

Crossroads

The Newsletter of Benner Township

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New Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing Scheduled

Where: Benner Elementary School
490 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823

Time: 7:30 PM

Date: January 19th, 2009

The Benner Township Zoning Ordinance is now finished and ready for public review and comment. A public hearing is scheduled for January 19th, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Benner Elementary School located at 490 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823. If the school is closed on January 19th because of bad weather, the hearing will be moved to the Benner Township Municipal Building located at 1224 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte, PA, 16823.

The Centre Daily Times newspaper contained the legal advertisement on December 19th for the new zoning ordinance. Copies of the zoning ordinance are available for public inspection at the Benner Township Municipal Building, the Centre Daily Times office and the Centre County Law Library. You can also view the zoning ordinance online at the Benner Township website at <http://benner.centreconnect.org/>.

The last municipal zoning ordinance was completed in 1997. As discussed in previous issues of *Crossroads*, the new zoning ordinance is consistent with the regional comprehensive plan adopted by Benner Township in 2004. Municipalities participating in the regional comprehensive plan were Bellefonte Borough, Spring, Marion, and Walker Townships.

The zoning ordinance was prepared by consultant Harry Roth of *RothPlan*. The Benner Township Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors have been working on this plan for the last several years. The public hearing scheduled for January 19th will be to take public comment. Depending on the comments received at the hearing on the 19th, the Supervisors will schedule another meeting to either continue discussion or potentially adopt the zoning ordinance in February.

We encourage all residents with any questions to either attend the hearing on January 19th or call the Township office at 355-1419.

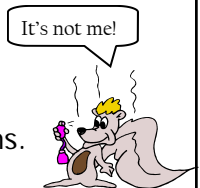
Spring Creek Canyon Study Update

Environmental Planning and Design, the consulting firm for the Spring Creek Canyon Study, has been collecting information and leading the discussions with three committees (Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Public Advisory Committee) on the development of a management/master plan. Committees have been discussing environmental issues, community input and possible land uses. The public is invited to offer input to the Public Advisory Committee at their meetings. Meeting schedules, discussion data, maps and other pertinent information on the study's progress can be found at www.canyonplanning.com.

The study's focus is to understand and recognize the environmental, historical, cultural and community asset the Rockview parcel fulfills. Determining how best to conserve, protect, and enhance Rockview's natural resources and whether human activities can coexist are the goals the ongoing community assessment experts and others are currently evaluating. The study is planned to be completed by March 2009.

Don't Burn Trash

The lingering, stinky smell of burned trash is noticeable throughout the Township! Burning of trash is prohibited and you could be fined \$600.00 in addition to fines from the Centre County Solid Waste Authority. So remember when burning... burn wood, twigs, leaves and paper items. Construction material must be taken to the Transfer Station and is not permitted to be burned. For more information, look at Ordinance No. 57 on the Township's Website.



EMT Tax Reminder

This is a reminder that beginning in January the Township's \$10 Occupational Privilege tax will be replaced with the \$52 EMT Tax. This increase will effect those who work at businesses located in the Township. The increase was necessary to generate revenue needed to cover fire protection costs for the Township. The Bellefonte Area School District will continue to collect this tax on behalf of the Township. Forms for the EMT Tax as well as the Earned Income Tax are available on the School District's Website at www.basd.net

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.

Snow Emergencies—We are ready. Are you?

A snow emergency is declared when snowfall or ice reaches a depth of 2 inches. When this happens, it is the responsibility of all vehicle owners to clear the path for snow plows. Please remember to:

*Remove your vehicle from the street or berm to avoid ticketing and/or towing.

*Keep plowed roads clear. Don't throw or blow snow back onto them.

By working together, we can keep the roadways safe.



Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority - Warren Miller, Executive Director

PUBLIC SEWER EXTENSION COMPLETE

The Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority has completed the sewer extension to portions of SR 550, Lower Gyp Road, Raymond's Lane, Seibert Road and Willow Bend. The Authority feels that Mazzuca Enterprises did an outstanding job on this project. We heard from many of you during construction that you were pleased with how the project progressed. Connections to the sewer system are required to be completed by mid January 2009. You may also want to consider having your lateral work completed when the ground begins to freeze because there will be far less associated damage to the yard if the work is completed on frozen ground and will require much less restoration. Please be sure to remind your contractor to avoid working or storing material on the Township roads. Any damage to Township roadways will be the responsibility of the homeowner and/or their contractor. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Authority office at 355-4778.

Thank you for all of your patience and consideration as we worked to complete this project.



Our Haunted Halloween Trail was a "scream". If you weren't there this year, make plans for next. You can scare or be scared. Either way, it's a howling good time. To be part of the fun call 355-1419.



Float your . . . Nope, it's not a boat it's a pumpkin. The pumpkin float was just one of the fun activities that took place during our annual Fall Festival and Pumpkin Celebration. Join us next year— September 12th.

Got Dogs?



As Benner Township grows and more developments occur so do the number of neighbors that we have. Some of us own dogs and love them as do our fellow neighbors and some do not. As more homes are built, the township has been receiving more complaints about dogs running at large while others are barking excessively. We want to just take a moment to remind everyone that there is a State Leash Law which requires dogs to be on a leash or kept on their owner's property. The Township also has a barking dog ordinance. Under this Ordinance, dog owners may be taken to the District Magistrate if their dog barks for 10 consecutive minutes in an hour. As with all of these "doggie" matters, the Township encourages its residents to do the neighborly thing and talk with their neighbor prior to filing a complaint.

Looking to get involved in your Community?

The Township currently has a vacancy on its Water Authority. The Water Authority meets once a month and plans for future public water needs for the Township. Does this sound interesting to you? Call the Township Office (355-1419) for more information.

We are also looking for people of all ages to serve on our Special Event Committee. This Committee will work on organizing the Township's *Annual Fall Festival* and *Haunted Halloween Trail*. Students needing public service hours for graduation. . . Here is a great opportunity to have fun and get it done! Interested in one event and not the other? Can you help a little but not a lot? Give us a call with your area of interest. Any and all help is greatly appreciated! Call 355-1419 today to sign up.

After you take off the trimmings . . .

When you're all finished admiring that Christmas tree, why not bring it to the Municipal Building?

Your unwanted Christmas tree can become mulch for the Township's parks. So, drop off your tree and help beautify our parks.

Just follow the signs at the municipal building. Thanks for the mulch!



Benner Township
1224 Buffalo Run Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Crossroads