



Bensalem Township Pennsylvania

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

November / December, 2019

Dear Residents,

It's my pleasure to send you this month's edition of Bensalem's Electronic Newsletter. Our newsletter started as a paper publication mailed quarterly over a decade ago. With mobile devices as the preferred method of communication these days, we decided to deliver the newsletter on a monthly basis and in electronic format a couple of years ago. It appears to be well received! However, if you still prefer a paper copy, we do have a supply on hand each month in the township lobby for your convenience, or you can grab one at either the Bensalem Library or the Senior Center.



Visit our website for information/updates as well at www.bensalempa.gov, or tune in to our Local Government Access Channel: Comcast – Channel – 22 or Verizon – Channel 34.

As always it's my distinct pleasure and honor to serve as your Mayor.

Sincerely ,

Joseph DiGirolamo, Mayor
Bensalem Township

Upcoming Holiday Closings

The Bensalem Township Municipal Building will be closed on the following upcoming holidays:

- Thursday, November 28
- Friday, November 29
- Wednesday, December 25
- Thursday, December 26
- Wednesday, January 1



Mayor DiGirolamo, Council, and everyone at Bensalem Township would like to wish you all the happiest of holidays!



Bensalem Community Affairs

#HannahHelpsTheHomeless



In August 2019, while returning from Philadelphia with her mother, Hannah Berger noticed something many of us so often overlook- a person on the corner with a sign that read “Homeless and Hungry. Please Help.” She immediately said “Mom, he’s hungry” and without any further hesitation, Hannah reached for her backpack and selflessly gave the man what she could... a half a bag of goldfish and her last \$2. After seeing the man tear-up as he was eating the crackers, Hannah knew she had to continue to help others in similar situations.

With a little help from her mom in the form of a ride to the grocery store, Hannah took the money she had been saving in her piggy bank and purchased supplies to make sandwiches. And she didn’t stop there! Hannah took this a little further and put together little “blessing bags” that include bottles of water, pretzels, chocolate, and words of encouragement and support. Hannah has done this on three separate occasions since August, with 70 bags donated most recently.

Hannah is looking to not only continue her mission, but also expand it. For her next donation she aims to include hats, gloves and other items that will help in the harsh winter months. If you would like to contribute, we are happy to announce our support by accepting your donations on Hannah’s behalf at the Township Building during regular business hours (8am – 4:30pm, Monday – Friday) through December 13th. Just look for the box marked “#HannahHelpsTheHomeless.” Aside from the things mentioned above, Hannah will also accept money, gift cards, razors, soap, hand sanitizer, feminine products, and other toiletries.



While a giant thank you goes out in advance to everyone for their support, the real kudos goes to Hannah for starting this outreach and not giving up on her passion to help others. You truly are an inspiration and role model for us all!

Honoring BHS Veterans



If you’ve been to Bensalem High School recently you may have noticed a wall of plaques, located near the auditorium & dedicated by the Bensalem Alumni Association, in honor of those BHS alumni who have served in the Armed Forces.

At the current time the Alumni Association is undertaking a final outreach to anyone not currently listed, and

requesting that they send a copy of their DD214 to President@BensalemOws.org or waymarlew@verizon.net. You can confirm listing on the wall by visiting www.BensalemOws.org/Veterans-Wall.htm.

From all of us here at Bensalem Township... Thank you for your service!



Santa Claus is Coming to Town!



Come join Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo, Council, and the Bensalem Township Parks & Recreation Department for our annual Community Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 8th. Santa himself will be here to kick off the fun at 5pm. Admittance is non-perishable food items.

Don't forget- Bensalem children can also bring their Letters to Santa and personally deliver them right to the big guy! Please be sure the child's address is included so Santa can write a note back before his big trip around the world.



Public Safety Toy Drive Luncheon

The Bensalem Township Public Safety Toy Drive Luncheon is being held this year on Saturday, December 14th 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](#) and if you still have questions, or would like to purchase tickets for the event, please call 215-633-3617 or email



PAL Hockey Wrap-Up

Officers Jachimski and Merchiere would like to thank all who volunteered their time to participate in this year's PAL Hockey season. The league consisted of six Junior Division teams from grades 4-6, and four Senior Division teams from grades 7-9, totaling 80 players and 25 volunteers. Games were played over a 6 week period in early fall, culminating in the Championships for both Divisions on November 5th.



A very special congrats to the Junior Division Champs, The Bruins (coached by John Baran and Det. Kellihe), and the Senior Division Champs, The Rangers (coached by Det. Palmer, Det. Oliverio and guest coach Sgt. Schwartz). We hope the players had as much as fun as we did coaching!



It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but these decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. No matter what you celebrate, or how, we want you to be safe! Check out these tips from Bensalem Fire Rescue, and have a happy & healthy holiday season.

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|  <p>More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles</p> |  <p>More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.</p> |  <p>The top 3 days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve.</p> |
|  <p>Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.</p> |  <p>Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. On average, 1 of every 45 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.</p> |  <p>A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes 1 in every 4 winter fires.</p> |
|  <p>Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.</p> |  <p>Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.</p> |  <p>Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.</p> |

Public Works

Storm Drains & Leaves:

What You Need to Know

This time of year, there is no shortage of leaves on the ground anywhere you go. When storm drains get clogged with fallen leaves and other debris, water can no longer be drained from the street during a heavy rain. Pooling water can flood intersections and homes, while materials dumped into storm drains flow directly into streams and rivers.



While Bensalem Township does have procedures in place to assist via our routine street sweeping and our **Stormwater Management Plan**, below are some ways you can assist in helping to keep waste from entering storm drains:

1. **Don't blow lawn clippings into the street.** When cleaning up your yard, rake or blow leaves into a pile and place them in a trash bag for collection.
2. **Exercise caution when working on cars or other vehicle equipment.** Take used oil or antifreeze to a service station or recycling center, and always check your car, boat, or motorcycle for leaks.
3. **Use only biodegradable soaps when washing your car.** Try to wash it on the lawn or another unpaved surface to avoid water running into nearby storm drains.
4. **Don't apply pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers to your yard before it rains.** This will not help the chemicals absorb better, but will create polluted runoff.
5. **Keep as much of your property unpaved as possible.** Pervious surfaces allow storm water to absorb instead of running off into the street.
6. **Dispose of pet waste properly.** Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that can enter local waterways. Clean up your yard regularly and carry a bag when walking your pet.
7. **Limit the use of sand and salt on driveways and sidewalks.** As snow melts, it carries these pollutants with it into storm drains.
8. **Properly dispose of cigarette butts and other trash.** Cigarette butts are considered to be the most-littered item in the world. Hold on to trash and wait to throw it out in a receptacle.

Check your neighborhood storm drains regularly. If you see debris, feel free to remove it. Never attempt to remove a storm drain grate, only the debris on the top of the grate. You may also report clogged storm drains to our Public Works Department by calling 215-633-3733.

Municipal Term of the Month

Subdivision

A subdivision is the development and division of a lot, tract, or parcel of land into two or more lots, plats, sites, or otherwise for the purpose of establishing or creating a subdivision through sale, lease or building development. Development includes, but is not limited to, the design work of lot layout, the construction of drainage structures, the construction of buildings or public use areas, the planning and construction of public streets and public roads, and the placement of public utilities.

For more in-depth information relative to subdivision in Bensalem Township, please visit the township website at www.BensalemPA.gov.

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.****

Bianca Johnson: Bensalem Township Police Department

Bianca Johnson is a lifelong resident of Bensalem and a proud Owl, having graduated from **Bensalem High School** in 2008. Bianca then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from West Chester University, and a Master of Science in Cybersecurity Technology from the University of Maryland.

Bianca's passion for Criminal Justice and subsequent education has her well-positioned in her current role as a Forensic Analyst with the **Bensalem Township Police Department** where she routinely conducts forensic & cellular technology investigations as well as video surveillance, and has been for the last 5 years. When asked what she loves most about working for the Bensalem PD, Bianca replied "It is a truly collaborative environment. Everyone shares the same vision and dedication to the mission."



Although she has never been married, Bianca has 2 Godchildren and is also the proud Aunt of 3 nieces and 1 nephew- who affectionately refer to her as "Titi." If she's not grooving to Bruno Mars or watching her beloved Eagles, you may find her grabbing a slice of pizza at Old Friend's or sitting down to enjoy a meal at Toscana 52. Wherever you may run into her, please don't forget to thank her for her dedication to the Bensalem PD, our community, and YOU!

Robert Sponheimer: Bensalem Township Fire Rescue

Robert Sponheimer has been a member of the **Bensalem Township Fire Rescue Department** since 2001. During his tenure he has held the rank of Fire Inspector, Firefighter, and Fire Investigator and in October 2010, Rob was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief. Some of his duties include supervising the daily

operations of the career firefighters / fire inspectors, conducting fire and arson investigations, performing as an incident commander (at fire, rescue and hazardous material incidents), overseeing fire code enforcement, and developing fire prevention & public education programs.

Rob holds numerous certifications as a Firefighter, Fire Investigator, Fire Inspector, Fire Officer, Hazardous Materials Technician, and EMT. One of the most enjoyable parts of his job is being part of such an amazing team of public safety professionals.

Rob is a lifelong resident of Bensalem and a 1995 graduate of Bensalem High School. He is married (Stephanie) with two children (Angelina and Anthony) and very active in youth sports in Bensalem and coaches numerous teams, including the Lower Bucks Lady Bombers 14u tournament fast pitch softball team and Ramblers baseball.



Buzzin' Around B-Town



Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo firmly believes that "Teams Win," and in Bensalem we have some of the BEST teams around! Here is just a sample of the organizations, local businesses, services and students that work together to make B-Town the incredible place we all love.



The readers of the Courier Times recognize our team-based businesses in Bensalem too!



Growden Mansion recently received this beautiful Historic Marker thanks to a generous donation from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.



Geico now has a local office ready to assist you right here in Bensalem!



Valley Elementary 5th grader, Abbie Krevolin, recently shared her plan for more Monarch Waystations in Bensalem with Mayor DiGirolamo.



Re-painting light poles certainly requires a TEAM effort! Public Works gets the job done... together.



The BHS Fightin' Robotics team recently received \$10,000 from Verizon to enhance their award-winning program.

Thank you for reading this edition of Bensalem Township's eNews. Feel free to share with friends, family, and neighbors!

We'd love to hear from you! If you have questions, comments, story ideas, or submissions to be considered for future publications, please email us [here](#).

www.BensalemPA.gov

