



Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

Spring 2024

UPDATE ON CATA SERVICES

Benner Township's CATA services will change beginning July 1, 2024. Meetings with Benner Township, Spring Township, the Bellefonte Borough and CATA officials have been ongoing for months.

CATA sent out a letter dated December 21, 2023, stating that in order to maintain the same level of CATAGO services, Benner Township would need to pay the expected annual cost of \$6,188 **plus an additional \$36,000** to make up the shortfall for the actual cost of services. That would bring Benner Township's 2024 annual cost to over \$40,000. That's almost a 7-fold increase! The 2024 budget was approved to cover the \$6,188 therefore, CATA services for the contract year 7/1/24—6/30/25 will be greatly reduced.

We are committed to CATA service through June 2025. CATA's agreement requires a one-year advance notice to end services. Spring Township decided last year to withdraw from CATA, ending their service as of June 30, 2024. Spring's decision has an impact on both Benner Township and Bellefonte Borough CATA users. A rider living in Benner or the Borough will no longer be able to be picked up or dropped off within Spring Township's boundaries. You may see the bus/vans traveling through Spring Township but no service can be provided to or in any non-service municipality.

This decision directly impacts Benner Township – the budget, the residents and the Centre County Prison Work Release Program. CATA's service does not cover the entire township. However, there are Benner Township residents/taxpayers who do use the service with no other transportation available to go to and from work or for other errands and appointments. The Centre County Prison Work Release Program implemented through the Centre County Court System uses CATA services in order to meet the Court's sentencing requirements.

The Township is weighing all options before making a final decision. Along with the Bellefonte Borough, Benner Township is continuing talks with CATA officials to explore all options. There are plans to reach out to the County, State and U.S. officials, for solutions to sustain the service to the Benner Township CATA riders and the County Prison Work Release Program.

We are committed to providing a service that is fair to both sides, the taxpayers and those who rely on this service. Your voice is important to us. The Township would like your input about this service to see how many of you currently use CATA and how many of you would use CATA if the service was available in your area of the Township. To help us with this important decision, please send an email to BennerSupervisor.kevey@outlook.com with your comments no later than April 30, 2024.

Thank you.

ABCs (Authorities/ Boards/Commissions/and Committees)

The Benner Township Board of Supervisors are always looking for individuals willing to serve on various Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions. If you are interested in serving your township in one of these volunteer positions, please go to **bennertownship.org** and fill out a ABC form and return it to the township office. We currently have a need for the Vacancy Board and the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority.

Inside this issue

Page 2:

- *Spring Bulk 2024 Dates
- *Spring Creek Watershed Clean Up
- *Household Hazardous Waste
- *Spring Brush Collection
- *Refuse Holidays

Page 3:

- *Latest Development News
- *Real Estate Tax Collector Notes
- *PFAS Update

Page 4/5:

- *Letter from the Bellefonte Fire Department
- *Fire Company Fundraisers/Events

Page 6:

- *Summer Park & Rec.
- *GBRV U.M. Church Egg Hunt



PA's Primary
Election day is
Tuesday, April 23rd

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

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

You MUST PRE-REGISTER to participate:
CALL (814)238-7005 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT or online at
www.centrecountyrecycles.org/hazardouswastecollection

Friday, April 26th
8 a.m.—4 p.m.

Saturday, April 27th
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 20th

The annual Spring Creek Watershed Clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 20th. 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.**



2024 Spring Bulk Pick Up

Mark your calendars—2024 Spring bulk pick up will be held **the week of May 13th 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**

2024 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 May 3rd 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 May 3rd. **Brush will need to be at the street, ready for pick up, on May 6th 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.



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

Latest Development News

Benner Township's landscape is changing. Some of the more recent plans being discussed/submitted are:

- *McDonald's has broken ground along the Benner Pike.
- *A Tru Hotel by Hilton as well as a multi-unit business building is being planned for on the G.M. McCrossin property along the Benner Pike.
- *Plans for an Arby's located along Paradise Hill Road/Benner Pike is being discussed.
- *The final phase of the Village of Nittany Glen will be submitted soon.
- *Three additional storage unit buildings for Sullivan's Moving & Storage.
- *While the 1.1 million sq. ft. warehouse plan has been withdrawn, plans for a smaller version should be submitted within the next month.
- *The Greater Buffalo Run Valley UM Church congregation will be moving into their new church next month.
- *Sheetz will be torn down and rebuilt with a drive thru

Notes from the Real Estate Tax Collector, Jessica Bradley

Jessica Bradley is the Township's real estate tax collector. The 2024 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 30th. 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.** If you are participating in the property tax rebate program through the state or claiming your tax payment on your year end tax return, you will need a copy of your receipt—so please include that stamped addressed envelope with your tax payments to insure your receipt is returned to you. 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.

Please note the following:

Wells Fargo Customers: WF is now working with an escrow company for property tax payments. Although your bill was not stamped (that it was sent to an escrow company), there is no need to call Jessica or WF. Your bill will be paid. It's a new process that they are ironing out and I did not receive a request for duplicate bills yet.

Reliance Bank Customers: Reliance no longer requests duplicate bills from tax collectors. They require the homeowner to send/mail/email the bill to them for payment. Please follow up with them if you have questions.

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.

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.

A LETTER FROM YOUR BELLEFONTE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS

Becoming a firefighter used to be what every kid dreamed of. We know growing up at the fire house, we couldn't wait till we were able to ride one of those big shinny fire engines. Back then, moms stayed home and dads worked. One parent was able to support the family. Life was a lot simpler then. Now, families have both parents working one, two or three jobs to be able to support themselves. Today, when we talk with people about joining the fire company the answer we get is they don't have the time. We get it, we are all trying to make the time for everything in our lives. Fortunately, we have community members that are willing to answer the call, but we need more. We need younger members to take over when we step down. The average age of a fire fighter in our department is 48 years old. I know to most that seems young, but it isn't.

The number of volunteers in emergency services is dropping each year. According to the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, since 2000, the number of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania has dropped from 60,000 to 38,000. Membership is dropping and the number of calls are increasing every year.

Most do not realize that your fire coverage is **100% volunteer**. Your fire service protection comes from people with full-time jobs, part-time jobs as well as retired members of your community. They have stepped up and are willing to take the time out of their lives to help you in your time of need. For that we should all be very grateful.

We hope that most of you have been lucky enough to have never needed to call 911 for help. When you are in your time of need, you want all the help you can get, as quickly as possible. In that moment, you are thankful for the people who volunteer, for those who are willing to take the time to do whatever they can to help you or your loved one in their time of need. Imagine if their answer was, "I don't have the time." It's now your turn to do what you can to help support your local fire company. NOW, because we are in our time of need. Last year, the Bellefonte Fire Department responded to **412** calls. That's **412** times people needed our help. Our goal is to leave no call unanswered. However, with the dwindling numbers of emergency personnel your help may be coming from further than you think.

Please consider joining your local fire company. There are so many things you can volunteer to do. We are always in need of new firefighters. If firefighting isn't your thing, we could use more fire police or help with fundraising activities. **There is a place for everyone.**

Your community needs you. We need you. Please consider joining us today.

Thank you,

Bobbi Salvanish, Chief 1
Logan Fire Company No. 1
AdminOffice@LoganFireCo1.org
(814)355-3100

Gary Lohr, Chief 2
Undine Fire Company
undinefireco2@gmail.com
(814)355-7265

UNDINE FIRE COMPANY FUNDRAISERS

The Undine 2024 Gun/Cash Drawing and Raffle Tickets

are now available for purchase. Gun/Cash Drawing and Raffle is being held Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Lambert Hall. Doors Open at 12:00 PM. Must have a ticket stub to enter. See any Undine Fire Company member or stop in at the firehouse to purchase your tickets.



LOGAN FIRE COMPANY FUNDRAISERS

Members of the **Logan Fire Company** are selling our **Spring Calendar Raffle Tickets** full of cash prizes and great Saturday gift certificates from local businesses! See a member to buy or visit us at many local spring events. (SGC05819)

*Cost is just \$10 per ticket!

*Winners will be determined by the Pennsylvania Daily Pick Four evening drawing in June.

*Prizes will be mailed out at the beginning of July

JUNE Logan Fire Company No.1 Cash Raffle						
						1 Coughlin's Furniture \$500 Gift Certificate
2 \$100 cash	3 \$200 cash	4 \$300 cash	5 \$150 cash	6 \$300 cash	7 \$200 cash	8 The Gift Shop \$500 Gift Certificate*
9 \$100 cash	10 \$200 cash	11 \$300 cash	12 \$150 cash	13 \$300 cash	14 \$200 cash	15 Harris Road Veterinary \$500 Gift Certificate
16 \$100 cash	17 \$200 cash	18 \$300 cash	19 \$150 cash	20 \$300 cash	21 \$200 cash	22 The Gift Shop \$500 Gift Certificate
23 \$100 cash	24 \$200 cash	25 \$300 cash	26 \$150 cash	27 \$300 cash	28 \$200 cash	29 The Gift Shop \$500 Gift Certificate
30 \$100 cash						

LOGAN'S CHICKEN BBQ
At the Firehouse. Sales start at 10 a.m.
April 20th
June 8th

PLEASANT GAP FIRE COMPANY FUNDRAISERS/EVENTS



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Pleasant Gap Fire Company will hold their annual carnival on **June 20, 21 and 22nd**. The parade will take place on Thursday, **June 20th**.

Pleasant Gap EMS Open House

The EMS open house will be held on Saturday, May 18th from 8 to Noon. Child seat safety checks will be offered at the event. Please stop by and see us! Our facility is located at 475 Robinson Lane, Pleasant Gap.

2024 Summer Park & Rec.

Summer Park and Rec. is scheduled to be held for 5 weeks beginning June 24th through July 26th. 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 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.



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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, March 23rd
10 a.m. to Noon

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

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE COLLEGE, PA
PERMIT NO. 021