



Bensalem Township Pennsylvania

Bensalem Township Municipal Building - 2400 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA 19020 | 215-633-3600

February 22, 2019

Dear Residents,

Thank you for taking the time to read our monthly e-newsletter. For those of you who may have just made Bensalem their home, this is a fairly new approach. Initiated on a quarterly rotation, our first newsletter was published in 2006. Bensalem Township was the first municipality in Bucks County to create this type of communication to keep residents informed of current events and accomplishments. This was very exciting at that time, and was produced at no cost to our taxpayers!



“But the times they are changing...” People mainly communicate these days via their computers or mobile devices. It is a rarity to receive actual paper correspondence in this digital age. I receive emails 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It can be challenging, but my staff and I know how to prioritize the issues that may threaten the health, safety, and welfare of residents and immediately addresses those concerns.

I'm proud to say we recently celebrated our annual “Unity Week,” which kicks off on the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday and continues throughout the week. While January is behind us, I will not forget the outstanding coordination of this event by the B3T Group, “Building a Better Bensalem Together,” nor will I forget the young students who wrote powerful essays relating stories of acceptance & tolerance.

In closing, thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If there is a topic you might like to bring to our attention, please feel free to do so. You can send your article idea, pictures, etc. to me at the Bensalem Township Municipal Building- C/O Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo- 2400 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA 19020- or submit via email to MayorsOffice@BensalemPA.gov. If you know someone who would like to receive this monthly newsletter, please direct them to our website, www.BensalemPA.gov, to sign up.

As always, it's my distinct honor and privilege to serve as the Mayor of Bensalem Township. God Bless.

Your Friend ,

Joseph DiGirolamo, Mayor
Bensalem Township



Bensalem Community Affairs

Relay for Life of Bensalem is coming to the PCBA!

From 10am – 10pm on Saturday, June 8th local participants will join together at the annual Relay For Life of Bensalem at the Penn Community Bank Amphitheater to help beat our biggest rival - cancer. The event begins with our Survivor Ceremony.

This year we are honoring the innovative spirit of Relay by bringing a new energy and type of Relay to Bensalem. A new venue and new 12 hour format will bring together the community in the effort to fight cancer from every level.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is the only organization fighting cancer on every front. Funds raised from Relay For Life events allow the ACS to attack cancer in dozens of ways, each of them critical to achieving a world without cancer – from developing breakthrough therapies and innovative research, to building supportive communities that come together to help those affected by cancer with access to treatment. The ACS provides empowering resources to deploying activists to raise awareness and develop game-changing approaches to address the cancer burden for all people.

Founded by Dr. Gordy Klatt in Tacoma, Washington, in 1985, the Relay For Life movement of 3.5 million participants across the world unite at more than 4,500 events to celebrate people who have been touched by cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change. Symbolizing the battle waged around the clock by those facing cancer, the event can last up to 24 hours and empowers communities to take a stand against cancer. Since 1985, Relay For Life events in the U.S. have raised more than \$6.3 billion.

Relay For Life of Bensalem, supported by many local businesses and organizations, has raised over \$2.2 million since 1999 for the American Cancer Society. Together, we look forward to a future of more funds raised in our battle against this disease. Join or donate to the Relay For Life of Bensalem today. Visit www.RelayForLife.org/PABensalem or www.Facebook.com/RelayBensalem.

*In-Game Ads**



A lot of our application approvals are based on user reviews and screenshots. We browse application details, take a look at some reviews, and approve. What about in-game advertisements? How do we know that these ads are also designed for children? The advertisement shown here was displayed during a 30 second intermission of a child's cheerleading game. Scary!

Take the necessary steps to provide a healthy digital environment for your child. A small tip: by enabling Airplane Mode and turning off WiFi connectivity, you will limit the amount of in-game advertisement traffic to the device. For more ways to help keep your kids safe while online, check out these tips [here](#).

*Thank you to David Smalley for sharing this information with us. David is a Manager of Forensic Technology and Consulting for a leading worldwide electronic discovery organization with over 90 offices throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Prior to his current role, David was affiliated with local law enforcement and also a member of the Department of Justice Internet Crimes Against Children task force. More information about David can be found at www.davidpsmalley.com.

Local Public Transit Commuting Option

Do you work in Center City, Philadelphia, and drive to work every day? Know your commute options! An alternative to driving on I-95 from Lower Bucks County is to park at the Cornwells Heights Park-and-Ride in Bensalem & ride the SEPTA Regional Rail Trenton Line into Center City.



Need help planning your trip? Check out the TMA Bucks website [here](#) or contact them at 215-244-9082 or brandon@bctma.com for more information.



Girls' Junior Field Hockey



All girls, both residents and non-residents in grades 1-8, are invited to sign up and play Junior Field Hockey. Those who register for the first time will receive an official field hockey stick, ball, mouth guard, and shin guards to keep as their own. Practice will be held one night a week for one hour on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, and all games will be held on Saturday mornings at the Bensalem Community Park. This program will begin in April and run through June.

Cost is \$80 for all new participants or those who need equipment, and \$50 for all returning participants or those not requiring equipment. NO equipment can be ordered after March 1st, and all registrations received March 2nd and later will have to supply their own.

In addition to our regular operating hours we are also offering in-person registration on Thursday, February 28th from 6pm – 8pm. If you have any questions, please call 215-633-3616.

Summer Employment

The Parks and Recreation Department will begin accepting applications for employment with our summer recreation programs beginning Monday,

March 4th. No applications will be given prior to this date and they must be obtained in-person from the Parks and Recreation Department. All applicants must be 16 years of age and a Bensalem Resident at the time the application is submitted. Completing an application does not guarantee you a position, as all new hiring is based on need.



Applications must be returned to the Parks and Recreation office no later than 4pm on Friday, March 9th. Those interested in employment must go through the entire interview process for consideration with our summer programs. Application deadlines are strictly adhered to and positions are often limited, when available. Should you have additional questions, or need further clarification regarding the application process, please feel free to contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 215-633-3724 or 215-633-3614.



Smoke Alarms Save Lives



When was the last time you replaced your home's smoke alarm? Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years. After that time, your smoke detector will have been working consecutively for 87,000 hours. No other appliance in your home works this long! If you do not know how old your smoke alarm is, or if it is ten years or older, you should replace it as soon as possible.

Did you know...

- Most fire deaths occur in residential structures.
- The majority of those deaths occur at night while people are sleeping.
- Smoke, not the fire itself, is usually what causes people to get injured or killed in a fire.

The good news is that many of these fire deaths are preventable. In fact, if you have working smoke alarms in your home, you have at least a 50% greater chance of surviving a residential structure fire. It is the vision of Bensalem Fire Rescue that every home be properly protected by smoke alarms. We seek to implement this vision by offering FREE SMOKE ALARMS to any Bensalem resident in need. The only prerequisites are that the citizen reside in a privately-owned home and have a genuine need for our assistance.

Contact Bensalem Fire Rescue at (215) 633-3617 or email Stephanie (sschilling@bensalempa.gov) to schedule your free installation, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for the latest news, updates, and safety tips.

Employee Spotlight

****Bensalem Township is made up of many departments and divisions, each with fantastic employees, who all work together to make this town the best it can be! New for 2019, we are introducing the "Employee Spotlight" to help you get to know us better and celebrate the quality staff that makes B-Town work. Each month we will feature a different employee and ask them a few questions about themselves, their job and their interest(s).****

William McVey: Deputy Director of Public Safety



Bill McVey has been a member of the Bensalem Township Police Department since 1998, when he was sworn in as an Officer by Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo. Since that time, he has performed in many roles and ranks, some of which include: Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, K-9 Officer, Sergeant (Patrol and Criminal Investigations) and Lieutenant. Currently, Bill is the Deputy Director of Public Safety and assists with leading and managing the department along with our Director, Fred Harran. Bill is grateful for the opportunities he has received throughout his career as a police officer and is proud to now lead the best department in PA! The most enjoyable part of his job is serving the people of Bensalem and making it

a safe community for everyone. Bill truly loves his profession and enjoys working with the fine men and women of Bensalem Township every day.

Bill earned his Bachelor's degree from Millersville University and a Master's degree from St. Joseph's University. He is also a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

Bill lives in Bensalem with his wife, Susan, and their three daughters, Madalyn, Julia, and Kelly. He is an active member of St. Ephrem Parish and his favorite spot to grab a sandwich in town is Jack's Deli. His message to young people aspiring to work in law enforcement is "integrity matters, so do the right things in life."

Gardening for Butterflies

"Gardening for Butterflies in a Butterfly House and in Your Yard" will be the featured presentation at the monthly meeting of the Trevoise Horticultural Society on Tuesday, March 19 at the Bensalem Senior Center (1850 Byberry Road) at 7pm. Guest speaker, William Woodroffe, is the Janet V. Machiewitz Butterfly House Coordinator at the Churchville Nature Center who offers a different and unique view of butterflies.



Bill will discuss the lessons learned about gardening for butterflies inside the center's butterfly house and how it pertains to native perennial gardening for butterflies in your own garden. He will detail the type of plants to use for attracting and supporting native butterflies as well as ways to grow butterflies at home for your own gardens. Handouts will be available.

Bill earned his degree in Conservation and Wildlife Management from Delaware University with an emphasis on Entomology. As Naturalist and Land Manager of the CNC, he oversees property maintenance, surveys and studies, habitat restoration, live animal care and exhibits, the annual wildflower sale, and the Marlin D. Corn Wildlife Gardens.

Buzzin' Around B-Town



Members of Bensalem Township Fire Rescue assist during a recent accident involving a fire on Woodhaven Road.



Unity Week kicked off with a breakfast celebration at Parx Casino on Monday, January 21.



Mayor DiGirolamo and Rev. Phil Menditto at the Unity Week celebration at Philadelphia Christian Center on Thursday, January 24.



Bensalem High School's Femineus Vocalis perform at the Unity Week closing

celebration at St. Ephrem Church on
Friday, January 25.

www.BensalemPA.gov

