

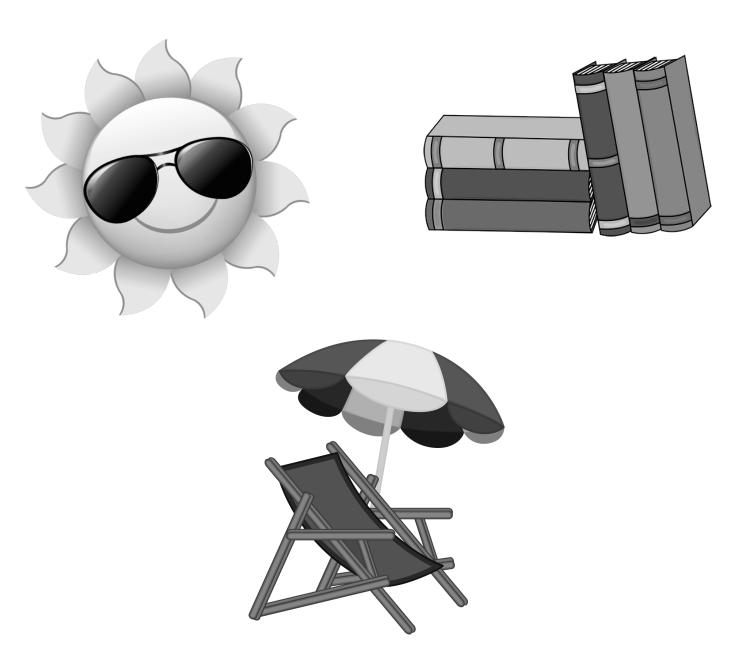
The bees need our help! Come out to learn about the Great Sunflower Project, learn about the pollinators in our backyards, how to gather information about bee populations, and where bee populations are the weakest and the strongest.

SUMMERQUEST 2023: All Together Now arrives in June!

The Library will continue to hold STEM Fridays with Miss Gabrielle, Snapology in June and July, and our popular weekly Special Storytimes with Berks Animal Rescue League, and local Firefighters, Police, and Road Crew. Most in person events are planned for the lawn, but all will be held indoors if the weather does not cooperate.

Other fun things of interest include:

- An African Drum Circle with Music Play Patrol (all ages) 6/5, 5:30-6:30pm
- Summer Quest Kickoff Party featuring Snapology 6/20, 4-6:30pm
- American Swedish Museum: Making Friends the Nordic Way (ages 6+), 6/28, 10:30-11:30am
- Indian Run Environmental Center's Wildlife Encounters with Animals! (all ages) 6/29, 10:30-11:30am
- Elmwood Park Zoo (ages 6+ via Zoom) 7/11, 7/18 & 7/25, 10:30-11:30am
- Chalkfest with Mr. Ron (all ages) 7/13, 11am-Noon
- Widotadwen Center for Native Knowledge presents Native Americans in Berks County: Past Present and Future (all ages) 7/24, 5:30-6:30pm
- Yocum Institute of the Arts: The Prince and the Pauper Teen Ensemble performance (all ages) 8/3, 3-4pm
- Summer Quest Closing Party (all ages) with a show by Eddy Ray the Magician! 8/10, 4-6:30pm







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Have you stopped in to see your library lately? It is a tremendous resource!

- Home Delivery, Curbside, and In-Person Check Out of Books, DVDs, Games, and Wi-fi Hotspots
- Free Computer and WiFi Access, and Staff Assistance with Technology Needs
- Free Access to Ebooks and Digital Audiobooks. Ask for Details!
- Free Toddler and Pre-School Early Literacy Programs
- Free Award-Winning Programs that Enrich School-Aged Children, Provided at the Library and in the Schools
- Programs Serving the Underserved in Our Community such as Teen Events, Daycare Storytimes, and Senior Outreach
- Classroom Reading Libraries for Teachers in Local Preschools up through High School.

Libraries are needed just as much as ever. Anyone who needs help applying for jobs, entertaining and teaching children, or taking care of their mental health can benefit from the Library. Please reach out today and connect with your community resource: Wernersville Public Library.

Your annual gift of \$50 (less than \$5 per month) will allow the Library to update our books (both physical and ebooks), magazines, newspapers, videos, computers, and provide the other services you have grown accustomed to receive from the Library.

For over 115 years, Wernersville Public Library has been there for you. With your financial support, we can all help sustain this community treasure!

Wernersville Public Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization #23-1555448. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution.

Enclosed is my tax Wernersville Public	-deductible donation to the Library:	Please detach and mail with your donation to: Wernersville Public Library 100 N. Reber Street
\$50\$100 _	\$150 Other	Wernersville, PA 19565

Borough of Wernersville P.O. Box 167 100 N. Reber Street Wernersville, PA 19565

PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** LANCASTER, PA PERMIT NO. 472

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Wernersville Borough Website
Don't forget to check out our website at
wernersvilleborough.org for any news and
information regarding the Borough.

Wernersville Borough is on Facebook!
Like us on Facebook and help stay informed and connected to all the news that is happening in Wernersville! Search for: Wernersville Borough.