

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 24, Number 2

Spring 2015

Public Meeting

June 11, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Burkart Hall

56 Keeley Avenue

New Britain Borough has been working with local businesses, residents, and Delaware Valley University on plans for enhancing Butler Avenue. Please join us on June 11 for a status report on what is happening along our Borough's "Main Street." The discussion will cover concepts for street improvements and updates on redevelopment of vacant sites. The forum will also provide an opportunity for you to add your ideas to the planning for the future of Butler Avenue. Please plan to attend.

Tree removal

The Borough has ordinances to protect our community from excess tree removal and to protect specimen trees. Property owners are restricted from removing greater than 20% of 'wooded areas'. In addition, healthy trees that exceed 16 inches in caliber shall be preserved or replaced (with smaller trees). Please check with the Borough prior to removing trees/wooded areas.

For additional information, please refer to New Britain Borough's website: www.newbritainboro.com.

Welcome Carrie Gamble, Our New Administrative Assistant

We are pleased to introduce and welcome our new administrative assistant, Carrie Gamble. Carrie is a long-time resident of Doylestown Borough. In recent years she has had extensive experience in office management and administrative work. As an artist and graphic designer, her previous professional experience was in the printing industry.



In the late 1980s Carrie and her grandmother, Elizabeth Rose von Hohen, decided to start compiling Elizabeth's wonderful recipes. This joint effort turned into "Grandmother's Cookbook," a publication of her grandmother's treasured recipes, memories and vintage family photographs. Originally published in 1990, the cookbook is still in publication today. Carrie's 2nd book, "Simple Pleasures" is a small gift book about life's greatest gift...nature. Both books contain her watercolor illustrations.

In her spare time, Carrie enjoys working in her gardens, illustration, writing, yoga, swimming, playing guitar, cooking and baking. Carrie is a member and volunteer for the Doylestown Food Co-op where she utilizes her marketing and graphic design skills to help promote the co-op.

We were sorry to see Amy Keller, who replaced Jane Kinyon, leave, but she was offered and accepted a full-time position with Chalfont Borough where she worked part time before coming to New Britain. However, we are fortunate and happy to have Carrie join our staff.

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 mecoia@verizon.net.

Long-time Borough Business – A Success Story

New Britain Borough has many success stories from companies that have been in business a long time. Chant Engineering is one of those – celebrating 45 years of engineering excellence this year. Established in 1970 by Jim Chant, he was joined by his son Philip in 1986. Today Chant Engineering is a global, diversified engineering company that designs custom industrial machinery for worldwide industrial and military customers.

Chant now resides in a 50,000 square foot “green design” facility on Industrial Drive in New Britain. Philip’s son Mason is currently attending school for mechanical engineering at the University of Maine and will join the company after graduation, as the third generation.

Together these three represent the past, present & future of Chant Engineering. Here’s to many more years of growth and prosperity right here in our borough.

For more information, please visit the website: www.chantengineering.com

Borough Couple Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Rich and Ginny Sommers of North Tamenend will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 24th. Congratulations to Rich & Ginny. We hope you have many more years together!

Borough Resident to Perform at Longwood Gardens

Bob Binkley, long-time resident who, among other volunteer activities, is a member of the Planning Commission, and Chairman of the Burkart Hall Renovation Committee, will be playing the lead role of Reginald Bunthorne in Savoy Company’s production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Patience” at Longwood Gardens on June 12th and 13th. Bob is a musician, actor, singer and director, and a founding member of the Bucks County Gilbert and Sullivan Society where he has performed many different roles. Tickets for the show includes admission to the Gardens. Call Bob if you would like more information: 267-218-0465.

Spring Work Day in Nature Preserve

We could use a few hours of your help at our spring work day in the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve on Saturday, **May 2**.

Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and tools for cutting vines, clearing brush, removing invasive plant species, and possible planting.

We will meet at the main entrance to the Preserve on Matthews Avenue at 9:00 a.m.



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100 Town Center
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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.

Austin-Briggs Paint Store

276 West Butler Avenue

New Britain, PA 18901

215-230-8000

The Austin-Briggs Paint Store was opened in New Britain Borough in 1994 by Tom Briggs and Rick Austin. The paint shop features Benjamin Moore Paint, which has been a symbol of quality in the paint industry for over 125 years. Ben Moore is also known for their superior color selection.

Ben Moore "Historical Colors" have been a popular collection of colors for many years, and Ben Moore has recently added the authentic Williamsburg Color Collection, which is also a customer favorite. There are over 3,000 regular colors available, and Austin-Briggs can match nearly any other color requested with use of the latest color computer technology.

Manager Paul Dunn has been with the company for over 20 years, and sales associate Rob Hoffner started with the company 17 years ago. The staff can answer all the many questions that may arise during a painting project. They will recommend the proper quantities, answer any technical questions and advise you of the proper tools necessary to complete the job. Paul and Rob will spend as much time as necessary with each and every customer. This kind of service is often unavailable at the big box stores and large chain operations.

Austin-Briggs offers several lines of paint to satisfy every budget. Ben Moore Regal Select is the recommended product for your primary living spaces, and the "Ben" line is great for those areas that are not used as often. Austin-Briggs also carries a complete line of painting accessories such as brushes, rollers and dropcloths so you can get everything you need in one-stop shopping.

Austin-Briggs is located at 276 W. Butler Avenue in the Borough (the former Route 202 – across the street from the Giant Supermarket). They are open every day: weekdays, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free color brochures are available, and pint samples may be purchased in any color if you need to test a color before starting a job.

New Britain Welcomes New Businesses to the Borough

Zumba Classes

Looking for some fun, engaging, calorie-burning activities in New Britain? Join Zumba Fitness! Classes are Monday/Wednesday/Friday mornings 9 a.m. at the Theatre Arts Center (468 Town Center New Britain, PA) OR Tuesday evening at the Institute of Hand and Upper Extremity (65 E. Butler Ave, Suite 101, New Britain). No experience necessary! Smiles and laughter are strongly encouraged. First class is FREE!

For more information contact Farrah Barow, Zumba Instructor at 267-254-6440 or visit her website: farrahbarow.zumba.com

A Message from the Public Safety Committee

Winter can take a toll on many things outside, in some cases, even our house numbers! Spring is a great time to check that everything is in place. So the Public Safety Committee recommends that all residents insure that house numbers are easily visible from the street. This will help police and emergency personnel identify addresses when responding to calls.

The Central Bucks Regional Police Department (CBRPD) website has important information for all residents. Topics include reporting driving hazards, traffic problems and street light outages, requesting vacation home checks, and forms for alarm installation. The website address is <http://www.cbrpd.net> or it can be accessed from the New Britain Borough website.

The CBRPD would like to assist seniors or residents who may be medically/physically challenged during an unusual inclement weather event, power outages or natural disaster. Police officers will be assigned during an event to make home visits, as manpower and circumstances permit, to see if residents are in need of any special assistance. Residents should call 215-345-4143 in order to register for assistance.

The Public Safety Committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough administration office. All are invited.

Byrne Sewing Connection LLC

215-230-9411

www.byrnesewing.com

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Moments with the Mayor

Spring came to New Britain dressed in a suit of white, yes we had a snow storm on the first day of spring but, true to form the snow was almost gone by the next day. It isn't bad to start the season in that manner, it just proves that you can never expect the weather to conform to what we believe it should be. The real story is that you can't always expect things to be as you wish they would be, things just happen. Here in the Borough we would all like to see changes in certain areas, maybe it's along the Butler Avenue corridor, or in the Nature Preserve, or in the number of cars going down our street. Again, we don't always get what we believe it should be, but, your Borough Council and all of the other commissions and committees are working hard to improve the quality of life here in the Borough.

This year, 2015, will bring changes, hopefully the changes that occur are for the best. I'm sure that some will but, there are those that may be a challenge for some of us. We expect to see things begin to blossom this spring, with a new owner for the Knoell property so that project will begin to move forward. The shopping center got a bit of a new look and we are all hoping that the tenants that are there stay and that new tenants fill the empty spaces. Del Val has become a University and I'm sure they will be making changes to their programs and to their campus. Other projects are in the fire and should be moving through the process soon.

What is really great about spring is that it is a new beginning, the cold and snow of winter is behind us and the warmth and colorful beauty of this season is now with us. Take a walk through the Nature Preserve or along the new bike and hike path. The bridge over Pine Run makes for a beautiful setting as you cross over it. If you haven't taken part in the Community Garden in the past, get your name on the list to secure a plot as they open. You'll be seeing some changes to our newest park, Orchard Park, trees are being trimmed, paths will be set and nature will provide beauty for the beholders.

Make a point to get to know more of you neighbors this spring so when summer arrives you'll be able to carry on conversations as you go to the stores or walk through the borough. My point is get involved in our borough even if it's just in being able to say hello to others that you may not have known in the past. We want our borough to be a friendly place that allows us to share our thoughts and desires as well as your complaints, with each other and your borough officials. How else will changes come about.



Central Bucks Senior Task Force

Residents are invited to attend monthly meetings of the *Central Bucks Senior Task Force*. This organization provides information on a variety of useful topics which are all focused on the needs and interests of senior residents. Support services, finances, transportation, healthcare, senior fitness, fraud alert and scams are just some of the topics discussed. *The CB Senior Task Force* meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at the Central Bucks Senior Center located at 700 N. Shady Retreat Road in Doylestown.

At the March meeting a tax representative from AARP discussed how low to mid-income seniors can schedule appointments at the Senior Center for help with tax preparation. Another speaker, Michael Bannon, from the Consumer Protection Agency discussed a variety of services available. Residents can call the office at 215 348 6060 if they have questions or concerns or they can visit the website at <http://www.buckscounty.org/government/ConsumerProtection> where you can find consumer tips and help with complaints and resolving problems. All interviews with the guest speakers are videotaped so residents can see the programs aired on local channels. The programs are shown at 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily on Comcast channel 22 and Verizon Fios channel 31.

New Borough Website

Our new website has been up and running for many months. Please check it out at newbritainboro.com. In the upper right-hand corner of the home page is a place for you to register to receive email notices of community interest such as any volunteer opportunities, special events, and other Borough news.

Springtime Property Inspections

New Britain Borough has adopted the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code. Consequently, in the spring of 2015, the Borough will be looking at the areas in front of properties for possible public safety problems. We will be looking at sidewalks and curbs, driveway aprons, size of house numbers, mailbox placement and any encroachment of trees and shrubbery.

If you have any questions regarding the property maintenance code, please call the Borough office at 215-348-4586, and ask for Mr. Tom Yatsky.

Creating Bird-Friendly Habitat in Your Backyard

New Britain Borough became a Bird Town in 2014. The mission of PA Audubon's Bird Town program is to "create a culture of conservation *where everyone is a potential steward of nature in their own backyard.*"

What You Can Do

The power of the Bird Town program comes from individual property owners taking action to create healthy bird habitat on their own landscapes. Specifically, this means:

- Planting more native plants and fewer non-native species.
- Removing alien invasive plant species that crowd out native plants.
- Eliminating the use of pesticides.
- Providing for and protecting the birds that visit your yard.

Why Native Plants?

To bring more birds into your yard, the single best thing you can do is plant native grasses, perennials, shrubs, vines, and trees. Native plants provide food for native insects, including pollinators, that can't survive on non-native plants. Natives also serve as host plants for butterflies and moths that only lay their eggs on specific native plants. More native plants mean more native insects and since many birds eat insects and almost *all* birds feed insects to their young, fewer native insects simply mean fewer birds.

Native plants are also easier and cheaper to maintain than non-natives. They don't need fertilizers or extra water because they're adapted to local conditions. Pesticides aren't required because native plants have defenses against native insects. Natives also provide four seasons of interest and as much beauty in the landscape as the non-native ornamentals so common to much of suburbia today.

What to Plant?

Here are a few of the best native trees and shrubs that provide food, cover, and nesting sites for birds: Oaks (Red, white, pin), Maples, Black Gum, Dogwoods (Flowering, red-osier, alternate-leaved, gray, silky), Cherries (Black, pin, chokecherry), Holly (American, winterberry, inkberry), White Pine, Eastern Red Cedar, Birches, Serviceberries, Blueberries, Elderberries Viburnums (Arrowwood, cranberry, maple-leaved, blackhaw), and Northern Bayberry.

Many of these trees and shrubs produce berries for birds. Try to plant a mix of plants that provide fruit throughout the seasons, especially in winter when food is scarce. And be sure to include evergreens in your landscape that provide winter cover.



What Else Can You Do For Birds?

- Provide a source of water in which birds can bathe and drink.
- Create a brush pile to provide shelter.
- Rake leaves under shrubs to create mulch and natural feeding areas for ground-feeding birds.
- Reduce the size of your lawn and replace it with native meadow plants and taller grasses.
- Stop using lawn chemicals and pesticides, which kill millions of birds every year. Remember, no insects mean no birds!
- Install nesting boxes.
- Keep your cats indoors! Hundreds of millions of birds are killed by cats each year.

"Healthy Yard Pledge"

As part of the Bird Town program, property owners are encouraged to take the "Healthy Yard Pledge." You can take this pledge online at pa.audubon.org/pledge.

Bird Habitat Recognition Program

Property owners who create bird-friendly habitat are also encouraged to register their property with PA Audubon and join its Bird Habitat Network. After you register your property you'll be provided with this yard sign.

To 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 / Parks and Recreation."

Calendar of Community Events

Saturday, April 25 – 8 p.m.	Bucks County Symphony Spring Concert at Central Bucks South High School
Sunday, April 26 – 8 a.m.	Chalfont Fire Co. Buffet Breakfast, 301 N. Main, Chalfont
Sunday, May 3 – 7 p.m.	Delaware Valley University Symphonic Band Concert, Life Sciences Bldg, Del Val University (Free)
Saturday, May 9 – 9 a.m.	Chalfont Fire Co., Turkey Hoagies, 301 N. Main, Chalfont
Sunday, May 31 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Chalfont Fire Co., Chicken Bar-B-Que Take Out, 301 N. Main, Chalfont
Friday, June 19 & Saturday June 20	Bucks County Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Mikado," Life Sciences Bldg, Delaware Valley University
Saturday, June 27 – 8:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.	Chalfont Fire Co., Flea Market, 301 N. Main, Chalfont
Saturday, July 4 – 9:30 a.m	4 th of July Parade, Town Center
Friday, July 31 – 7:30 p.m.	Doylestown Symphonic Winds, Life Sciences Bldg, Del Val University



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4th of July Parade

The 2015 parade will be held on **Saturday, July 4**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. It will start at Town Center on Route 202 and end at North Branch Park, 207 Park Avenue. This tri-municipal parade is hosted by New Britain Township, New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough.

Be part of the fun!

Floats from neighborhoods, organizations and businesses are welcome. Floats will be judged for Most Patriotic, Most Original and Most Humorous. Also needed are marching bands, Scout Troops, dancers, etc. Prizes are awarded and complimentary refreshments provided to participants.

The parade will also feature antique cars, and fire trucks. You're encouraged to decorate your bikes and baby strollers in a patriotic theme.

Local businesses are encouraged to get involved with this family-oriented community event. Please consider becoming a sponsor. Call the New Britain Township office, 215-822-1391.



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Protecting our Water Resources

Managing our yards and disposing of yard waste responsibly is the first step in protecting our streams and waterways

1. Sediment is a major stream pollutant, and the State is implementing major constraints on limiting these contaminants which affect stream quality, fish and micro-organisms. Please ensure any yard disturbances due to construction, gardening, and/or unstable areas are provided with sediment controls so as to not adversely affect stream /waterway quality.
2. Dispose of leaves, grass clippings, and yard waste properly (outside of floodplains and waterways so they don't get washed downstream causing pollution and possibly blocking pipes, inlets and restrictions in streams). If you notice an inlet clogged, either call the Borough or safely clear the grate and dispose of the debris properly.
3. Direct your mower discharge back onto your yards, not into the streets where it is quickly washed into streams.
4. Minimize lawn fertilizer use as this is one of the largest contributors to stream pollution. Remember, the less you fertilize the less you have to cut the grass. It's best to only spot fertilize where necessary.
5. Pool owners are required to discharge water responsibly as per Borough and PADEP rules and regulations. The Clean Stream Law prohibits the discharge of chemically contaminated water into streams or storm sewers. Contaminated pool water quickly makes its way to streams where aquatic life can be harmed or killed.
6. Dispose of hazardous materials properly at hazardous waste drop offs, before the containers begin to leak, no one wants to be responsible for a toxic spill clean-up. Be sure to store any hazardous materials (paint, oil, anti-freeze, etc.) in safe places outside of the floodplain. Unexpected stream high water levels and stormwater pick up pollutants and cause catastrophic pollution issues. Additional stormwater information is available at: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/npsdms4/ms4cd/Education/RainDrainBrochure.pdf>.
7. 'Rain barrels' are a great way to conserve water and save on your water bill during the dry summer months ahead. Simply place a 55 gallon drum under one or more of your downspouts with a valve and a hose bib at the bottom, then use to water your garden / yard. The rain barrels act as little detention basins that help decrease stream flooding. Decorative wooden wine / rain barrels are a great way to spruce up a porch.
8. 'Rain gardens' are also a popular method of decreasing runoff and beautifying your property with landscaping and / or water features.
9. If you notice illegal dumping or drainage activities, please report it immediately to New Britain Borough at 215-348-4586.

Summer Camp

June 22 to July 31, 2015
(6 weeks)

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays
(fair weather only)

An exciting array of supervised programs are planned at this year's summer camp including arts and crafts, theatre, nature/science and sports.

Ages: Children ages 6 through 12 (no exceptions).

Location: Covered Bridge Community Park, Keeley Avenue

Pre-registration is required at New Britain Borough Administration Building, 45 Keeley Avenue. **No on-site registration.**

Registration dates:

New Britain Borough residents: April 6 - June 19

New Britain Township and Chalfont Borough residents:
April 13 - June 19

All municipalities including those listed above:
April 20 - June 19

Registration forms are available at the Borough office or on the Borough website: www.newbritainboro.com.

Fee for 6-week program (checks payable to New Britain Borough):

Residents: \$260

Non-residents: \$310

Guest charge: \$25 each day



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 Burkart Hall, 7:30 PM**
Jeffrey Gilmore, *President*; Mary Pat Holewinski, *Vice-President*; Robyne Kelemen;
Lori Kesilman; Peter LaMontagne; William Macklem; Nancy Schuyler

Planning Commission: **Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM**
David Holewinski, *Chairman*; Karl Dieterichs, *Vice Chair*; Carrie Gamble, *Secretary*;
Jeffrey Gilmore; Michael T. Parke; Rick Eggleston; Bob Binkley; Tom Price; Rickard Moxey
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;
Matthew Benscoter. *Alternate*: William Schaefer; *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 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Website: www.newbritainboro.com

Email: NBBORO@newbritainboro.com

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

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

EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911