

# FLASH



April 2026

## HOT OF THE PRESSES

**BERKS COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
PLANNING ADVICE  
FOR DATA CENTERS**

**Data Centers**  
A data center is a facility that houses individual computers (servers) and related IT equipment used for data processing, and data storage. While many businesses and organizations have small, "enterprise" data centers, demand for internet services, e-commerce, cloud computing, and now growth of large, utility facilities. This publication focuses on large-scale data centers—not small server rooms within existing businesses. A specific size threshold is defined. These facilities typically require multiple acres of land and substantial building footprints. Pennsylvania and the region, municipalities potential development, similar to how communities have addressed large-scale warehouses and logistics centers in recent years.

**BCPC STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**Each Municipality Should:**

1. Update municipal and multi-municipal comprehensive plans to identify appropriate locations and conditions for data centers within the community.
2. Consider utilizing multi-municipal (joint) planning/zoning to approach data centers.
3. Designate data centers as a conditional use in zoning districts capable of accommodating necessary utility infrastructure and water demands, subject to conditions that mitigate adverse impacts.
4. Consider overlay zoning to direct data centers to areas with adequate infrastructure.
5. Encourage the rehabilitation and reuse of existing development for data centers.
6. Clearly define "Data Center," including related uses such as "Data Center Compressor" and "Data Center Accessory Uses," and outline associated operational impacts.
7. Require timely notification of ownership changes to the municipality for taxation, maintenance, emergency, and decommissioning purposes.
8. Require baseline environmental and infrastructure assessments, including but not limited to the identification of energy and water sources, written confirmation from providers whether adequate capacity exists, and any other related environmental or infrastructure-related adverse impacts that would result from the data center use. On-site power generation provisions are also encouraged.
9. Establish standards for light pollution.



### READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

- DRAFT FFY 2027-2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**
- DRAFT FFY 2027-2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**
- DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS**
- DRAFT COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 | IN-PERSON: 6:00PM**  
Harvest Room at Berks County Agricultural Center  
1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

**2 VIRTUAL MEETINGS**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026**  
**11:00AM AND 6:00PM**  
using Microsoft Teams\*

\*Registration is required to receive the link to participate in the virtual meetings:  
<https://arcg.is/0XO4Wu1>

For the documents, more information on the public review and comment period, please visit: [bit.ly/RATS-CommentPeriod](https://bit.ly/RATS-CommentPeriod)

## Planning in Action

Our monthly Planning in Action roundup highlights planning-related matters happening throughout Berks County, including projects, partnerships, plan implementation, and municipal planning reviews.

**EXPLORE THE FULL LIST OF ARTICLES**



## Ag Literacy Week

Executive Director Ashley Showers was able to join elementary classrooms during Agricultural Literacy Week in March. During the classroom visits the book: Cows Can Moo! Can You? All About Farms was read to students and an activity exploring the products of agriculture was conducted. In support of the Berks County Department of Agriculture and Growing Berks, it was a pleasure to share with the students the importance our agricultural community is in our County.

## 2026 Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Program Now Accepting Applications

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4:00 PM  
Thursday, May 16**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026 Round of the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Program, which provides up to \$15,000 in funding for projects within the Schuylkill Highlands geography that advance the goals of the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape. Funding requests must come with non-DCNR (PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) match of at least 25% of the amount requested.

**CLICK FOR MORE INFO AND APPLICATION**

## EARTH-A-PALOOZA!

**INTRODUCING OUR COMMUTE SUPER HEROES!**

During Earth Month, they are uniting to help our region move better, one commute at a time.

**CHOOSE YOUR HERO. CHOOSE YOUR COMMUTE.**

In April, record your non-drive alone trips and go head-to-head against other organizations to see who the top hero is.

Earn chances to win with every trip recorded.

**WHICH COMMUTE HERO ARE YOU?**

Scan to start using your commute super powers!

**COMMUTE PA**  
COMMUTEPA.ORG 1.866.579.RIDE

## HEALTHY KIDS DAY

PRE-ORDER NOLT'S CHICKEN BBQ

### Chicken BBQ Dinners

**Chicken Dinners \$16 each**

Pick Up  
April 25th from 11am-1 pm  
Berks County Heritage Center  
1102 Red Bridge Road

To Buy Tickets  
Parks Department Office  
Email [LGauker@berkspa.gov](mailto:LGauker@berkspa.gov)  
County Health Fair

**AMERICA PA BERKS COUNTY** **Berks County PARKS**

## This Month's Subdivision and Land Development Report

**VIEW THE REPORT**

**VIEW THE DASHBOARD**

## Swordfish Road Show

Thursday, April 23 - 8:30 AM  
Borough of Fleetwood  
502 W. Vine Street - Fleetwood

Electro Scan is hosting a demonstration in partnership with Entech Engineering and the Borough of Fleetwood of their Swordfish technology, the no-dig solution for finding lead in buried pipes.

**CLICK FOR MORE INFO**

**electroscaninc.**

## LTAP Courses

### ASPHALT ROAD MAINTENANCE

Wednesday, May 6, 2026  
8:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Berks County South Campus  
Multi-Purpose Room  
400 E. Wyomissing Ave. • Mohnton

**TO REGISTER: [gis.penndot.gov/ltap/](https://gis.penndot.gov/ltap/)**

Or Contact **Matt McGough** at the Berks County Planning Commission at 610 478-6300 Ext. 6306 or via email at [mmcgough@berkspa.gov](mailto:mmcgough@berkspa.gov)