

Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

Winter 2025

2026 Budget Over View

The 2026 Budget has been prepared and was adopted at the Benner Township Supervisors' December 1, 2025 meeting. Here are some of the details of the 2026 Budget:

General Fund budget is \$2,593,800.00. Revenues for the General Fund come from Real Estate Taxes (current, delinquent, transfer), Earned Income Taxes (wage tax comes from those that live in the township) and LST Taxes (these come from individuals that work in the township). Some other revenue sources include Franchise Fees (these come from Comcast utilizing the township's right of ways), permit fees, PSU in lieu of taxes, fines, etc. Expenses from this fund include equipment, roadway projects, traffic line painting, employee wages and benefits, fire and EMS service contributions, building upkeep expenses and utilities, traffic signals, etc.

State Fund Budget: \$372,895.00. These funds come from the State and are derived from Gas Taxes that you pay at the pump. Our liquid fuel income for this coming year is estimated at \$253,575.00 In addition, we receive \$12,320 annually for a portion of Rock Road and Fox Hill Road that the state turned over to the township 40+ years ago. These funds are used to pay for winter road salt and a portion of the annual roadway improvements.

Capital Reserve Fund Budget for 2026 is \$1,618,000. Due to a surplus in our General Fund in 2025, one million of this total was transferred out of the General Fund to this one. The remainder of the balance, are funds that are accumulating from the Patron Parking Tax. This tax is collected on vehicles parking at the State College Regional Airport. Funds from the parking tax is what was used to pay for the new municipal building. Currently only \$80,000 is earmarked to go towards the Kepler Pool project, if other grant funding falls through.

Did you know

*Benner Township's Tax millage rate is 1.89. The Township's Taxable Assessed value is \$155,810,725.00 which means the Township receives \$294,482.27 in Real Estate Taxes. Did you also know that the last time the Township real estate tax millage rate was raised was in **1999**. Benner Township also has a Non-Taxable assessed value of \$126,355,375.00. This means that almost 45% of the Township is tax exempt. This percentage used to be over 50% but with the commercial and residential development in recent years taking place, this percentage has been decreasing.

*That the State (with very few exceptions) doesn't own, operate or maintain traffic signals. It is up to the municipality where the light is located to take care of them. This includes electric bills, maintenance, insurance and upgrades. The initial installation of the lights is paid for by the developers that cause the lights to be warranted. The newest traffic signal installed in the Township cost around \$445,000.00.



Inside this issue

Page 2

Trash Holidays
Christmas Tree Pick Up
Report a Road issue
Understanding Zoning

Page 3

Septic Management Program
Development News
Emergency Assistance
Brush/Leaves

Page 4

Tax Bill Reminders
ABCs
Keep our Road Clear

Live Christmas Tree Recycling Collection

Live Christmas tree recycling is included in curbside refuse collection for those that don't use dumpsters. Collection will take place the week of January 12—16 on your regular collection day, however, **YOU MUST SCHEDULE YOUR COLLECTION**. To schedule, please call (814)943-8975 (extension 0) or email **COGCS@burgmeiers.com** between November 24th and December 23rd.



Garbage Collection

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

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

Christmas—December 25

New Year's Day—January 1, 2026

Want Garbage and Recycling Alerts?

You can sign up for alerts at www.crcog.net/refuse

Look for the button on the right side of that page. Stay in the know when it comes to broken equipment, weather delays, etc.



See an after hours road issue?



See a road issue that needs immediate attention after normal township office hours? It's easy. Call the Office at **(814)355-1419** anyhow. The Township has an after hours call center that can reach the appropriate individuals to take care of the issue. Not all roads in the Township are the Township's responsibility. Some of the main "State" roads in the Township include Buffalo Run Road (SR550), Benner Pike (SR150), Valley View Road, Armagast Road, Spring Creek Road and Paradise Hill Road. If you see something that needs addressed on one of these roads, please call **(814)355-4731**.

Monthly Meetings

Supervisors—1st Monday at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission—2nd & 4th Thursday when needed at 7 p.m.

Check the website to confirm a meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board—when there is an application.

SBWJA—2nd & 4th Mondays at 4:00 p.m. (170 Irish Hollow Rd., Bellefonte)

Understanding Zoning

How Zoning serves in planning and land use management:

1. **Organizing Land Use.** Zoning divides land into different categories (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, etc.) to ensure that incompatible uses—like heavy industry and housing—are kept separate.
2. **Promoting Public Health and Safety.** By controlling where certain activities occur, zoning reduces risks such as pollution, noise, and traffic hazards near homes and schools.
3. **Preserving Property Values.** Zoning helps stabilize neighborhoods by preventing disruptive developments that could negatively impact property values, like placing a factory next to a residential area.
4. **Guiding Growth and Development.** Townships use zoning to manage expansion, encourage economic development in designated areas, and protect natural resources.
5. **Protecting Environmental Resources.** Special zoning districts can safeguard wetlands or scenic areas from overdevelopment.

Septic Management Ordinance

Sewage Management Inspections

The **Benner Township Board of Supervisors** adopted a **Sewage Management Program Ordinance** in **2014** for all on-lot sewage disposal systems. This program requires:

- **Periodic inspections** of all on-lot septic systems
- **Tank pumping** as needed
- **Repair of malfunctioning systems**

The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure proper **inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation** of on-lot sewage disposal systems; to further permit the municipality to intervene in situations which are public nuisances or hazards to the public health. Sewage management inspections will begin in **May 2026**. Residents in **Section 1** should expect an inspection notice in the mail starting **February 2026**. The inspection fee must be paid by **June 30, 2026**.

Development News

Projects starting soon:

*The Chipotle restaurant is currently being built in the vicinity of Giant.

*The long awaited WaWa should be starting by the end of this month.

*Benner Mills Townhomes development will be beginning soon. This development will be located along Valentine Hill Road's Extension that will be built and connect to Amberleigh Lane.

*Tru by Hilton—construction continues.

*Phase II of Harvest Meadows will start soon. This phase includes single family homes. This development is located off of Fillmore Road.

Projects Recently Completed include:

*Amazon Warehouse

*The Candlewood/Avid Hotel

Emergency Assistance Plan

The Township is updating its list of those who may need assistance should a declared emergency, such as a natural disaster occur. These residents might be visually, physically or emotionally impaired. They may depend on around the clock oxygen. The goal is—if an area is effected—this list will give emergency personnel needed information to assist those that may not be able to help themselves. A more recent event that would fit this situation—the wind storm that took out the power lines along Fillmore Road and left those residents without power for days. If you or someone you know falls into this category, please contact the Township at (814)355-1419. We will need the individual's name, address, phone number and what the specific need would be when you call. The list will never be published publicly, and all information will be kept confidential.

Brush and Leaves

Still have leaves and brush to get rid of?
You may utilize the Musser Lane Compost Facility located at 264 Musser Lane, Bellefonte, PA.

The facility is open:

Monday through Thursday 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fridays 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday hours are suspended over the winter months and won't begin again until April.

Need a zoning or building permit application, a phone number for a Township Department, find out when a meeting is scheduled, want to look at a meeting agenda, read minutes, alerts . . Please refer to:

bennertownship.org

Of course if you don't have or use the internet, just give us a call at **(814)355-1419** and we will be happy to assist you. Please note that the Benner Township Resident facebook page is not an official page of the Township nor is it maintained by the Township. Official notices will be posted on our web site.

Real Estate Tax Reminders

All Real Estate Taxes are now due at PENALTY.

This includes the County/Township real estate tax bills as well as the school district real estate tax bills. You have until December 31st to pay them before they are turned over for collection.

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.

Authorities, Boards and Commissions

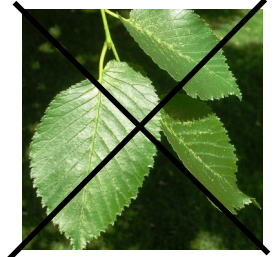
Want to get involved in the community that you live in? Why not volunteer for one of our many Authorities, Boards or Commissions. Go to the web page Bennertownship.org and look for the ABC application.

Crossroads

Benner Township
1224 Buffalo Run Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Keep Our Roads Clear

Regardless of the time of year, please keep our roads clear of—your basketball hoops, your mowed grass, your raked leaves, your extra snow from your sidewalk and driveway and your trash and recycling containers. These added extras cause clogged storm drains and can make for hazardous driving conditions. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated!



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE COLLEGE, PA
PERMIT NO. 213