



# Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

Fall— 2022

## Real Estate Tax Reminders

**County and Township real estate tax bills:** These bills are now due at the penalty rate. You have until December 31st to pay them before they are turned over for collection.

**School District real estate bills:** The School District Real Estate tax bills are currently due at face value and will be until November 30th. Amounts due will move to the penalty rate on December 1st and will be turned over for collection on December 31st.

### How and where do you pay?

\*You may mail payments to: Benner Township Tax Collector, 152 Willowbend Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823. **Please remember to include a self addressed stamped envelope if you wish to have a receipt mailed back to you.**

\*You may drop off your payments at 152 Willowbend Drive at the drop off box provided.

\*You may call Jessica at (814)574-5087 to schedule an appointment.

## 2022 Road Work

The 2022 paving and road maintenance projects for the year are complete. This year the township completed 3,900 l.f. of roadway paving, 4,700 l.f. of roadway widening, 750 yds. of roadway base repairs, 1.25 miles of roads were micropaved and 5.5 miles of roads were tar and chipped. The total cost of this work was \$498,300.00.



## Township Happenings

**Giant:** The supermarket and fueling station are almost complete. They anticipate being open by the end of the year. This is a multi phased development. Preliminary plans show a total build out of three fast food restaurants and a 7,000 sq. ft. retail building. This is located at the corner of the Benner Pike and Paradise Hill Road.

**Bellefonte Warehouse:** A 1.1 million square foot warehouse distribution facility is being planned for in the Benner Commerce Park. Around 700 jobs are anticipated.

**Cascade:** The Cascade is being proposed in Airport Park. This development proposes 74 non-residential use units on the first floor and a total of 148 residential units on the second and third floors of the buildings.

**Benner Pike Hotel:** A 107 room hotel is being proposed at the corner of the Benner Pike and Amberleigh Lane.

**The Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church:** Plans have been submitted for the new Greater Buffalo Run UM Church. The new building will be located along Buffalo Run Road about a half mile away from their current building.

**Harvest Meadows:** Phase 1 of this development has begun construction. Phase 1 calls for the construction of 133 townhome units.

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Election day is Tuesday, November 8th

## 2022 Fall Bulk Pick Up

2022 fall bulk pick up will be held on the week of:

**October 17**

on your normal garbage day. Please follow the guidelines provided in your trash bill or a copy of the guidelines may be viewed at :

**[www.crcog.net/refuse](http://www.crcog.net/refuse)**

If you have questions about what will and will not be collected after viewing this list, please call COG at (814)234-7198.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS—

Garbage collection will be delayed one day for Thursday and Friday collections the week of Thanksgiving. There will be no change in collection for Christmas or New Year's Days.



Christmas Tree Collection will take place the week of January 16th on your normal garbage day. Trees will be collected this week only, must be free of ice and snow and no taller than 6' (please cut larger trees and keep trees under cover until your collection day). All decorations must be removed.

## Fall Leaf Collection - November 14th - Please read \*\*NEW GUIDELINES\*\*

Benner Township will be conducting its Fall **residential** leaf collection starting on **October 31st** weather permitting. Crews will collect leaves on a street by street basis. (No need to call for an appointment.) You may see crews collecting leaves prior to October 31st, however, this will not affect the pick up schedule. We will continue to collect leaves until snow/weather conditions prohibit.

Guidelines for leaf pick up are:

- \*Leaves must be placed curbside prior to 7 a.m. on 10/31
- \*Do **NOT** pile leaves on roadway, in drainage ways or near fire hydrants.
- \*Leaves more than 8 feet from roadway or near obstructions (trees, shrubbery, mailboxes, etc.) will **NOT** be collected due to machine limitations.
- \*Grass or other yard waste (sticks, flowers, shrubs, etc.) will **NOT** be collected. If grass or yard waste is mixed with your leaves, your pile will **NOT** be collected.
- \*If desired, place a tarp over leaf piles to prevent them from blowing away. Crews will uncover leaves and place your tarp back on your property.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## Fall Brush Collection— Call 355-1419 by October 21st to get on the list.

The Township will be conducting its Fall "On Call" brush collection. To schedule a brush pick up, please call the office at 355-1419 no later than October 21st. **Brush will need to be at the street ready for pick up on October 24th by 7 a.m.**

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, vines 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 piles 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.

## PFAS—PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UPDATE

In 2019 PA's PFAS Action Team began conducting sampling of public water supplies for this family of contaminants. In August 2019, State of the Art manufacturing facility well tested above the USEPA Health Advisory Level (HAL) at that time of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for two compounds: PFOA and PFOS. A follow up sample in September 2019 confirmed this result. DEP determined that two nearby properties along High Tech Road utilized water supply wells and sampled those companies in December 2019. Samples from the two wells tested above the HAL. DEP reached out to PSU for information on the history of AFFF fire-fighting foam testing and usage at the University Park Airport (UPA) and requested sampling of existing groundwater monitoring wells. One well on UPA property tested above the HAL.

Using Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act funding, a DEP contractor was tasked with investigating the history of industry in the High Tech Road area, and potential usage of PFAS-containing materials at various industrial sites, including UPA. Their Due Diligence Summary report was finalized in June 2021.

In November 2021, DEP staff presented information to the public at a Benner Township Supervisors' meeting. In December 2021, DEP began sampling of private water supply wells in a residential neighborhood to the south of UPA. The first results were received in February 2022 and communicated to the residents. One sample was above the HAL, and that property owner had previously installed a treatment system that, following confirmation testing, was found to be effectively removing the PFAS from the drinking water.

As of September 28, 2022, over 100 private water supply samples have been collected within the investigation area, including many follow up samples to confirm initial results. Of those tested, 13 residences were found to contain PFOA and PFOS above the PA cleanup standard of 70 ppt. The residences that tested above the standard either had existing treatment systems that were effectively removing the contaminants or have been provided with bottled drinking water until Point of Entry Treatment Systems (POETs) can be installed. Home inspections are currently being scheduled with homeowners and a treatment system vendor to prepare for system design and installation.

As of September 28, 2022, 44 soil samples at 31 locations have been collected by DEP and their contractor. In February 2022, samples were collected at various depths in 13 boring locations along and adjacent to High Tech Road. Results indicated that any detections of PFAS contaminants appear to be contained to the shallow interval of soil. In August 2022, surface soil samples were collected from 18 locations in various drainage areas and retention ponds located on UPA property. These results are currently pending.

Future plans under the investigation include installation of the POETs, installation and sampling of additional soil borings as well as groundwater monitoring wells using geophysical surveys to determine primary locations, and continuation of private water supply wells to both confirm previous data and to delineate the extent of the contaminant plume. DEP continues working toward identifying a responsible party or parties through both sampling efforts and records requests.

DEP maintains a project-specific web page located at: [Benner Township HSCA Investigation \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov/government/other/benner-township-hsca-investigation).

### Acronyms:

PFAS – per-and-poly fluoroalkyl substances

PFOA – perfluorooctanoic acid

PFOS – perfluorooctane sulfonic acid

HAL – Health Advisory Level (a health-based concentration above which action should be taken to reduce exposure to unregulated contaminants in drinking water)

ppt – parts per trillion (unit of measure for reporting levels of PFAS compounds – one part of the substance for every one trillion parts of either air, water or soil in which it is contained)

POETs – Point Of Entry Treatment systems (whole home systems designed to treat all water entering the home at the location of the treatment system)



October 31st

6 to 8 p.m.

**At the Benner Township Building  
1224 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte**

Sponsored by the  
Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church  
Please check social media for updates.  
Church Facebook: gbrvumc

**Trick or Treating** for the area (Bellefonte Borough,  
Spring, Walker and Benner Townships) has been  
scheduled for October 31st from 6 to 8.

*Crossroads*

Benner Township  
1224 Buffalo Run Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

## See an after hours road issue?



See a road issue that needs immediate attention after normal township office hours? It's easy, call the office **(814)355-1419** anyhow. The Township has an after hours call center that can reach the appropriate individuals to take care of the issue. Not all roads in the Township are the Township's to take care of and maintain. Some of the main "State" roads in the Township include Buffalo Run Road (SR550), Benner Pike (SR150), Valley View Road, Armagast Road, Spring Creek Road, and Paradise Hill Road. If you see something that needs addressed on one of these roads, please call (814)355-4731.

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STATE COLLEGE, PA  
PERMIT NO. 213