



Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

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Our Water

Where does it come from and how do we protect it?

An educational forum— Presented by: Benner Township Supervisors,
Benner Township Water Authority and
The Citizens of Benner Township Environmental Committee

Monday, September 19th @ 7 p.m.
at the Benner Elementary School

The following speakers will be present to speak on their topics of expertise:

Mark Stephens—Northcentral Region Source Water Protection Coordinator, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

Todd Giddings—Hydrogeologist, Todd Giddings and Associates, Inc.

Thomas Randis—Environmental Program Manager, PA Dept. Environmental Protection

Bryan Swistock—Senior Extension Associate & Water Resources Coordinator, Penn State Extension, Water Quality

The topic of water quality has been on the Benner Township Supervisors' agenda for the past several months. State law in Pennsylvania does not require testing of private water supplies and regulatory agencies do not routinely monitor the quality of private supplies. Therefore, the only way homeowners can be certain that their water is safe to drink is to have the water tested periodically. We have found the following Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection website to have a lot of useful information on private water sources:

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/PrivateWells/Pages/default.aspx>

This site contains information on the following topics:

- Well contaminants
- Water testing
- Drinking water certified labs
- Maximum contaminant levels
- Drinking water treatment devices
- Publications
- Well construction
- Well driller information
- Flooding resources
- Other private well websites

Two additional websites we found with helpful information are Penn State's Cooperative Extension and the EPA's (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency):

<http://agsci.psu.edu/aas/water-testing/drinking-water-testing>

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>

According to Penn State's site, "There are over 1 million private wells in Pennsylvania serving 3.5 million people in rural areas. Approximately 20,000 new wells are drilled each year. About half of the private water wells that have been tested in the state have at least one water quality problem. Yet, despite the importance of testing your water, only half of Pennsylvania wells have ever been tested."



Trick or Treat

Monday, October 31st

6 pm to 8 pm

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

Fall Brush Collection - Call for an appointment by 10/14.

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 10/14. 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 11/4.

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 11/4. 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)
www.bennertownship.org

Proud of our past, focusing on our future.

Zoning Ordinance Update

The Planning Commission is continuing with their review of the Zoning Ordinance draft. The next step in their process is to review every possible use imaginable and decide in which zoning district it makes sense to permit the use, either by right or conditional use. Once this is complete, we will then draw the zoning district boundaries on the map taking into consideration the Nittany Valley Joint Comprehensive Plan, zoning districts along adjoining township boundaries and where it makes sense for new development to occur.

We encourage residents to review and comment on the latest version of this draft. It can be found on the Township's web site at www.bennertownship.org. We also welcome residents to attend the Planning Commission's meetings which are held the 2nd & 4th Thursdays each month at 7 p.m. at the Township Building.

Fall Bulk Pick Up

October **10-14** *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 <u>small project construction materials</u> (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: <u>contractor-generated construction materials</u> , 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.****



Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have an interest in the Township's future? Do you have a few hours to spare each month to deal with township matters? If the answers are yes, then we would love to hear from you! Please log on to the township's web site at www.bennertownship.org to download a BAC (Board/Authority/Commission) application form or call the township office at 355-1419 and we will mail you one.

Roads—Keep them Clear!

Regardless of the time of year, please keep our roads clear of - 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 cooperation is greatly appreciated!

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

Benner Township's Department of Environmental Protection mandated septic management program is currently completing its third full year of the program. At this point, every property that has an on lot septic system should have either received a notice to pump their system's tank(s) or have their system inspected by the Sewage Enforcement Officer and had their tank(s) pumped. Inspections found that most systems are functioning well, but a few systems did require minor repairs which helps to avoid costly failures later on, which is the purpose of the program.

We are happy to announce that after completing this three year cycle, the fees for the future years will be reduced by \$20. Our initial fees included the costs to complete the mapping, on-lot system data base and other set-up fees which is now complete. As a result, the administration costs for pumping will now be \$40 and the fees for the system inspection/administration will be \$180. These fees are in addition to your choice of a septic tank pumper and their associated cost of having your tanks pumped.

Please contact Rita Herr, Plan Administrator at (814)470-0606 immediately if you have yet to fulfill your 2016 notice obligations as violation notices will be sent out directly.

New Township Facility

Over the spring/summer, we have been working with an engineering team to develop the complete specifications for the new Township building. In October, we expect to be sending the entire construction project package out to local contractors for initial bids.

We have spent a great deal of time with our design professionals to develop a building which fits within our existing site and replacement budget. The building addresses all of the space needs that exist now and in the immediate future. It also represents a very efficient design utilizing LED lighting, high efficiency heat pump(s), energy recovery systems and full back up power to ensure safe and reliable operation.

Please feel free to offer any comments or suggestions to us on the process so far. We are excited to be able to take this step in anticipation of construction in early 2017.