

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 22, Number 1

Winter 2013

Public Open House Meeting at Borough Hall

***Tuesday, March 5, 2013
7:30 p.m.***

We Want to Hear Your Voice!

The purpose of this public meeting is to get input from the residents and businesses in New Britain Borough to help shape the vision for the future of our community. The borough is seeking public comments and answers to questions such as what makes New Britain special? What do you like about New Britain and what don't you like? What should the Butler Avenue corridor look like? What do you want the borough to look like 10 and 20 years from today? Here is an opportunity to express your opinion and help guide future business and community development. Facilitated by staff from the Bucks County Planning Commission and New Britain Borough. Light refreshments will be served.



*Are you interested in participating in a
Community Vegetable Garden in New Britain
Borough? We are looking for residents who
can commit some time and creativity to
initiate a group gardening area on available
public land. Please RSVP to Andrea
Antell, 215-896-7554.
aantell1@verizon.net.*

Can You Help?

The New Britain Borough Council recently established a committee, the Appointment Advisory Committee, to identify and recommend individuals to Borough Council for consideration for appointments to the various boards, commissions and committees. The committee will keep a database of interested individuals who will be contacted when vacancies occur. Some of the positions the committee will consider applicants for are, but not limited to, the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Borough Council, Nature Preserve Committee, Community and Business Committee, and the Historic Preservation Committee. We will highlight one of the boards, commissions, and committees in each future newsletter. This newsletter will highlight Borough Council.

The Council of New Britain Borough is a body of seven elected officials who serve without compensation. The role of Council is to oversee all activities of the Borough, including the management of Borough employees. Council is responsible for making policy, passing ordinances, approving contracts and agreements, voting appropriations, approving all personnel decisions, and establishing and maintaining the Borough's budget.

Council members elect a President among themselves who is responsible for presiding over Council meetings, establishing committees, and appointing committee chairs. There is also a Vice-President, who presides over Council meetings in the absence of the President. Borough Council is required to meet once a month, and record all proceedings. Council meetings are at 7:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month.

Although this is an elected position, if a Council member resigns in mid-term Council is required to appoint an interim member until the next election.

Submit a CV, resume, letter or email expressing your interest in a particular position with your qualifications and/or experiences to 45 Keeley Ave., New Britain, 18901 or nbboro@comcast.net.

Please consider participating in your local government. You can have an impact on the future of our borough and get to know your neighbors at the same time.

Around Town

The AROUND TOWN column is 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. 215-348-4586 or nbboro@comcast.net.

Grand Opening

Club Metro, located in the Town Center Shopping Center, had a grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony, food and prizes on Saturday, January 5. Owners and employees of Club Metro, New Britain Borough officials and members of the Chalfont – New Britain Business Alliance attended the grand opening. Club Metro offers everything from the newest cardio and weight room equipment, to aerobics classes and childcare. newbritain@clubmetrousa.com or 267-454-2663



(l-r) Mary Pat Holewinski-Borough Councilwoman; Mike Sullivan-Club Metro Vice President; Robert Belchic-Borough Council President; Kelly Blake-Club Metro Operations Staff; Art D'Angelo-CNBBA & Insure for Life; Robert Mellifont-CNBBA & Sunergy; Emile Farina-Club Metro President/CEO; Dr. Edward Poller-Club Metro Franchise Owner; Dr. Glenn Prager-Club Metro Franchise Owner; Scott Stokes-CNBBA & SWAT Pest Control; David Holewinski-Mayor; Matthew Beyer-Club Metro Regional Manager; Dr. Todd Prager-Club Metro Franchise Owner; Brian Wallace-CNBBA & Keller Williams Real Estate; Robert Showawalter-CNBBA & Showalter and Associates, Civil Engineering, Land Surveying, Planning.

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Wreaths Across America comes to New Britain

The first annual **Wreaths Across America** ceremony, sponsored by the New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee, and supported by donations from the community, was held at the New Britain Baptist Church Cemetery on December 15, 2012. Wreaths were placed on 73 graves of the Veterans from the Colonial Wars and Revolutionary War through to the Civil War.

The ceremony began exactly at 12 noon with Malcolm Rollins ringing the church bells. The ceremony was led by the Central Bucks Marine Corps League Color Guard. Marie Esher Coia, Historic Preservation Committee member, presided over the ceremony. She spoke a few words and introduced each current and former Veteran, representing each branch of the service, who then placed specially designated wreaths at the H. Walter Harvey War Memorial honoring those who served and are currently serving in each branch of the service.

The Veterans who participated in this part of the ceremony were; current Marine Corp Captain Richard J. Fay, who served in the Iraq War, represented the United States Marine Corps; former Army Specialist Anthony L. Coia, who served during the Vietnam War, represented in the United States Army; former Navy Seaman First Class Kermit Weitzel, who served in World War II, represented the United States Navy; former Air Force Major Dr. Michael Parke, who served during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, represented the United States Air Force; former Coast Guard Seaman John Remmey, who served in the Vietnam War, represented the United States Coast Guard; and former Merchant Marine Third Mate Renton Meininger, who served in World War II, represented United States Merchant Marines. Jackie D'Agostino, Historic Preservation Committee member, placed the POW/MIA wreath at the memorial.

Committee member and Borough Historian, Bruce Burkart, read the names of each Veteran buried in the cemetery. At the conclusion Ron Haskell played Taps and guests were invited to place a wreath on the grave of a veteran. The event coincided with simultaneous memorial ceremonies all across the country at over 750 participating locations in conjunction with Wreaths Across America



Marine Corp Captain Richard J. Fay and the Central Bucks Marine Corps Color Guard

(continued)

Around Town

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

It's been a few months since Super Storm Sandy blew through our borough and downed a tree across Butler Avenue in front of the Fisher's home, but we wanted to share a story about how our residents saved the day.



On the day that PECO came out to remove the tree and restore power to our borough, the police, the chief and the mayor were there, as well as many residents to help as they could. Asplundh Tree Service arrived and the cutting began. After about 45 minutes it became apparent that there would be a problem completing the project because a large part of the tree was still hung up in wires that didn't belong to PECO and Asplundh didn't have the necessary equipment to remove it. After some discussion, one of our residents who was walking his dog and had gathered to watch, suggested that he walk down to Ambrose Randa Hardwoods on Spring Lake Drive to see if Ambrose could assist with removal of the tree. Within a few minutes Ambrose Randa was driving up South Tamenend Avenue on his large commercial forklift. In no more than 30 minutes Mr. Randa removed the remaining part of the tree from the wires and placed it on the ground to be cut up and rolled off the road so that traffic could pass and electric service could be restored to many residents. It was a perfect example of people working together to achieve a task that would benefit the community. A special thank you to Ambrose Randa and the anonymous resident for helping the community.

Spotlight on Borough Businesses

We will be 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.

Bucks County Wellness Centre

352 East Butler Avenue

New Britain PA 18901

215.345.1445

BucksCountyWellnessCentre.com

"Give us 8 weeks, and we'll change the rest of your life!" When you step through the doors of the Bucks County Wellness Centre, this phrase couldn't hold more truth. The Bucks County Wellness Centre is the go-to place for health and wellness, offering a variety of services such as chiropractic, massage therapy, fitness training, nutrition counseling and meditation classes, along with the breakthrough wellness program, 8 Weeks to Wellness®.

Owner and chiropractor, Dr. Michael Brady, has brought together a team of dedicated wellness experts all working to guide community members through their health and wellness journeys. Those seeking advice or help with how to eat, think or move better should look no further! The Bucks County Wellness Centre is the one stop for the health and wellness needs for you and your family.

Dr. Michael Brady has been an active chiropractor in the community for over 18 years. He recognized a need for an all-inclusive wellness facility where people could have chiropractic care, get a great workout, seek nutrition advice, take a fitness or meditation class, and receive massage therapy. Thus, the Bucks County Wellness Centre was born. In addition to offering a host of wellness services, the Centre also has the 8 Weeks to Wellness® program. This proven program has successfully helped thousands of people take back control of their health without the use of any synthetic medications by breaking unhealthy habits developed over time.

Along with providing in-house wellness care, the Centre works with Bucks and Montgomery county schools and businesses to assist in the development of a healthier community through health fairs, wellness presentations and corporate functions. The Centre will proudly host the 3rd annual Community Wellness Day in late April. This event focuses on providing resources for components vital to the community's total well-being in a family-friendly day chocked full of freebies, yummy food and fun activities! For more information on participating in or attending Community Wellness Day, contact Sarah Hall at the Centre at 215.345.1445.

The Bucks County Wellness Centre has something for everyone at all stages in life, so stop by and meet the team to see what they can offer you and your family! They would love to assist you with reaching all of your health and wellness goals.

Emergency Information

Super storm Sandy challenged everyone. Here is the list of items, suggested by a borough resident and insurance professional Robert C. Lewis, regarding things to do before and after a large storm.

Before the storm:

1. Listen to information from the National Weather Service for updates on the storm's path, expected areas most likely to be effected, and severity of the storm. Be sure to have a battery powered radio or generator for your house.
2. Since homeowners insurance does NOT cover flood insurance, it is important to have protection from floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms or heavy rains. Purchase a flood insurance policy or add water backup of sewers or drains coverage to your homeowners policy if you have a basement with a sump pump. You must do this before the storm is imminent as companies do not allow additions during that timeframe.
3. Check your disaster supplies and replace/restock as needed.
4. Bring in or strap down anything that can be picked up by the wind (bikes, lawn/patio furniture, etc).
5. Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings and do not open unless needed so the food will last longer if the power goes out.
6. Discuss an evacuation plan with household members to eliminate surprises or confusion later on.
7. Know where local shelters are that may be utilized if needed.
8. Evacuate the area if advised by authorities to do so.

Storm preparedness tips:

Sign up for free email or text alerts from the Borough at www.readynotifypa.org

Do not drive through flooded roadways!

Maintain a cache of emergency supplies. A list can be found on FEMA s website here: www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit

Use emergency generators outdoors only. Generator safety tips here: www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/Public%20Education/GeneratorSafety.pdf

To report power outages, contact PECO at 800-841-4141

Secure outdoor items

General emergency preparedness information at www.ready.gov/ and www.redcross.org/prepare/

After the storm:

1. If you evacuated, return home only when officials give the all clear.
2. Keep away from any loose or dangling power lines and report them to the authorities.
3. Inspect your home and buildings for damage. Use flashlights initially in case of gas leaks. Do not use candles.
4. Wear protective clothing when cleaning up.
5. Be sure water is safe to drink or use for cooking.
6. Keep refrigerator and freezers closed as much as possible if the power is out. The food may last for several days without power by doing this if you have packed it right.
7. Preserve as much property as possible. Remove any standing water or debris as quickly as possible.
8. Take pictures of damage and create a list of items that are affected. You will need to provide this to your insurance company.
9. Contact your agent and advise them of your damage. Ask for further guidance and when you can expect to hear from a claims representative. In a widespread storm, it may be 2-3 days (or longer) before they can see you.
10. In the meantime: contact repair services (electricians, contractors, tree removal people) etc . You can start the process by having them begin repairs or cleaning . Keep all receipts and contact your agent again with any questions as to what you should do. Your agent is **your** representative with the insurance company-use them.

Mr. Lewis is a Vice President with First Savings Bank located in New Britain Borough on 380 West Butler Avenue and can be contacted at 215-345-0181 or RLewis@firstsavingsonline.com.



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Getting to Know Our Council Members

In this and future articles, we will interview our Borough Council members so that our residents and businesses can get to know them. We will start with Robert Belchic, the current President of Borough Council..



How long have you been on Council? 24 years. Prior to getting elected to Council I was on the Zoning Hearing Board for a couple of terms.

Why did you decide to run for Council? To give back to my community and have some influence on life in our borough.

How long have you lived in the Borough? Since 1978 in the same house.

Are you married? Do you have children? I've been married to the same special woman, Margie, for 42 years. One child, Nicky, is a physical therapist. Our other child, Michelle, was killed on her 19th birthday by a drunk driver.

What is your profession? Consultant to interior designers in the home furnishing business and make anything out of fabric for the home furnishing industry.

Any other volunteer activities other than Council? Served on various boards including Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for about 10 years. I still volunteer for them.

Do you have any hobbies? I enjoy music very much and love playing the piano. Been playing since I was 5 years old.

What goals do you have for the Borough? I'd like to bring music and arts into New Britain and partner with Delaware Valley College in future endeavors.

What would you like people to know about you? I hope people know "what you see is what you get". I enjoy being on Borough Council because I get to meet people and experience slices of their lives and help them. Most are positive but even if they are not, I try to turn most experiences into something positive.



Moments with the Mayor

Just a few words about what is going on in our Borough. As winter sets in, we are seeing some expansion of our business community taking root. The new book store offers an escape through reading, Go-Bananas offers treats, Club Metro helps take away unwanted pounds and it looks like Sushi is coming to New Britain.

On another note, the Borough has acquired open space land next to Covered Bridge Park and there is talk about a possible "community garden" in the Borough. These are exciting happenings, you'll be able to explore the newly acquired property this spring and imagine planting, and harvesting your very own vegetables this summer.

Additionally, the Matthews and Aarons Avenue project will enhance this area and make the roads resident friendly. The Keeley Avenue traffic calming has made a difference for residents there and the newly paved and striped project on Lenape Drive sure looks great.

If there is something you feel needs the attention of our Borough Officials I encourage you to contact the Borough Office or please attend our monthly Borough Council Meeting held at Borough Hall the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm.

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Mathews Avenue Closing

The residents along Mathews Avenue have been complaining about the traffic on their street, specifically about the apparent speed of cars and the volume of traffic. Many employees use Mathews as a short cut to get to work in the local industrial parks.

The Borough has investigated a variety of traffic calming measures as well as had a speed study performed and found that the traffic is not really speeding (25 mph) and that most traffic calming measures wouldn't slow traffic much below the posted 25 mph. These measures, without a significant speed reduction, will also not effectively divert traffic.

Considering the nature of the 'village' atmosphere along Mathews and Aarons, and tasked with restoring /preserving it, the blockade method was discussed and favored by the residents. The Borough then tasked the residents who attended a special meeting to petition other neighbors as well as those on Aarons to provide a broader scope of data. The petition was almost unanimously in favor of the blockage although there is some opposition. Opposition was also received from fire/emergency management response personnel. **Any temporary or permanent blockage will be easily removed or disabled by the fire and emergency personnel.**

At the January meeting, Council voted to install temporary blockades, which were set up in the beginning of February for a period of 6 months to investigate the feasibility of permanent blockades.

Solicitation Ordinance

The New Britain Borough Police Department would like to remind residents that people soliciting door-to-door are required to have a Permit issued by the NBBPD. If a salesperson comes to your door, ask to see their permit. If they are unable to produce one, contact the NBBPD at 215-345-1080.



Melissa Ceresi, DMD PC

960 Town Center
New Britain, PA 18901
215-230-7060T
215-230-7907F
ceresioffice@verizon.net
www.drmelissaceresi.com

Grant received form Bike-Hike Trail



New Britain Borough was awarded a Federal Grant in the amount of \$169,600 for a shared use path for bicyclists and pedestrians between the Tamenend Avenue/Butler Avenue intersection and the Septa Train Station. The project will create a trail connection to the train station, improve access to the open space at the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve, connect to planned trails through the Beulah Cemetery, connect to the existing soccer fields along Upper State Road, connect to the future Neshaminy Greenway and existing 202 Parkway trail, as well as connect to the open space along the Neshaminy Creek.



Michael S. Brady, DC

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Calendar of Community Events

Friday & Saturday, Feb. 22 & 23 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Free Motion Quilting - Byrne Sewing Connection
Sunday, February 24 - 3:00 PM	Winter Concert - Bucks County Symphony, CB South HS : Mozart's Coronation Mass with the CB South Choir and Mahler's IV Symphony.
Sunday, February 24 - 3:00 PM	Delaware Valley College Symphonic Band and Jazz Band Student Center Auditorium.
Friday, March 1 – 10:00 AM-4:30 PM	Serger Workshop for beginners at Byrne Sewing
Saturday, March 2-10:00 AM-4:30 PM	Serger Workshop for Serger owners at Byrne Sewing
Tuesday, March 5 – 7:30 PM	New Britain Borough Public Open House Meeting New Britain Borough Hall.
Saturday, March 16 – 10 AM - noon	Soup, Used Book & Rummage Sale. Chalfont Fire Company
Sunday, March 24 – 5:00 PM	Pops Concert – Bucks County Symphony Delaware Valley College Student Center Auditorium
Friday & Saturday, April 5 & 6 9:00 AM to 4 PM	Anita Goodesign Embroidery Party sponsored by Byrne Sewing. Town Center Shopping Center
Saturday, April 13 – 7:00 PM	Delaware Valley College Jazz Band and String Ensemble Student Center Auditorium
Saturday, April 13 – 9 AM - noon	Mommy Market. Chalfont Fire Company
Sunday, April 21 – 8 AM - noon	Buffet Breakfast. Chalfont Fire Company
Sunday, April 21 – 3:00 PM	Delaware Valley College Chorale Student Center Auditorium

Please support the New Britain Civic Association

Annual Membership Dues

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

NAME

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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.

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

David Holewinski, President
Malcolm Rollins, Treasurer

Rich Sabol, Vice President
Peg Havner, Secretary

New Britain Borough
45 Keeley Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901

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New Britain Borough Officials

Mayor:	David Holewinski
Council:	Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM Robert Belchic, <i>President</i> ; Margaret Remmey, <i>Vice-President</i> ; Mary Pat Holewinski; Peter LaMontagne; Joseph Cangelosi; Jeffrey Gilmore; Craig Sturza
Planning Commission:	Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM David Holewinski, <i>Chairman</i> ; Karl Dieterichs, <i>Vice Chair</i> ; Denise Spence, <i>Secretary</i> ; Jack Brady; Joseph Cangelosi; Paul Land; Michael T. Parke; John Remmey
Zoning Hearing Board:	Meets, as needed, 3rd Thursday of the month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM Robert Bair, <i>Chairman</i> ; Andrea Antell; Tony Coia; John Wolff, Jr.; David Ziegfried; <i>Alternates</i> : William Schaefer and Jackie D'Agostino; <i>Solicitor</i> , Christen Pionzio
Tax Collector:	Richard Sabol, 215-489-8658 (<i>Hours: Tuesday, 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - noon</i>)
Solicitor:	Michael Goodwin
	Police Chief: James Donnelly, Office 215-345-1080
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	Borough Secretary:	Jane Kinyon
Treasurer:	Lloyd J. Vasant	Zoning Officer:	Thomas Yatsky
Roadmaster	Edward Deschamps		
Building Inspector and Fire Marshal:	Dan Jenkins, Keystone Municipal Services		
Assistant	Austin C. Brown		

EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911