

Bellefonte mayor celebrates school resource officers

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BELLEFONTE — Mayor Gene “Buddy” Johnson presented a proclamation regarding School Resource Officers (SROs) at a recent Bellefonte Borough Council meeting.

Officially in the borough, Feb. 15 was School Resource Officer Appreciation Day.

The purpose of an SRO is to create safe learning environments for students through collaboration with police agencies, law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents and communities so that students can reach their fullest potential.

“The National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and the Bellefonte Borough Police Department are dedicated to making schools and children safer by providing the highest-quality training to school-based law enforcement officers,” said Johnson.

The proclamation states, “School Resource Officers within the Bellefonte Area School District bridge gaps between youth and law enforcement and embrace a triad concept of school policing, serving in informal counseling, education and law enforcement roles in supporting students and communities they serve.”

“As counselors and mentors, SROs impact the lives of our future generation and ensure the staff’s safety through ALICE training,” said Johnson. “I know there’s a lot of people in this room today who agree what a valuable asset our school resource officers are. They go above

and beyond. I'm very proud to be associated with that, and to have them in our schools and protecting our community and future.”

In other news:

— Council discussed an amendment to the Governors Park Baseball Field hourly rate. Previously it could only be rented for the whole day at \$500, but the unanimous vote by council will allow for an hourly rental. Specifics on costs will be worked out at a later meeting.

— Council set the EV charging station fine to \$25. The charging station charges \$3 per hour for normal use. The maximum amount of time someone can park in one of these spots is 10 hours. The \$25 fine was set to be just under the \$30 cost a maximum 10-hour charge would be.

— The Bellefonte Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) is starting work on a set of design guidelines for the borough's Historic District. HARB will be holding a public meeting on Feb. 27 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at 221 W. High St., Suite 1300. Bellefonte property owners and community members are invited to take part in the conversation.

— A work session has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 18, with area federal, state, and local officials to seek solutions to the CATA Fee increase and effects to services.