



Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

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FALL 2012

2012-2

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Fall Brush Collection - Call for an appointment by 10/19.

Benner Township will be conducting its Fall "On Call" brush collection. To schedule a brush pick up, please call the office at 355-1419 and leave your name, address and phone number no later than 10/19/12. 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, grapevines 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 pile 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.



Trick or Treat

Wednesday, October 31st
6 pm to 8 pm

If you plan to participate,
please turn your outside light
on.

Fall Leaf Collection - Call for an appointment by 11/01.

Benner Township will be conducting its Fall "On Call" leaf collection. To schedule a leaf pick up, please call the office at 355-1419 and leave your name, address and phone number no later than 11/01/12. Office staff will then assign you a day to have your leaves gathered for pick up. Guidelines for leaf pick up are:

- *Leaves must be placed curbside prior to 7 a.m. on the date that you are scheduled.
- *Please pile leaves within five feet of the edge of the road.
- *Do not pile leaves on the roadway, in drainage ways or near hydrants.
- ***Grass or other yard waste (dead flowers, shrubs, etc.) will NOT be collected.** If grass or yard waste is mixed in with your leaves, your pile *won't* be collected.
- *Leaves and brush piles must be separated.
- *If desired, place tarp over leaf piles to prevent blowing away. Crews will uncover leaves and place your tarp on your property.

We do realize that not all leaves fall at the same time and our road crew will do their best to accommodate. But, there will come a time when collection must cease due to winter weather preparation. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



It costs how much?

Preliminary work has begun on the 2013 budget. We thought that this would be a good time to discuss how much things cost and where township funds are spent.

We have received multiple questions on, "Why did you tar and chip a perfectly good road?" To most of us driving down the road, the roads look fine but upon a closer look many of them have small cracks in them. The process that was done on several **township** roads this paving season was actually a fiber-matting application. This process applies a tar based substance with fibers and stone that seals the road's cracks and prolongs the life of the road. This process has been used in the state of New York for years and has been shown to preserve the condition of the roadway for an additional 5 to 7 years without further treatment. This process costs approximately 1/3 the cost that recapping the road with pavement would. The Township treated 6.28 miles of roadway with this application this year at the cost of \$209,961.33. In comparison, the township paved a section of T-383, Purdue Mt. Road - 5,960 feet long and T-386, Valentine Hill Road 785 feet long at the cost of \$119,254.68.

"Fund" Facts:

*One stop sign with a required break a way post costs around \$80. This doesn't include the cost of installation.

*A ton of road salt delivered to the Township building costs \$68.31. On an average winter season, the township uses 500 tons of salt.

*Our 2011 International dump truck with plow and spreader cost \$125,144.00.

*The Township receives most of its revenues from Earned Income Taxes. That amount is .5% which is deducted from your wages. The remaining 1.05% goes to Bellefonte School District if you are located in Benner Township or .95% to the State College Area School District if your live in Benner Independent.

*The 1.89 mills of real estate taxes that the Township billed on **all** Township properties in 2012 amounted to **\$200,367.88**. The **last time** the Township **raised it's real estate taxes** was in **1998**. A home in the Township with the assessed value of \$62,780 pays the Township \$118.65 in property taxes.

*The total assessed value of Benner Township is \$164,870,905.00. Of this amount, \$65,145,185.00 or 39.51% is tax exempt. Exempt properties include those owned by the PA Game Commission, PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Department of Corrections, and some of the properties owned by Penn State. The Township does have an in-lieu of tax agreement with Penn State in which the Township receives approximately \$60,000 annually.

*Benner Township maintains 30.18 miles of roads. Additional roads will be added this fall.

*On average, the Township receives a total of \$152,000 per year from liquid fuel taxes. From this amount, road salt is purchased, lines are painted on the roads and road maintenance is performed. The Township supplements the liquid fuel funds with general fund funds to do additional road maintenance projects and to purchase equipment.

*In 2012, it cost \$1,003.20 per mile to paint a road that doesn't allow for passing and has single white lines painted on each side.

*In 2012, Benner Township paid a total of \$98,448.24 for fire protection. Fees for fire protection are paid to Bellefonte Borough (Logan and Undine Fire Companies), Pleasant Gap Fire Company and the Alpha Fire Department.



Crossroads

The purpose of *Crossroads* is to keep you informed about the issues facing Benner Township during this critical *Crossroads* in our development. We hope to inspire you to get involved in the Township that surrounds you.

Benner Township Municipal Building
1224 Buffalo Run Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-1419
(814) 355-1448 (Zoning)
(814) 355-0719 (FAX)
www.centreconnect.org

Proud of our past, focusing on our future.

We all are feeling our wallets tightening with rising fuel (both at the pump and to heat our homes) and food prices. It seems as though the price of everything is going up. With this being said, the Supervisors take the job of managing the Township fiscally seriously and vow to continue to do so.

Looking to start some early Christmas shopping or need a birthday gift?

Copies of the hard backed/bound Benner Township History Book titled "Benner Township 150 Years of Families, Forging, Farming, Fishing and Flying" are still available at the cost of \$15 and make a great gift. Books may be purchased at the Township Offices.



Fall Bulk Pick Up

October 15—19 *On Your Regular Trash Day*

*Do you have questions about what will and will not be collected?
Please call: **Veolia Environmental Services at 237-3713***

IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING ITEMS LEFT BEHIND, RESIDENTS SHOULD FOLLOW THESE IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:

All items **must** be at the curb by 7:00 AM on regular trash pick-up day. *Customers with door service must place bulk waste items at the CURB; bulk items will NOT be collected at the door.*

Items **must** be properly prepared – see preparation notes below, LOOSE PILES WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.

Appliances and tires are collected by a separate truck, please keep these items separate from other bulk wastes: refrigerators, freezers, stoves, ovens, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, air conditioners and water heaters. There is a limit of 1 of each type of appliance per household. Duplicate appliances will NOT be removed.

There is a limit of **10 tires** (no greater than 20 inches in diameter; rims removed) per household.

It is recommended NOT to use cardboard boxes as containers, because they are not sturdy enough to lift if they are overfilled or if they get wet. Soggy or overfilled boxes and their contents will NOT be collected. Do NOT overfill collection containers – instead, distribute items into multiple containers.

Keep in mind that there are only 2 workers per collection vehicle during this special collection week! Items that cannot safely be lifted by 2 workers **WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.**

There are some items that either cannot fit on the collection vehicle or will damage the collection vehicle, and will therefore NOT be collected. Examples of such items include, but are not limited to: hot tubs, furnaces, cast iron items, pianos, organs, trailer/boat hitches. Residents must make their own arrangements for disposal of such items.

PROPER ITEM PREPARATION:

TIRES – must be removed from rims	CARPETING/PADDING – must be DRY, TIED, and CUT into 4 foot (max) lengths
APPLIANCES – doors must be removed	GLASS PANES – must be heavily taped or sealed in a box
WOOD/OLD LUMBER – must be CUT to 4 foot (max) length and 12 inch (max) width, and MUST be tied in bundles or placed in a can. Loose piles of wood & lumber (and anything underneath or mixed in with the pile) will NOT be collected.	
YES	The following items will be collected: furniture, bedding, appliances (see preparation information above), tires (see preparation information above), BUNDLED old lumber/homeowner-generated small project construction materials (see preparation information above), carpeting (see preparation information above), other oversized items too large to fit into a collection container.
NO	The following items will NOT be collected: contractor-generated construction materials , leaves, grass, soil/dirt, concrete, bricks, stones, railroad ties, propane tanks, liquid paints and solvents, batteries, dead animals, unprepared glass panes, unbundled wood/lumber, piles of loose debris or construction materials, tires other than passenger car tires (racing, tractor, etc.), items too large or too heavy for 2 workers to lift, items not prepared as per the above guidelines. For alternative disposal options, please call 238-7005.

ALL ITEMS THAT ARE ABLE TO BE CANNED/BAGGED MUST BE PLACED IN A BAG OR CAN, OR THEY WILL NOT BE COLLECTED. LOOSE PILES OF DEBRIS (AS WELL AS ANY ITEMS LOCATED UNDERNEATH LOOSE PILES OF DEBRIS) WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.

****Dumping of any of the above materials is illegal and is subject to fines from both the Township and the Centre County Solid Waste Authority. Please use this semi-annual service provided to expose of this waste properly.****



Got Snow???



We are all hoping that we don't have snow in our forecast any time soon, but when we do . . . please:

- ★ Remove your vehicles and other obstacles (i.e. portable basketball hoops) from the street or berms to avoid ticketing and/or towing.
- ★ Keep plowed roads clear. Don't throw or blow snow back onto them.



Crossroads

Benner Township
1224 Buffalo Run Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

STATE COLLEGE, PA
PERMIT NO. 213



Need a Permit?

Looking to begin a Fall building project? Whether you are putting in a pre-made storage shed, erecting a new sign, building a new house, or in some cases, cutting down a tree, you will probably need a permit. To be on the safe side, consider calling the Township office before you begin.

The Township's website has permit applications available to download and print. You can also find our fee schedule to get a better idea of what your permit will cost. The Township can take up to thirty days to process a permit, but in a lot of cases, a Zoning Permit can be processed in just a few days! Please always consider the Township's Zoning Ordinance and setback requirements in your Zoning District when applying for a permit.

Feel free to contact the Township at (814) 355-1448 for any questions you may have concerning permitting and fees.



New Additions to the Township

**Graystone Court*—Construction has begun on Graystone Court. This ten story, 144 unit apartment complex for those 55 years of age and over is located off of the Benner Pike behind Fulton Bank on Eagle Point Drive. The estimated completion date of this project is late Fall 2013.

**SilcoTek*—This new company, which is a spin off company from Restek Corporation, plans to build a new 26,400 sq. ft. manufacturing facility on Lot 1 of the Benner Commerce Park.

**The Glen at Paradise Hills West* - Plans have been submitted to construct 4 additional quadplex units off of Quarry Street.

**Amberleigh Development*—Construction of townhome buildings continue.

**Grove Park*—Single family homes continue to be built.

**Village of Nittany Glen*: Single family condo development—new phase has been submitted for approval.

**SCI Benner*—A new state prison located on existing SCI Rockview prison property. Construction continues, new inmates are expected September 2013.

