

What's Goin' On

Around Town

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS



Spring 2016
Volume 13 - Quarter 1



BENSALEM

TOWNSHIP

MAYOR & TOWNSHIP COUNCIL



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Member

Dear Residents,

It's with great pride that Council and I present to you the **10th Edition of "What's Goin On Around Town" Bensalem!** This publication aims to keep Bensalem residents informed of a variety of interesting news concerning, people, places and things! The best part about this communication is there is no cost to the Bensalem Taxpayers, not one dime. The processing of this newsletter is paid for by the advertisers you see alongside the various township articles. I would like to personally thank Judy Loftus, Owner/Operator of What's Goin On Around Town Community Newsletters, for presenting this idea to us over a decade ago. It has proven to be quite a useful tool.

Before we get to the fun stuff, I ask you to move along in the publication to page 3, read and sign the Sterling Act petition in support of our quest to have the "Sterling Act" of Pennsylvania repealed as unfair taxation. This petition can be mailed to the Township Building at 2400 Byberry Road-Bensalem, PA 19020 to the attention of "Mayor's Office".

Bensalem Parks and Recreation has included their Summer Program in this edition and it will be featured again in the June edition. These programs are popular and fill quickly. As we anticipate these great programs, we can't help but burst with excitement over the 2016 TD Bank Amphitheater summer concert schedule! The season kicks off, **Wednesday June 1st, with "Almost Queen"**. Please come and support the arts in Bensalem!

Many changes are taking place across the Bensalem and Bucks County Landscape. The constant road construction by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as major work continues towards the I-95/Turnpike Connection, New Zoning Ordinances (Transit Oriented Development) adopted by our Council to support the changing landscape of our Riverfront. It has always been my opinion the economy is going to dictate the success of the Riverfront Revival, which has been ten years in the making. Additionally, these ordinances will permit development uses for new industry, like high-tech office space and manufacturing in the areas from Station Avenue to Street Road.

Stay along for the ride as Bensalem continues to grow in all the right directions. Since being elected Mayor in 1994, I have always promoted an open door policy. If there is something you wish to discuss or have a question, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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STERLING ACT PETITION

As you may now be aware, as part of the adoption of our 2016 Budget, Bensalem Township enacted a one (1%) percent earned income tax (EIT). At the time of its adoption, Bensalem was one of the few remaining municipalities in Bucks County that had not enacted an EIT. Our costs to provide municipal services, especially police and fire services, have significantly outpaced our sources of revenue. Reliance upon real property taxes as a primary source of revenue has been made even more difficult by the significant number of property assessment reductions that have taken place during this time.

Our communities face ever increasing costs to provide citizen services, with law enforcement, crime prevention, and other areas of public safety being the most expensive. Laying off police officers and paid firefighters was simply not an option I could advocate or support, as keeping our residents and businesses safe and secure is of paramount importance.

Thus, over the past several years I have cautioned our Councilmen and our residents of our Township's ever increasing need for the revenue generated by the EIT. **At the same time, however, I continued to resist proposing the enactment of an EIT for as long as I believed our Township could fiscally survive without one.**

One of the major reasons I have long opposed the enactment of an EIT is the Sterling Act. I have always believed that the Sterling Act is unfair to the residents of Bensalem, and to the extent that our community has a significant number of residents who work in Philadelphia, I would suggest that the Sterling Act is unfair to our community. Let me explain why I believe this to be so.

Based upon data from the U.S. Census Bureau, it is estimated that there are approximately 5,300 Bensalem residents who work in Philadelphia. These residents pay 3.5% of their salaries to the City in the form of the Philadelphia Wage Tax. Despite the fact that Bensalem now has a 1% earned income tax, by virtue of the Sterling Act, none of those wage tax dollars paid by our residents will return to Bensalem Township. Thus, we estimate that almost 30% of the revenue that the EIT should now generate for our Township will, instead, stay in the City of Philadelphia. That estimate represents almost \$2.7 million of earned income tax revenue that should pay police and fire protection services, pave Bensalem roads, and fund Bensalem projects and programs. Instead, those millions of dollars stay in Philadelphia to be managed and spent by City public officials.

The inherent unfairness of this arrangement is exacerbated by the fact that this lost/unrealized revenue ultimately has to be made up by either the Bensalem wage earners who don't work in Philadelphia, or, in the alternative, by a property tax increase imposed on all of our property owners, including those who have no income and/or those who, in this economy, can ill afford

having property taxes increased.

We all certainly recognize the importance of Philadelphia to the economy of the region. However, our proximity to the City (on its northeastern border) also results in great economic challenges to our community, particularly in the areas of law enforcement and crime prevention. This is a "double hit" to Bensalem, as the Sterling Act takes away from us the revenue we so desperately need to fund vitally important services that, ironically, are made all the more expensive and all the more necessary because we border on the City.

If you believe our community faces the same problems and challenges, and that the Sterling Act has the same inherently unfair impact on our Municipality and our residents, then I would ask that you join us in our efforts to convince the Governor and Legislature of Pennsylvania to amend the Sterling Act to allow up to one (1%) of Philadelphia Wage Tax paid by our residents to remain in our communities in the form of Earned Income Tax revenue.

As a first step, we have begun circulating a petition among the businesses and residents of our community. A copy of the petition below. On behalf of the Council of Bensalem and myself, I am asking that you please sign. We are making the same request of other Bucks Communities in the hope that we can and will submit them to the Governor and Legislature in the months ahead. We are happy to provide coordination of these efforts. I am, of course, available at any time to further discuss this very important matter.

A similar letter has been sent to the following municipalities:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bristol Borough | Newtown Township |
| Bristol Township | Northampton Township |
| Falls Township | Penndel Borough |
| Hulmeville Borough | Tullytown Borough |
| Ivyland Borough | Upper Makefield Township |
| Langhorne Borough | Upper Southampton Township |
| Langhorne Manor Borough | Warminster Township |
| Lower Makefield Township | Warrington Township |
| Lower Southampton Township | Warwick Township |
| Middletown Township | Wrightstown Township |
| Morrisville Borough | Yardley Borough |
| Newtown Borough | |

In all my endeavors, I have always believed that "teams win," and that when people with similar interests and similar goals work together, great things are accomplished. I believe that if our communities work together to have the Sterling Act changed, it will be a "win" for the residents we all serve.

Sincerely,
Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo

PETITION

TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

We, the undersigned, all of whom declare that we are adult residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, County of Bucks, Township of Bensalem, do hereby petition the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Senators and Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to amend and/or repeal the Pennsylvania Sterling Act so as to allow up to One (1%) Percent of Non-Resident Philadelphia Wage Taxes paid by residents of Bucks County to be remitted to the municipality in which such Non-Resident Taxpayers reside if that municipality has adopted and enacted an Earned Income Tax.

| SIGNATURE OF RESIDENT | PRINTED NAME OF RESIDENT | PLACE OF RESIDENCE | DATE OF SIGNING |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |



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Includes: Lou's Own Baked Ham "Our Famous" Pineapple Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole and a Fresh Baked Dinner Roll with Butter.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

QTY: _____ Pick up Sat. March 26th

Available for pick up Saturday March 26th after 1:00pm

2450 Bristol Pike (Route 13) • Bensalem, PA 19020
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| Blueberry | _____ | \$14.99 |
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| Cherry Crumb | _____ | \$12.99 |
| "Everyone's Favorite" | | |
| Caramel Apple Walnut | _____ | \$12.99 |

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Pick Up _____

Saturday
March 26th

Friday
March 25th

Thursday
March 24th

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6TH ANNUAL MULTI-GENERATIONAL ART EXHIBITION

The Bensalem Senior Center will host the 6th Annual Multi-Generational Art Exhibition along with the Bensalem Township School District. The opening reception will be on Friday, April 1, 2016, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Bensalem Senior Center, 1850 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA. The exhibition will run from Friday, April 1 through Thursday, April 28, 2016. For additional information phone 215-638-7720.



This event is an important link between the Bensalem Township School District and the community. It provides the seniors at the Center an opportunity to see the fine work of the Bensalem Township School District art students and it gives the students an opportunity to show their work with senior artists. All are welcome. Admission is free.



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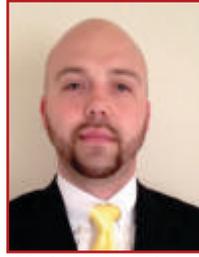
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March 19th will be one year since we opened our doors in Bensalem. It has been a wonderful year of getting to know the community, and helping you Buy and Sell your homes. We truly value your Loyalty, and our personal relationship with each Buyer & Seller. We want to thank you for all of your personal referrals and endorsing Keller Williams Real Estate. 2015 was a great year for real estate, and the National

Association of Realtors (NAR) expects 2016 to exceed last year. Home prices are on rise and so are the number of homes being sold.

If you have ever thought about a career in real estate call our office to schedule your personal interview.

Bensalem, we thank you for making our office a huge Success and we look forward to serving you in 2016!

2400 Bristol Rd., Bensalem, Pa 19020
215-638-3830

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PARKS AND RECREATION 2016 SUMMER ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

PLAY AREA PROGRAM

This program is open to students entering 1st thru 6th grades. This is a socialization program, which includes recreational activities, such as bowling, swimming and skating. (Proof of age may be required for those entering 1st grade). Please see the bus schedule to determine your locations.

Transportation will be provided to play areas according to the listing on the bus schedule only. School bus schedules and recreation schedules are not the same.

DATES: June 20 – July 28

Monday – Thursday

TIME: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

LOCATION: Belmont Elementary

Cornwells Elementary

Struble Elementary

COST: \$285.00 per child (resident)

Each additional registration \$260.00

(per child)

Non Resident: \$400.00 per child

Make check payable to

Bensalem Township

SUMMER MUSICAL

This program is open to students entering 6th through 12th grades. Only those who are interested in active stage participant may register. There will be no crew member openings this season. Acting roles only you must know your vacation schedule when you register. Transportation to and from the musical program provided from all play area sites. This year's production is Seussical Jr (Limited enrollment).

DATES: June 20 – July 28

Monday – Thursday

TIME: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

LOCATION: TBA

COST: \$285.00 per child (resident)

Each additional registration \$260.00

(per child)

Non Resident: \$400.00 per child

Make check payable to

Bensalem Township

TEEN CAMP

This program is open to students entering 7th grade thru 9th grade. (Participants may not have completed 9th grade) Transportation to the program is provided thru play area sites. This program is limited to the first 100 participants.

DATES: June 20 – July 28

Monday – Thursday

TIME: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

LOCATION: Bensalem Community Park

COST: \$285.00 per child (resident)

Each additional registration \$260.00

(per child)

Non Resident: \$400.00 per child

Make check payable to

Bensalem Township

SPECIAL POP PROGRAM

The Recreation Department's special needs program is NOT designed for children with severe disabilities including certain degrees of autism and extreme behavioral conditions which require any form of support staff. This program will be held at Struble Elementary School and has a very limited enrollment (10 children maximum). Children enrolled in this program must be able to handle 5 hour activity periods. This is strictly a socialization program and therefore does not follow your child's school based IEP as we are not state mandated. For information please call 215-633-3724.

DATES: June 20 – July 28

Monday – Thursday

TIME: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

LOCATION: Struble Elementary School

COST: \$285.00 per child

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO
BENSALEM RESIDENTS ONLY**

Make check payable to

Bensalem Township

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Don't miss out on the opportunity to be a part of this year's program. Extended Day will have a limited enrollment of 75 participants and will be held at the Bensalem Community Park as an extension to the summer play area program hours. Transportation will be provided from all play area programs for those who are registered for the extended summer camp hours. Extended day participants will be transported to the Bensalem Community Park at the conclusion of the regular camp day of 9-1. There will be no transportation provided home at the end of the camp day. All those who are registered participants must be picked up by 5:00 pm. This 9-5 program will be at a cost of \$460.00 per child. All those who are interested in the full day program must call for **SPECIAL REGISTRATION FORM.**

DATES: June 20 – July 28

Monday – Thursday

TIME: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

LOCATION split:

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Play area

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Bensalem

Community Park

COST: \$460.00 per child

Open to Bensalem Residents Only

(Extended day program not open to

Little Tikes, Special Pop or those

under 6 years of age.)

Make check payable to

Bensalem Township

LITTLE TIKES PROGRAM

(No Transportation Provided)

This program is open to 3, 4 and 5 years old. This program is limited to 40 participants. Participants MUST be 3 years of age by January 31, 2016.

5 year olds may not have attended kindergarten; all participants must be potty trained. Birth certificate is required at time of registration.

DATES: June 22 – July 30

Monday – Thursday

TIME: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

LOCATION: Struble Elementary

COST: \$305.00 per child (resident)

Non Resident: \$400.00

Make check payable to

Bensalem Township

DANCE KIDS

(No Transportation Provided)

Get up and move with Dance Kids! In this program we will explore several different types of dance such as jazz, hip-hop, ballet, musical theater, and modern. We will be discussing the importance of good nutrition and exercise in our daily routines. Pack a lunch or you may participant in the breakfast and lunch program provided.

GRADES: 2nd - 6th

DATES: June 20 – July 28

Monday – Thursday

TIME: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

LOCATION: Faust Elementary

COST: \$285.00 per child (resident)

Non Resident: \$400.00 per child

Make check payable to

Bensalem Township

EARLY REGISTRATION DATES

Available for Summer Recreation Programs (Bensalem Community Park located on Richlieu Rd) you may also mail registration to the Parks and Recreation Office.

April 9 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

May 5 – 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

SPRING FIELD HOCKEY

Program runs April through early June. All practices and games are held at Bensalem Community Park. Fee: \$75 for all new girls that need equipment. \$50 for those not needing equipment. (Equipment includes official field hockey stick, ball, mouth guard and shin guards). Registration for this program is due by March 11, 2016. Call office for different registration form.

Make check payable to

Bensalem Township

TO ADVERTISE IN FUTURE EDITIONS CALL 215-357-PRNT 7

PARKS AND RECREATION 2016 SUMMER ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

You asked for more time
and we listened!

NEW EXTENDED 2 WEEK PROGRAM

Join us for our newly formed 2 week Summer extension Camp. This camp was designed to assist those parents who still needed to bridge the gap between the end of our regular camp season and the start of the new school year. There will be a limited enrollment for this two week, 5 day camp and no transportation is provided to or from the program. Because this program will be held at the Bensalem Community Park, no lunches will be provided. Your child will be given a light snack during the course of the program but must provide his or her own lunch. All activities will be held at the Bensalem Community Park and will include activities such as arts and crafts, movies and outdoor sports. A special registration form is required and no payment plans can be accepted for this program. **LIMITED ENROLLMENT FIRST COME FIRST SERVE DATES:** August 8–August 19

Monday–Friday

TIME: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Bensalem Community Park

COST: \$250 per child

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO
BENSALEM RESIDENTS ONLY**

BENSALEM TOWNSHIP PAL LEAGUE

2016 Pal Basketball League will begin the week of June 13, and runs through July 29th, 2016. This program is free and is open to Bensalem girls and boys grades 7 through 12. The deadline for registration will be Friday June 10th, 2016. Registration forms may be obtained through the Police Dispatch window or the Bensalem Township Parks and Recreation Department. Additional information or questions can be emailed to pal@bensalempa.gov or call 215-633-3739. This program is for Bensalem Resident ONLY and proof of residency is required to register.

LOCATION: Bensalem Community Park

GOLF CAMP

(No Transportation Provided)
LIMITED ENROLLMENT

AGES: 8–18

DATE: July 11–July 15

TIME: 9:00 am–12:00 pm

LOCATION: Bensalem Country Club

COST: \$70.00 per child

Make check payable to
Bensalem Township

FAMILY AFFAIR UNDER THE STARS

September 16

Bensalem parents and children grades K-6th looking to spend some quality fun time with the kids. The Bensalem Township Parks and Recreation invites you to join us for our annual "Family Affair Under the Stars." This event is a free event full of fun wholesome outdoor activities and will be

held at our Bensalem Community Park.

Pre-Registration is required and you must provide your own tent for sleeping. You may not participate in this community sleep over if you are not pre-registered. Events begin at 6:30 pm and conclude at 8:00 am. Adult must accompany children. For additional information contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 215-633-3724. This event is open to Bensalem Residents ONLY! This is an all-night event and you may not attend for activities only!

SOCCER SHOTS

Children's soccer experience for kids ages 2-7. Soccer Shots focuses on the skills and lessons of the game by offering non-competitive classes. Each child learns the fundamentals of the game through principled high-energy instruction, creative and age appropriate games, scrimmaging, and soccer fun! We are changing the lives of young people forever by teaching principles and life skills like confidence, respect, honesty, and teamwork. This spring, Soccer Shots will provide a program in partnership with the Bensalem Parks and Rec Department for the first time. Here are the program details: (30-40 minute class per age group, 6 weeks) for registrations go to Lowerbucks.soccershots.org, any questions call 215-633-3724. Registrations begin in January 2016

LOCATION: Firefighters Field

DATES: Saturdays, April 9–May 14

COST: \$80.00 per child

Start Times: Ages 5–7 3:00 pm

Ages 3–4 3:45 pm

Age 2 4:30 pm

FOR REGISTRATION FORMS

CALL 215-633-3616 LEAVE YOUR NAME,
ADDRESS PHONE NUMBER AND WHICH
PROGRAM YOU ARE LOOKING TO
REGISTER FOR.

2016 BCTA TENNIS IN BENSALEM TOWNSHIP

FOR BCTA PROGRAM
DESCRIPTIONS AND TO
REGISTER, LOG ONTO

www.buckscountytennis.usta.com or
email buckscountytennis@verizon.net or
call 215-322-7020.

Gilbert Drive Tennis Courts

Pasqualone and Gilbert Drive
Bensalem, PA 19020

Bridgewater Tennis Courts

Bensalem Blvd and Bridgewater Drive
Bensalem, PA 19020

Mill Creek Park Tennis Courts, Pintail Court

Bensalem Blvd and Flushing Road,
Bensalem, PA 19020

**ADDITIONAL \$3 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE PER
PARTICIPANT FOR MAIL-IN REGISTRATION.
RECEIVE A \$10 DISCOUNT PER PARTICIPANT
BY SIGNING UP FOR THREE OR MORE FIVE-
WEEK SEASONS AT ONE TIME!**

LEARN, PRACTICE & PLAY

Implements the games-based approach to teaching tennis using age and skill appropriate equipment and methods—the fast and fun way to learn tennis and/or improve your game. Emphasis is on fun, fitness and play. Free loaner racquets are available. Group size is limited.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

Season 1: April 2 • Season 2: May 14 •

Season 3: July 2 • Season 4: August 30

LEARN, PRACTICE & PLAY

Pee Wees (recommended ages 4–6): \$65

Season 1 @ Mill Creek: 5 Thursdays,

April 14–May 12, 5:15 pm–6:00 pm

Season 2 @ Gilbert Drive: 5 Thursdays,

May 26–June 23, 5:15 pm–6:00 pm

Season 3 @ Gilbert Drive: 5 Thursdays,

July 14–August 11, 5:15 pm–6:00 pm

Season 4 @ Bridgewater: 5 Thursdays,

September 8–October 6,

4:45 pm–5:30 pm

Little Aces (recommended ages 7–10): \$70

Season 1 @ Mill Creek: 5 Thursdays,

April 14–May 12, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm

Season 2 @ Gilbert Drive: 5 Thursdays,

May 26–June 23, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm

Season 3 @ Gilbert Drive: 5 Thursdays,

July 14–August 11, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm

Season 4 @ Bridgewater: 5 Thursdays,

September 8–October 6,

5:30 pm–6:30 pm

Juniors (recommended ages 11–13): \$70

Season 1 @ Mill Creek: 5 Thursdays,

April 14–May 12, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm

Season 2 @ Gilbert Drive: 5 Thursdays,

May 26–June 23, 7:00 pm–8:00 pm

Season 3 @ Gilbert Drive: 5 Thursdays,

July 14–August 11, 7:00 pm–8:00 pm

**Note: Season 4 Juniors program offered
in Middletown Township.**

Teens/Adults (Beginners/Intermediates)

(recommended ages 14 and up): \$70

Season 2 @ Gilbert Drive: 5 Thursdays,

May 26–June 23, 8:00 pm–9:00 pm

Season 3 @ Gilbert Drive: 5 Thursdays,

July 14–August 11, 8:00 pm–9:00 pm

**Note: Seasons 1 and 4 Teens/Adults
program offered in Middletown Township
and Frosty Hollow.**

MORE TENNIS OPPORTUNITIES FOR BENSALEM TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Bensalem Township is part of BCTA's county-wide tennis network. Check out www.buckscountytennis.usta.com for more information about tennis opportunities available to Bensalem Township resident.

2016 LOCAL EARNED INCOME TAX

EMPLOYER

The 2016 tax year brings many important changes for **employers** operating in Bensalem Township and for businesses with employees who reside in Bensalem. This notice serves as a reminder that beginning with the first quarter of tax year 2016, the local Earned Income Tax rate for Bensalem is 1%. The EIT withholding rate is applicable to all Bensalem residents and for non-resident taxpayers working in Bensalem Township.

Keystone Collections Group serves as the local Tax Officer for Bensalem Township. Your business must withhold and report local employee taxes to Keystone in compliance with Pennsylvania law. You can report your withholding either by e-file or by return mail.

Keystone's e-file is the easy, fast and secure way for every size business to report earned income tax (EIT) withholdings online, e-file does the work for you, so you can be sure you are using the correct tax codes and withholding rates for each employee residence and workplace. Find e-file on the web at: www.KeystoneCollects.com

TAXPAYER

This year brings important tax changes for **residents** of Bensalem Township. Beginning with the first quarter of tax year 2016, Bensalem Township imposed a 1% earned income tax.

If you work in Pennsylvania, you should contact your employer to make sure they are withholding the tax for you. Your employer is required to withhold the tax from your paycheck.

If you work outside of Pennsylvania, ask your employer to withhold the tax for you. Many out-of-state businesses already extend this courtesy to their employees who live in Pennsylvania.

If your out-of-state employer does not withhold the local earned income tax, you must report and pay the tax quarterly.

If you are self-employed, you are also required to report and pay the tax quarterly.

First quarter tax payments are due on the last day of April 2016.

You can pay your quarterly taxes online with Keystone's e-file, the easy, fast and secure way to pay your taxes. Go to www.KeystoneCollects.com, click the pay/file tab and follow the instructions to set up your account online.

All Bensalem residents with earned income in 2016 are required to file a local tax return in April 2017.

If you do not currently reside in Bensalem, please contact Keystone at 724-978-0300 to update your account. Taxpayer Service Representatives are available at this number to assist you with any questions you may have about the tax.

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a recycle can,
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- No Fuel Surcharge • No Environmental Fee
- No Special Hidden Fees
- We also offer rolled recycle cans - *call for pricing.*

**Yard waste collection schedule
April 1st through May 31st**

Wednesday

Thursday

Saturday



TO ADVERTISE IN FUTURE EDITIONS CALL 215-357-PRNT 9

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

This is a good time of year to declutter some of that stuff in the garage that has been building up over the year. While doing so take this opportunity to think about fire safety.

Going through old holiday decorations and unused items can actually help you in the event of a fire. As you continue to gather and acquire new things you literally are adding fuel to the fire. These combustible items such as paint cans, tires, and old clothes, are just what a fire needs to spread quickly through your home. For fire to ignite, you need three elements; oxygen, fuel and heat. When you add more fuel (i.e., clothing, papers, etc.) to the fire it will burn hotter and faster.

This is also a good time to test your smoke alarms and vacuum away any debris or dust. Your dryer exhaust vents, hoses and vent traps should also be cleaned. Vacuum away any excess lint and debris from those areas. These can be a fire waiting to happen.

When cleaning out closets and stairways be sure to keep landings and hallways clear for safe evacuations. Check to make sure flammable and combustible liquids are labeled and stored in a locking garage or shed. Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent or store it inside your home.



Congratulations to Firefighter/EMT Thomas McCool and Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Weaver on successfully completing their probationary period with Bensalem Township Fire Rescue, Department of Public Safety in January 2016.

IF SOMEONE CALLS SAYING THEY ARE AN IRS AGENT AND DEMANDS THAT YOU SEND MONEY IMMEDIATELY, HANG UP!

Phone scams top the list this year because it has been a persistent and pervasive problem for many taxpayers for many months. Scammers are able to alter caller ID numbers to make it look like the IRS is calling. They often leave "urgent" callback requests. They prey on the most vulnerable people, such as the elderly, newly arrived immigrants and those whose first language is not English.

Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do. Any one of these five things is a tell-tale sign of a scam.

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484 or at www.tigta.gov.
- If you've been targeted by this scam, also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at FTC.gov. Please add Telephone Scam to the comments of your complaint.

Remember, the IRS does not use email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue involving bills or refunds. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving continues to be a nationwide epidemic. Pennsylvania is not immune to the problem. Mobile devices now account for 1.6 million automobile-related accident annually, which cause some 500,000 injuries and leads to the deaths of some 6,000 people each year according to the United States Department of Transportation. Pennsylvania has adopted legislation to address the perils of distracted driving.

75-3316 Prohibiting text-based communications.

(a) Prohibition – No driver shall operate a motor vehicle on a highway or traffic way in this Commonwealth while using an **interactive wireless communications device** to send, read or write a text-based communication while the vehicle is in motion. A person does not send, read or write a text-based communication when the person reads, selects or enters a telephone number or name in an interactive wireless communications device for the purpose of activating or deactivating a voice communication or a telephone call.

Penalty – A person who violates subsection (a) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50. The violation carries no points as a penalty and will not be recorded on the driver record for non-

commercial drivers. It will be recorded on commercial drivers' records as a non-sanction violation.

Definitions – As used in this section, the term "text-based communication" means a text message, instant message, electronic mail or other written communication composed or received on an interactive wireless communications device.

An **interactive wireless communications device** in Pennsylvania is defined as a wireless phone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer or similar devices that can be used for texting, instant messaging, emailing or browsing the Internet.

The texting ban does NOT include the use of a GPS device, a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle, or a communications device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus or school bus.



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BENSALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT SEEKING CROSSING GUARDS

Crossing Guards are responsible for the protection and assistance of school children while they are crossing streets and highways within the Township. Crossing Guards are also responsible for controlling the conduct of the children at the crossing areas and trains them to cross streets, highways and intersections safely, keeping alert and attentive while on duty. Crossing Guards will report for duty at the assigned time and will continue to monitor school children until the ending time set for the assigned post. Guards will wear the prescribed uniform while on duty and will use the approved traffic control devices(s) when on post.

Following a thorough review of a background investigation, a conditional offer of employment for the position of a Permanent Crossing Guard (floater) is made. Based upon satisfactory completion of a pre-employment physical and drug screen a tentative start date will be determined. Rate of pay is \$13.76 per hour. Permanent Crossing Guard (floater) can work between 3 and 4.5 hours a day, with the day split in two (an AM and PM) post times. Equipment and uniforms are supplied.

Additional requirements:

Required Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

- Knowledge of geographic layout of Township of Bensalem Township
- Ability to communicate effectively in a courteous and tactful manner
- Ability to receive and relay information both verbal and written
- Ability to work various hours, weekends and holidays
- Ability to perform assigned tasks accurately and completely
- Ability to remain outdoors, for extended periods

Minimum Training and Experience

- High School diploma or equivalent
- Any equivalent combination of experience or training which provides for the required skills, knowledge and abilities
- Successful completion of mandatory training, as set forth by the Head Crossing Guard, for the position.

Physical and Medical Standards

- Meet approved physical and medical standards
- Ability to perform manual labor associated with routine functions of this position

License and/or Certificates

- Possession of a valid Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Operators License prior to and during time of employment.

MAYOR JOSEPH DIGIROLAMO SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

It's that time of year again! The Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo Scholarship Foundation Applications Are Available.

With a deadline for the application of May 6, 2016, it's important to get the application from your school (high school students – residents of Bensalem) guidance department. They can also be picked up at the Bensalem Township Municipal Building located at 2400 Byberry Road, at the township reception area.

It's important to follow the requirements of the application which are:

- Fully complete the application
- Submit the required essay
- Submit financial documents (parent's W-2)

Financial assistance helps when attending college. These scholarships are \$2,000 and only several are awarded each year. Time is of the essence, don't procrastinate and good luck!



A.M.E. CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT

In our Fall edition we brought to you to the story of the A.M.E. Church Restoration Project

The A.M.E. Church is located on Bridgewater Road in Bensalem. A small unassuming building built in the 1700's alongside a cemetery containing the remains of church members; including a Civil War Soldier by the name of Leroy Allen. Mayor DiGirolamo and Council, specifically Councilman Edward Kisselback has remained diligent in the restoration of this historical landmark in our community. The funding for this project has been derived from private sector donations.

February is Black Heritage Month and in the spirit of diversity and comradery, we were pleased to be able to attend the Commemoration of a Forever Postal Stamp, commissioned by the United States Postal System, reflecting the life and contributions of one Mr. Richard Allen. The event was held at the Mother Bethel Church in Philadelphia.

Richard Allen was a minister, educator and writer who was born into slavery in Philadelphia, PA in 1760. He went on to found the first national black church in the United States, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1816. Mr. Allen built the pulpit that remains to this day at the A.M.E. Church in Bensalem.

Bensalem is so rich in history, being established in 1692. If you would like to know more about our community's history, the Bensalem Historical Society produced three fascinating books depicting beautiful places that are no longer here today, but hold historical significance for our community. These books can be purchased at the Bensalem Historical Society building located at 2405 Byberry Road-Bensalem, PA 19020.



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PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW

Keeping Children Safe

PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW

- ◆ When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ◆ When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ◆ You **MUST STOP** at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.
- ◆ You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- ◆ **DO NOT MOVE** until all the children have reached a place of safety.

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

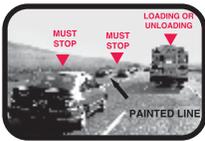
- ◆ 1.5 million children are transported on Pennsylvania roads each day.
- ◆ These children are transported more than 346 million miles to school each year.
- ◆ Every year, children are needlessly injured or killed by drivers passing stopped school buses.

PENALTIES

If you are convicted of violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law, you will receive all of the following penalties:

- ◆ 60-Day Driver's License Suspension
- ◆ Five (5) points on your driving record
- ◆ \$250 Fine

Annually, over 1,000 motorists do not obey the School Bus Stopping Law.



You **MUST STOP** on roadways with painted lines.



You **MUST STOP** at an GROOVED intersection, whether it is or is not marked with a stop sign. All traffic **MUST STOP**.



You **MUST STOP** on roadways with ridged/grooved dividers.

SEPARATE ROADWAYS

Drivers do not have to stop on a highway with clearly defined dividing sections or physical barriers providing separate roadways. This only applies when the school bus is on the opposite side of the road.

If In Doubt, STOP!



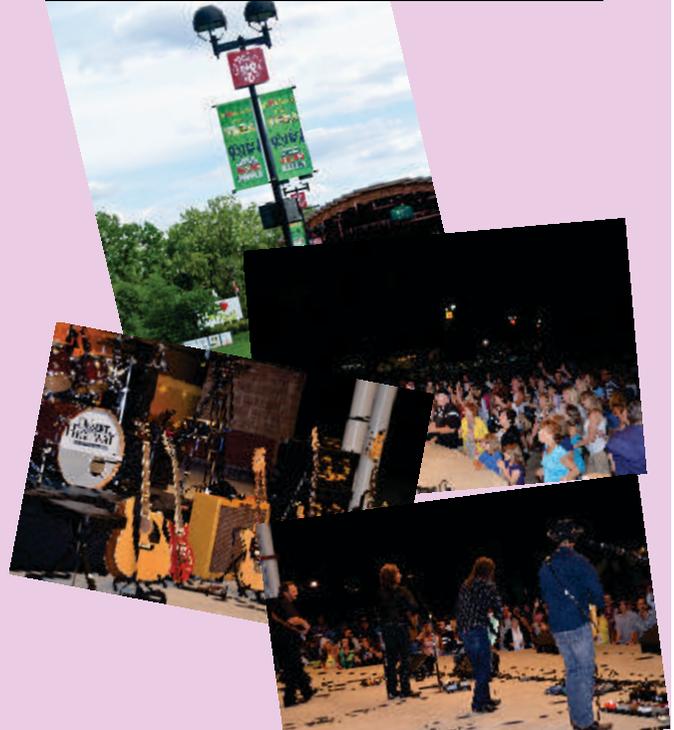
Physical barriers include concrete median barriers, metal median barriers, guide rails, etc.



Clearly indicated dividing sections include trees or shrubs, rocks or boulders, a stream, grass, etc.



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- Nanny / Caregiver Background Checks
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 Registration Deadline - June 17, 2016
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ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

It is with deep regret to inform our residents that the Township sponsored "Electronic Recycling Program" located at our Public Works Facility has ended. We were advised at the end of the year that our vendor was going out of business. Bensalem Township is actively seeking new vendors to provide this service, however as of this date we have not secured one. In an effort to assist our residents who wish to dispose of televisions and computer components, please feel free to contact the following:

E-Waste Experts
416 Green Lane
Bristol, PA 19007
877-328-2927

Best Buy
310 Commerce Boulevard
Fairless Hills, PA 19030
215-949-3006



Residents should call before going to either business to find out the following: drop off hours, requirements, exactly what will and will not be accepted and the fee schedule for these services.

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Email: _____

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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

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**Deadline To Advertise
in the Next Issue:
April 18, 2016
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What's Goin' On
Around Town
 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

POSTAL CUSTOMER



FOCUS Bensalem INC., in association with Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo and the Bensalem Township Department of Parks and Recreation, will be placing park benches in the area of Central Park by the Amphitheater. This area of Central Park, known as Legacy Plaza, is host to many Township and community events each year. Legacy benches will be placed along the pathway around the park and will enhance the already established beautiful park atmosphere.

Each legacy bench can be sponsored by a business, organization, or to honor an individual or family. The sponsoring organization, business, family, or individual name will be placed on the bench for all who visit the park to see. Your sponsorship will provide comfortable seating to those who gather at Central Park, while at the same time advertising your organization or business.

The cost of sponsoring a legacy bench will be \$1,200 and your check will need to be written to FOCUS Bensalem, INC. The benches will be maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure your bench remains pristine for years to come.

If you are interested in sponsoring a legacy bench please contact Bill McVey at 215-768-4260 or BJ Murphy 215-499-7061.

THE RIGHT WAY.....THE SMART WAY

As spring arrives you might be thinking of start a new home project or about starting a little home-based business or just a good spring cleaning around the house. The following is some information to keep in mind:



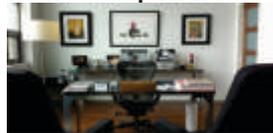
If you are planning any kind of home remodeling project, or thinking of retaining a contractor to do work for you, please keep the following in mind. The Township's Ordinances are based on national standards to help ensure that repairs, additions, and alterations are done **safely**, whether by homeowners or contractors. Certified inspectors will visit the site periodically to ensure that all work is being performed according to applicable codes. If you are unsure if a permit is required, please take the time to call the **Building and Planning Department at 215-633-3644** for assistance before beginning work.

Property Maintenance

Township Ordinance requires that all properties and structures be kept in good repair and maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition. Please trim grass and weeds regularly. Trash and debris may not be stored on properties at any time. It is also important to make sure that shrubs and trees located near streets do not obscure road signs from the view of motorists or pedestrians. Please prune landscaping to ensure that signs are clearly visible from a distance.



Home Occupations



Residents may operate a business or office from their property subject to certain restrictions. However, only people living in the dwelling may operate the business or office. No outside storage of materials related to the home occupation is permitted. If you are interested in running a business or office from your home, please contact the **Building and Planning Department at 215-633-3644** first to make sure your plans are in keeping with the Township's Ordinances and to obtain the required permit. **All home occupations, proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies and other entities doing business anywhere in the Township must also register with the Township's Business Tax Office at 215-633-3721 before beginning operations.**

SNOW REMOVAL REGULATIONS

While we hope there are no further snow storms, in the event there is another this year we would like to take this opportunity to provide snow removal guidelines:

Each year with the first snowfall, the Township is flooded with telephone calls regarding the rules and policies affecting snow removal. Please note the following:

As soon as snow or freezing rain begins, the Township Public Works Department starts salting and applying cinders on township roads. Snow plowing begins when the snow depth reaches 3-4 inches. Many of our main roadways like Street Road, Bristol Pike, Hulmeville Road, Galloway Road, Knights Road, Richlieu, Bensalem Blvd (just to name of few are NOT maintained by the Township as these roads are owned and maintained by PennDOT).

To assist with snow and ice removal, the Township code requires all vehicles to be parked off-street when snow reaches a

depth of 3 to 4 inches requiring plowing.

Residents and business owners also are reminded that all sidewalks and parking lots must be cleared within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall. Compliance with this ordinance allows for pedestrian passage, particularly elementary children walking to school.

The U.S. Postal Service requests the cooperation of postal customers in keeping walkways and curbside mailboxes clear of snow and ice, in order to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of mail. Letter carriers are especially vulnerable to slips, trips and falls during winter months. Residents who receive mail delivery to curbside boxes are asked to keep the approach to and exit from their mailbox clear of snow, ice, vehicles, trash cans and other objects.

The cooperation of all Township residents and businesses is greatly appreciated during winter storms.

TO ADVERTISE IN FUTURE EDITIONS CALL 215-357-PRNT