



# Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

Spring 2023

## Notes from the Real Estate Tax Collector, Jessica Bradley

Jessica Bradley is the Township's real estate tax collector. The 2023 Centre County and Benner Township real estate taxes were mailed out the beginning of March. If you did not receive a tax bill, please contact Jessica Bradley, Tax Collector, at (814)574-5087 immediately. The end of the discount period is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please note any name or address changes to the top portion of your tax bill prior to mailing your payment. **Should you wish to have a receipt mailed back to you, you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.** Jessica's office hours for this tax bill are: March/April Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. or by appointment. Her home office is located at 152 Willowbend Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823. A drop off box is also located there for after hour drop offs.

## Buffalo Run Community Park to be renamed "Benner Township Veterans Community Park"

The Benner Township Board of Supervisors has been approached by a Veterans group about renaming the current "Buffalo Run Community Park" located at 2151 Buffalo Run Road to "Benner Township Veterans Community Park". New signage is in the works and will be installed as soon as complete. In addition to the park renaming, the existing ballfield will be named "Johnstonbaugh Field". This will be dedicated in honor of Dennis Johnstonbaugh, a life long resident of Benner Township, for his service in the US ARMY during the Vietnam War. While serving our Country in Vietnam, Mr. Johnstonbaugh sustained critical and life altering injuries.



## New or Coming Soon to Benner Township

Benner Township continues to see development growth, both residential and commercial.

**Harvest Meadows:** Construction of Phase 1 that includes 133 townhome units has started.

**Bellefonte Warehouse:** Planning continues. The developer plans to break ground later this year.

**Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church:** The church has received their commencement with construction letter from the county and plans to break ground in the upcoming months.

**WaWa:** It is anticipated that WaWa will be submitting formal plans in the next few months as well as **McDonalds**. Both of these businesses will be located along the Benner Pike.

## 2023 Roadwork

**Paving** is planned for the following Township roads this construction season:

**Fillmore Road**—Widening from SR550 to the Village of Nittany Glen

**North Fillmore Road:** Wearing course from Township line to Township line

**Barns Lane:** 2,400' of paving

**Rolling Ridge Drive:** Widening and wearing course between the Benner Pike and the Township line

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PA's Primary  
Election day is  
Tuesday, May 16th

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

*Centre County Solid Waste Authority*  
(814)238-7005  
253 Transfer Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

**You must now pre-register to participate:**

**CALL (814)238-7005 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT or online at [www.centrecountyrecycles.org/hazardouswastecollection](http://www.centrecountyrecycles.org/hazardouswastecollection)**

**Friday, April 28th  
8 a.m.—4 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 29th  
8 a.m.—2 p.m.**

### What can you bring?

Insecticides, weed killers, pool chemicals, cleaners, poisons, corrosives, flammables, oil based paints, CFL bulbs, fluorescent tubes and most other hazardous chemicals from households only.



## Spring Creek Watershed Clean Up— Saturday, April 22nd

The annual Spring Creek Watershed Clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 22nd. If you are aware of an area that needs cleaned up, want to volunteer, or are in need of garbage bags and glove supplies, please call Genie Robine at (814)355-2530. **We are always in need of additional volunteers.**



## 2023 Spring Bulk Pick Up

Mark your calendars—2023 Spring bulk pick up will be held **the week of May 22nd 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](http://www.crcog.net/refuse)**

## 2023 Refuse & Recycling Observed Holidays

If your collection day occurs on or after the date, **collection will be delayed one day** that week. Friday collections will be on Saturday.

**Memorial Day  
July 4th  
Labor Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day**

## Spring Brush Collection— Call 355-1419 by April 28th to get on the list.

The Township will be conducting its Spring “On Call” brush collection. To schedule a brush pick up, please call the office at 355-1419 no later than April 28th. **Brush will need to be at the street, ready for pick up, on May 1st 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.

## Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project Update

In April of 2019, the Benner Township Supervisors directed the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority (SBWJA) to extend public sewer from the existing system at the University Park Airport to the Shiloh Road interchange. This directive required a special study to be completed to update the Township's existing 537 Plan through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The study was completed and presented for public comment during Benner Township's public meetings in November and December of 2019 with final Township approval occurring in January 2021.

There was significant interest in this project and numerous meetings were held to discuss concerns by affected residents. Following numerous public meetings, the idea of this sewer extension was well vetted; however, a court challenge ensued and some of the local concerns were brought before the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) in Harrisburg. Following a three-day hearing, the EHB dismissed all remaining local concerns and ruled that both SBWJA and Benner Township followed the Act 537 regulations while preparing this special study.

The path has now been cleared to proceed with this extension as originally planned. The schedule of construction has been adjusted due to these delays and will now proceed as follows. The SBWJA will obtain all necessary permits from the various agencies of the Commonwealth through the fall of 2023. The project is extensive and requires work in some sensitive environmental locations along the proposed layout. A pre-permit meeting was held with PA DEP where we discussed the safest approach for the temporary construction within the environmentally sensitive areas. Once these permits are obtained, the SBWJA will move forward with the bidding process to hire a contractor that will complete this work.

SBWJA currently plans to open bids in early 2024 and provide notice to proceed with the contractor chosen to begin immediately. SBWJA believes the project will be substantially complete by the fall of 2024 when new customers will be able to begin connecting to the new extension.

Several developers have contacted the SBWJA regarding this extension and we believe development in the Shiloh Road interchange area will quickly follow the completion of this project. Additionally, the homes that currently exist in this fragile, environmentally sensitive area will be served by public sewer eliminating the discharge of pollutants into Spring Creek while protecting this pristine trout stream for future generations.

## PFAS Investigation Continues

Monthly updates on the ongoing PFAS investigation in Benner Township are available on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's webpage at [dep.pa.gov/BennerHSCA](https://dep.pa.gov/BennerHSCA).

Please reach out to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Northcentral Regional Office with any questions about the PFAS investigation. The PA DEP's contact is Cheryl Sinclair. Cheryl can be reached by phone at 570-327-3418, or by email at [csinclair@pa.gov](mailto:csinclair@pa.gov).



**It's almost construction season. Please travel with caution in our work zones!**

## 2023 Summer Park & Rec.

Summer Park and Rec. is scheduled to be held for 5 weeks beginning June 26th through July 28th. To register, children need to have completed kindergarten and no older than completing 5th grade. Camp entrance fees this year are \$50 per child for Benner Township residents and \$150 per child for non-residents. Registration/consent forms are available to download on the Township's website: [www.bennertownship.org](http://www.bennertownship.org) If you don't have the ability to download documents, please call the Township Office at (814)355-1419 and we will see that one is sent to you. Camp will be held at the Township Municipal Building, 1224 Buffalo Run Road.



### *Crossroads*

Benner Township  
1224 Buffalo Run Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823



### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Sponsored by the Greater Buffalo Run  
Valley U.M. Church  
With Child Evangelism Fellowship

**LOCATION:** Benner Township  
Municipal Building  
1224 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte, PA

**DATE:** Saturday, April 1st  
10 a.m. to Noon

Everyone Welcome!  
Games and Refreshments will be provided.  
Check us out on Facebook at GBRVUMC  
for more information!

**QUESTIONS:** Gloria Lohr (814)360-5675

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