



# Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

SPRING 2009

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## Inside this issue:

### Page 1

- \*Spring Creek Canyon
- \*Garbage and Recycling Ordinances

### Page 2

- \*Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority
- \*Fall Pumpkin Festival

### Page 3

- \*Park & Recreation
- \*Gypsy Moth Spraying
- \*Household Hazardous Waste Clean Up
- \*Watershed Clean Up
- \*Summer Park & Rec dates

### Page 4

- \*Riff Raff Days



## Spring Creek Canyon

The draft version of the Spring Creek Canyon Master Plan study has been received from the consultant, Environmental Planning and Design. A public meeting was held on the Plan at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology on March 31st. Public comments were received at that meeting and in writing until April 7th. Now that the deadline has passed, the consultant is reviewing the comments and making revisions to the study as warranted. The final document is expected to be received by April 15th. Once the document is accepted, it will be available on the township's website. The draft report can be found on the web at [www.canyonplanning.com](http://www.canyonplanning.com)

## Garbage and Recycling Collection-Update

As reported in previous editions of *Crossroads*, Benner Township is planning to adopt mandatory trash and recycling collection ordinances. The Township will be bidding its residential trash collection out this fall for next year. All residents will have the same garbage hauler. Benefits to residents by bidding this service will include:

- \*Lower trash collection bills. Centre Region residents are currently paying \$14.74 per month for unlimited trash and recycling collection. Our residents are paying around \$21 – \$23/month - many without recycling. There will be a lower rate established for low usage customers (those that only have one garbage can per week).
- \*Curbside recycling
- \*Bulk waste collection at your home two times a year (Township would eliminate Riff Raff Days at a cost savings of approximately \$11,000 annually.)
- \*Curbside brush and leaf collection twice a year
- \*Garbage trucks only making one trip in developments per week

Businesses will not be included in the trash collection contract. They will still choose which company they wish to have collect their garbage. Businesses will, however, be required to recycle.

Public educational meetings regarding garbage collection and recycling will be scheduled this fall and will be listed in the summer edition of *Crossroads*.

**Need Earned Income Tax Forms?**

You can download them at [www.basd.net](http://www.basd.net)



## Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority

The Benner Township Sewer Extension which connected homes on Lower Gyp Road, Raymonds Lane, Buffalo Run Road, Seibert Road and Willow Bend Development was completed last Fall. Overall, the project was a success and currently we have more than 75% of the homes connected to the public sewer.

For some, this eliminated the sand mound from the yard's landscape to help restore the original appearance of the lot. Most importantly, this project will help to protect the ground water supply of these private wells for many years to come. We have heard reports from the haulers that some of these systems were neglected and were found to have sludge build up within the tank that would have likely caused the system to malfunction eventually.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection recently began requiring Townships around the Commonwealth to begin a Sewage Management Plan. Benner, Spring and Walker Townships are no exception. The Benner Township Supervisors have encouraged the development of this plan to reduce the areas our public sewer system will have to be extended. When active, the Sewage Management Plan will require all homeowners with an on-lot septic system to begin a three year pumping schedule of their septic tanks, as well as have a certified inspector on-site to evaluate the tank and seepage bed. Routine maintenance of these on-lot systems is crucial to ensuring their long term service. Once an on-lot system fails due to a lack of maintenance, it normally requires a significant investment and plenty of undisturbed area within your property to correct.

More details will follow later this year as the Sewage Management Plan takes shape and all residents will be notified of their responsibilities to comply with this program.

As always, if you have any questions with your public sewer or public water needs for your home, please contact the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority at 355-4778.

## Fall Festival—Saturday—September 12th

### Get ready... get set... GROW!

Planting season will be here before we know it. Why not try your hand at growing a giant pumpkin? Cash prizes will be awarded for the weirdest and largest pumpkins.



### *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](http://www.centreconnect.org)

*Proud of our past, focusing on our future.*

The Benner Township Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Our festival's theme is Pumpkins again this year. Some of our festival events will include the weirdest shaped pumpkin, pumpkin piling contest, pumpkin decorating, and of course, the largest pumpkin! The Festival will still have everyone's favorite craft and food vendors along with children's games and entertainment. Vendor space is still available. Call the Township Office for Volunteers are always needed. Whether you and help for a couple hours or all day, we would appreciate your help. Call us at 355-1419 and let us know what area you would like to help with.

## Park & Recreation

### **Donations Needed:**

\*Anything Halloween—for our haunted trail

\*Glassware—for our festival dime pitch

### **Volunteers Needed to help with:**

\*Fall Festival—games, set up, advertising

\*Haunted Halloween Trail—be a character, help decorate, build sets, set up the trail, serve refreshments.

Helpers of all ages welcome!!!

To volunteer or if you have any questions, please call the township office at 355-1419.



## Gypsy Moth Spraying

During the spray season (beginning in late April), on the night before each spray day, the county will be announcing the spray blocks that the DCNR plans to spray both online ([www.co.centre.pa.us/gypsymoth](http://www.co.centre.pa.us/gypsymoth)) and by newsletter (you can sign up for it on the web site).

The insecticide being used on residential properties is *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Bt), a biological insecticide which has no known adverse human health or environmental impacts. The insecticide will be applied by aircraft flying approximately 50 feet above the tree-tops between late April and late May.

To avoid the possibility of eye irritation, persons should not look up as the spray droplets are descending. If eye irritation does occur, an eye wash should be used and the family physician consulted.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event



On May 1st and 2nd the Centre County Solid Waste Authority, in cooperation with many other agencies, will be hosting an household hazardous waste collection event. This service is available free of charge to all Centre County residents.

Items NOT being accepted are: used motor oil, anti-freeze, batteries, tires, latex paint, radioactive or medical material, explosives or ammunition.

For additional information about the event, call the Centre County Solid Waste Authority at 238-7005 or visit their website at [www.centrecountyrecycles.com](http://www.centrecountyrecycles.com)

### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**

Centre Co. Solid Waste Authority

253 Transfer Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Friday, May 1  
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 2  
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

### **Acceptable Materials**

Insecticides      Weed Killers

Pool Chemicals      Cleaners

Poisons      Corrosives

Flammables      Oil based paints

Many other household chemicals

## Spring Creek Clean Up—Volunteers Needed Saturday - April 25

The annual Watershed Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, April 25th. Benner residents interested in participating in the Clean-up should come to the Township Building between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Gloves, bags, bottled water, as well as a light lunch at Noon at the Millbrook Marsh will be provided for all volunteers. If you are aware of an area that needs cleaned up, please call the Township office at 355-1419.



**Mark your calendars—Summer Park & Rec.**

**June 22nd thru August 1st**

**Forms will be distributed at the school or call the Township office at 355-1419.**

# RIFF RAFF RETURNS

## Saturday, April 25 thru Saturday, May 2

The Benner Township announces the *13th Annual Riff Raff Days* for refuse collection. Dumpsters will be available under supervision of a Township employee from Saturday, April 25 to Saturday, May 2. Please refer to the information below as it pertains to your refuse.

### DUMPSTERS

**7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

Dumpsters will be located behind the Township building and will only be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. A Township employee will supervise the unloading of rubbish.

The gate at the entrance of the Township drive will be closed during off hours, so do not attempt to bring refuse when the dumpsters are closed.

**\$\$\$ DUMPING FINES \$\$\$**

Dumping in any location other than the designated dumpsters will result in fines of up to \$600.00.



**NO**

Toxic Chemicals, Flammables, or  
Hazardous Waste Permitted.

### WHITE GOODS:

Call the Township at 355-1419 to schedule an appliance pick-up: hot water heaters, refrigerators, stoves, etc. Please place the appliance curb side by 7:30 AM. on the day of your scheduled pick-up.

### TWIGS & BRUSH:

Twigs and brush can be dropped off for mulching. Branches must be thinner than 2" in diameter. No lumber or construction debris accepted.

Follow the signs between  
7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Benner Township  
1224 Buffalo Run Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

*Crossroads*