

BEN AVON BULLETIN



A Message from the Mayor

Hello neighbors. This newsletter is full of activities, updates and successes in our Borough. There are also some challenges. Recently I was given a copy of a letter from 1911 entitled "History of the Borough of Ben Avon". It had been in the time capsule cornerstone of the former Woodland United Presbyterian Church. It detailed the successes and challenges faced by those neighbors who first gathered in 1890 to form Ben Avon Borough. They overcame many bureaucratic hurdles, held their first elections, and appointed volunteer residents to serve in various roles. It was a major undertaking done entirely by neighbors. Every challenge our Borough faces today is undertaken entirely by neighbors. I encourage you to be a part of that work, by attending Council meetings and serving or volunteering where you can. Your voice and your vote are important and none of this can happen, nor should happen, without you. I heartily thank all those who are serving our Borough in so many ways.

- Mayor Melanie Holcomb

BOROUGH CONTACTS

Mayor

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Borough Office

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SIX WAYS TO STAY INFORMED

- Visit www.benavon.com.
- Sign up for the Savvy Citizen app.
- Follow Ben Avon Borough on Facebook.
- Contact the Borough Secretary, benavon@benavon.com or (412) 766-7704.
- Check out the bulletin board outside of the Borough Hall.
- Attend a Borough Council meeting, virtually or in person, held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Contact Info:

Ben Avon Borough Office (NEW HOURS!)
 7101 Church Ave., Ben Avon, PA 15202

Hours: Mon – Wed, 8am - 4pm
 Tuesday, 8am - 1pm

benavon@benavon.com
 (412) 766-7704
www.benavon.com

Upcoming Events

September 4	North Boros Community Day
September 5.....	Ben Avon Council Working Session
September 16, 30.....	Bookmobile (relocated to Forest on Sept 30)
September 19.....	Ben Avon Council Meeting
September 25.....	Joint Planning Commission Meeting
September 30	Avon Club Fall Festival
October 14, 28.....	Bookmobile
October 17.....	Ben Avon Council Meeting
October 23.....	Joint Planning Commission Meeting
October 28	Halloween Parade
October 31	Halloween Trick or Treating
November 7	Election Day
November 11, 25.....	Bookmobile
November 13.....	Joint Planning Commission Meeting
November 21.....	Ben Avon Council Meeting
December 2	Avon Club Holiday House Tour
December 5.....	Ben Avon Council Working Session
December 9.....	Bookmobile
December 11.....	Joint Planning Commission Meeting
December 19.....	Ben Avon Council Meeting
January 2, 2024.....	Ben Avon Council Reorganization Meeting
January 6, 20.....	Bookmobile
January 16.....	Ben Avon Council Meeting
January 22.....	Joint Planning Commission Meeting
February 3, 17.....	Bookmobile
February 20.....	Ben Avon Council Meeting

Federal and State Elected Officials

U.S. Senator Bob Casey
casey.senate.gov
 (202) 224-6324

U.S. Senator John Fetterman
fetterman.senate.gov
 (202) 224-4254

U.S. Rep. Chris Deluzio
deluzio.house.gov
 (724) 206-4860

State Senator Wayne Fontana
senatorfontana.com
 (717) 787-5300

State Rep. Arvind Venkat
repvenkat.com
 (412) 348-8028

Borough Hall Centennial Project

The restoration of the Ben Avon Borough Hall is moving ahead. Beginning the third week of August 2023, scaffolding will be erected on the back of the building to begin roof replacement. New windows will be installed by the end of September. Thank you to Senator Wayne Fontana and Representative Arvind Venkat for their help in securing a \$300,000 Keystone Communities grant toward providing an elevator in the Borough Hall to expand accessibility to all residents and visitors.



Waste & Recycling Information

Trash & Recycling: Waste Management collects trash and recyclables every Wednesday. Recyclable items include paper, flattened cardboard, metal cans; plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs; and glass bottles and containers.

Household hazardous waste pickup may be scheduled. For more information, call 1-800-449-7587 or e-mail atyourdoor@wm.com.

Composting: Ben Avon residents can participate in weekly collection of food scraps and compostable items with Zero Waste Wrangler. To sign up for the program visit: zerowastewrangler.com/ba-compoast.

Drop-off Glass Recycling is available at Sewickley Borough Riverfront Park (300 Chadwick St, 15143) and Avalon Borough Public Works (629 New Brighton Road, 15202).

Yard Waste: Ben Avon residents can dispose of yard waste at Michael Brothers' facility at 408 Hoffman Road, Reserve Township. For more information call 412-835-6428.

Hard-To-Recycle Items: Check <https://prc.org/> for information on Hard-to-Recycle collection events.

Leaf Collection



Collection begins mid to late October and ends in late November. Please visit benavon.com for specific dates for collection (weather dependent). Please rake leaves to the curb, without twigs, mulch or other debris. Due to safety concerns there is no collection on Ohio River Blvd.

Planning Construction?

Don't Forget A Permit!

Typical projects that require a permit include decks, pools, fences, and accessory structures. It's a good idea to check with the Borough Secretary if you are planning a project. Call (412) 766-7704 or email benavon@benavon.com. Forms can be found in the **Forms Commonly Requested** section of benavon.com.

Ben Avon.com is getting a new look!

By the end of September, we will have the same URL, www.BenAvon.com but it will be all new with easier-to-navigate pages and quick-find references.

Ben Avon Joins CONNECT

In July, Ben Avon Borough Council voted affirmatively on a resolution to join the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT). CONNECT convenes representatives from over 43 neighboring municipalities in Allegheny County with resources, research and relationships.

Purple Air Monitor Goes Online

A Purple Air monitor is now operational at the Ben Avon Borough Hall and is generating real time air quality readings! Thanks to the Quaker Valley Council of Governments for providing this free equipment to the Borough. To see current air quality readings visit: map.purpleair.com/

New Street Sweeper

You may have seen or heard our new street sweeper making its way through the Borough streets. This equipment helps our crews work efficiently to keep our storm drains clean and working properly. For your safety, please stay away from the machine while it is running.

REP. ARVIND VENKAT



Satellite Office Hours

SECOND AND FOURTH Monday of the month
9:00AM - 12:00PM

Emsworth Borough Building
171 Center Ave, Emsworth, PA 15202

Staff is available to provide constituents with a variety of services, including assistance with PennDOT services, Unemployment Compensation, Prescription Assistance Program, unclaimed property in the Pennsylvania Treasury, Property Tax/Rent Rebate, resources for veterans, and more.

Election Day is Tues Nov 7

7am-8pm at 7219 Church Avenue

For information visit www.vote411.org.

Public Safety Updates

Emsworth Volunteer Fire Company



- **Annual Fund Drive: Support our volunteer firefighters! Residents and businesses received mailings with a donation request; or donate online at www.emsworthfire.com.**
- **Volunteers: The EVFC is always looking for volunteers to assist in protecting the communities they serve. Training is free and no prior firefighting experience is required.**
- **October is National Fire Safety Month**
 - **Install smoke alarms on all floors and test monthly.**
 - **Replace smoke detector batteries twice a year, unless you are using 10-year lithium batteries.**
 - **Visit www.emsworthfire.com for more safety tips.**

Ohio Township Police Department urges Ben Avon residents to beware of scams!



- **Anyone who demands immediate payment in gift cards or cryptocurrency is likely scamming you.**
- **Scammers may "spoof" a legitimate-looking phone number and pretend to be from the IRS, the police, or your bank; or make "too good to be true" offers. They may ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.**
- **Protect yourself:**
 - **Never, ever share your debit card or PIN number or other personal identification numbers with anyone, even people you know.**
 - **Use a credit card instead of a debit card for online purchases.**
 - **Be careful of P2P apps, such as CashApp and Venmo. Never send or accept payments from someone you don't know.**

Free Home Energy Assessment

Duquesne Light residential customers can receive a home energy audit with suggestions on how to reduce energy usage and save money. Participants can receive up to \$275 in rebates. More info at <https://www.dlcwattchoices.com/wholehouseaudit/>.

Avon Club Event Updates

The Avon Club will be hosting the **Ben Avon Fall Festival** on **Saturday, September 30th, from 10 am to 4 pm**, with 50+ vendors, art, crafts, food, raffles and kids' games. This year, "School of Rock," a youth music program, will provide live music between 1-4pm.

The location has changed! The festival will be held on Church Avenue between Forest and Hilands, allowing through traffic on Forest and Hilands. Cross streets of Breeding, Dalzell and Courtney Way will be blocked. No parking on the route will be enforced 8 am - 5 pm on Saturday.

Save the Date for the **Ben Avon Holiday House Tour** on Saturday, December 2nd, showcasing six beautifully decorated, historic homes. Daytime tours are from 10am-4pm and candlelight tours are from 6-9pm. Tickets will be available this fall; all proceeds benefit local nonprofits and scholarships. For tickets and information visit <http://www.theavonclub.org>.

Halloween in Ben Avon



The **Ben Avon Halloween Parade** will be held **Saturday, October 28 at noon**, starting at Dickson and Church Avenues. All are welcome, costumes encouraged, treat bags are handed out at the conclusion. **Trick or Treating will be Tuesday, October 31 from 6 - 8 PM**, rain or shine. Updates will be posted on benavon.com. Be careful crossing streets, wear reflective clothing, and only knock on doors if the porch light is on.

Volunteers Needed!

Ben Avon is looking to fill volunteer positions with the Joint Planning Commission (JPC) or as a non-voting member of the Avonworth Community Park's AMA Authority.

The JPC is a panel of representatives from Ben Avon, Avalon, and Bellevue that plays a role in local zoning and land use planning oversight. A background in construction, architecture, or engineering is helpful.

The AMA oversees Avonworth Community Park, which provides a variety of amenities to the five communities within the Avonworth district.

If you are interested in filling either of these positions please contact the Borough Office at BenAvon@BenAvon.com or (412) 766-7704.