



# Bensalem Township Pennsylvania

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

November 2, 2018

Dear Residents,

It's my hope you enjoyed our annual Fall Festival "Celebrate Community Pride." The weather cooperated and it was nice to see you enjoying the activities our team coordinated. Thank you to all the township personnel and volunteers who contributed to the success of the day! Our annual celebration takes place the first Saturday in October and we look forward to seeing you again for this great community gathering on October 5, 2019.



As we begin to make plans with family and friends for the approaching holidays, let us not forget our veterans who have served and continue to protect us and allow us to enjoy the freedoms of this great country! Thank a veteran as we recognize and celebrate them on Monday, November 12th. The township building will be closed in observance.

Stay tuned as our Parks and Recreation Department prepares for our Annual Community Tree Lighting and other holiday events for our children, which you will find in the following pages of this newsletter.

As always, it's my distinct honor and privilege to serve as Bensalem's Mayor.

God Bless,

Joseph DiGirolamo, Mayor  
Bensalem Township

## Ogden Avenue Drainage Project



Below is a message from Mayor DiGirolamo with an update on the Ogden Avenue Storm Drainage Project:

I want to take this opportunity to provide an update on the Ogden Avenue Storm Drainage Project. As you may be aware, the project has encountered several unforeseen obstacles during construction. A status report from the Project Engineer can be viewed [here](#) on our website.

Regarding final paving of the road, in order to give the site ample opportunity to settle over the winter, repaving of the entire roadway surface will be scheduled for next spring.

As always, we thank you for your patience as we complete this very worthwhile project. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Project Engineer, Tom Hanna, at 215-369-3955.

Sincerely,



Joseph DiGirolamo, Mayor  
Bensalem Township

---

## 2018 Thanksgiving Closings

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Bensalem Township Municipal Building will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd. Mayor DiGirolamo, Council, and everyone at Bensalem Township would like to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.



# Bensalem Community Affairs



## »» Fall Festival «« celebrating community pride

Our annual Fall Festival was held this year on Saturday, October 6th. The festivities kicked off with our Opening Ceremonies featuring our Mayor, the Honorable Joseph DiGirolamo, esteemed Council, the Color Guard, and Bensalem resident Brianna McClave singing our National Anthem.

During this time, Mayor DiGirolamo also presented the 2018 Community Pride Award. This is an annual award given to a member of the Bensalem community who selflessly coordinates local events and volunteers their time for others. This year, Toby Kahn of Building a Better Bensalem Together was the honoree. Congratulations, Toby!



Throughout the day, over 15,000 attendees were entertained by members of our community such as Dance with Celeste, Nate Gordon's Black Belt Academy, and The Bensalem Ramblers. They also enjoyed performances by our magician (Michael Bonacci), the Cool Beans Band, and Kountry K-9. Our Police, Fire, and EMS teams all had displays set up showing off the latest in

public safety, and even Bernie Parent stopped by to sign a few autographs for us! The day's activities were capped off with our evening concert featuring Mike DelGuidice & Big Shot followed by the stellar fireworks display from Zambelli Fireworks.

Community Affairs would like to thank Mayor DiGirolamo, Council, and our many sponsors- too many to list- who help make this day possible. We truly appreciate everyone who comes out every year to celebrate community pride, and we hope to see you again on October 5, 2019!



2018 Fall Festival Recap

---

## *Annual Senior Citizen's Expo*

Mayor DiGirolamo is always happy to join State Representative Gene DiGirolamo at his Annual Senior Citizen's Expo. Recently held on Thursday, October 25th at the Bensalem Senior Center, this year was no exception! Many local dignitaries, along with more than 40 exhibitors, shared with the public the goods and services available to them. In addition to the many government agencies on hand, they also welcomed area nursing care, hospitals, insurance, veterans, and transportation representatives.

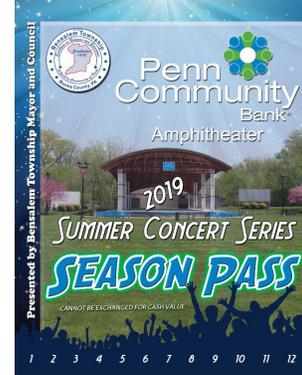


The day was packed full with information and festivities for all of Bensalem's beloved seniors and their caregivers. The over 400 attendees enjoyed lunch, door prizes and entertainment by the BucksMont Squires of Song. Events such as this one truly demonstrate all that our community has to offer, and we look forward to next year's seminar.



## *2019 Season Passes On Sale Now!*

Season Passes for the 2019 summer concert series at the Penn Community Bank Amphitheater are on sale now! Passes are only \$35 for Bensalem Residents and can be purchased at the Municipal Building during regular business hours. For



## *Holiday Travel Tip: Metadata\**



Metadata can be referred to as data about data. This additional data is attached to every photo, file, folder, etc., and can act as a digital “footprint” or makeup of the information. For example, if you take a photo while on vacation and post it to an image sharing website, the metadata for the photo could provide location and camera manufacturer information.

Some cameras, especially smartphone cameras, embed GPS coordinates into associated metadata. Be mindful of what you and your children post online, especially if you are away from home. You could be unintentionally mentioning that your home is unoccupied. Obtaining metadata is simple and could lead to bigger problems if it gets into the wrong hands.

\*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](http://www.davidpsmalley.com).

## *Car Seat Safety Check*

Are you the parent of a child still in a car seat? Do you know if that seat is installed properly so that it can protect them in the event of a crash? St. Mary Medical Center offers FREE car seat inspections once a month at their Outreach Center located at the site of the former Our Lady of Fatima School at 2913 Street Road here in Bensalem. These events are offered on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9am – 3:30pm by appointment only. To schedule yours, please call Blanca Monclou from the Bucks County Department of Health at 215-345-3357.



In addition, St. Mary also offers other free or low-cost events to the Bensalem community such as infant safe sleep programs, senior citizen programs, nutrition resources and more. For more information on any of these offerings, please call 215-710-5976 or visit [www.StMaryHealthcare.org/SafeKids](http://www.StMaryHealthcare.org/SafeKids).



## *2018 Family Affair Under the Stars*



The Bensalem Township Parks and Recreation Department ended the 2018 summer season with our annual "Family Affair Under the Stars" at Bensalem Community Park on September 21st. This unique family event continues to grow in participation and is truly one which

everyone looks forward to. Everyone had a blast pumpkin painting, watching movies, playing bingo, and enjoying the many amenities and beautiful surroundings of our Bensalem Community Park.

This annual event could not be made possible without the generous support of our sponsors:

- Mr. Mark Curley
- [Brown's Family ShopRite](#)
- [McDonald's](#)
- [Texas Roadhouse](#)
- [Metro Beverage](#)
- [Bensalem Lion's Club](#)
- [Rick's Expert Tree Service](#)
- [Acme Markets](#)
- [Nottingham Fire Department](#)
- [Bensalem Police Department](#)

Parks and Recreation would once again like to thank Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo and Council for their continued faith in, and support of, the Department and our efforts to provide quality and unique programming to the Bensalem Community. We would also like to thank our staff and participants, for this could not be possible without all of you. We hope to see you next year!

---

## *Letters to Santa*

Bensalem residents of all ages are invited to write a letter to the big guy at the North Pole! Letters can either be dropped off at Santa's mailbox- located outside of the Parks & Recreation office at the Township building- or mailed to us at:

SANTA CLAUS, NORTH POLE  
C/O Bensalem Parks & Recreation Department  
2400 Byberry Road  
Bensalem, PA 19020



Be sure your child includes their name, age, and address. All letters must be received by December 9th so Santa has time to respond before his big trip around the world!

---

## *Community Tree Lighting*



Come join Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo, Council, and the Bensalem Township Parks & Recreation Department for our annual Community Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 9th beginning at 5pm. Admittance is non-perishable food items.

---



## *Trash Pickers Strike Gold in the Garbage!*

On Friday, September 21st Bensalem Police and the FBI hosted a press conference to release information about a large opioid and illegal prescription drug trafficking ring. A several month joint investigation conducted by Bensalem Police and the FBI Philadelphia Division disrupted and dismantled a criminal organization that was responsible for distributing hundreds of thousands of illegal opioids and other pills in the Philadelphia region. The investigation started with a drug arrest of a small amount of marijuana in Bensalem and led investigators to uncover the source of the opioids was a “special waste” facility, Wheelabrator Falls Inc., operating in Bucks County which was tasked with destroying a number of pharmaceuticals marked for destruction.



The investigation revealed a vulnerability at the Wheelabrator Falls facility which allowed for the pills to be covertly stolen prior to being incinerated. The stolen opioids and pills were being sold in large quantities on the streets of Philadelphia, Bucks County, and New Jersey. Employees of the waste facility exploited their positions to steal the pharmaceuticals and sell them to drug dealers who would then sell the pills on the street. The investigation led to the recovery of approximately 200,000 illegal pills with an approximate street value of 1.2 million dollars. Multiple suspects have been arrested for their role in the organization and distribution of hundreds of thousands of illegal pills.

Thanks to the men and women of the Bensalem Township Police Department, these drugs are off the streets and out of the hands of our loved ones. A job well done by everyone once again!

---

## *Bensalem Fire Rescue Spreads Fire Prevention Awareness*



October was fire prevention month and it's one of our favorite times of year as we get to visit children throughout the community and teach them the importance of fire safety. This year, Bensalem Township Fire Rescue visited over 5,000 children. In addition, firefighters conducted fire safety training at five businesses in the township and taught over 60 employees what to do in the event of a fire in the workplace.

Battalion Chief Sponheimer was also the guest speaker for the Bensalem Business Directory's October meeting. BC Sponheimer explained the fire service in Bensalem Township and the members were provided basic fire extinguisher training.



---

## *Thanksgiving Safety Tips*



Did you know Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment? The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially around the holidays. Kids love to be involved in the preparations, but keeping them safe is paramount. Be sure to have activities such as games, puzzles, and books that keep them away from possible dangers. Kids can still get involved in Thanksgiving

preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.

Here are some more tips from the National Fire Protection Association:

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop to keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey, and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. It will be hot and kids should stay 3+ feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids to avoid serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from kitchen appliances are not dangling off the counter.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children.
- Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

---

## *Public Safety Annual Toy Drive*

The Bensalem Township Public Safety Toy Drive Luncheon is being held this year on Saturday, December 1st at Carrabba's Italian Grill (3210 Tillman Drive). This annual event helps many local families in need during the holiday season. More information can be found [here](#), but if you still have questions or would like to purchase tickets for the event please call 215-633-3617 or email [sschilling@bensalempa.gov](mailto:sschilling@bensalempa.gov).



# Public Works

## *Snow Emergencies*

The Bensalem Township Department of Public Works is well prepared in the event of a major snow storm, but snow storms are stressful on everyone, including our personnel. So we are requesting the assistance and cooperation of our residents this season to help us during inclement weather.

Please have patience and understand that, during a prolonged snow event, every inch of snow cannot be removed from the streets the moment the event ends. If it takes hours to occur, it will take hours to remove. We also ask that residents who have off-street parking utilize that and remove vehicles from the street. Plowing around cars is dangerous, time consuming and often impossible in some locations. Residents are also encouraged to delay the shoveling of driveway aprons until the roadway in front of the residence has been plowed. If you shovel before we plow, your driveway will most likely be plowed back in. This is something we cannot prevent. Our personnel are merely trying to clear the roadway so when your vehicle leaves the driveway it can safely maneuver on the streets.



Snow plows drive slower than most other vehicles on the road. Please don't tailgate our snow plows- it's dangerous for both you and the driver of the plow. Plow drivers are professionals who know how fast they can safely drive and how quickly they can stop the plow truck. Because snow plows also salt the roads, they come equipped with a sign on the back of the truck that clearly states "STAY BACK 50 FEET". Following too closely will make it impossible for the plow driver to see you and your vehicle is in danger of being backed into or sprayed with damaging rock salt. Maintaining this 50 foot distance will insure that you and your vehicle remain safe and will also make you much more visible to the plow driver. The safety of our residents and our employees is our priority.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask the community as a whole to please assist the elderly, disabled, and any and all who have health conditions with clearing snow and ice from sidewalks, walkways, and driveways. Being a good neighbor and shoveling a driveway for people who shouldn't be doing it themselves because of a medical condition can save their lives.

In closing, please help us to help you. If you don't need to go out during a snow storm, please don't. Simply delay running errands until the roads are safe and clear. If you must go out during a snow storm please be sure to reduce your speed, wear your seat belt and use caution. Remember- if you're having trouble staying on the road, so are the people around you!

The Public Works Department can be reached at 215-633-3980 and 215-633-3733. PennDot can be reached at 215-345-6060 if you have a concern regarding a State Highway. A list of roadways in Bensalem Township that are State Highways and therefore the responsibility of PennDot to plow and maintain are as follows:

Interstate I-95  
Street Road  
Hulmeville Road  
Mechanicsville Road  
Gibson Road  
Bristol Road  
Dunksferry Road  
State Road  
Lincoln Highway (Rt.1)

Bristol Pike  
Brownsville Road  
Mill Road  
Richlieu Road  
Knights Road from the Philadelphia line to Street Road  
Bensalem Blvd. from Bristol Pike to Hulmeville Road  
Brown Avenue from Hulmeville Road to Dunksferry Road  
Haunted Lane  
Old Lincoln Highway

---

## Trevose Horticultural Society

### *Orchids A to Z*



"Orchids A to Z" will be the featured presentation at the monthly meeting of the Trevose Horticultural Society on Tuesday, November 13th at 7pm at the Bensalem Senior Center located at 1850 Byberry Road, Bensalem.

Guest speaker, Sandy Kern of Bensalem, will highlight the basics of how to choose and grow beautiful orchids suitable to your home environment. A selection of orchid plants will be on display and for sale and handouts will also be available. Kern is President of the Bucks County Orchid Society, which meets monthly at the Churchville Nature Center.

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

---

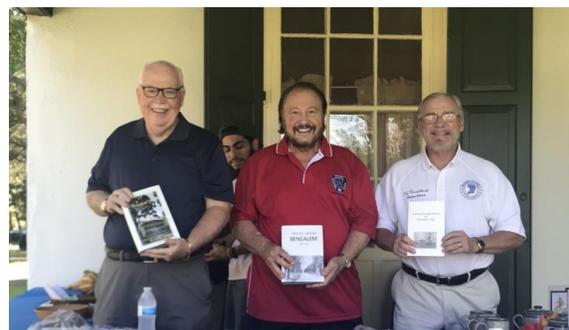
## Buzzin' Around B-Town



Bensalem K9 Bowie enjoyed a little extra love from his handler, Officer Bob Schwarting, and area children at our annual Fall Festival.



Local residents enjoy Growden Day on September 29th



Councilman Knowles, Mayor DiGirolamo & Councilman Kisselback proudly display their Bensalem Pride at Growden Day!



Mayor DiGirolamo, Deputy Director of Public Safety William McVey and members of our K9 squad at Fall Fest 2018.



Mike DelGuidice of Big Shot: Celebrating the Music of Billy Joel at Fall Festival on Saturday, October 6th.



Mayor DiGirolamo was recently recognized for his commitment to, and involvement in, the Indo-American Senior Citizens Association of PA.



Mayor DiGirolamo and members of The MOMS Club of Bensalem during their recent Trick-or-Treat event at the Bensalem Township Municipal Building.



Mayor DiGirolamo and Judge Gallagher always have time for our men (and women!) who give so selflessly of themselves to keep us safe. Pictured here with PA State Deputy Constable Mike Pienkowski at the recent Senior Expo on October 25th.

[www.BensalemPA.gov](http://www.BensalemPA.gov)

