

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 23, Number 4

Fall 2014

Protecting our Streams and Waterways

Stream Protection

Limit use of herbicides and fertilizers. Dispose of hazardous materials such as oil, paint, medications, etc. to a hazardous waste drop offs, never flush or dump. Maintain your vehicle by checking and repairing oil / antifreeze leaks. Any illegal dumping or drainage activities should be reported immediately to New Britain Borough. If you notice any signs of stream pollution or have any questions notify the Borough at 215-348-4586.

Rain Water Runoff

Consider reducing runoff to help your downstream neighbors by installing rain barrels on your downspouts, lowered planting beds (rain garden), connecting roof drains to stone pits, etc.. These methods provide ground water infiltration.

Pool Water Disposal

Pool owners are required to dispose of water properly. Waste water containing chemicals such as chlorine and muriatic acid must be neutralized prior to disposal. Filter backwash should also be discharged to a grassy area and never to a street, pond or stream. If you have any questions, please contact the Borough.

Construction

Stormwater controls are required for most additions of impervious surfaces which may require permits. Please check with the Borough office to determine if permits are required.

Stormwater Information

Additional information is available at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/npdsms4/ms4cd/Education/RainDrainBrochure.pdf>.

New Britain Borough Awarded Three Grants

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) awarded the Borough their Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant in the amount of \$80,000. This planning grant will help us improve the overall character and quality of life along Butler Avenue by developing a land use plan and zoning, supporting economic development, and creating design initiatives.

The Community and Business Committee (CBC) and the Borough Planning Commission have been working to develop ways to improve and revitalize Butler Avenue. The Bucks County Planning Commission will provide in-kind services as part of the grant match. Special thanks to Lynn Bush, Executive Director, and her staff, from the Bucks County Planning Commission and Marie Esher Coia, member of the CBC, for writing the grant.

The second grant awarded to the Borough was a \$109,000 **Community Development Block Grant** through the County of Bucks from the PA Department of Housing and Community Development. The funds will be used to make Burkart Hall handicapped accessible.



Burkart Hall

And at the August Council meeting, Mr. Ted Dorand, representing PECO, and Ms. Diane Rosencrance, representing Natural Lands Trust, awarded the Borough the **PECO Green Region Grant**. This grant in the amount of \$10,000 will be used for improvements to Orchard Park. A special "thank you" to Tess LaMontagne, Park and Recreation Committee member, for writing this grant application.

Around Town

The AROUND TOWN column will be a regular column in our newsletter. We'd like to make it a column about residents and businesses in the borough who have special events and we'd like to acknowledge good deeds. If there is a birth, marriage, milestone anniversary, special birthday, someone in the family graduating college, getting special honors for academic and/or business achievement, someone that performs a good deed or gets special recognition, please let us know by calling Marie Esher Coia 215-348-4586 or email nbbtreasurer@newbritainboro.com.

Paul Tiers' son a U.S. Marine

Paul Tiers, of Paul Tiers Landscaping in New Britain, the gentleman who continually volunteers his time maintaining our War Memorial on South Tamenend Avenue by planting flowers, weeding and mulching, has a son in the Marines. John Tiers is in the U.S. Marine Security Forces attached to the 7th fleet deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. His unit is a highly trained on call swat team who stand ready to protect and, if need be, resecure any U.S. interest in the South Pacific. They also provide humanitarian aid. Thank you for your service, John!

2014 Duck Derby

The New Britain Civic Association's 2014 Annual Duck Derby was held on Saturday, September 27. It was a perfect day weather-wise and other wise with many people attending and having a wonderful time!

Karen Cassidy won the grand prize of \$500 because her duck came in first. Jude Titus won 2nd prize of \$250 and Nicole Armani won the 3rd cash prize of \$100. There were a total of ten prizes from the duck race and many basket raffle prizes as well.

A special "Thank You" to the local businesses and individuals who provided prizes and financial support. They are Jack-EE-Boyz training equipment, Chris' Cottage, Paganini Traitoria Restaurant, New Britain Inn, Go Bananas Yogurt, Chalfont Hardware, Blue Dog Tavern Pub, Action Karate, EB Salon and Color Studio, Philadelphia Sports Club at Highpoint, Core Box Gym, Smithprints, Moka Cottage Originals, Hair Café, First Financial Planners, American Heritage Federal Credit Union, State Representative Kathy Watson, Michael Goodwin, Attorney, Cangelosi Family, Gwen and John Yamamoto, Kathy MacMillan-Thirty One Independent Consultant, Michael Baker International, Mayor David Holewinski and Councilwoman Mary Pat Holewinski.

Happy Retirement, Jane!


After October 31 you will no longer see the smiling face of Jane Kinyon when you visit the Borough office or hear the warm and welcoming tones of her voice as she answers the phone. Jane is retiring at the end of October after exactly



15 years of service to the Borough as the administrative secretary. Her knowledge, helpfulness and willingness to assist the residents and businesses of the Borough will be missed, but we wish her a happy, healthy, fun-filled retirement. We know she will be spending a lot of time with her seven grandchildren.

We are also happy to welcome Amy Keller from New Britain Township to the position as secretary. More on Amy in the next newsletter.





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Douglas Brady, DPT, JD, MBA
Kady Showmaker, DPT

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Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 675-2330

New Britain Office:
100 Town Center
New Britain, PA 18901
(267) 247-5049

www.mccabebrazypt.com

Spotlight on Borough Businesses

We are highlighting a different Borough business in each newsletter to help promote them so they can continue to be viable and prosperous-which benefits us all. We will also inform you of new businesses in the Borough. Small business provides goods, services, and employment to the community. Please shop and frequent our Borough businesses.

Gilmore & Associates Inc. Engineering & Consulting Services



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Gilmore & Associates Inc. (G&A) has emerged as one of the Mid-Atlantic region's most dynamic civil engineering firms, offering a diverse yet complimentary portfolio of professional consulting services. Across a range of civil engineering, surveying, landscape architecture, and environmental disciplines they are inspired to innovate while recognizing the value of fundamentals executed to perfection.

G&A originated in 1918 as a 2-person surveying firm located in and serving the Central Bucks County area. Gilmore's relationship with New Britain Borough dates back to 1959 when Robert D. Gilmore moved his family here and was further reinforced when he moved the Firm to the Borough in 1980. His son, Steven D. Gilmore, P.E., CEO, grew up in the Borough, raised his family here, and moved the firm twice due to expansion. In 2009, Steven purchased the Paul N. Detwiler Elementary School property, his childhood school. Since the building was in a state of disrepair, Steven built a new office complex. This became G&A's headquarters, employing 80 full time staff. The office complex also includes multiple local businesses.

G&A currently has six office locations throughout eastern Pennsylvania and employs 150 professionals and staff companywide. They have grown in a carefully planned fashion along with the growth of the region by offering a wide variety of civil engineering and consulting services and successfully representing over 75 local municipalities. The Firm is continually ranked as one of the top regional engineering and consulting firms by the Philadelphia Business Journal, a success achieved by always trying to understand their clients needs, and working with them to a successful project completion.

Through nearly a century of professional practice, G&A has instilled confidence and trust in their clients that they will meet the unique needs of every project. They embrace the responsibility to provide environmentally and economically sustainable designs for their clients and the community.

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New Britain Welcomes New Businesses to the Borough

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Friday and Saturday hours by appointment

Sweet Repeat

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Consignment store featuring various household goods and records.

Opening October 25, 2014

Opened 7 Days a week.

Public Safety Committee

New Britain Borough recently established a Public Safety Committee. The committee assesses and makes recommendations to Council on issues of traffic, parking, and other concerns that involve protection or safety of the citizens of New Britain Borough. The following are members: Chairperson Robyne Kelemen, Charla Bendas, Jeff Gilmore, William Schaefer, Jo Schuler, David Seigfried, and Police Chief James Donnelly.

Residents are invited to attend the meetings to discuss traffic issues and/or other public safety concerns. Check the borough website or call the borough office to find out if a meeting will be held. Agenda items should be submitted to the Borough Office one-week prior to each meeting. Currently, the committee is reviewing traffic studies along Butler Avenue.

Moments with the Mayor

It's that time of year, the leaves are beginning to fall and the countryside is ablaze with color. A new season is upon us, the beginning of fall, that wonderful time of year when the whole world prepares for change. The weather will get cooler, the days will get shorter and the Holidays are coming.

Fall is also a time for reflection; how did we spend our summer, did we enjoy the warm days and cool nights, the days at the beach, the picnics with family? More importantly, did we help anyone in need this past summer, were we able to make a difference for someone less fortunate than us, did we get involved in a community event. Well, if we didn't, now is the time to commit to making an effort to help others and make a difference.

The Borough has some changes coming soon, we have hired a new secretary, Amy Keller, who will be replacing Jane Kinyon who is retiring at the end of October after many years of great service to our Borough, and she will be missed. The office hours are being changed and Tuesdays will have extended hours so those of you who haven't been able to get to the office because of work will now have an opportunity to do so. Watch our website for announcements as to the new hours.

The Planning Commission and the Community and Business Committee are finishing up plans that will give vision to what the Borough is looking to achieve for the Butler Avenue Corridor. This will give developers a look at what the Borough will support and what we aren't interested in along the entire length of our Borough. Many hours have been spent in consulting with residents, businesses and Bucks County Planners to make our Borough a more beautiful place to reside. A walkable community with mixed retail, commercial and residential properties along Butler Avenue, that is our goal and I believe we're headed in the right direction.

One of the new attractions is the bike and hike path that has been completed from Covered Bridge Park all the way to Old Iron Hill Road. Truly a great path, taking you from the park, through the woods and along the Pine Run Reservoir, it's a peaceful and scenic route. Come out and enjoy it, bring the kids and make it an adventure.

Have a great fall and best wishes to everyone for your holidays and this wonderful season.



Wreaths Across America

The New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee is again hosting the annual National Remembrance Ceremony with Wreaths Across America to honor the Veterans in the historic New Britain Baptist Church cemetery on Saturday, December 13, 2014.

If you would like to purchase wreaths, they are only \$15 per wreath and your donation is tax deductible. In addition, WAA will give us seven commemorative wreaths we can place at the H.Walter Harvey World War I Memorial we restored in 2011.

Donations should be received by Monday, November 24. Please make checks payable to Wreaths Across America and send to the New Britain Borough office at 45 Keeley Avenue, New Britain, PA 18901. We will forward the checks to WAA.

Please join us for the ceremony on December 13 at 12 noon.



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Halloween Safety



Halloween is a lot of fun for the entire family; however, some precautions should be taken to ensure a happy and safe day of festivities.

- Teach children to stop only at well-lit houses and to never enter a stranger's home.
- Instruct children not to eat any treat until they return home and treats are inspected.
- Provide a flashlight to help children see better and be seen more clearly.
- Only fire-retardant materials in costumes should be used.
- Costumes and treat bags should have some reflective qualities to be seen by motorists.
- Costume length should not be so long that it is a tripping hazard.
- Accessories such as swords or knives should be made from cardboard or flexible materials and made so as not to resemble a real weapon.

Right-of-Way Maintenance

Please trim vegetation within the right-of-way that may obstruct sidewalks (8' above sidewalks) or street signs. Dispose of vegetation properly. Do not allow leaves to block storm sewers or drainage ditches. Direct grass clippings back toward your yard, not into the street, as they will contaminate streams with residual fertilizers.

Any sidewalk, curbing or driveway aprons which have settled create tripping hazards. The Borough will be conducting inspections of these items and issuing property maintenance violation letters for any displacement greater than 1/2". We appreciate these items being corrected as soon as possible as any items corrected prior to these inspections will save the Borough time and money.



Steven W. Gieseler
President

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Welcome to Bird Town!

What Do Those Signs Mean?



The Bird Town program is a partnership between the PA Audubon Society and municipalities throughout the state to promote conservation and community-based actions to create a healthier, more sustainable environment for both birds and people. New Britain Borough has become the 23rd Bird Town in Pennsylvania and the ninth in Bucks County.

As a Bird Town, the Borough is committed to working closely with Audubon to provide information to residents, businesses, and other community partners on ways to create more bird-friendly landscapes and greener yards, parks and schools. The aim of the Bird Town program is to create a culture of conservation *where everyone is a potential steward of nature in their own backyard.*

The Bird Town program is not, however, just about birds. The restoration of natural systems and native plant communities for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, on both public and private properties, has a positive impact on storm water runoff, greenhouse gases, maintenance time, property values, community pride, and aesthetics.

What Can You Do?

The real power of Bird Town comes from residents taking actions on their own landscapes. Residents can contribute to the Borough's efforts by taking the "**Healthy Yard**" Pledge, which is a pledge to use more native plants in the landscape, remove invasive plant species, reduce storm water runoff, eliminate the use of pesticides, and provide for and protect birds.

Property owners who create bird habitat by doing the above and by installing nest boxes and bird feeders are also encouraged to register their property with PA Audubon's "**Bird Habitat Recognition Program**". After joining the Bird Habitat Network, you'll be provided with a yard sign and a discount card good at businesses throughout the state. Your property may already qualify.

The Borough is also looking for interested residents to serve on a new **Bird Town Committee** to promote and facilitate the goals of the Bird Town program in our community. If interested, please go to the Borough website and complete a Volunteer Information Sheet, found under Community Information / Volunteer Opportunities. You will be contacted soon about a first meeting date for this committee.

To take the "Healthy Back Yard" pledge, register your property in the "Bird Habitat Recognition Program," or simply learn more about the Bird Town program, go to <http://pa.audubon.org/bird-town>. There is also information about the Bird Town program on the Borough website under "Committees."

Calendar of Community Events

Saturday, October 18 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church Annual Craft Fair - Butler Ave & Ute Road
Saturday, October 18 – 8 p.m.	Bucks County Symphony's fall concert - Delaware Valley College Life Sciences Bldg. Auditorium
Saturday, October 25 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Chalfont Fire Company Craft Show – 301 N. Main St., Chalfont
Sunday October 26 - 3 p.m.	Delaware Valley College Symphonic & Jazz Band fall concert - Life Sciences Bldg. Auditorium Free
Sunday, November 9 – 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.	Chalfont Fire Company Pancake Breakfast – 301 N. Main St., Chalfont
Saturday, November 15 – 9 a.m.	Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve - Work Day
Sunday, November 30 – 4 p.m.	Chalfont Fire Company Community Christmas Sing – 301 N. Main St., Chalfont
Wednesday, December 3 – 7 p.m.	New Britain Civic Association Annual Christmas tree lighting with a visit from Santa – Town Center Shopping Center
Sunday, December 7 – 3 p.m.	DelVal Holiday Concert, Life Sciences Bldg. Auditorium. <i>Free</i>
Saturday, December 13 – Noon	Wreaths Across America Ceremony – War Memorial & New Britain Baptist Church Cemetery
Saturday, December 20 – 7:30 p.m.	Bucks County Gilbert & Sullivan Society Community Messiah Sing with full orchestra – Our Lady of Gaudalupe Church, 5175 Cold Spring Creamery Rd., Doylestown

Nature Preserve Work Day

Volunteers are needed for a work day in the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve on Saturday, November 15. The rain date will be Saturday, November 22.

Volunteers are asked to bring tools for cutting vines, clearing brush, removing invasive plant species, and planting. We will meet at the main entrance to the Preserve on Matthews Avenue at 9:00 a.m.



Have a Dog?

Dog owners are reminded that they should clean up after their pet in public areas and parks and on other people's properties. Also your dog must be on a leash in all of the Borough.



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Who Owns the Covered Bridge Park?

Some people are confused and think New Britain Borough or Bucks County own Covered Bridge Park, but that is incorrect! The New Britain Civic Association owns and operates the park. Civic was formed in 1953, is a non-profit, non-political organization which, since 1957, has owned and operated the 14-acre Covered Bridge Park on Keeley Avenue.

The park is routinely cleaned and maintained by volunteers who, in addition to picking up trash and litter insensitive visitors leave behind, also clean the bathrooms! So next time you visit the park please leave it the way you found it.

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Please support the New Britain Civic Association

Annual Membership Dues

- Family \$15 (all members of the same household)
- Business \$25

Larger Donations - It is important to acknowledge your support. In addition to our appreciation, expressed in a letter suitable for framing, prominent donations will be reported in the New Britain Borough Newsletter. Support for capital improvements to the Park can be recognized with signage at the Park or a plaque on the capital item and may also receive newspaper coverage.

Volunteers are needed for projects throughout the year. If interested, please contact David Holewinski: davidholewinski@hotmail.com; 215-407-7104.

David Holewinski, President
Derek MacMillan Vice President
Malcolm Rolllins, Treasurer
Peg Havner, Secretary

Joseph Cangelosi
Gwen Yamamoto
Mary Pat Holewinski
Vicky Cangelosi

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Check website for changing information.
www.newbritaincivic.org

New Britain Civic Association
PO Box 5124, New Britain, PA 18901
215-345-8750

The New Britain Civic Association is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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New Britain Borough Officials

Mayor: David Holewinski

Council: **Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month in Burkart Hall, 7:30 PM**
Jeffrey Gilmore, *President*; Mary Pat Holewinski, *Vice-President*; Robyne Kelemen;
Lori Kesilman; Peter LaMontagne; Margaret Remmey; Nancy Schuyler

Planning Commission: **Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM**
David Holewinski, *Chairman*; Karl Dieterichs, *Vice Chair*; Denise Spence, *Secretary*;
Jeffrey Gilmore; Paul Land; Michael T. Parke; Rick Eggleston; William Macklem; Tom Price;
Michael Stanislaw

Zoning Hearing Board: **Meets, as needed, 3rd Thursday of the month in Burkart Hall, 7:30 PM**
Robert Bair, *Chairman*; Anthony Coia, *Vice Chair*; Andrea Antell; John Wolff, Jr.; David Siegfried;
Alternates: William Schaefer and Jackie D'Agostino; *Solicitor*, Christen Pionzio

Tax Collector: Richard Sabol, 215-489-8658 (*Hours: Tuesday, 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - noon*)

Solicitor: Michael Goodwin

Police Chief: James Donnelly, Office 215-345-4143

Newsletter Contributor & Coordinator: Marie Esher Coia

The following Borough personnel are located at the Borough Building, 45 Keeley Avenue.
Phone 215-348-4586. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Website: www.newbritainboro.com Email: NBBORO@comcast.net

Borough Manager: Robin E. Trymbiski
Treasurer: Marie Esher Coia
Roadmaster Mark Hintenlang
Borough Secretary: Amy Keller
Zoning Officer: Thomas Yatsky

Building Inspector, Fire Marshal & Emergency Management:
Dan Jenkins, Keystone Municipal Services

EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911