

Sean Pignatelli for Township Committee

Building a Better Downe, Together.

◆ A. Relevant Bio and Experience

Sean Pignatelli is a passionate community advocate, proud resident, and active leader in Downe Township. With a clear vision for a more engaged and family-focused community, Sean has dedicated years to improving township life — not from behind a desk but by being present, hands-on, and in touch with the people he hopes to serve.

Public Experience Highlights:

- **Chairman, Downe Township Recreation and Tourism Committee (2023–Present)**
 - Secured **state recreation funding**
 - Built partnerships with **Cumberland County 4H** and other organizations
 - Published a **Quarterly Township Newsletter** to keep residents informed
 - Organized inclusive township-wide events and contests
- **Member, Downe Township School Board (2023–Present)**
 - A leading advocate for **keeping the local school OPEN**
 - **Pushed for a more lenient, practical dress code policy** to reduce disciplinary conflict and promote student comfort
 - **Helped implement a more attainable grading scale**, giving students a better chance to pursue **higher learning opportunities in high school**
 - Supports local staff who **live in the township and understand our kids**
 - Promotes open and respectful dialogue between **parents and educators**
- **Member, Downe Township Green Team (2020–2023)**
 - Led local **beautification and sustainability efforts**
- **CPR and First Aid Certified**, ensuring preparedness and public safety

- Advocate for our **local first responders**, including support for fire, EMS, and emergency personnel

Sean brings a boots-on-the-ground work ethic and a people-first approach to local government — always guided by the principle of “**Building a Better Downe, Together.**”

◆ B. Sean’s Agenda

1. Increase Transparency and Resident Engagement

- **Why it matters:** Residents often feel left out or unheard by township leadership. Decisions happen with little notice or explanation.
 - **Sean’s Plan:**
 - Reinstate the **Downe Township Newsletter**
 - Launch **live-streaming and recording of public meetings**
 - Provide **anonymous public feedback options** (online & drop boxes)
 - Form a **citizen advisory panel** to give residents a seat at the table
-

2. Expand Recreation and Year-Round Community Events

- **Why it matters:** There’s a lack of safe, engaging activities — especially for youth and seniors — which limits community connection.
- **Sean’s Plan:**
 - Apply for **state and county recreation grants**
 - Create a **Township Events Calendar** for all-age programming
 - Partner with local venues to host **seasonal events, contests, and socials**
 - **Advocate for the construction of Dividing Creek Park** — a welcoming, safe outdoor recreation area for all residents

- **Push for the development of the Newport Veterans Memorial** — a permanent tribute to honor our local service members
-

3. Upgrade Infrastructure and Public Spaces Responsibly

- **Why it matters:** Many roads, public spaces, and facilities are outdated or neglected.
 - **Sean's Plan:**
 - Conduct a **comprehensive audit** of roads, drainage, and public space needs
 - Prioritize repairs and upgrades that improve safety and access
 - Invest in **building the Dividing Creek Park and the Newport Veterans Memorial** as cornerstone community landmarks
 - Ensure responsible budgeting without raising taxes
-

4. Advocate for Our School and Protect Local Education

- **Why it matters:** Some township officials have continuously pushed to **close our school**, ignoring how important it is to our identity and families.
 - **Sean's Plan:**
 - Strongly **oppose any effort to shut down the school**
 - Support local staff who **live in the township and relate to our children**
 - Help promote a more personal, supportive environment where **School Board Members can easily have discussions with Township Officials**
-

5. Protect Our Environment and Preserve Rural Character

- **Why it matters:** Downe Township's natural beauty is one of its greatest assets. Development must be balanced and environmentally conscious.
- **Sean's Plan:**

- Strengthen zoning to **preserve farmland, wetlands, and open space**
 - Promote **eco-tourism, agriculture, and sustainable small businesses**
 - Re-engage the community to lead cleanup and beautification projects
-

6. Advocate for Our First Responders

- **Why it matters:** Our fire, EMS, and emergency personnel are vital — but often undervalued and underfunded.
 - **Sean's Plan:**
 - Work directly with departments like the **Dividing Creek Fire Company & Downe Twp Fire and Rescue** to identify needs
 - **Help secure funding** for equipment, training, and safety resources
 - Promote **volunteer recruitment campaigns** and incentives
 - Establish a **First Responder Appreciation Week** in Downe Township
-

◆ C. Key Issues Facing Downe Township

1. Lack of Transparency and Closed-Door Decisions

- **What's happening:** Residents are left out of decisions, and public input is often dismissed.
 - **Sean's Solution:**
 - Bring back the newsletter
 - Publicly post meeting agendas, minutes, and video recordings
 - Establish clear and respectful ways for the public to participate
-

2. Neglect of Youth and Families

- **What's happening:** Families have few places to go or things to do. Downe doesn't feel inclusive to young people.
 - **Sean's Solution:**
 - Develop **Dividing Creek Park** for safe play and gathering
 - Launch year-round activities for **youth, parents, and seniors**
 - Use recreation as a tool to **bring neighbors together**
-

3. Decaying Infrastructure

- **What's happening:** Roads and public areas are deteriorating while visible progress is scarce.
 - **Sean's Solution:**
 - Audit road and facility conditions
 - Focus on the highest-need areas
 - Advocate for **strategic investment** in new public spaces like the park and memorial
-

4. Threats to Our Local School

- **What's happening:** Multiple officials have tried to close the school, risking long-term damage to the community.
 - **Sean's Solution:**
 - Use his position to **defend the school**
 - Highlight how **local staff connect with students and families**
 - Promote **inclusive relationships** between School Board Members and Township Officials.
 - Foster long-term school success to keep families rooted here
-

5. Undervalued First Responders

- **What's happening:** Fire, EMS, and emergency volunteers work hard with limited support or recognition.
 - **Sean's Solution:**
 - Increase funding opportunities
 - Boost public appreciation
 - Promote long-term sustainability and recruitment
-

◆ Final Message from Sean Pignatelli

“I’ve been working for this community for a long time — as a volunteer, chairman, school board member, and father. I believe in openness, family values, and building a township we can all be proud of. Let’s give our kids a place to play, our veterans a place to be honored, and our families a reason to stay and thrive. Let’s support our first responders, protect our school, and make sure every resident has a voice.

It’s time for real change — not empty promises. Let’s start **Building a Better Downe, Together.**”