



HISTORIC Bellefonte™

Est. 1795

The Borough of Bellefonte Newsletter Spring 2024



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Don't fall for Scams

Each year Bellefonte Borough Police Department handles hundreds of incidents where some sort of scam has victimized residents. These scams are focused on one thing and one thing only, trying to take your money from you. Generally speaking, scams originate from a cell phone, computer, landline telephone, or by mail. Sometimes they involve several of the above at once.

A scammer often uses scare tactics to motivate you to do this. For example, they will tell you that you owe the IRS a large amount of money, or a family member was arrested and that you need to pay their bail, fines, and attorney fees to keep them from being jailed. In some instances, they may indicate that they are a law enforcement agency and that you have a warrant. If you do not pay in cash, you will be arrested.

Other scams involve a company that will call a victim to inform you that they did work on your computer and the bill they sent you had too many zeros at the end of the amount and a check was sent to you. They will have you cash the check and then send them the amount owed. They will

allow you to keep the rest. The bank will cash the check for you. In about a week or so, the check will NOT clear. Thus, you will be responsible and be required to pay back the bank.

How to protect yourself. Advice/Facts

1. Monitor your banking information.
2. Do not provide ANY personal information.
3. Do NOT open any email attachments from senders that you do not know
4. NEVER send cash to anyone.
5. Law Enforcement does not collect money from people.
6. Never give out passwords or PIN Numbers.
7. Scammers usually do not speak the English language very well, and they often compose emails using different English words that Americans do not usually use.

If you have any doubts, trust your gut. If something is too good to be true, it is a SCAM. If you feel uncomfortable with a phone call, an email, or a text: call the police, ask a friend, or go to the bank in person for help.

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 for 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, Real Estate Tax Collector:
(814) 353-0126

Events Calendar

DATE (2024)	EVENT
March 30th	Community Easter Egg Hunt
April 26th-27th	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event
May 10th-11th	Bellefonte Borough Yard Sale
May 13th-17th	Bulk Waste Collection
June 1st	Bellefonte Sunrise Rotary Club Children's Fair
June 2nd	Outdoor Adventure Expo
June 14th-15th	Bellefonte Cruise
August 2nd-3rd	Bellefonte Arts & Craft Fair
October 31st	Trick-or-Treat Night
November 28th-January 1st	Holiday Parking
December 6th-7th	Victorian Christmas

For more information on Events in Bellefonte Borough please visit our website at <https://bellefonte.net/>.



CONTACT US

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

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

Name	Job Title	Ext.	Email Address
Melissa McCullough	Receptionist	210	Mmccullough@bellefontepa.gov
Barbi Watson	Utility Billing	211	Bwatson@bellefontepa.gov
Lori McGowan	Finance Director	212	Lmcgowan@bellefontepa.gov
Ralph Stewart	Borough Manager	214	Rstewart@bellefontepa.gov
Don Holderman	Assist. Borough Manager	215	Dholderman@bellefontepa.gov
Gina Thompson	Planning/Zoning/HARB Administrator	216	Gthompson@bellefontepa.gov
Alyssa Doherty	Admin. Assist. to the Borough Manager	217	Adoherty@bellefontepa.gov
Buddy Johnson	Mayor	218	Bjohnson@bellefontepa.gov
Matt Auman	Superintendent of Public Works	221	Mauman@bellefontepa.gov
Steve Barr	Nuisance Code Officer	225	Sbarr@bellefontepa.gov

Become a Member of the Bellefonte Fire Company

Becoming a firefighter used to be what every kid dreamed of. I know growing up at the firehouse I couldn't wait till I was able to ride one of those big shiny fire engines. Back then moms stayed home, and dads worked, one parent was able to support the family. Life was a lot simpler then, but not so much now. Now families have both parents working one, two, or three jobs to support themselves.

Now, when we talk with people about joining the fire company the answer we get is they don't have the time. We get it, we are all trying to make the time for everything in our lives, but fortunately, we have community members who are willing to answer the calls, but we need more. We need younger members to take over when we step down. The average age of a firefighter in our department is 48 years old. Now, I know to most that seems young, but it isn't.

The number of volunteers in emergency services is dropping each year. Since 2000, the number of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania has dropped from 60,000 to 38,000, according to the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute.

While the number of calls increases every year. Most do not realize that your fire coverage is 100% volunteer. Your fire service protection comes from people with full-time jobs, part-time jobs and some retired community members that have stepped up and are willing to take the time out of their lives to help you in your time of need. For that, we should all be very grateful.

I hope most of you have been lucky enough to have never needed to call 911 for help. Trust me when you are in need, you want all the help you can get as quickly as possible. I know this because I have made calls to 911 for help. At that moment you are thankful for the people who volunteer, for those who are willing to take the time to do whatever they can to help you or your loved one in their time of need. Imagine if their answer was "I don't have the time." It is your turn to do what you can to help support your local fire company, because we are now in our time of need.

Please think about joining your local fire company. Last year the Bellefonte Fire Department responded to 412 calls. That is 412 times people needed our help. Our goal is to leave no call unanswered, but with the dwindling numbers of emergency personnel, your help may be coming from further than you think. Step up and join your local fire company. There are so many things you can volunteer to do, fundraising, firefighting and fire police. There is a place for everyone. Your community needs you; we need you. Please join today.

To Volunteer please contact the Logan's (814)355-3100 or Undines (814)355-7265.

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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 at <https://bellefonte.net/residents/permits-forms/>. 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.



Emergency Contact Form

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 and a situation occurs at your residence and the police cannot contact the homeowner. If you have an emergency contact form on file with the Police Department, it would be of benefit to you.

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 Police Department to complete the Emergency Contact Form in person. You may also email any information that you wish to provide to the Bellefonte Borough Police Department at 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.



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 RAVE Mobile Safety to call those residents who will be affected by the change. If you have not been receiving calls from RAVE Mobile Safety 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 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, March 29th	Wednesday, March 27th
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27th	Wednesday, May 29th
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4th	Wednesday, July 3rd
Labor Day	Monday, September 2nd	Wednesday, September 4th
Veterans Day (Observed)	Monday, November 11th	Wednesday, November 13th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28th	Wednesday, November 27th
Christmas Holiday	Tuesday, December 24th	Thursday, December 26th
	Wednesday, December 25th	Friday, December 27th
New Years Day (2025)	Wednesday, January 1st	Thursday, January 2nd

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 29th, July 3rd, September 4th & November 13th.

NOTE: The Musser Lane Compost Facility is open Saturdays beginning April 6th through November 23rd, 2024.

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. 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.

Special Collections

Unusually, large items and appliances can be disposed of by the Borough refuse crew 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 at (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.**

SAVE THE DATE: Bellefonte Compost Facility Demonstration

On Saturday, April 6th, 2024, Bellefonte Borough staff will be demonstrating the operation of our compost bagging equipment the Borough recently purchased with the assistance of a DEP 902 Grant. This demonstration will take place at the Musser Lane Composting site near the compost pad. Borough residents may show up anytime between 10:00 AM-12:00 PM to see the equipment in operation and learn how the Borough is generating its compost from residents like you. Anyone that stops by, will receive a free 35 pound bag of compost to take home with you. The Borough plans to sell compost bags beginning this year for **\$5.00/bag**. Further information on how to purchase bagged Compost and Mulch can be found on our website at <https://bellefonte.net/residents/trash-collection/>.



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 materials, 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, located at 1155 Zion Road, Bellefonte, PA.

This year Bulk Waste Collection is May 13th-17th.

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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.



Yard-Waste Containers

Yard-Waste pickup for the season will begin April 3rd, 2024, and will end on November 20th, 2024.

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 building no later than March 31, 2024. 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 29th
- July 3rd
- September 4th
- November 13th



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.



The State of Pennsylvania holds billions of dollars of unclaimed property. Unclaimed property includes uncashed checks, forgotten checks, life insurance policies, dormant bank accounts, tangible property such as contents of abandoned safe-deposit boxes, and expired gift cards/gift certificates, to name a few.

It is estimated that one in ten Pennsylvania residents have unclaimed property. Both individuals and businesses can have unclaimed property.

To find out if you have unclaimed property, you can go to <https://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property/> or call the customer service line at 1-800-222-2046. There is **no charge** to claim your unclaimed property. If you need help, the Pennsylvania Treasury will assist with preparing and filing claims for free.

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 <https://bellefonte.net/residents/permits-forms/>.

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 Bellefonte Borough website or at <https://ecode360.com/14493756>.

If you are unsure if your project requires a zoning permit, please contact Gina Thompson, Zoning Administrator at gthompson@bellefontepa.gov or (814) 355-1501 ext. 216.

Solar 101

Bellefonte Borough has partnered with Solar United Neighbors (SUN) to launch the Centre County 2024 Solar and EV Charger Co-op. The first round of this SUN solar co-op ran in 2021 helped educate more than 140 residents and small-business owners in Centre County. A solar co-op is a group of people who go solar at the same time so they can receive a good deal on solar and technical advice from the experts at SUN.

The co-op opens to new members on Monday, March 11th, 2024. The co-op is completely free to join. There is a free Solar 101 Event at Schlow Centre Region Library, located at 211 S. Allen Street, State College, PA 16801, on Monday, March 25th from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. For more information about the Centre County 2024 Solar & EV Charger Coop please contact SUN at pateam@solarunitedneighbors.org

Streetlight Out?

The Black Victorian style streetlights are maintained by Bellefonte Borough, whereas all other style streetlights are maintained by West Penn Power. Residents can call Bellefonte Borough Public Works to report streetlights out in the Borough at (814)355-1501 ext. 221.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

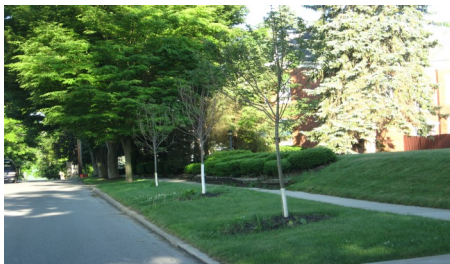
All you need to do is tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing. Your local utility companies will be notified, and within a few days they will mark the location of underground lines. **Please call at least three days in advance to avoid unnecessary delays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

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



Shade Tree Commission

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, 2024)

Water Consumption:	\$5.95 per 1,000 gallons
Water Flat:	\$20.00 per water meter/ per quarter
Sewer Flat:	\$141.50 per unit/ per quarter
Refuse 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/> to sign up.

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. Please make sure your account numbers are correct, to avoid payment rejection and late fees.

Crosswalk Safety

Pedestrians have the right-of-way at crosswalks. Please slow down and use caution prior to driving through any crosswalk. The signs and



Painted white lines act as a reminder to motorists to slow down and yield to pedestrians waiting to cross the street. This is a Pennsylvania Law that applies to all crosswalks, both marked and unmarked, at intersections.



THIS SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN





HISTORIC
Bellefonte[™]
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

I am sure by now you have heard something about CATA services changing in Bellefonte Borough. I want to help clarify what has happened. Municipal governments in Pennsylvania must adopt an annual budget by December 31st for the upcoming year. Bellefonte Borough council adopted their 2024 annual budget on December 18th, 2023, which has a standard CATA service fee of approximately \$25,000.

CATA sent out a letter dated December 21st, 2023, which stated that in order to maintain the same level of CATAGO services, the Borough needed to pay an additional \$222,000, a nearly 10-fold increase, for their next budget cycle which starts July 1st, 2024. Additionally, the CATA service fee will be that much every year going forward. The townships of Spring and Benner are also faced with significant increases. If one or both of the townships say no more CATA services, the CATA bus will not stop or pick up people in any portion of that township.

Even if we received the CATA fee increase notice prior to our budget approval, we would have a serious financial struggle to pull that much money away from other services. Our money comes from tax and fee payers.

We must balance what we ask of the tax/fee payers and understand that most of that money has restrictions as to how it can be used/moved.

CATA bus service first came to Bellefonte in the 1980s because County Government wanted people from the State College area to be able to get to county offices for human service needs. During a public hearing held by CATA in January of this year, many Human Services needs and county-related issues were mentioned.

Bellefonte Borough cannot solve the CATA bus service issues alone. Municipal government is responsible for pot holes, keeping water and sewer systems operating, etc. County government is responsible for providing Human Services – Meals on Wheels, Office of the Aging, Mental Health, Court-related programs that help people get back on their feet, etc. Bellefonte Borough will be reaching out to officials at all levels of government and to other service providers to find solutions. The Borough is committed to providing a level of CATA service that is fair to the tax/fee payers and fair to those who need the service.

Ralph Stewart