



# *borough of* **BELLEFONTE**

[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

## ***The Belle Fountain Newsletter***



*The Belle Fountain*

*Spring 2017*

### ***Inside this issue:***

<i>How to Contact us</i>	2
<i>Events Calendar</i>	2
<i>Utility Billing</i>	2
<i>HARB</i>	3
<i>Park Information</i>	3
<i>Refuse/Special Collections</i>	4
<i>SwiftReach</i>	4
<i>Annual Riff Raff Week</i>	4
<i>Holiday Refuse Schedule</i>	5
<i>C-Net</i>	6
<i>'DO NOT DISTURB' List</i>	6
<i>Vacancies for Authorities/Boards/Commissions</i>	6
<i>Important Sign Information</i>	6
<i>Roads—Keep Them Clear</i>	6
<i>Water Shut-off Valve</i>	7
<i>Dial 8-1-1 Before Digging</i>	7
<i>Water Consumption High?</i>	7
<i>Trees</i>	7
<i>Recreational Fires</i>	8
<i>Website Upgrade</i>	8

More Info all year long @  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

## **Spay/Neuter Help Available for Community Cats!**

You've probably noticed the occasional cat wandering in your neighborhood. Although some may be owned indoor-outdoor cats, the majority are probably stray or feral cats, also known as "community" cats. In recent years, the concept of Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR, has become widely considered to be the only solution for feral and stray cat management. Under TNR, community cats are humanely trapped (or placed in carriers if friendly), taken to spay/neuter clinics for altering and vaccinations, and after a recovery period, they are returned to their home territory. While under anesthesia, the cats are also ear-tipped, which is the universal sign that an outside cat has been spayed or neutered. As more and more cats in a group are spayed and neutered, the negative behaviors associated with mating (yowling, fighting, roaming, spraying) and many health issues disappear because the cats are no longer interested in mating, and are staying closer to their home territory.

Centre County PAWS (PAWS) and The Hundred Cat Foundation (HCF) both support Trap-Neuter-Return, and offer vouchers to residents of Centre County which basically cover the cost of the spay or neuter of community cats, also known as feral, stray or free-roaming cats. Individuals requesting the vouchers may be members of a neighborhood concerned about the cats roaming their streets, or they may be caring individuals who are providing food and shelter for the un-owned animals who hang out near their homes.

The PAWS vouchers, which are free to Centre County residents, fully cover the cost of the spay or neuter if the cats are taken to All Pets Wellness Clinic (State College) or Allegheny Spay Neuter Clinic (Centre Hall or Woodland). PAWS vouchers may also be used as a coupon worth \$75 toward a spay and \$45 toward a neuter at any other veterinarian in Centre County. Rabies vaccinations may be required at a modest additional cost.

HCF vouchers may only be used at All Pets Wellness or Allegheny Spay Neuter Clinic. The HCF vouchers cover the cost of the spay or neuter, as well as the rabies and FVRCP vaccinations. HCF does request \$20 per cat to help cover their costs, but in cases of financial hardship, the fee may be waived, or a payment plan may be worked out.

Both PAWS and HCF have traps available for loan; PAWS requires a \$50 deposit to borrow a trap; HCF does not require a deposit. HCF will also provide instructions on setting the traps, and will provide handouts containing instructions and useful information to successfully trap the free-roaming cats.

If you are interested in obtaining vouchers from Centre County PAWS, you may apply online at <http://www.centrecountypaws.org/Page/225> or by calling 814-237-8722. To obtain vouchers from The Hundred Cat Foundation, please email [cats@hundredcats.org](mailto:cats@hundredcats.org) with your name, address, phone number and a summary of your need for vouchers. You may also call HCF at 814-206-5423. Both organizations provide information sheets with the vouchers to guide you through the process.

Centre County PAWS also has a spay/neuter voucher program for owned cats. More information on that program is available at <http://www.centrecountypaws.org/Page/144>.

## **Mission Statement**

The Borough of Bellefonte is committed to working together to maintain a safe and secure family-friendly community; to providing the public with premium, prompt, courteous service in a cost effective manner; and to managing community development to protect natural and cultural resources.



## How to Contact Us

Bellefonte Borough Office Hours:  
8AM-4:30PM, Monday-Friday.

Our direct line is (814) 355-1501. Many departments now have direct extensions which are listed below. Dial the direct extension any time after the telephone is answered. Extensions are:

- 210 Tiffany Witmer, Receptionist
- 211 Barbi Watson, Utility Billing
- 212 Lori Walker, Accounts Payable
- 214 Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
- 215 Don Holderman, Asst Borough Manager
- 216 Zoning/Planning/Historic Preservation
- 217 Kathy Stanton, Admin Assistant
- 218 Tom Wilson, Mayor
- 220 or 221 Public Works

For an after-hours emergency for water, sewer, or police: Call 1-800-479-0050.

Bellefonte Borough Police can be reached at:

Administrative: 353-2320

Emergency: 911

Borough Council Meetings are held the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30PM and may be preceded by Council Committee Meetings/Workshops starting at 6:30PM.

Bellefonte Borough Water/Sewer Authority Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6PM.

Bellefonte Industrial Development Authority Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6PM.

HARB Meetings are held the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 8:30AM in Council Chambers and are open to the public.



## Events Calendar

DATE (2017)	EVENT	LOCATION
May 13	Ethel Beaver Fund 5K	Governors Park/Airport Rd
May 13	Big Spring Festival	Talleyrand Park
May 19 & 20	Borough Yard Sale	Borough-wide
May 20	Relay for Life	Governors Park
May 22-26	Riff Raff Week (See pg. 5 for more information)	On your regularly scheduled refuse pickup day
May 13, June 10 & August 5	Logan Fire Co. Chicken BBQ	Logan Fire Hall (\$6 for Chicken Halves/\$8 for a meal. Starts at 10AM until sold out)
June 3	Children's Fair	Corner of E Curtin/Armor
June 4	Croquet Tournament	Expanded area of Talleyrand Park
June 17 & 18	Bellefonte Cruise	Downtown Allegheny/High St
June 24	Logan Fire Co Parade	Starts at High School Ends at Talleyrand Park
August 11 & 12	Arts & Crafts Festival	Talleyrand Park
August 19	PA Council on the Arts: The Bard in Bellefonte	Talleyrand Park
October 14	Fall Festival	Talleyrand Park
October 14	Halloween Parade	Starts at High Street in Front of YMCA Ends at Talleyrand Park
October 31	Trick-or-Treat Night	Borough-wide
November 24-January 1	Holiday Parking	Downtown
December 8-9	Victorian Christmas	Downtown

## Community Phone Numbers

YMCA of Centre County-  
Bellefonte Branch: 355-5551

Bellefonte Post Office:  
355-2821

Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority: 2238-7005,  
238-6649 (Recycling) or  
800-605-6649(Report Illegal Recycling)

Centre County Can Helpline:  
800-643-5432

Centre County Library:  
355-1516

Bellefonte Area School District  
Administration Office: 355-4814

Centre Tax Agency: 278-4709

## Utility Billing

The Bellefonte Borough has the capability to **email your utility bill** to you. If you are interested, please email Barbi Watson at the following address: [bwatson@bellefontepa.gov](mailto:bwatson@bellefontepa.gov) or call the Borough office at 355-1501 and ask for Barbi or Kathy.

If you see this stamped in red on your water bill,

**PROBLEM WITH ACCOUNT  
CALL WITHIN 10-DAYS  
TO AVOID DISRUPTION  
OF SERVICE**

please call the Borough Office immediately. Usually, this means your water meter is not working properly and needs maintenance. Please call to avoid receiving a bill that may be overestimated.

Utility bill payments may be made using PayPal or a credit card on: [www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net).

## Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB)

*You may be the proud owner of a home in Bellefonte Borough's Historic District. It is an investment in time; both the past and the future. You are the caretakers of the property during the time you own the home. As the caregiver, you are in charge of maintaining the historic details and designs of the property. The Bellefonte Borough Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) is here to help you. The Bellefonte Historic District ordinance was adopted in 1970 to protect the District's distinctive historical character of the borough.*

The HARB was established to review the alteration of buildings

in the Historic District. They are an advisory board and make recommendations, based on the Secretary of the Interior Standards, to borough council for approval on any exterior changes. By encouraging appropriate alterations and new construction that fits in with existing buildings, design review in a local historic district helps protect and enhance property values. In addition to being a locally designated and regulated historic district, Bellefonte's historic district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This designation assists in preserving historic properties by recognizing their significance and providing honor to the community. HARB reviews

exterior changes visible from any public right away on all properties in the historic district, even if the property is vacant or contains buildings that are not historical. Changes to property features include signs, awnings, fences, sheds, decks, pools, sidewalks and all other built features of a property, as well as changes to the building itself. For more information, go to [www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net) or contact the Borough offices at 355-1501.

## Bellefonte EMS

Bellefonte EMS Annual Ambulance Subscription for 2017 is available by contacting the EMS office Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at 369 Phoenix Avenue or telephoning [\(814\) 355-2907](tel:8143552907). These make a great gift for your "hard to buy for" parents or adult children.

The annual subscription covers any patient co-pay or deductible required by your health or auto insurance for emergency ambulance transports. Subscriptions cost \$35 for individuals or \$50 for families. Non-emergency ambulance and Para-transit van transports are not covered under the subscription agreement. For more information contact our office.

## Park Information

**Governor's Park:** The pavilions may be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. Many family reunions, birthday celebrations, etc., enjoy the atmosphere of Governor's Park. Rental fees range from \$30.00 to \$45.00. Call the Borough office at 355-1501 to make a reservation.

**Talleyrand Park:** The park can be rented for weddings and other celebrations. For more information contact the Borough office or go to our website ([www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)). Talleyrand Park is non-smoking in cooperation with Young Lungs at Play.

**Masullo Park:** Located on Reynolds Avenue.

**Waterfront:** Located along Spring Creek between W Lamb St. and W High St.

**Krauss Park:** Located on W Lamb St.

**All Borough parks are now dog-friendly. Please remember to clean up after your pet.**

***All vegetation, except that which is edible or ornamental, shall be maintained at a length of 6" or less.***

## Reminder from the Fire Department

Smoke detectors save lives. Every year thousands of people die and even more are injured because they do not have smoke detectors or theirs were not properly working. Most of these deaths occur from inhaling smoke, not from the flames. Smoke detectors sound a warning when they sense smoke. So with a working smoke detector you increase your odds of getting out before the fire spreads.

Even though some types have batteries that are good for 10 years, you should test them at least twice a year. It is suggested when you change your clocks you change the batteries in the detectors that have replaceable batteries and test them at that time. Honestly, it sounds simple enough, but believe it or not people just do not do it.

It is such a simple little thing that can change your life forever if not done. Most people think "It won't happen to me, or if it does, I will surely be able to get out." But without smoke detectors your odds are decreased. Experts say that a person has about two minutes to get out of their home once the smoke detector has alerted. So just take a minute and think about your odds if you do not have the early warning.

Make sure you have a smoke alarm in every bedroom, in the kitchen, living room, and basement, at the very least. Knowing that something this simple can get you and your family out safely is something that should make you sleep a little easier.



## Note from Police Department

The Bellefonte Police Department continues to collect unused, unwanted or expired medication in order to keep these items out of the hands of children and other individuals who should not have access to these medications, as well as keeping them out of the environment. There is no need to remove the labels or take the items out of the packaging, as the entire item will be destroyed by incineration.

Liquids and/or over-the-counter medications are also accepted. If you bring in liquids, please see the office assistant, as these are placed in a separate container to avoid spills. Drop off hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Bellefonte Police Dept., 236 W Lamb St.



Check out the Edible Garden in Talleyrand Park  
Created by:  
Talleyrand Park Committee

## REFUSE/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

### Ash Collection

Wednesday, March 29, 2017, was the last day for ash collection this season. Ashes should now be put out with your refuse. Ash collection will begin again in November 2017. If you would like ash collection at your location, please call the Borough office to be added to the ash list.

### Leaf Collection

Leaf collection will begin in October. Leaves should be raked to the curb and **not out onto the street**. The crew will attempt to follow the normal refuse schedule for collection.

### Brush/Grass Containers

The Borough offers grass/brush containers (for grass, brush, garden waste, and small sticks) for \$60.00. The one-time charge appears on your utility bill under previous balance. **There will be no additional fee for picking up grass/brush and the pick-up day will be Wednesdays beginning April 5 and continuing through November 15.** Please contact the Borough if you would like a container. We will take the grass and brush to our landfill and convert it into compost.

For the 2017 season, due to the overwhelming response to the brush and grass collection on Wednesdays, the Borough will begin picking up both the brush and grass containers at the same time. This will allow for more efficiency while also allowing us to continue to recycle the material and meet an ever-increasing demand.

If you do not have a brush container, but do have brush that needs collected, please be sure to bundle it in six foot lengths or less and call the Borough office (355-1501) to schedule for a Wednesday pickup. There is not a charge for this service if the amount of brush is reasonable. If there is a large amount, it will be evaluated.

### Special Collections

Unusually large items and appliances can be disposed of by the Borough refuse collection staff if the pickup is scheduled. A fee is charged for this service and billed separately. There is a limit as to how many can be done each week, so it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Scheduling can be arranged by calling the Borough office (355-1501) between 8 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. A list of the individually priced items is below. If items are not individually priced, the base rate is \$34.80 for the first eight minutes and \$4.35 per minute thereafter. Special collections are only done on Wednesdays, with the exception of weeks that have a holiday. No special collections are done during these weeks. Items that cannot be picked up include steel, batteries, tires, paint, construction materials and radioactive materials.

Washing Machine	\$30.00	Mattress or Box Spring	\$20.00
Water Heater	\$30.00	Table	\$20.00
Dishwasher	\$20.00	TVs	\$20.00
Refrigerator	\$30.00	Microwave	\$20.00
Freezer (Freon must be drained)	\$30.00	Air Conditioner	\$20.00
Sofa/Couch	\$25.00	Bed Frame	\$20.00
Carpet Wet 9' x 12"	\$20.00	Door	\$20.00
Overstuffed Chair	\$20.00	Computer Tower or Monitor	\$20.00
Stove	\$30.00	Any desk	\$20.00
Dryer	\$30.00	Grill	\$20.00
Dresser	\$20.00	Dehumidifier	\$20.00
Toilet	\$20.00	Printer	\$20.00
Sink	\$20.00		

### Annual Riff Raff Week

Once a year the Borough holds a riff-raff week. It has been the week after the Bellefonte yard sales (May 19 & 20 this year). During this week, Borough customers are permitted to place "riff raff" at the **CURB** only for pickup by Borough staff. There will be no charge for this extra pickup service. The riff-raff pickup will follow the same routes and schedules as the regular refuse collection service, with one pickup truck-size load limit per customer. The refuse crew will not make extra trips to an address. Tires, batteries, items too heavy for two men to handle, construction material, paint cans and hazardous waste cannot be picked up during riff-raff. Residents are not to use cardboard boxes for items if it is raining or it is calling for rain as it makes it difficult for the refuse crew to pick up the boxes without them falling apart. The Borough reserves the right to not collect if there is too much or it is too heavy.

**This year Riff-Raff Week is May 22-26.**

### Refuse Containers

The refuse crew will not collect trash in any can other than the Borough-issued cans. Extra garbage cans may be purchased for \$60. If you do not have a Borough-issued garbage can, please contact the Borough office. When you move, the refuse container is to stay with the property. If your container is missing or stolen, there will be a replacement charge of \$60.00.



When the Borough offices are going to be closed and there is a change in the refuse, brush and/or grass pickup schedule, the Borough uses SwiftReach to call those residents who will be affected by the change. If you have not been receiving calls from SwiftReach regarding changes in the refuse, brush and/or grass pickup schedule, and you want to begin to receive these calls, please contact the Borough office to be placed on this list.



## Thank **YOU** For Recycling

Anything that can be recycled should be put in the red bin provided by the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority (located at 253 Transfer Road, Bellefonte). There are also drop-off locations for recycling between Burger King and M&T Bank on Bishop Street and in the Bellefonte Borough parking lot by CVS on High Street available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Items that are to be recycled are: plastic bottles, jugs & jars; glass bottles & jars; steel & aluminum cans; aluminum foil; newspapers, phone books, magazines, catalogs; corrugated cardboard; junk mail; holiday and birthday cards; paper board (such as cereal boxes) and wrapping paper.



For more information go to [www.centregrecountyrecycles.com](http://www.centregrecountyrecycles.com). If you have any questions about recycling, or need a bin, call the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority at 238-6649 or 238-7005.

## Reminder

**PLEASE remove your refuse container from the front of your residence and out of sight of the thoroughfare that fronts your property by 7PM on your pick-up day.** Residents are leaving their container(s) in front of their house and on the sidewalk (safety issue). Pursuant to the Refuse Ordinance, the Borough can levy fines to residents who continue to leave their container out in front of their residence. If you have a specific problem, please contact the Borough at 355-1501.

CLIP AND SAVE!  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<b><i>HOLIDAY</i></b>	<b><i>NORMAL DATE FOR TRASH COLLECTION</i></b>	<b><i>ALTERNATE TRASH COLLECTION</i></b>
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29	Wednesday, May 31
Independence Day	Monday, July 4	Wednesday, July 5
Labor Day	Monday, Sept 4	Wednesday, September 6
Veterans Day	Friday, November 10	Wednesday, November 8
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 23	Wednesday, November 22
Christmas Holiday	Monday, December 25 Tuesday, December 26	Wednesday, December 27 Thursday, December 28
New Years Day	Monday, January 1	Wednesday, January 3

Collection will begin at 5AM on the Alternate Days. To avoid being missed, refuse **must** be out the night before after 6PM.

Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority pickup will also follow this schedule except Monday, November 28, when they are closed and we are not.

Brush and grass containers will not be collected on the Wednesday during a holiday week. Those Wednesdays include: May 31, July 5, September 6 and November 8.

The landfill, located on Musser Lane, is open on Saturdays April 1 through November 18. The hours are 8AM-11:45AM. The landfill is available to all Borough residents for the disposal of compostable materials only. A key is available at the Borough office Monday-Friday (a \$10 deposit is required).



## C-NET: Part of a Great Community



Taking a stroll in Talleyrand Park. Enjoying a concert in the Gazebo. Shopping at the quaint stores in downtown Bellefonte. And gazing at the stunning Victorian architecture. Bellefonte Borough is a great community, and great communities don't happen by accident. It takes years of thoughtful planning with devoted elected officials, an excellent professional staff, and engaged residents to contribute to the quality of life in their community. C-NET would like to believe that it is one of the organizations that contributes to the strength of the community, and we are grateful for the tremendous support that we receive from Bellefonte Borough.

The mission of C-NET is to support government transparency and an informed, engaged citizenry. Bellefonte Borough has embraced the spirit of transparent and open government by having the meetings of the Bellefonte Borough Council recorded, televised and made available for citizens to view online. Meetings online are "book marked" by agenda item. Online viewers may simply click on agenda items of interest to them and be taken directly to that point in the meeting.

Bellefonte Borough Council meetings are cablecast on C-NET Channel 7 during the six days following a Monday night meeting at the following times:

Wednesday at 10 pm  
Thursday at 7 am  
Friday at 2:30 pm and 6 pm  
Sunday at 1:30 pm

C-NET programs are also available to view via the Roku set-top box or streaming stick.

In addition to meetings, C-NET is proud to cover a wide variety of local events in the community. Bellefonte School District concerts, military history lectures, public issues forums, high school sports, Penn State lectures, and other events are recorded, televised and web streamed by C-NET throughout the year.

For residents who would like to receive notice when programs are available to view online, C-NET is pleased to offer an "Email Notification Service". Simply email Executive Director, Cynthia Hahn, at [chahn@centreconnect.org](mailto:chahn@centreconnect.org) and indicate for which programs you would like to receive notice.

The program schedules for C-NET Channels 7 and 98 are posted on the Channel 7 and Channel 98 Bulletin Boards, as well as on [cnet1.org](http://cnet1.org). For more information about C-NET's programming, or other services to Bellefonte Borough, visit [cnet1.org](http://cnet1.org), call the C-NET office at (814) 238-5031, or email [cnet@centreconnect.org](mailto:cnet@centreconnect.org).

## Important Sign Information

### Ordinance number 575-123 General Regulations in All Districts

(m) Garage sale, yard sale, and other such signs. Such are restricted to display only on the property at which the sale is being conducted and are limited to a maximum size of five square feet. They may not be erected earlier than 24 hours before the beginning of the sale and must be removed within 24 hours of the end of the sale.

(2) Signs prohibited in all districts. The following signs shall not be erected anywhere in the Borough:

(g) Signs on public property or public right-of-way, unless erected by a governmental body or unless required to be so located by order of a governmental body. No sign located on public property or a public right-of-way shall bear any commercial advertising or announcement.

*Signs found out of compliance will be removed.*

## 'DO NOT DISTURB' List

Due to the change in the door-to-door sales ordinance (specifically § 410-22. List of homes not wishing to be solicited.), there is now a "Do Not Disturb" opt-out form for **Borough residents** that can be completed and submitted by those residents who do not want door-to-door sales people. This form can be found on our website. Simply complete all the required fields and submit. Your address only will be placed on a 'Do Not Disturb' list that will be provided to anyone who obtains a solicitor's permit.



## Vacancies for Authorities/Boards/Commissions (ABCs)

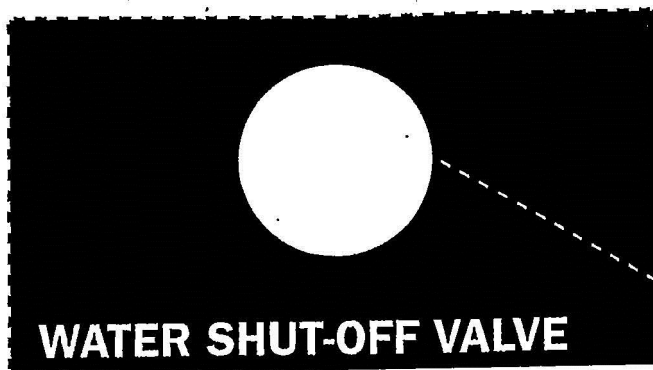
Do you have an interest in the Borough's future and a few hours to spare each month to deal with Borough matters? If you have answered yes, then we would love to hear from you! Please go to our website and download the volunteer application, indicating which ABC you are interested in...or stop by the Borough office to pick up a copy of the application.

## Website Update

Bellefonte Borough has been working with Loaded Creative, LLC over the past six months on a new website. The Borough hopes to roll this new site out within the next couple of months. The new site should be easier to navigate for residents, visitors and smartphone users. The web address—[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)—will not change. Keep checking for the new site and let us now what you think.

## 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.



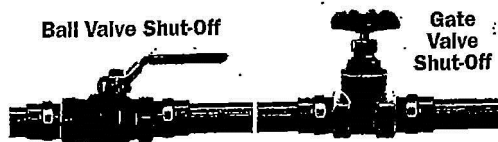
### Hang this tag on your main water shut-off valve

In the event of an emergency, it might be necessary to turn off the main water valve in your home. It's important that everyone knows where the main water shut-off valve is located. In many homes, it is located near the water meter. If the water meter is not inside, however, the shut off valve is typically located on the water pipe close to where it enters your home or business; possibly in the basement, in a utility closet or crawl space.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You may want to test the valve to ensure that it is working properly. To test it, find your main shut off valve and close it.

- **Gate valve:** Gate valves are generally closed by turning the handle clockwise. If the valve does not turn easily, do not force it and consider having the valve repaired so that it does turn easily.
- **Ball valve:** Generally, closing a ball valve only requires a quarter turn, so that the handle is perpendicular to the water line. In the image below, the valve is open.

Once the main shut-off valve is completely shut off, check sinks and other fixtures to be sure you have found the main valve and that it is working properly. When reopening the valve to turn the water back on, be sure to open it slowly until fully opened.



## Trees

Trees that are between the sidewalk and the street and/or within the right of way are maintained by the property owner. These trees are regulated by Bellefonte Borough. If you would like a tree planted or cut down in this area, contact the Borough office at 355-1501, Ext. 215.

## Dial 8-1-1 Before Digging

With homeowners and businesses tackling spring and summer projects, the Borough reminds its residents to always dial 8-1-1 before digging to avoid hitting underground electrical cables and other utility installations.

Homeowners and contractors should contact 8-1-1 three days before beginning a job to be connected to the Pennsylvania One Call Center, which then will notify the appropriate utility company about the work being planned. For more information, go to <http://www.pa1call.org/>.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*Do I have to call if I am digging on my own property?*

Yes, you are required to inform the utilities of any type of work involving the movement of earth with powered equipment.

*Who should make the call?*

The person who is doing the digging should place the one call notification. If you are a homeowner and you've hired an excavator to do the work, the excavator is required by law to call to have lines located (refer to Section 5 of PA Act 287).

*How deep must I dig before I am required to call?*

If you are digging with powered equipment, the person operating the equipment must call. It does not matter how deep you are digging or where you are digging within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

*What are PA One Call's hours of operation?*

The call center is open 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

*How many days do I have to wait before I can begin digging?*

State law requires a three (3) business day notice (does not include state holidays or weekends), but not more than ten (10) business days prior to the start of excavation. A business day begins at 12:00:00 a.m. and ends at 11:59:59 p.m. The first lawful start date for your excavation is determined by your scheduled excavation date (the day you plan to start digging), work should not begin prior to your first lawful start date but no later than ten (10) business days from the day of your call.

## Water Consumption High?

Here are some tips you can do on your own before contacting the Borough office. If any of these are occurring, you should contact your plumber.

- Is your toilet running? Is it making a noise?
- Is there a small drip in a faucet or outside spigot?
- Don't run water for about 45 minutes. Go to where your meter is located and on top of the meter head there is a little red dial. If it is moving, it is indicating there is still water going through the meter, which usually indicates a water leak. If the red dial is not moving, all is well!
- Do you hear water running?

Often we get phone calls from residents who think their water meter has gone bad because their usage is so high. Generally speaking, if a meter goes bad, it is going to run slow, not fast.



236 West Lamb Street  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814-355-1501  
Fax: 814-353-2315

---

WWW.BELLEFONTE.NET

---

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Bellefonte, PA  
Permit No.118

## Words from the Borough Manager

For a small community, we have an amazing number of volunteers. I have always been impressed with the number of people who volunteer and the wide variety of areas in which to serve. Our churches have a number of all volunteer ministries to help people with various needs. Our non-profit and service organizations work through a nearly all-volunteer membership to provide events, services and funds related to their missions. Bellefonte Borough government has many authorities, boards and commissions served by volunteers to carry out the business of local government. Our fire department is staffed 100% by volunteers. Everyday people rise to the challenge and opportunity to help someone in some way. Volunteers absolutely contribute to the quality of life we have in Bellefonte.

If you are a volunteer in any capacity, I want to say thank you for giving of your time, talents and resources. If you are not currently volunteering and you have thought about helping or giving back but you are not sure how to get involved, please contact me. The Borough recently developed a volunteer application which can be found on our website at [www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net). Each organization likely has an application process. Consider what you are passionate about or good at, and I will do my best to direct you to potential places to serve. Once again, thank you!

*Ralph Stewart*

## "No Feeding Ducks" Signage in Talleyrand

Bellefonte Borough has contracted with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) national program testing wildlife for Avian Influenza. USDA recently received the test results from the 21 ducks from Talleyrand Park that were captured and tested for AI in January 2017. Of those 21 ducks, a couple came back positive for LPAI H7N3 Avian Influenza. This is the low path Avian Influenza and has not affected humans. It does, however, negatively affect domestic poultry such as chickens and turkeys. Even though it is LPAI, because it is H7, it is capable of converting from low path to high path HPAI, which is very contagious and deadly to poultry.

Feeding can harm wildlife. People should be aware, if you have poultry at home, of the risk of disease transmission to domesticated poultry.

If you would like more information regarding this strain of Avian Influenza, please contact 1-866-487-3297 or visit <http://dontfeedwildlife.aphis.usda.gov> for more information.

## County/Borough Town Hall Meeting

The second annual County/Borough government town hall meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 8 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Watch for further details in the Centre Daily Times.

## Recreational Fires

In the 2009 International Fire Code (Section 302.1) **recreational fires** are defined as "an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes."

This type of fire must be at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible materials and must **not** at any point move any closer to the structure than the stated 25 foot distance.

**Outdoor fires in a permanent fixture** (such as BBQs and gas-fueled fire pits, chimineas) must be at least 10 feet away from a structure or combustible materials. Portable, manufactured outdoor fireplaces must be at least 15 feet away from a structure or combustible materials except for 1- and 2-family dwellings. For more information, go to [ftp://law.resource.org/pub/us/code/ibr/icc.ifc.2009.pdf](http://law.resource.org/pub/us/code/ibr/icc.ifc.2009.pdf)