

March 6, 2010

Dear Fellow Citizen:

Kepler Pool, located in Governor's Park, is in danger of not opening this summer for the first time since it was built in 1971. You may have read the recent article in the Centre Daily Times explaining the situation with the pool and the subsequent editorial encouraging our elected officials to provide financial support. The pool is owned by Bellefonte Borough and, in recent years, has been managed by the Bellefonte Branch of the YMCA of Centre County.

Since 2007 there has been an understanding between Bellefonte Borough and the surrounding municipalities of Benner, Marion and Spring Townships that each would pay up to \$1.00 per resident to cover operating expenses. Unfortunately, 2009 had a cold and rainy start to the season which hurt the purchase of pool memberships and decreased attendance. In addition, the wading pool was not opened due to new federal safety standards which hurt pool usage by families with young children. These factors resulted in a loss that exceeded the \$1.00 agreement in the amount of 42 cents per resident. To offset that loss these municipalities are being asked to increase their contribution to \$1.42 per resident. To date Bellefonte Borough and Walker Township have agreed to pay the increased amount. The other municipalities need to pay the following amounts so that the pool can open for the 2010 summer season:

Benner Township	\$1,488.00
Marion Township	\$1,386.80
<u>Spring Township</u>	<u>\$2,673.91</u>
Total	\$5,548.71

Covering this \$5,548.71 expense is the short-term issue. The long-term solution is to implement the recommendations contained in the Kepler Pool Feasibility Study. This study provides a plan to make Kepler Pool a facility that is an outdoor attraction and an asset to the community. You can view the plan at <http://bellefonte.net/government/borough-grants/>. Bellefonte Borough's Parks & Recreation Subcommittee has discussed the possibility of initiating the formation of an advisory group with broad representation, to include all municipalities in the Nittany Valley Region. This group would explore how to proceed with implementation of the Feasibility Study to make the pool a viable facility for years to come. However, the long-term solution will have the best chance of being implemented if we can keep the current facility open. If you value an outdoor public pool in our community here's how you can help keep Kepler Pool open:

If you live in Bellefonte Borough or Walker Townships: please *thank* your municipal officials for their support in providing the needed resources to open the pool in 2010.

If you live in Benner, Marion or Spring Townships: please *urge* your municipal officials to pay their respective share of the costs to open Kepler Pool in 2010.

EVERYONE: please share this letter with anyone who you think would be supportive of keeping Kepler Pool open.

Follows please find contact information for your local municipal officials. You can either:

- attend your municipality's public meeting and during the public remarks section of the agenda urge their support;
- telephone your municipality officials, especially if you know them personally, and urge their support;
- or send an e-mail to your municipal officials and urge their support. A suggested e-mail message might read:

As a resident of (*insert name of municipality*) I would like to urge you to provide the needed financial support to keep Kepler Pool open in 2010. I would also encourage you to provide representation in the effort to explore how to proceed with the implementation of the Kepler Pool Feasibility Study. I think having an outdoor public pool is an indicator of a vibrant community and contributes to the economic health of our region by making it a place where families want to live and play and where business want to locate and grow. Thank you for making this investment in our community's future. (*include both your name and address so they know you're a resident of their municipality*)

Please contact your municipal officials **TODAY** to keep Kepler Pool open in 2010. It only takes a few minutes to have your voice heard. Thank you for helping to keep this community facility open today and secure its future for tomorrow.

Ginny Newman
Bellefonte Borough Resident/Bellefonte Y Swim Team Parent

Bellefonte Borough Council

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday, 8 PM

Meeting Location: Bellefonte Municipal Building, 236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte

Email: boro@bellefonte.net

Frank Halderman, President	355-9824
Vana Dainty, Vice-President	353-8964
Alex Novak	353-1985
Paul DeCusati	353-1118
Gaye D. Dunne	355-3613
Robert Taylor	355-7771
Thomas Wilson	355-8959
Joe Beigle	355-5264
William Hay	353-0232
Stanley Goldman, Mayor	355-3692

Benner Township

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:30 PM

Meeting Location: 1224 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte

Email: BennerTwp@aol.com

John Elnitski, Jr., Chairman	355-1177
David Breon, Supervisor	355-1912
Randy Moyer	355-8795
Sharon Royer, Secretary/Treasurer	355-1419

Marion Township

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: 4337 Jacksonville Road, Howard

Email: mariontwp@comcast.net

Jack Aberegg, Chairman	482-0508
Ray D. Gutshall, Supervisor	625-2196
Ken Roan, Supervisor	883-2242
Ellie Trulick, Secretary/Treasurer	625-2061

Spring Township

Meetings: 1st Monday, 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: 1309 Blanchard Street, Bellefonte

Email: supervisors@springtownship.org

Frank W. Royer, Jr., Chairman	355-7543
Terry Perryman, Vice-Chairman	355-7543
David Capperella, Supervisor	355-7543
William MacMath, Manager	355-5067

Walker Township

Meetings: 1st Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Township Building, 816 Nittany Valley Drive, Bellefonte

Email: walkertownship@gotmc.net

James B. Heckman, Vice-Chairman	383-4554
Ronald B. Burd, Vice-Chairman	383-4142

Keith E. Harter, Chairman 383-4213
Donna L. Reese, Secretary/Treasurer 383-2859