



HISTORIC Bellefonte™

Est. 1795

The Borough of Bellefonte Newsletter Spring 2026

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2026: An Exciting Year Ahead for Bellefonte Borough

Bellefonte Borough is looking ahead to an exciting year in 2026, with major community projects, new investments in downtown, and a full calendar of events that continue to make Bellefonte a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and visit.

One of the most anticipated projects moving forward is the Big Spring improvement project. The Big Spring, which has been Bellefonte's primary water source for generations, produces millions of gallons of natural groundwater each day and plays a critical role in the Borough's public water system. Plans for 2026 include replacing the existing spring cover and making improvements to the surrounding area with new hardscaping, landscaping, and additional features designed to better protect the water source while enhancing the appearance of the site.

Bellefonte is also continuing to see exciting momentum with the long-anticipated waterfront development project in the downtown area near Talleyrand Park. Current plans include a boutique hotel, restaurant, parking facility, residential condominiums, and a new public promenade along Spring Creek.

Construction is expected to begin in 2026, bringing new opportunities for tourism, economic development, and public gathering spaces in the heart of the Borough.

In addition to these major projects, Bellefonte will once again host a variety of popular community events throughout the year. Residents and visitors can look forward to annual traditions such as annual events, community concerts, and seasonal celebrations that continue to bring energy and activity to the Borough.

Borough staff, council members, mayor, volunteers, and community organizations continue to work together to maintain Bellefonte's historic character while investing in improvements that benefit residents and visitors alike. With ongoing infrastructure projects, community programs, and a strong calendar of events, 2026 is shaping up to be another exciting year for Bellefonte.

Residents are encouraged to stay connected with the Borough through the municipal website and social media pages for updates on projects, events, and important community announcements throughout the year.



Did you know Bellefonte means “beautiful fountain”?

The town was named after the natural spring located in what is now Talleyrand Park, which continues to flow today and was an important water source for early settlers.

Did you know Bellefonte was once home to several Pennsylvania governors?

Bellefonte is known as the “Governor’s Town” because five Pennsylvania governors lived here, including Andrew Gregg Curtin, who served during the Civil War.

Did you know Bellefonte’s historic downtown is on the National Register of Historic Places?

Many of the buildings throughout downtown date back to the 1800s and reflect the Borough’s rich Victorian architecture and iron industry history.

Did you know Bellefonte was once a major iron-producing town?

In the 19th century, Bellefonte was an important center for iron production, with several iron furnaces operating in the surrounding area and helping fuel the region’s growth.

Did you know the courthouse clock tower is one of Bellefonte’s most recognizable landmarks?

The Centre County Courthouse, built in 1805 and expanded several times, remains a centerpiece of the community and an iconic feature of Bellefonte’s skyline.

Events Calendar

DATE (2026)	EVENT
April 4	Community Easter Egg Hunt
April 24-25	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event
May 15-16	Bellefonte Borough Yard Sale
May 16-17	First Responders Weekend
May 18-22	Bulk Waste Collection
June 6	Bellefonte Children's Fair
June 19-20	Bellefonte Cruise
July 3	America’s 250 Year Celebration/ Hometown Hero Banner Dedication Parade
August 7-8	Bellefonte Arts & Crafts Fair
October 31	Fall Festival/ Halloween Parade
November 26-January 1	Holiday Parking
December 11-13	Victorian Christmas

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



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	Admin. Assistant/ Receptionist	210	Mmccullough@bellefontepa.gov
Barbi Watson	Utility Billing/ Pension/ Payroll	211	Bwatson@bellefontepa.gov
Lori McGowan	Finance Director	212	Lmcgowan@bellefontepa.gov
David Pribulka	Interim Borough Manager	214	Dpribulka@bellefontepa.gov
Gina Thompson	Planning/Zoning/Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) Administrator	216	Gthompson@bellefontepa.gov
Alyssa Doherty	Assistant to the Manager	217	Adoherty@bellefontepa.gov
Buddy Johnson	Mayor	218	Bjohnson@bellefontepa.gov
Matt Auman	Public Works Superintendent	221	Mauman@bellefontepa.gov
Brandon Eckenroth	Nuisance Code Officer	225	Beckenroth@bellefontepolice.net

Message from Chief Witmer:

Paul Miller's Law: New Rules on Cell Phone Use While Driving

Pennsylvania's *Paul Miller's Law* (PA Title 75 §3316.1), signed in June 2024, prohibits the use of handheld interactive mobile devices while driving—even when stopped in traffic. Drivers may still make calls, use GPS, or contact emergency services if using hands-free technology or if safely pulled out of traffic. The law is named in memory of Paul Miller Jr., who was killed by a distracted driver, and it aims to reduce crashes caused by phone use behind the wheel.



Enforcement:
Beginning June 6, 2026, violations will be punishable by a \$50.00 fine.

Stay safe and keep your hands on the wheel.

Centre County Transportation

Centre County offers door-to-door, shared-ride transportation for Bellefonte residents, including lift-van service for riders with mobility needs (request when booking). Trips must be reserved by 2:00 pm the business day before travel, with weekday service typically between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm (holidays excluded). Registration is required before your first ride.

Fares & Eligibility (Bellefonte):

- Age 60+ ride free
- Disabilities/Medical Assistance: \$4.25
- General public: \$5.00

To schedule or learn more, call (814) 355-6807 or visit the Centre County Transportation Office website at <https://centrecountypa.gov/431/Transportation-Office>.

Emergency Contact Form

The Bellefonte Borough Police Department encourages residents who live alone, have unique living situations, or medical needs to submit an emergency contact form. Having a trusted contact on file allows officers to quickly reach someone if an issue arises at your home while you're away or unavailable.

How to sign up: Call the station, complete the form on the website, visit the department in person, or email your information to police@bellefontepolice.net. All information is kept confidential and stored securely in the department's records system.

'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.



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.

**Be a Good Neighbor—
Clean Up After Your Dog**

PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG
It's the Law!

**Please be a good neighbor
and clean up after your dog.**

Borough ordinance requires pet owners to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste whenever their dog is in public spaces or on property not their own. Keeping our community clean helps make our parks, sidewalks, and neighborhoods enjoyable for everyone.

For more information visit <https://ecode360.com/14488670>

CLIP AND SAVE!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**NORMAL DATE ALTERNATE
FOR TRASH TRASH
HOLIDAY COLLECTION COLLECTION**

Good Friday	Friday, April 3rd	Wednesday, April 1st
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25th	Wednesday, May 27th
Independence Day	Friday, July 3th	Wednesday, July 1st
Labor Day	Monday, September 7th	Wednesday, September 9th
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11th	Thursday, November 12th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26th	Wednesday, November 25th
Christmas Holiday	Thursday, December 24th	Tuesday, December 22nd
	Friday, December 25th	Wednesday, December 23rd
New Years Day (2027)	Friday, January 1st	Wednesday, December 30st

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 27th, July 1st, September 9th & November 11th.

NOTE: The Musser Lane Compost Facility is open Saturdays beginning April 4th through November 21st, 2026.

Refuse Containers

The refuse crew will not collect trash in any can other than the Borough-issued cans. Your trash billing will reflect the number of trash cans you have x \$68.00. 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 **\$80.00** 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 a 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 \$39.00 for the first eight minutes and \$5.00 per minute thereafter. **Special collections are only done on Wednesdays, with the exception of weeks that have a holiday.**

Public Works Spring Reminders

As Spring arrives, the Bellefonte Borough Public Works Department begins seasonal maintenance and encourages residents to help keep our community safe and clean.

Residents are reminded to properly dispose of yard waste and keep grass clippings, leaves, and debris out of the street. These materials can clog storm drains and contribute to localized flooding during heavy rain events.

Spring is also the time when road conditions become more visible after winter weather. If you notice potholes, damaged signs, or other maintenance concerns, please report them to the Borough office so they can be addressed.

Thank you for helping keep Bellefonte clean, safe, and well maintained.

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 the boxes falling apart. The Borough reserves the right to not collect the items 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 18th-22nd.

Yard-Waste Containers

Yard-waste collection will run April 1 through November 18, 2026. Residents who already have a yard-waste container must submit payment by March 31, 2026 by mail or by using the drop box at the main entrance of the Borough Building. If payment is not received, the Borough will assume pickup is not needed this season.

Yard waste will not be collected on the following Wednesdays due to holidays:
May 27, July 1, September 9, and November 11.

The Borough will continue collecting both yellow-lid and brown-lid containers together for efficiency while continuing to recycle the material.

Residents without containers may still schedule brush pickup by bundling brush in lengths of four feet or less and calling the Borough office to arrange Wednesday collection. Reasonable amounts will be collected at no charge, though large quantities may be evaluated and billed.

Residents who would like a yard-waste container may call the Borough office at (814) 355-1501 to be added to the wait list. No payment is required to join the wait list.



\$5 per bag

HISTORIC
Bellefonte
Est. 1795
COMPOST
1 Cu. Ft.

Bellefonte Compost for Sale

Bagged leaf mulch compost can be purchased by contacting the Borough office and setting a time to pick up bags.

Bagged compost is \$5.00 a bag and should be paid for at the borough office. After payment, compost bags can then be picked up at the Compost Facility, 264 Musser Lane, on Saturdays beginning in April (on page 4). Any other pick up times must be scheduled with the borough office.

Further information on how to purchase bagged compost and mulch can be found on our website at:
<https://bellefonte.net/residents/trash-collection/>

Newly Updated Historic District Design Guidelines

The Bellefonte Borough Historic District Design Guidelines provide recommendations and policies for making repairs, improvements, and changes to buildings within the Historic District. They also cover new construction, site work, and any other changes to the district's physical environment.

The guidelines include helpful photos, drawings, and graphics to show examples of the architectural features and design ideas they recommend. They're intended to help property owners in the Historic District make decisions that fit with the district's character and architecture.

The goal of these guidelines is to protect Bellefonte's nationally recognized architecture, which includes a variety of styles from different time periods. By preserving the unique look and feel of the Historic District, the guidelines help keep the area attractive to residents and tourists, as well as support property values and the local economy.

The newly updated Bellefonte Borough Historic District Design Guidelines are available for download on the Borough's Historic Preservation website or a hard copy may be provided at the Borough offices.



PENNSYLVANIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTRE COUNTY

YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE. AN AFFORDABLE EDUCATION THAT IS CLOSE TO HOME.

Penn Highlands provides access to a quality and affordable education that meets the needs of our diverse community. We are committed to student success and academic excellence.

▶ ABOUT CENTRE COUNTY
Penn Highlands Centre County offers a strategically designed 5,200-square-foot facility, featuring three modern classrooms, a computer lab, a conference room, and dedicated offices for faculty and staff. A vibrant student activities area further enhances the experience, making it a hub for learning and growth.

This facility serves residents across the region, offering classes to support career and educational growth. Centre County students have access to resources like Career Planning & Employer Services, a library, and Student Financial Services, helping them to achieve academic and career success.

▶ WHERE
Penn Highlands Centre County
Historic Match Factory, 2nd Floor
190 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823

▶ PROGRAM OPTIONS
Accounting
Behavioral Sciences
Bookkeeping
Business Management (in-person)
Direct Support Professional
Entrepreneurship
Liberal Arts & Sciences (in-person)
Marketing Management
Medical Coding & Billing
PA Director Credential
Paralegal Studies
Social Services Assistant

DISCOVER YOU

PENNSYLVANIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTRE COUNTY
SUITE 190 | 2ND FLOOR

Zoning Information

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>.

Questions for zoning can be directed to Gina Thompson, Zoning Administrator at gthompson@bellefontepa.gov or (814) 313-1573.

Signage Reminder for Bellefonte's Commercial Districts

Business owners in the commercial districts must follow the Borough's Sign Ordinance, available online: <https://ecode360.com/16149516>. Here are a few key reminders:

- **Neon lighting** is allowed but must remain a single, static color—flashing, scrolling, or color-changing signs are not permitted.
- **Feather flags** are not allowed in the downtown historic district, even temporarily. Consider a sandwich board as an alternative.
- **Sign limits:** Each storefront may have up to three signs, including temporary signage.
- **Window coverage:** Signs may cover no more than 50% of a display window.
- **Illumination:** Signs in the Historic District may be lit by neon or indirect lighting, which must be shielded to prevent glare.

Because signage plays a key role in preserving the town's historic character, signs in the Historic District require HARB review. For guidance, refer to the Sign Design Guidelines Manual on the HARB website.

For any signage-related questions, contact Gina Thompson, Zoning Administrator, at or (814)313-1573 or gthompson@bellefontepa.gov.

Protect Our Sewer System: A Reminder from Bellefonte Borough Authority

The Bellefonte Borough Authority reminds residents that what goes down toilets and drains has a direct impact on the sewer system and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Improper disposal can cause clogs, equipment damage, and costly repairs.

Only flush human waste and toilet paper.

Items such as feminine hygiene products, dental floss, and “flushable” wipes do not break down properly and can clog pipes and damage pumps.

Keep chemicals and medications out of drains.

Cleaners, chemicals, and medicines disrupt the treatment process and are difficult to remove from wastewater. Residents should check with Centre County Recycling & Refuse for Household Hazardous Waste Collection events. Expired or unused medications can be taken to local pharmacies, the Bellefonte Police Department, or the Centre County Sheriff’s Department for safe disposal.

Dispose of fats, oils, and grease properly.

Grease poured down drains cools and hardens, causing blockages. Instead, pour grease into a container to cool and place it in the trash, and wipe pans with paper towels before washing.

By following these simple steps, residents help prevent sewer backups, protect infrastructure, and keep treatment processes running efficiently for the entire community.

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.

REPORT STREETLIGHTS OUT

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
Black Victorian Style Streetlights

WEST PENN POWER
All Other Style Streetlights

Call: 1-888-LIGHTSS
(1-888-544-4877)
(Say "streetlight")

Call: (814) 355-1501 ext. 221

Visit firstenergycorp.com
(Service Request Page)

Have the address near the streetlight and the metal tag number (if possible) ready when reporting.

Residential Utility Rates (as of January 1, 2026)

Water Consumption:	\$7.45 per 1,000 gallons
Water Flat:	\$20.00 per water meter/per quarter
Sewer Flat:	\$166.50 per unit/per quarter
Refuse Flat:	\$68.00 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.

There is a black mailbox on the Spring Street side of the new office.

Please Note: If you see a Bellefonte Borough vehicle driving around with an antenna on top, we are out reading water meters.

Authorities, Boards & Commissions (ABC) Vacancies

Bellefonte Borough is currently seeking residents interested in serving the community by volunteering on one of the Borough’s Authorities, Boards, or Commissions.

The following vacancies are currently available:

- **Civil Service Commission – Alternate**

Serving on a board or commission is a great way for residents to become involved in local government and help support important decisions that impact the Borough.

If you are interested in volunteering, please complete a volunteer application available on the Borough website or pick one up at the Borough office.

For more information about these positions, visit: <https://bellefonte.net/government/authorities-boards-and-commissions/vacancies-authorities-boards-and-commissions/>



HISTORIC

Bellefonte™

Est. 1795

301 N. Spring Street, Suite 200,
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: (814) 355-1501

WWW.BELLEFONTE.NET

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

Thank you for giving Bellefonte Borough a 'sense of place'!

I began my career as a municipal manager right here in Centre County in 2012, serving as Assistant Township Manager of Ferguson Township. I've been fortunate to continue that career as Township Manager of Ferguson Township and Susquehanna Township (Dauphin County), County Administrator in Livingston County, New York, and now as Interim Borough Manager of Bellefonte Borough.

Over my thirteen years in local government, I've seen firsthand what it takes to build strong communities. A true sense of place doesn't happen by accident—it requires extraordinary effort. It begins in our businesses, households, and schools, and is nurtured in our parks, places of worship, theaters, museums, and civic spaces. It is the result of generations working to preserve community heritage while adapting to a sustainable future. In Bellefonte Borough, that sense of place is unmistakable.

Since arriving last September, I've been continually impressed by the countless hours devoted by volunteers, many of whom balance families and full-time jobs, in service to our community. From beautifying downtown

and organizing beloved events to supporting civic organizations like Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. and the Bellefonte Chamber, these dedicated individuals work tirelessly to maintain traditions and build new ones. Their efforts are extraordinary. Volunteers have raised millions of dollars to create community amenities such as the Talleyrand Stage and to rehabilitate the Kepler Pool. They also generously give their time to plan events enjoyed by thousands each year, including the Winter Market, Victorian Christmas, and the Bellefonte Cruise. In the years ahead, this legacy will be passed on to a new generation of "Bellefucians" who share the same passion and community spirit.

Please join me in thanking our volunteers for their tremendous contributions. If you have the time, I encourage you to get involved and help grow Bellefonte's sense of place. Contact the Borough to learn more. Most importantly, thank you for being part of what makes Bellefonte Borough such a special place to live, work, and visit.

David G. Pribulka