



Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

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Zoning Ordinance Update

The Benner Township Supervisors are revisiting the Zoning Ordinance. The ultimate goal is to work through and adopt a new version to replace the Zoning Ordinance that was adopted in 2009. The Benner Township Planning Commission is working through the text in order to create a new document that will direct any new development within the Township.

A subcommittee of two Planning Commissioners has been created and will be going through the Ordinance language to ensure that the regulations make sense and continues to coordinate changes to farms, houses and businesses alike. The Committee will be meeting at 6 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the municipal building before the regular Planning Commission meeting that begins at 7. Once the document is formatted, we will post it up on the Township website:

www.bennertownship.org

Once the document is ready for consideration, a town-hall type presentation of the Ordinance will be held. Your input is vital to the process of getting a document that works and protects everyone's property concerns. The Supervisors hope to be able to start the final review/adoption process by the end of the year.

Junk Motor Vehicle Ordinance

The year was . . . 1994, Benner Township adopted an ordinance directed at addressing motor vehicle nuisances. The Zoning Officer has received a number of complaints recently and thought that it might be a good idea to revisit this issue.

* Ordinance 62 states that "no more than 2 vehicles that are unlicensed/unregistered may be stored on any property in the township". Penalties can be assessed for non-compliance. To view the entire ordinance go to www.bennertownship.org - then Ordinances and go to Ordinance 62.

Please keep these items in mind, and consider your property's appearance before all the leaves fall off of the trees. Questions on this ordinance, or other zoning issues can be directed to Chris Anderson, Zoning Officer at (814)355-1448.



Trick or Treat

Thursday, October 29th

6 pm to 8 pm

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

Spring Creek Canyon Trail Update

The Phase I Archeological Study of the Spring Creek Canyon Trail Project has been completed. While a few objects were found, the items weren't of a significant nature that warrants further investigation. Tree clearing for the parking lot area off of Rock Road will be done later this winter. (Due to the possibility of brown bats in the area, trees can only be cut during certain times of the year.) The project, which consists of constructing a parking lot area leading to a ADA trail linking Rock Road to the Shiloh Road area should be bid this spring with a late spring construction start date.



Fall Brush Collection - Call for an appointment by 10/23.

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 10/23. 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 for brush. Brush must be at the street edge.
- *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 11/6.

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 11/6. 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 **will not** be collected.
- *Leaves and brush piles must be separated and placed at the street's edge.
- *If desired, place tarp over leaf piles to prevent blowing away. Crews will uncover leaves and place your tarp back 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)

Norman Corl—Retires

Since 1972, Norman Corl has been employed by Benner Township working on the Road Crew. After 43 years of dedicated service, Norman decided it was time to retire. Mr. Corl has seen the township grow a lot over the last 43 years with new developments being built and additional road miles being added to the township's maintenance responsibilities. One thing we are sure of . . . Norman won't miss plowing Purdue Mt. Road during those dreadful snow storms. Thank you for a job well done, Norman! Enjoy your retirement!



Fall Bulk Pick Up

October **12-16** *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 <u>NOT</u> 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, garbage cans, recycling bins) 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 and sidewalks. If there is snow on the roads, it has to come off and unfortunately sometimes it ends up on driveway entrances and sidewalks.



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**

Township Septic Management Plan

The second year status report for the implementation of our Township wide septic management program indicates that an additional number of properties, approximately 70 in total, were inspected during the spring/summer season for proper septic operations. The inspection cycle went well, and was a real benefit in some cases locating minor problems and getting them corrected before they lead to system failures and major repairs. Implementation in this second year included inspections for approximately one sixth of township septic system owners and documentation of tank pumping from the additional one sixth of our septic owners. Next year, the third year, will see a similar schedule for portions of the Township with approximately 70 inspections/pumping and 70 additional properties scheduled for tank pumping only. By next fall, all Benner residents with septic system will have had either an inspection or a tank pumping. What will follow in the years 2017 to 2019 will then be physical inspections of the half of the systems that had pumping only and a mandatory pumping of those systems already inspected. This program was mandated by the Commonwealth as part of the Township's Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Rita Herr, Plan Administrator at (814)470-0606.

New Township Facilities Considered

The age and condition of the Township Building remain a challenge in terms of adequate room for the maintenance and storage of the ever increasing amount of required township equipment and office/storage space for municipal files, heating/cooling, parking and stormwater retention. Most residents will remember that there have been several different approaches developed over the years to address building deficiencies that have never really gotten past discussion or preliminary design. The Township has been placing funds aside for the construction of a new facility for the last several years. In the upcoming 2016 budget planning cycle, we intend to once again consider a strategy to replace the aging Township building on the existing site while allowing us to remain in the existing building until new space is constructed. Some of the storage facilities now in use are new and would be retained and included in the new design. We welcome all input from Township residents that will help us to formulate a strategy that lets us protect our equipment, provide an efficient community and Township space, and minimize both investment and lost productivity as we consider a replacement structure.