



Bensalem Township Pennsylvania

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

Dear Residents,

We're getting ever closer to warmer weather. Spring is a time of renewal, as the days grow longer and we anticipate all the possibilities that come with spring and summer- when living seems easier.

What does not appear easy right now is traveling our roads. Winter wreaks havoc on our roadways! This is the time of the season when our Public Works Department works in earnest to repair the potholes and other damage befalling our roads. Please be cognizant of the Township workers on the roads. While all safety precautions are put in place, a motorist not adhering to speed limits or who is otherwise distracted can provide for disaster. If you would like to report a pothole, please contact our Public Works Department at 215-633-3980 or 215-633-3733.



In other areas of interest, our Community Affairs Department is preparing for another outstanding summer concert series and our Parks and Recreation Department has coordinated programs for our Township children. Additionally, the Bensalem Community Garden will soon be ready for tilling and planting once again. The programs offered by Bensalem Township are some of the best offered by any Bucks County Municipality, bar none!

As always, it's my honor and privilege to serve as Mayor of Bensalem Township. Please enjoy your Easter and Passover as families gather together to celebrate the renewal of their faith and love for one another.

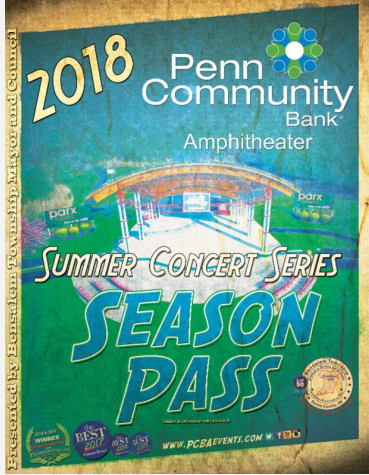
Sincerely,

Joseph DiGirolamo, Mayor
Bensalem Township



Get Them Before They're Gone!

The Bensalem Community Affairs Department is gearing up for what promises to be another amazing summer of



award-winning entertainment at the Penn Community Bank Amphitheater's "We Love Wednesdays at the PCBA" Summer Concert Series!

Hands-down, the best value for your buck is our Season Pass. But we only have less than 300 left! To guarantee you don't miss out on any of the fun this summer, be sure to get yours today! You can purchase in-person at the Bensalem Municipal Building (2400 Byberry Road) Monday through Friday from 8am – 4pm or online anytime at www.PCBAevents.com.

Please note: If you complete your purchase online you will still need to pick up your physical pass(es) in advance of the concert season. Your online ticket will not gain you entry! Please come by the Municipal Building between 8am and 4pm Monday – Friday with your ID to pick up your pass(es). If you can't make it during regular business hours, you will also have the option to pick up your passes at one of the first three concerts. We caution that if you choose the latter be prepared to wait in line to get your passes as we anticipate a large number of season pass purchasers choosing this option.

As always, please contact Amanda McDonald, PCBA General Manager, at 215-633-3630 or amcdonald@bensalempa.gov, with any questions you may have. We'll see you on June 6th!

Bensalem Community Garden

Bensalem Township was proud to open the gates of our first community garden last spring. The garden, located next to the Bensalem Community Park at 4301 Richlieu Road (across from Thunder Hollow Apartments), gives residents a better appreciation of nature, an opportunity to grow their own healthy food, promotes recreation, provides a social outlet, and transforms our local landscape in a positive way. What started as 30



plots has expanded to 60. Initially, when we launched the program, we received over 200 entries. Plot winners were selected at random and all plots were then assigned.

For 2018, we have 22 vacancies. If you are interested, please complete the application [found here](#) and return it in one of the following convenient ways: 1) mail it to the attention of Dawn Davis at Bensalem Community Garden, 2400 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA 19020, 2) hand-deliver it to the same address, 3) Email it to ddavis@bensalempa.gov, or 4) fax it to 215-633-3629. The deadline date for applications via any of the above methods is April 16th. Winners will be selected at random and notified shortly thereafter.

The cost for a first year plot is \$50 and \$25 each year thereafter. Payment can be made by cash, check or money order made payable to Bensalem Township. We do not currently accept credit cards. The Community Garden will officially open Saturday, May 5th at 9am. Good Luck!

What Smells in the Garden?

"What Smells in the Garden?" will be the featured presentation at the monthly meeting of the Trevoise Horticultural Society on Tuesday, March 20 at 7pm at the Bensalem Senior Center (1850 Byberry Road).

Guest speaker, Ed MacFarland of Glenside, will enthusiastically demonstrate how to choose a variety of aromatic annuals, perennials and herbs as fragrant companion plants to enhance the visual and sensory gardening experience. Soil preference of plants and organic insect and disease control will also be addressed. A selection of unique plants will be for sale and handouts will also be available.



MacFarland is a longtime member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, volunteering as exhibitor, horticulture judge and is Flower Show Chair Emeritus of their Horticulture Information Booth. He is current President of the Tamanend Park Herb Gardening Club in Southampton and has been an active member of several tri-state societies, such as the Delaware Valley Hosta Society, where he is also a judge.

All meetings are open to the public but a donation of \$4 is requested from non-members. For further information, please call (856) 866-9163.



Breakfast with the Bunny

On March 24th from 10am – noon, the Cornwells Fire Company will host “Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.” Come enjoy pancakes & eggs and even get your picture taken! Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$7 for children ages 2-11.

To purchase tickets please call 267-239-6390 or email CFC16Fundraising@gmail.com. And be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) to find out about all of our upcoming events!

The Rec Room



2018 Summer Recreation Program

Warm weather, sunshine and longer days are ideal for spending more time outdoors and taking advantage of our summertime program offerings. Bensalem Township Parks & Recreation offers affordable, fun and safe summer programming for children ages 5 and up.

Click [here](#) to view our complete summer program. Registration, either in-person or via mail, is open now but anything received after June 7th will be assessed a \$25 late fee. Our programs also provide breakfast and lunch for all participants through the “Summer Feed Program.”

If you have any questions, please call Bensalem Parks & Recreation at 215-633-3616.

Tax Tips

It's that time of year again. The 2017 local earned income tax return filing deadline is approaching. Taxpayers with earned income in 2017 are required to file a Final Tax Return by April 17, 2018.

Did you know the quickest way to get your refund is to file online? If you live and work in Pennsylvania, you can e-file on our tax administrator's secure website, which is available 24/7 at www.KeystoneCollects.com.

Keystone Collections Group's e-file is the easy, fast and secure way to file your 2017 tax return. It lets you file your tax return when it is most convenient for you. You will need your W-2, your Social Security Number and any other income documents that may apply (such as a PA-UE or a Schedule C). Keystone redesigned e-file to make it even faster and more user-friendly.

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, visit [Keystone's Frequently Asked Questions](#) or call Keystone's Taxpayer Helpline at 1-888-328-0565 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent. You can also email your questions 24/7 to [Keystone's Taxpayer Support](#). Taxpayer Service Agents try to respond to all online inquiries within three business days.

Street Sweeper Schedule

Please be advised that street sweeping will commence April 2nd and will run through September 14th. Sweeping will be done Monday through Friday and will follow the schedule listed below.

WEEK #1 – April 2, 2018 – April 6, 2018

Hansell Drive, Knights Road, Byberry Road, Annina Lane, Tucker Road, Essington Way section, Belmont Ridge section, Rockhill Drive, Columbia Drive, Woodsview Drive, Hidden Valley section, Country Village section, Apple Way, White Oak Lane

WEEK #2 – April 9, 2018 – April 13, 2018

Trevose section, Oakford section, Linconia section and Concord Park section.

WEEK #3- April 16, 2018 – April 20, 2018

Nottingham section, Tillman Drive, Century Lane, Murray Avenue, Stanwood section, Atlantic Avenue, Asbury Avenue, Brown Avenue, Virginia Avenue.

A complete schedule can be found [here](#) on our website. For questions about street sweeping, or anything for our Public Works Department, please call 215-633-3980 or 215-633-3733.



Recent Scams

Bensalem Police responded to and investigated approximately 400 cases of fraud last year. While most other crime has either dropped or remained the same, fraud and identity theft have risen every year. Bensalem Police would like to educate residents of this Township as to some of the more prevalent scams that are currently being used.

Below is a list of common scams that we respond to. To learn more about a particular scam, please select any of the following:

- [PECO Energy / Utility](#)
- [IRS-Related Fraud](#)
- [Lottery or Gift-Related](#)
- [Ebay or Craigslist](#)
- [Relative-in-Need-of-Money](#)

As always, if you believe you may be a victim of fraud or identity theft please call Bensalem Police at 215-633-3719 and make a report immediately.

Volunteers Needed: BPAIR Training



The Bensalem Police Assisting in Recovery (BPAIR) program will be hosting a training for anyone who wishes to be a “Navigator.” A “Navigator” is a volunteer who reports to the police department when a Bensalem resident comes in seeking help for alcohol or substance abuse. The “Navigator” accompanies the individual to a nearby treatment center for assessment and transportation is provided for both the volunteer and the person seeking recovery. This is an “on call” service that allows you to volunteer as much or as little as you like. Every little bit helps! You do not need to be a Bensalem resident to become a “Navigator.” It is our hope that this program will become a model for other police departments throughout Bucks County.

Training will take place on Thursday, March 22nd from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Bensalem Township Municipal Building. If you think you would like to help with this worthwhile cause or would like additional information, please contact Ann Marie Walsh (215-633-3674 or awalsh@bensalempa.gov) or Erin O’Rourke (215-633-3712 or eorourke@bensalempa.gov) as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

The Police Activities League (PAL)

The Bensalem Township Police Department’s Police Activities League (PAL) has officially started for 2018. PAL is currently hosting their annual Winter Fun Program for kids with special needs. This program runs for five weeks with 7 youths participating this year. Police Officers from PAL and the youths meet once a week at a different location for various activities.



Bensalem PAL will also be hosting a “Stranger Danger” Easter Egg Hunt at the Township building, on March 24 from 10am to 12pm. This event will be for youths from Pre-K to 2nd grade. Last year 93 children participated in this wonderful one-day event.

Some upcoming programs that the community should be on the lookout for in 2018 are a Flag Football League and a Bowling League for youths in 4th to 6th grade, a weekend Soccer Camp for youths in 3rd to 8th grade, a Summer Basketball League for youths in 3rd to 12th grade, and a Street Hockey League for youths in 5th to 8th grade.

Last year, PAL had over 900 local kids participate in our different programs that were offered during the year. The number one goal for PAL is to continue to build relationships with the

youth and hopefully have a positive impact on their life. For more information on any of our programs, activities or events please check out the [Bensalem PAL page](#).



Hover Board Safety

Hover boards are the latest craze and extremely popular with kids today, but they can be dangerous if not operated properly. [Click here](#) for safety tips from Bensalem Township Fire Rescue and The National Fire Protection Association.



Keep Our Streets Free From Litter!

Bensalem Township is a busy suburban community. While our population is close to 60,000, well over 200,000 motorists from all over travel our roads each and every day. Our geographic location lends itself to this fact. While our easy accessibility is a positive attribute, unfortunately we also experience the negative impact in the form of increased traffic and litter. One person, one business, one organization can positively affect the behavior of others in the community. No matter where litter starts...it moves.



"Towns Against Graffiti" is a multi-municipality cooperative program formed through a public partnership between Bensalem Township and several other communities throughout Bucks County. This program was spearheaded by Mayor DiGirolamo and has been made possible by the dedication and cooperation of the participating towns. Not only does the program address graffiti but litter as well.

Why do people litter? The organization known as "Keep America Beautiful" has determined that people litter for a variety of reasons. They feel no sense of ownership, even though areas like parks are public property. They believe someone else, like a park maintenance or highway worker, will pick up after them. People also litter in places where litter has already accumulated. This must stop!

Get involved! Join a group! Adopt-A-Highway! If you would like to report an area in need of litter removal, please call 267-550-9999. There is no charge for this service.

www.BensalemPA.gov

