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

September 30, 2019

Dear Residents,

It's my pleasure to send you this month's edition of Bensalem's e-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 lobby of the Municipal Building 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 Closing

In observance of Columbus Day, the Bensalem Township Municipal Building will be closed on Monday, October 14th and re-open at 8am on October 15th.

Bensalem Community Affairs

Fall Festival: Celebrate Community Pride

Bensalem's annual "Fall Festival: Celebrate Community Pride" will take place on Saturday, October 5th. This "Best of Bucks" celebration- hosted by Mayor DiGirolamo, Township Council, Bensalem Community Affairs, and Parks & Recreation- highlights all that is distinctive about our Township while also promoting friendship, goodwill and love of community. The fun begins at 11am and the day is capped off with our free concert at 6pm featuring The Urban Guerilla Orchestra, followed by the best fireworks display in Bucks County immediately after.

New for this year is our Selfie Scavenger Hunt! Between 11am and 3:30pm kids 12 and younger- accompanied by their parents, of course!- can participate by visiting 10 pre-determined locations, taking a selfie, and uploading it to Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #BtownFallFest2019. Everyone who completes the hunt will get a prize, while supplies last, and one very lucky Grand Prize winner will receive a "Year of Chick-fil-A," which includes 52 FREE CHICKEN SANDWICHES, thanks to **Chick-fil-A Bensalem!** You can download the list of stops from our website or stop by the Information Tent at Fall Festival, located at the bus drop off, to

pick one up.

Are you a car or motorcycle enthusiast? Have one you'd like to show off? Then you definitely won't want to miss our annual Car Show sponsored by the **Bensalem Business Directory**. Classic cars, street rods, late model tuners, motorcycles… We have it all! A special thanks to **Trifecta Sporting Club** for providing coffee and donuts to all participants.

Finally, we also want to share some of the basic rules & regulations to ensure everyone has a fun and safe time. For example, if your child is planning to ride their bike, scooter or skateboard to the event, they will not be permitted to ride it anywhere on the municipal grounds. While bike racks will be provided, you must bring your own bike lock.

The complete list of rules, scavenger hunt stops, entertainment schedule, and all things Fall Fest can be found **here** on our website. If you have any questions please call Amanda McDonald, Community Affairs Manager, at 215-633-3630.

Bensalem Proud!

The Bucks County Courier Times recently named the winners of their annual "Best of Bucks" contest. This is a 2 part contest that starts with a nomination round followed by a round of voting by the public. Community Affairs would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Bensalem businesses who made this coveted list, such as YOUR **Penn Community Bank Amphitheater**.

In total, more than 60 Township businesses received the title of either "Best of" or "One of the Best of" Bucks. Some of the winning categories worth noting are Employee Recognition, Workplace Culture, Best Learning Center, and Best Children's Camp with the latter being a complete takeover by Bensalem business. While we can't name each winner here, a complete list is available on the Courier Times' **website**. Congratulations to all of the deserving winners. You truly make us #BensalemProud!

Building and Planning

Knock! Knock!

A common topic of discussion often heard throughout the community is in relation to solicitors / peddlers and whether or not they are allowed to knock on your door. In Bensalem Township, anyone who wishes to peddle their goods and/or services via door-to-door methods must apply, and be approved for, a license through our Building & Planning Department.

Want to know who is approved for these licenses? A current list- which is constantly evolving as new requests are submitted- can be found **here**. If you have any questions about how to apply for this license, or would like to inquire about the validity of a solicitor in your neighborhood, please call 215-633-3646.

Fire Prevention Week 2019

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2019. This year’s campaign recognizes the everyday people who motivate their households to develop and practice a home fire escape plan. These seemingly basic behaviors can have a life-saving impact!

The following activities will occur during Fire Prevention Week / Month:

- Bensalem Township Fire Rescue – Department of Public Safety will be visiting the schools and daycares throughout the Township teaching the importance of fire safety and prevention during the month of October.
- Bensalem Township Fire Rescue and Volunteer Fire Companies will have displays set up and distribute fire safety literature during the Bensalem Township Fall Festival on October 5th.
- Bensalem Township Fire Rescue will be at the Senior Citizen Expo at the Bensalem Senior Center on October 17th and at the Bensalem Presbyterian Apartments on October 21st distributing fire safety literature to the senior community.

To continue the fun, here is our Open House schedule for our Volunteer Fire Companies:

- Cornwells: Wednesday, October 9th 6pm – 9pm
- Eddington: Saturday, October 12th 11am – 3pm
- Trevose: Sunday, October 13th 12pm – 4pm
- Newport: Saturday, October 19th 1pm – 5pm
- Union: Friday, October 25th 6pm – 9pm
- Nottingham: Friday, October 25th 6pm – 8pm

Bensalem Police Assisting In Recovery

Bensalem Police, in coordination with Gaudenzia and the Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, will be providing video screen assessments via teleconferencing to assist with our Bensalem Police Assisting In Recovery (BPAIR) Program. This program is the first of its kind in the state of Pennsylvania.

Bensalem residents suffering from substance use disorder who

come into the police department requesting help through our BPAIR program can be assessed through this video system Monday through Friday. This partnership will enable us to do a live video evaluation right there on-the-spot at the police station within 20 minutes as opposed to appearing in-person, which often takes up to 4 hours. This will allow the assessor to begin a bed search or provide outpatient resources more expeditiously.

Fred Harran, Director of Public Safety, with the full support of Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo and Council and in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office, Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Gaudenzia and the Kaitlin Murphy Foundation are paramount partners. Working together we achieve so much!

For more information, please contact Director Harran at 215-633-3710.

Public Works

Got Junk?

You asked, and we listened! Due to overwhelming interest, our Public Works Department will be offering two different events for you to get rid of that excess paper and old electronics in an environmentally friendly way this October.

The first is our Shredding Event being held on Saturday, October 19th from 9am – 1pm. The second is our week-long Electronic Recycling Event from October 21st – 25th between 7:30am and 2:30pm & October 26th from 8am until 2pm. Both are FREE and take place at Public Works- located at 3800 Hulmeville Road- but are only available to Bensalem Residents with ID, no businesses.

A list of acceptable- and unacceptable!- items can be found **here**. If you have any questions please call 215-633-3733.

Township Talk

The Difference Between a Sinkhole and a Pothole

A sinkhole is a closed natural depression in the ground surface by removal of material below the ground, by either collapse or gradual subsidence of the surface into the resulting void. A pothole is usually a fairly small feature caused by failure of paving materials. These are typically associated with roads, parking lots and airports, especially in colder temperatures where salt, brine and other materials are used to treat roads prior, during and after snow storms, etc.

The Eastern United States (according to data collected by USGS) is susceptible to sinkholes because of the colder temperatures, but they are also found in warmer climates of the United States like Florida.

If you see a pothole or sinkhole, please report it to our Public Works Department at 215-633-3733. While Bensalem municipal roads are the responsibility of the Township, state owned highways such as Street Road, Hulmeville Road, Bensalem Blvd, Mechanicsville Road, Galloway Road, Richlieu Road, Bristol Pike, and Bristol Road, just to name a few,

are the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – PennDOT. Public Works can report these for you, or you can call the PennDOT Maintenance Office at 215-345-6060.

TREVOSE
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Intro to Ikebana - Ichivo School

"Introduction to Ikebana – Ichiyo School" will be the featured program at the monthly meeting of the Trevose Horticultural Society at the Bensalem Senior Center (1850 Byberry Road) at 7pm on Tuesday, October 15th.

Ikebana, literally translated as “Living Flowers,” is an ancient floral art of Japan which has captured the attention of people throughout the world because of its beautiful, graceful lines and pleasing forms. The creative and imaginative designs of the Ichiyo school, meaning “one-leaf,” are specifically suited for our modern lifestyle and environments. Guest speaker Mary Jane Risch will demonstrate the Ichiyo art of combining materials through a natural balance of their weights rather than by fastening the materials using a kenzan or komi. Risch will explain this step-by-step process and make suggestions on how to handle particular plant materials.

Risch is a master in the Ichiyo School of ikebana. She is a student of Anna Nakada, an executive master in the Ichiyo School. Active in the Philadelphia Chapter of Ikebana International, Risch has served as program Vice President and President. Her interest in the Japanese arts began with ceramics, and she sometimes exhibits using her own stoneware containers. Risch has exhibited in Japan and the United States, notably at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City as well as the Philadelphia Flower Show. She frequently conducts Ikebana workshops for Ikebana International chapters, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Princeton University Art Museum.

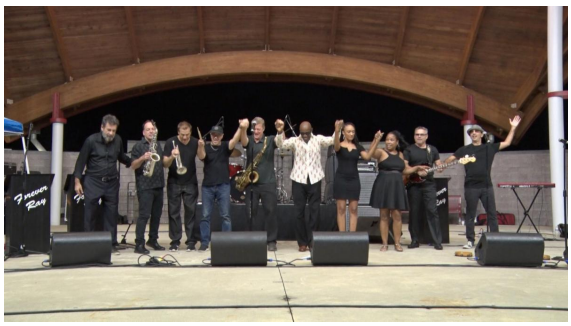
All meetings are open to the public and a donation of $5 is requested from non-members. For further information, please contact 856-866-9163 or visit www.trevosegardeners.org.

Buzzin' Around B-Town

Invincible
9/4/19

Chicago 9
8/24/19

Unforgettable Fire
8/21/19



Forever Ray

After 30 years of service, Sue Riegg has recently retired from the Bensalem Police Department. Congratulations, Sue, and we hope you enjoy retirement!

Southern Accents
8/28/19

Wanted DOA
8/14/19

8/7/19

Triple Rail Turn
7/10/19

Hollywood Nights
6/12/19

33 1/3 Live's Killer Queen Experience
7/24/19

Green River
6/26/19

The Doobie Others
6/5/19

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