



Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

Fall— 2023

Zoning 101

We have received numerous emails and calls lately concerning the development that is being proposed for the Benner Pike corridor. While everyone is entitled to their opinions, we thought that it might be helpful to address exactly what the township can control and what it can't. Most of the area along the Benner Pike is zoned **Commercial**. This area is zoned this way due to the road being a major through way, having easy access to an interstate highway, access to public water, sewer, gas and high speed internet. The permitted allowable uses in this zoning district are extensive and include such things as day cares, offices, banks, churches, convenience stores, bottle shops, hospitals, hotels, car dealerships, retail businesses, restaurants, etc. Some of the comments we have received included, "We don't need another convenience store." or "We don't want that restaurant, we want this one." The use "convenience store with or without fuel dispensing" and "restaurant" are uses by right. If someone wants to locate a place that sells burgers right next to another burger place, there isn't anything we can do about it. The same goes for a convenience store or fueling station. If an owner feels that they want to spend the funds to build another establishment of a similar kind that is a permitted use, we can't tell them no. Each project goes through a number of reviews that deal with stormwater, traffic flow, setbacks, signage, etc. Once those types of criteria are reviewed, a project may have to make modifications to what they are proposing in order to meet guidelines that we and others (Department of Environmental Protection, PennDot, Centre County Planning Office, Centre County Conservation District, etc.) can control. This could mean dealing with stormwater in a different way, modifying where traffic may enter and exit the property, installing traffic signals and additional turning lanes, etc. The use, if listed as permitted, is something that the township can't deny.

Township Notes

Vehicles should not be parked along or on Township roads and right of ways. This is especially true in developments. Several, but not all, of the developments are designated as no parking along the roads. Development streets tend to be more narrow and parking along them can be a hazard for delivery, township, and garbage trucks as well as emergency vehicles and school buses. Parked vehicles can also block the view of pedestrians. If streets are designated no parking, violators could be subject to towing.

Grass, leaves, and snow should not be placed on roadways.

Permits are needed for storage sheds. Built on site or built and delivered, both require a permit.

If you live along a Township Road and are paving your driveway for the first time or repaving your driveway, you need a permit. If you live along a State Highway, we suggest that you contact Penn Dot at (814)355-4731 to inquire if a permit is needed or not.

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Election day is Tuesday, November 7th

2023 Fall Bulk Pick Up

2023 fall bulk pick up will be held on the week of:

October 16th

on your normal garbage day. Please follow the guidelines provided in your trash bill or a copy of the guidelines may be viewed at :

www.crcog.net/refuse

If you have questions about what will and will not be collected after viewing this list, please call COG at (814)234-7198.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—

If your collection day occurs on or after the holiday, collection will be delayed one day.

Thanksgiving—November 23

Christmas—December 25

New Year's Day—January 1, 2024



Christmas Tree Collection will take place the week of January 8th on your normal garbage day. Trees will be collected this week only, must be free of ice and snow and no taller than 6' (please cut larger trees and keep trees under cover until your collection day). All decorations must be removed.

Fall Leaf Collection

Benner Township will be conducting its Fall **residential** leaf collection starting on **October 30th** weather permitting. Crews will collect leaves on a street by street basis. (No need to call for an appointment.) You may see crews collecting leaves prior to October 30th, however, this will not affect the pick up schedule. We will continue to collect leaves as long as snow/ weather conditions permit.

Guidelines for leaf pick up are:

- *Place leaves curbside.
- *Do **NOT** pile leaves on roadway, in drainage ways or near fire hydrants.
- *Leaves more than 8 feet from roadway or near obstructions (trees, shrubbery, mailboxes, etc.) will **NOT** be collected due to machine limitations.
- *Grass or other yard waste (sticks, flowers, shrubs, etc.) will **NOT** be collected. If grass or yard waste is mixed with your leaves, your pile will **NOT** be collected.
- *If desired, place a tarp over leaf piles to prevent them from blowing away. Crews will uncover leaves and place your tarp back on your property.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Please note that the Township no longer permits the burning of leaves as per Ordinance 138.

Fall Brush Collection— Call 355-1419 by October 18th to get on the list.

The Township will be conducting its Fall "On Call" brush collection. To schedule a brush pick up, please call the office at 355-1419 no later than October 18th. **Brush will need to be at the street ready for pick up on October 23rd by 7 a.m.**

Guidelines for brush collection are:

- *Brush must be piled with cut ends of limbs in the same direction towards the street.
- *Limbs must be cut to be able to be fed into the chipper. Limbs larger than 4 inches in diameter will not be collected.
- *Do not tie brush in bundles.
- *Stumps, old firewood, construction material, thorn bushes, grasses, vines and plant waste will not be picked up.
- *Maintenance crews will not enter private property.
- *Crews will spend no more than 20 minutes at one property. If your piles is too large to be chipped in 20 minutes, please make other arrangements.
- *Do not pile brush in front of or block fire hydrants or storm drains.
- *This collection is for trimming of bushes and trees, not for tree removal or site clearing.

Junior Girl Scout Troop 40050 Beautifies the Spring Creek Canyon while earning their Bronze Award

Troop 40050 has completed their Bronze Award project which includes a “Bestie” Bench and a flower garden at the Spring Creek trail head parking area located at 1025 Rock Road. The troop meticulously designed and installed a stunning bench that stands as a symbol of friendship, achievement, teamwork and dedication. The bench serves not only as a functional seating area but also as a piece of art that adds character to the environment. In addition to the bench, a charming flower garden adjacent to the bench has been planted. This area has been created to be a peaceful place for all to appreciate, relax, unwind and enjoy the scenery. While visiting this newly created area, take a 1.1 mile walk to the next trailhead at Shiloh Road. We hope the public enjoys this area as much as the girls did in creating it!



Ballfield Dedicated to Dennis Johnstonbaugh & Family Park Renamed Benner Township Veterans Park



On Sunday, July 16, 2023, a dedication ceremony was held at the newly renamed “Benner Township Veterans Park” where a ballfield at the park was dedicated to honor, Dennis Johnstonbaugh and his family. Mr. Johnstonbaugh is a lifelong resident of Benner Township and a US Army Vietnam Veteran who sustained critical and life altering injuries during his service.



PFAS Update

Since the Spring newsletter went out, DEP has continued efforts on the PFAS Groundwater Investigation in the area around the University Park Airport. To date, 30 Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems have been either installed or upgraded in affected residences. One additional impacted home above the PFAS standard was identified in August for which bottled water was arranged and installation of a treatment system is being scheduled. Ongoing sampling is being conducted at homes with treatment systems to confirm that the treatment is effective, as well as homes with no treatment systems to ensure the concentrations are not increasing to above the standard. While residences currently above the standard are believed to have been identified, additional sampling will be conducted in areas where homes may exceed the proposed (lower) federal standard in the future. These areas include homes in University Acres and near Rock Rd and Ellman Ln. Soil boring samples were collected near the terminal on Centre County Airport Authority property; those results are being evaluated and mapped and will be shared on the project web page when that is completed. Discussions were held with local officials on the possible water line extension into the Walnut Grove Estates community with the conclusion that further planning should be held off until additional information is collected and the standards are finalized. In the meanwhile, all the homeowners with water results above the standard are protected with the POETs, or are being supplied with bottled water until a POETs can be installed.

Meyers Cemetery

The alphabetical listing for the Meyers Cemetery can now be found on the Benner Township webpage: bennertownship.org Go to the listing of the various pages on the opening page and find Meyers Cemetery page to view. A list of military veterans buried at the cemetery is also listed.



October 31st

6 to 8 p.m.

**At the Benner Township Building
1224 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte**

Sponsored by the
Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church
Please check social media for updates.
Church Facebook: gbrvumc

Trick or Treating for the area (Bellefonte Borough,
Spring, Walker and Benner Townships) has been
scheduled for October 31st from 6 to 8.

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Benner Township
1224 Buffalo Run Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Real Estate Tax Reminders

County and Township real estate tax bills:

These bills are now due at the penalty rate. You have until December 31st to pay them before they are turned over for collection.

School District real estate bills: The School District Real Estate tax bills are currently due at face value and will be until November 30th. Amounts due will move to the penalty rate on December 1st and will be turned over for collection on December 31st.

How and where do you pay?

*You may mail payments to: Benner Township Tax Collector, 152 Willowbend Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Please remember to include a self addressed stamped envelope if you wish to have a receipt mailed back to you.

*You may drop off your payments at 152 Willowbend Drive at the drop off box provided.

*You may call Jessica at (814)574-5087 to schedule an appointment.

PRESORTED STANDARD
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