



Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

SPRING 2008

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Inside this issue:

Page 1

Spring Creek Canyon
Zoning Ordinance Update

Page 2

Egg Eggvent/Skating

Summer Park & Rec.

High School Student
Volunteers Needed

Fall Pumpkin Festival

Page 3

Sewer Project Update

Household Hazardous
Waste Clean Up

Watershed Clean Up

Page 4

Riff Raff Days



Spring Creek Canyon—Update

On February 26th the Supervisors and Steering Committee interviewed their four top choices for a consultant firm to prepare the Spring Creek Master Plan Study. All four firms were well qualified and the group had a tough time making a recommendation. The Steering Committee will make their recommendation at the March 3, 2008, Benner Township Supervisor meeting for final approval. The study is expected to take 10 months to complete and will be funded through a DCNR grant and contributions from PSU, Benner Township and other private and local agencies. The study will be facilitated by a Steering Committee consisting of Benner Township, PSU, Fish & Boat Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Clearwater Conservancy, and Rockview; a Technical Committee consisting of experts in various fields of concern and a Public Advisory Committee that will consist of two citizen representatives from each municipality located in the Spring Creek Watershed. Anyone interested in representing Benner Township on this Public Advisory Committee should contact the Township office at 355-1419. The Supervisors will then select two members from the list. Individuals interested will have to be willing to meet once a month for at least 10 months.

New Zoning Ordinance Update

After a long year of hard work, the Township is within months of completing its new Zoning Ordinance for Benner Township. Our Zoning consultant, Harry Roth of *RothPlan*, has been assisting the Township in its final development of our new Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Roth wrote the regional Nittany Valley Comprehensive Plan.

The zoning ordinance focuses on: farmland preservation; protection of environmentally sensitive areas—particularly the Spring Creek canyon; riparian buffering, forestry management; residential, commercial, and industrial development design standards; signs; mobile home park; airport hazard zoning; lighting, buffering, landscaping, and parking requirements; and transfer development rights.

The zoning district layout, permitted uses, setbacks, lot sizes, and other zoning criteria are now topics of discussion at the Benner Township Planning Commission meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal building. Residents interested in the planning process or zoning ordinance development are encouraged to attend these meetings.

Once major portions of the zoning ordinance are completed in final draft format, the Township will publish the documents on its website

<http://benner.centreconnect.org> Adoption is planned for mid-year 2008.

Recreation News

You're Egg-vised to an Eggstra Special Eggvent

Benner Township Park & Rec. will hold a morning of rolling fun on March 15th from 10 a.m. to noon at Penn Skates. (Located on High Tech Road—across from University Park Airport) Attendees will be treated to an egg hunt, games, crafts and roller skating!!!

Everything, including skating is FREE! Parents, this includes you too!



Summer Park & Rec.

This program is open to all elementary school-age children. With an emphasis on peer relationship building, your child will make friends they will know for many years in the future. This six week program is provided for our Township youth at a minimal cost. Additional fees will be charged for non-residents. If your child enjoys crafts, games, sports and field trips, they'll love this program. Registration forms will be distributed to the school in early May. Tentative dates for the program are June 23 through August 1. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact the Township at 355-1419 for a registration form.

Attention High School Students:

Looking for ways to get your required community service hours for graduation? You could help with our :

Egg Event

Spring Creek Clean Up

Fall Festival

Haunted Halloween Trail

Assist with newsletter mailings

Give the township office a call at 355-1419 to volunteer.

Fall Pumpkin Festival—September 13th –Volunteers Wanted

While everyone is thinking April showers and May flowers, here at Benner Township we are thinking about autumn colors and our Fall Festival.

The Benner Township Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 13th 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 a pumpkin bake off, 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.

Now all we need is you! We are forming a festival committee in the month of March. We need folks interested in helping with: advertising, vendor recruitment (craft and food), children's games, entertainment, and general festival management. Whether you want to help a little or a lot, you will surely have fun with the fall festival. **Join us on Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m.** at the Benner Township Municipal Building, 1224 Buffalo Run Road to get involved in this fun community event!

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

Proud of our past, focusing on our future.

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.



Don't have a green thumb? Start looking for a recipe that contains pumpkin for our annual bake-off. Cash prizes will be awarded.



SBWJA - Public Sewer Extension Project



The Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority in cooperation with Benner Township Supervisors have prepared plans to provide public sewer in the Willowbend, Seibert Road and Raymonds Lane area. This area was identified in the 2001 Act 537 plan as a five to ten year project. Growth in this area continues and the need for this service becomes more prevalent. The Authority held a public meeting on 02/05/08 to discuss the design layout and concerns of the effected residents. The area will experience major construction and traffic patterns will be altered from time to time throughout the project. Please be patient with the construction crew as they will make every attempt to limit the impact of your daily activities and your neighborhood.

Benner Township and the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority are also in the planning stages of a Septage Management Plan (this program is mandated by the State) for the Township that will monitor the operation, rehabilitation, replacement and timely on-going maintenance of all on-lot septic systems within the Township. This program will assist the homeowners with recognizing the importance of maintaining their individual on-lot systems. Individual on-lot system inspections and maintenance will result in the homeowner having longer use of their system without failures due to a lack of maintenance. There will be more information regarding this Septage Management Plan circulated later this year. 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event



On May 2nd and 3rd 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

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Centre Co. Solid Waste Authority

253 Transfer Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Friday, May 2
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 12
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 19

The annual Watershed Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, April 19th. Benner residents interested in participating in the Clean-up should come to the Township Building between 8 a.m. and noon. 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.



Need Earned Income Tax Forms?
You can download them at www.basd.net

RIFF RAFF RETURNS

Saturday, April 26 thru Saturday, May 3

The Benner Township announces the *12th Annual Riff Raff Days* for refuse collection. Dumpsters will be available under supervision of a Township employee from Saturday, April 26 to Saturday, May 3. 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.

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Bellefonte, PA 16823

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