



Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

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Kepler Pool Renovations? Your input is requested.

The Supervisors are seeking resident input on the future of the Kepler Pool. As it has been reported in various medias, the pool has ended its life expectancy. The pool is over forty years old and suffers from leaking and worn underground plumbing and no longer meets current regulations for accessibility and safety. Due to these problems, this summer was the last season of operation for the pool in its current unimproved state. The Kepler pool served the surrounding communities and was the swimming facility for various local clubs, schools, day camps and swim teams.

In 2013, the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority was created and obtained ownership of Kepler Pool. This Authority represents Benner, Walker and Spring Townships as well as Bellefonte Borough. In addition to the Kepler pool, the Authority will provide and support recreation opportunities important to the region and collaborate on opportunities that are too great for any one Township to take on.

The Rec Authority has spent countless hours meeting with nearby entities that have taken on similar pool projects in order to gain feedback and knowledge of their experiences. Based upon all of the information received, the Authority feels that approximately 2.5 million dollars will be needed to preserve and modernize the Kepler pool. Improvements would include: new plumbing, filtration and heating systems, a toddler pool area with several water features, ADA accessibility, improved rest-rooms and changing facilities and an improved concession area. A copy of the pool study can be viewed on the township's website at www.bennertownship.org

In order for this project to move forward, **ALL** of the members making up the Recreation Authority must agree to share the debt service for the improvement loan that will be required. It is anticipated that it will take approximately 10 years to repay the loan. This could mean a Benner Township contribution between \$30,000 and \$45,000 per year for 10 years. In addition to Municipal contributions, it is anticipated that the pool itself will generate more funds and will aide in the repayment of the loan. With the pool being modernized and heated, the season will be longer, hours of operation will be greater and it is expected that attendance will increase.

The Board is asking that you take a few minutes of your time and fill out and return the attached important survey to the Township by November 4th. For your convenience, drop off boxes will be made available at both election polling places on Election Day, you may mail your survey, or take the survey electronically at www.bennertownship.org



Spring Creek Canyon Trail—Phase I

The Spring Creek Canyon Trail-Phase I - Rock Road to Shiloh Road will begin soon. Benner Township was awarded a Grant through DCNR in the amount of \$115,000 for the development of the Spring Creek Canyon Trail! The Grant will assist the Township in the construction of approximately 1.2 miles of trail along Spring Creek, including 2 trailheads (one at Rock Road and one at Shiloh Road), and an ADA accessible trail, opening the Canyon to people of all abilities. We hope to start construction in the spring of 2015.



Trick or Treat

Thursday, October 30th

6 pm to 8 pm

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

Fall Brush Collection - Call for an appointment by 10/17.

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 10/17. 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.



Fall Leaf Collection - Call for an appointment by 10/31.

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 10/31. 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.

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)

Septic Management Program

The first year of the Township's Septic Management Program is nearing completion. We are very pleased with the cooperation that has been shown with residents' willingness to comply. Those who received letters this year and have not responded are encouraged to do so immediately to avoid fines and penalties.

Properties located in **Section 3** (2015 pumping and Inspection) of the program should expect to receive notices in March. Those located in **Section 4** (2015 pumping only) will receive notices in April. A copy of the map showing each section is located at the Township Building or can be viewed online at www.bennertownship.org

If you have any questions regarding a notice that you receive, please contact the program administrator, Rita Herr at (814) 470-0606.

Fall Bulk Pick Up

October **13-17** *On Your Regular Trash Day*

*Do you have questions about what will and will not be collected?
Please call: **Advanced Disposal** 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.****



When the snow starts to fall. . . 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. Do not pile snow in front of or around storm drains or hydrants.
- * Please be respectful of our employees. Snow removal isn't fun for anyone. However, we live in Pennsylvania—snow happens. Our drivers don't intentionally dump snow back into your shoveled driveways. If there is snow on the roads, it has to come off and unfortunately sometimes it ends up on driveway entrances.



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**

Zoning Ordinance Update

Where we stand now: The Planning Commission has reviewed the existing Zoning Ordinance (2009) and submitted the recommended "draft" edits to the Board of Supervisors. The Board gave feedback and requested the Planning Commission continue their work on the Ordinance, concentrating more on streamlining zoning. The Ordinance is a work in progress and will continued to be discussed at each Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month (excluding holidays) at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 1224 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte. Please check the township website www.bennertownship.org or phone the township office at 355-1419 to verify meetings will be held.

We are interested in your input! To assist us in this process, we have included several questions on the enclosed questionnaire that relate to Zoning. The updating of a Zoning Ordinance is a long and detailed process. This document, once enacted, will affect each and every property owner within the Township. If there are any issues you have had in the past with the Zoning Ordinance or anything you feel the Township is doing right or wrong, please come to the meetings to discuss.

The Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission is also giving the 2004 Nittany Valley Comprehensive Plan an update. This planning tool addresses various aspects of our region (Spring, Benner, Walker and Marion Townships + Bellefonte Borough) such as: community planning goals, environmental, community development, public facilities and services, public utilities and transportation. The public is welcome to attend these meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 6:00 p.m. at the Bellefonte Borough Office, 236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte.