



# HISTORIC Bellefonte™

Est. 1795

## The Borough of Bellefonte Newsletter Spring 2023

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## Emergency Contact Program

The Bellefonte Borough Police Department is offering a service for residents that may live alone, have special living circumstances, and/or have special medical needs.

There are situations when the police department needs to contact a resident's family member or a close friend. For example, you are away on vacation or extended leave from your home. A situation occurs at your residence and the police cannot contact you, the homeowner. If you have an emergency contact on file with the Police Department, it could be beneficial to you. This program could provide another layer of protection for those living alone.

**Who should register?** Elderly, residents with special medical needs, those who live alone, those who travel out of town regularly, or anyone who has any type of special circumstances would benefit from having their information or emergency contact information on file and available to the BPD.

**What type of information should you provide?** Any information that would help the police find someone who needs to know about your welfare. Name, and phone number of your emergency contact, any medical information, and how the Police can gain entry to your residence.

**How to register?** You can simply call the police station to speak with the Administrative staff, fill out the Emergency Contact Form on the website, or go to the Borough Building to complete the Emergency Contact Form in person. You may also email any information that you wish to provide to the Police Department at [police@bellefontepolice.net](mailto:police@bellefontepolice.net).

\*\*\* Please note that all information that is provided to the Police Department will be kept in our Records Management System and is considered to be protected confidential information. No information will be given out to anyone without your expressed consent.

## 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.*

## Community Phone #'s

- YMCA of Centre County- Bellefonte Branch: (814) 355-5551
- Bellefonte Post Office: (814) 355-2821
- Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority: (814) 238-7005 or Recycling: (814) 238-6649
- Centre County Can Help: (800) 643-5432
- Bellefonte Police Department: (814) 353-2320
- Centre County Library: (814) 355-1516
- Bellefonte Area School District Admin Office: (814) 355-4814
- Centre Tax Agency: (814) 278-4709
- Deb Burger, Tax Collector: (814) 353-0126

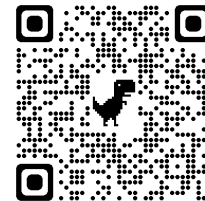
## How to Contact Us

Bellefonte Borough's address is 236 W. Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM.

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

Extensions are:

- 210 Melissa McCullough, Administrative Assistant
- 211 Barbi Watson, Utility Billing
- 212 Lori McGowan, Finance Director
- 214 Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
- 215 Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
- 216 Gina Thompson, Planning/ Zoning/ HARB Administrator
- 217 Alyssa Doherty, Assist. to the Borough Manager
- 218 Buddy Johnson, Mayor
- 220 or 221 Public Works



## Events Calendar

DATE (2023)	EVENT	LOCATION
April 6th	Electric Vehicles for Businesses, Municipalities & Individuals	4:00 pm-5:00 pm @ Springboard, 120 S. Water Street, Bellefonte
April 8th	Easter Egg Hunt	12:30 pm-2:30 pm @ Talleyrand Park
April 15th	The Joy of Gardening	10:00 am @ Edible Garden in Talleyrand Park. Free Parking.
April 28th & 29th	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event	Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority, Transfer Road (by appt only)
May 4th	Solar for your Business & Nonprofit	4:00 pm-5:00 pm @ Ferguson Township Building, 3147 Research Drive, State College
May 12th & 13th	Borough Yard Sale	Borough-wide
May 15th-19th	Bulk Waste Collection	On your regularly scheduled refuse pickup day
May 21s	Outdoor Adventure Expo	12:00 pm-5:00 pm Talleyrand Park & Annex
June 8th	Energy Efficiency for Business or Nonprofit Organizations	4:00 pm-5:00 pm @ Eric J. Barron Innovation Hub, Room 612, 123 S. Burrows Street, State College
June 16th & 17th	Bellefonte Cruise	Downtown Allegheny Street /High Street
August 4th & 5th	Bellefonte Arts & Craft Fair	Downtown
September 15th & 16th	Bellefonte Under the Lights Waterfront Dinner	4:00 pm-8:30 pm Bellefonte Waterfront
October 31st	Trick-or-Treat Night	Borough-wide 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Nov. 23rd , 2023- January 1st, 2024	Holiday Parking	Downtown
December 8th-10th	Victorian Christmas	Downtown
December 10th	Winter Market	10:00 am-4:00 pm Talleyrand Park & Annex

## Downtown Bellefonte Inc.

Downtown Bellefonte Inc. (DBI) is dedicated to helping business arrive and thrive in 21st Century Bellefonte while preserving, protecting, and utilizing Bellefonte's historic architecture and heritage, and organizing town-wide initiatives that invite residents and visitors alike to discover all that Bellefonte has to offer.

### Downtown Bellefonte Inc. Events

[www.DowntownBellefonteInc.com](http://www.DowntownBellefonteInc.com)

**Friday in the 'Fonte:** Centre County Courthouse

**Movies in the Park:** Talleyrand Park + the Annex  
**Dates:**

Friday, May 26, 2023

Friday, June 30, 2023

Friday, July 28, 2023

Friday, September 29, 2023

Friday, October 27, 2023

**Time:**

**Friday in the 'Fonte:** 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Movies in the Park:** Event time: 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

### Small Business Saturday

Date: Saturday, November 25, 2023

**\*\*ADDITIONAL EVENTS LISTED ON EVENT CALENDAR LOCATED ON PAGE 2**

SpringBoard aims to encourage entrepreneurship and the start of new businesses while fostering collaboration with community members. SpringBoard provides low or no cost resources, support and workshops to the business community. Whether you're starting a new business and just want to speak with a consultant, or want to learn the ins and outs of your business finances, SpringBoard work with you to provide a helpful solution.

### SpringBoard Monthly Programming and Workshops:

[www.BellefonteSpringBoard.com](http://www.BellefonteSpringBoard.com)

Location: 221 W. High Street, #1300, Bellefonte, PA 16823

### Marketing Open Office Hours

Date: 10:00 am to noon, 1st Tuesday of each month

### Ask a Lawyer

Date: 11:00 am to noon, 2nd Monday of each month

### Ask a Banker

Date: 11:00 am to noon, 3rd Wednesday of each month

### Ask an Accountant

Date: 11:00 am to noon, the last Monday of each month

### Ask an Insurance Agent

Date: 11:00 am to noon, last Tuesday of each month

## Bellefonte Compost Facility

The upgraded security is now active. Currently the facility is open Monday through Thursday from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm, on Fridays from 6:00 am to 1:00 pm. Saturdays beginning April 1, 2023– November 18, 2023, from 8:00 am until 11:45 am.

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## 'DO NOT DISTURB' List

Borough § 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.



## Bellefonte EMS

Bellefonte EMS 2023 annual Ambulance Subscription 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. 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. Non-emergency ambulance and Para-transit van transports are not covered under the subscription agreement. For more information contact the EMS office.



When the Borough offices are going to be closed or 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, or go to our website ([www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)) and sign up there.



CLIP AND SAVE!  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

HOLIDAY	NORMAL DATE FOR TRASH COLLECTION	ALTERNATE TRASH COLLECTION
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Good Friday	Friday, April 7th	Wednesday, April 5th
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29th	Wednesday, May 31st
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4th	Wednesday, July 5th
Labor Day	Monday, September 4th	Wednesday, September 6th
Veterans Day (Observed)	Friday, November 10th	Wednesday, November 8th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 23rd	Wednesday, November 22nd
Christmas Holiday	Monday, December 25th	Wednesday, December 27th
	Tuesday, December 26th	Wednesday, December 27th
New Years Day (2024)	Monday, January 1st	Wednesday, January 3rd

Collection will begin at 5:00 AM on the Alternate Days. To avoid being missed, refuse **must** be out the night before after 6:00 PM.

Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority pickup will also follow this schedule. The only exception would be the first day of deer season if it is a Monday.

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

## Refuse Containers

The refuse crew will not collect trash in any can other than the Borough-issued cans. Your trash billing will reflect however many trash cans you have x \$62.80 (the cost for refuse pickup of one can). 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 **\$75.00** per can.

**PLEASE remove your refuse container from the front of your residence and out of sight of the thoroughfare that fronts your property by 7:00 PM on your pick-up day.**

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 (814) 355-1501.

## List of Acceptable Electronics for Recycling

- Desktop, Laptop & Server Computers
- Cell Phones/PDAs
- TVs & Monitors (CRT/LCD/LED/Plasma/Flat Screen)
- Desktop Printers, Desktop Copiers
- UPS Systems/Battery Backups
- Computer Peripherals (Keyboards, Mice, Speakers, etc.)
- PC Peripherals & Components (External/Internal Drivers/PC Cards/Hubs)
- Cables/Wiring

If your electronic item is not on the list above, it cannot be accepted for recycling and should be placed in your trash can.



## Thank YOU For Recycling

Anything that can be recycled should be put in the red bin provided by the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority. There is also a drop-off location for recycling 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.centrecountyrecycles.com](http://www.centrecountyrecycles.com). If you have any questions about recycling, call the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority at (814) 238-6649.



## Annual Bulk Waste Collection

Once a year the Borough holds a bulk waste collection week. During this week, Borough customers are permitted to place bulk waste at the **CURB only** for pickup by Borough staff. There will be no charge for this extra pickup service. The bulk waste 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 people to handle, construction material, paint cans and hazardous waste cannot be picked up during bulk waste collection.

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.

Consider donating home improvement items, building materials and supplies to ReStore, 1155 Zion Road, Bellefonte, PA.

**This year Bulk Waste Collection is May 15th-19th.**

## Ash/ Leaf Collection

Please be sure that the ashes are **cold and fully extinguished** before placing them in your trash can. If you have any questions, please call the Borough office at (814) 355-1501.

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. Leaf collection ends the 2nd Friday in December.

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## Yard Waste Containers

Yard Waste pickup for the season will begin April 12, 2023, and will end on November 15, 2023.

If you wish to have Yard Waste collection this season and **already have a container**, please mail or drop off the payment in the drop-off box at the main entrance door of the Bellefonte Borough no later than March 31, 2023. If payment is not received, the borough will assume pickup is not necessary this season.

Yard waste will **not** be picked up the following Wednesdays, due to Holidays:

- May 31st
- July 5th,
- September 6th
- November 8th



The Borough will continue picking up both the yellow lid and brown lid 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 Yard Waste container, but do have brush that needs collected, please be sure to bundle it in **four foot** lengths or less and call the Borough office to schedule a Wednesday pickup. There is not a charge for this service if the amount of brush is reasonable. If there is a large amount of brush, it will be evaluated and you may receive a bill.

If you currently do not have a Yard Waste container please contact the Borough office at (814) 355-1501 to be added to the Wait List. No payment is necessary to be added to the Wait List at this time.

## 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 Special Collections can be done each week, so it is on a first-come, first-serve basis.



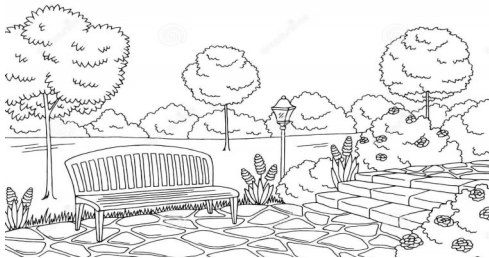
Scheduling can be arranged by calling the Borough office (814) 355-1501 between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. If items are not individually priced, the base rate is \$36.00 for the first eight minutes and \$4.50 per minute thereafter. Special collections are only done on Wednesdays, with the exception of weeks that have a holiday.

## Fire Sprinklers Tax Incentive

Small Business Section 179 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code allows small businesses to write off the full cost of commercial fire sprinkler systems as an expense up to \$1.04 million. This benefit enables many small businesses to immediately recover the costs of the upfront investment. Those who borrow money to pay for a project can fully deduct the interest expense of the loan.



The new Section 179 deduction applies to upgrading existing systems or retrofitting systems in existing structures. The goal is to stimulate long-term economic growth by encouraging businesses to make capital investments. This provision applies only to commercial structures and cannot be used for retrofitting sprinklers into residential structures. For more information please visit <https://nfsa.org/>.



## Park Information

**Governor's Park:** Open Sunrise to 11:00 PM. The pavilions are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. Family reunions, birthday celebrations, etc., can enjoy the atmosphere of Governor's Park. Rental fees range from \$35.00 to \$50.00. For reservations, call the Borough office at (814) 355-1501.

**Talleyrand Park:** Open 24/7. The park can be rented for weddings and other celebrations. For more information contact the Borough office at (814) 355-1501 or go to our website ([www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)).

**Masullo Park:** Open 24/7. Located on Reynolds Avenue.

**Waterfront:** Open 24/7. Located along Spring Creek between W. Lamb Street. and W. High Street.

**Krauss Park:** Open 24/7. Located on W. Lamb Street.

**All parks are non-smoking.**

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

## Bellefonte Borough "ABC" Vacancies

Below is a listing of Bellefonte Borough "ABC" vacancies. If interested in any of these vacancies, please go to our website for a volunteer application or come to the Borough office for one:

- Civil Service Commission-Alternate
- Zoning Hearing Board- Alternate

For more information regarding each of these vacancies go to <https://bellefonte.net/government/authorities-boards-and-commissions/vacancies-authorities-boards-and-commissions/>.

## Streetlight Out?

Residents can call Bellefonte Borough Public Works to report streetlights out in the Borough. The Black Victorian-style lights are maintained by Bellefonte Borough, where as all other-style street lights are maintained by West Penn Power.

Residents can report lights out directly to West Penn Power by calling 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) and say "streetlight" after the greeting or on their website at: [https://www.firstenergycorp.com/service\\_requests/report-lighting-problem.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/service_requests/report-lighting-problem.html). When reporting a light out, please have the address nearest the streetlight and if possible, the metal tag number from the pole with the light out.

## Zoning Information

Spring and summer are prime time for house projects. Any project that includes an extension, alteration, or erection of any structure, or a change of use of a property requires zoning approval. Normal maintenance activities and minor repairs do not require a permit. You can obtain a zoning permit application at the borough office or online at [bellefonte.net](http://bellefonte.net).

Common projects requiring a zoning permit:

- Installation of a fence
- House addition
- Accessory structure, such as a garage or shed
- Keeping of chickens
- Rental housing (including short-term rentals)
- Home occupation
- New business
- Installation of signs
- Swimming Pools

Residents can review the Borough Zoning Ordinance online at the borough website or at <https://ecode360.com/14493756>.

If you are unsure if your project requires a zoning permit, call Gina Thompson, Zoning Administrator at (814) 355-1501 ext. 216.

## Dial 8-1-1 Before Digging

April is National Safe Digging Month. Bellefonte Borough would like to remind you that before you start those outdoor projects you've been planning all winter, be sure to call 811. By calling before you dig, you can reduce your risk of damaging underground lines and injuring yourself, to less than one percent.

811 is a federally mandated, national phone number that gets you in touch with someone who can locate underground electric, gas or other utility lines. Digging without this information can cause power outages, severe injury – or even death.

All you need to do is tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing. Your local utility companies will be notified, and within a few days they will mark the location of underground lines. **Please call at least three days in advance to avoid unnecessary delays to your project.**

Be smart – Be safe – Call before you dig! For more information, please visit <https://www.pa1call.org/>.

## Short-Term Rentals

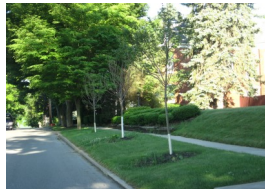
In January 2023 an ordinance was passed regulating short-term rentals in Bellefonte Borough. The ordinance prohibits new short-term rentals to operate in the R-1 and R-2 Residential Districts of the Borough. Only existing short-term rentals that are legally permitted through Centre Region Code Administration (CRCA) will be permitted to continue operating in the R-1 and R-2 districts moving forward.

Regardless of your zoning district, if you are currently permitted as a rental through CRCA and are operating a short term rental, you must apply for a short-term rental permit with the Borough no later than June 30, 2023, to continue operating.

Applications can be found on the Office of Community Affairs webpage, <https://bellefonte.net/departments/planning-zoning/>, or by emailing Gina Thompson, Zoning Administrator, at [gthompson@bellefontepa.gov](mailto:gthompson@bellefontepa.gov).

## 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, please visit our website at <https://bellefonte.net/government/authorities-boards-and-commissions/shade-tree-commission/> to submit a request to the Shade Tree Commission.



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## Residential Utility Rates

(as of January 1, 2023)

Water Consumption:	\$5.85 per 1,000 gallons
Water Flat:	\$20.00 per water meter/ per quarter
Sewer Flat:	\$140.50 per unit per quarter
Garbage Flat:	\$62.80 per unit per quarter (times # of trash cans)
Recycling:	\$22.50 per unit per quarter

## Utility Billing

The Bellefonte Borough has the capability to **email your utility bill** to you. If you are interested, please login to your Authority Pay account at <https://bellefonte.authoritypay.com/>.

Utility bill payments may be made using a credit card at: <https://bellefonte.authoritypay.com/>. When using your credit card, there is a small processing fee.

### ACH Available now!

The amount due can be automatically deducted from your bank account quarterly. Visit <https://bellefonte.authoritypay.com/> to setup your account.

## What should you do with Batteries?

Alkaline batteries, used mostly in toys and flashlights, can be thrown away with the regular trash.

Lithium-ion batteries and devices containing these batteries should NOT go in household garbage or recycling bins. To prevent fires, tape battery terminals and/or place lithium-ion batteries in separate plastic bags. Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead (Pb) can be recycled at special bins located at Lowes, Home Depot, or Best Buy. Always call first before making the trip.

Lead Acid, (automotive, motorcycle, etc.) should be taken to any store that sells lead acid batteries. If you are purchasing a new lead acid battery, most stores give a discount on the purchase of the new battery when you return the old one.



HISTORIC  
**Bellefonte**<sup>™</sup>  
*Est. 1795*

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.XX

## Words from the Borough Manager

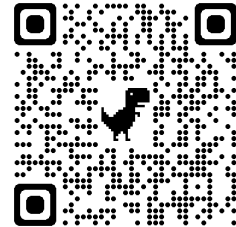
Whether you are a driver or a pedestrian traversing through the borough via our streets, you may be tempted to be distracted. Distractions can be cell phone (calls, texts, emails, social media, etc.) activity, conversations, looking at other things other than where you are going, running late/stressed about getting to a place on time, etc. Please, please, please try to stay focused on your driving or if you are a pedestrian – stay focused on what is going on around you with respect to drivers. The driver or pedestrian might be distracted and not see the other one coming. Both the driver and pedestrian need to take responsibility for looking out for the other. Please push off distractions until you can pull over or stand in a safe place. Slow down! No call or text reply is worth the pain associated with being involved in a vehicle-pedestrian accident. May we all be safe and focused on our surroundings as we traverse our beautiful community!

*Ralph Stewart*

## Climate Sustainability Survey

Bellefonte Borough's Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) has created a Climate Sustainability Survey for all community members to help us implement the Climate Action Plan we adopted in 2020. The Plan and the Survey will help us to improve our Borough's sustainability, limit the harmful effects of climate change, and prepare our community for future extreme weather events.

The EAB includes technical experts, representatives from Council and borough staff, and residential, and business-oriented non-profits. The EAB created this survey for community members, businesses, and local non-profit organizations to inform us about your sustainability interests. The survey results will help us create a public education program to assist you and Bellefonte in reducing emissions, improving access to community services, achieving food security, and preventing flooding.



You can either access the online survey at <https://forms.gle/dhBEG4emkCNpnM7H6/> or you can obtain a printed copy of the survey at the Bellefonte Borough Office, 236 W. Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

To read the complete Climate Action Plan, visit our website at <https://bellefonte.net/2021/bellefonte-borough-climate-action-plan/>.

Thank you for completing this survey; it will inform us of your interest and concern about sustainability and climate change.