

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 26, Number 1

Winter/Spring 2017

Borough Treasures

Local 200-Year-Old STONE HOUSE Gets a REVIVAL

By Brandon DiCola

Every day I drove the same roads on my commute from Chalfont to Warminster, and every day I was captivated by a small house most people would never even notice. Passing the Baptist Church on my left, I'd look right and gaze at the primitive stone house with the red roof. "Boy, I would love to be able to call that home," I thought. Others might only focus on the dilapidated front porch, but not me. I grew up helping my father renovate our family's 1920s Victorian-style twin, room by room, so I was trained to see the potential in an old home. And *that* is exactly what the house on 16 South Tamenend had. Little did I know that one Wednesday on my daily drive to work, I would spot a sign next to that small stone structure: For Sale, and one month later, I would, in fact, be able to call it home!



That month was a whirlwind: Day 1: I asked my father to inspect the house with me, wanting to make sure it was structurally sound. As we walked past the 200-year-old black walnut tree by the driveway and stepped inside to see the incredible spiral staircase and beautiful exposed stone walls, the look on my face said it all. My dad knew I was sold and could not be convinced otherwise. "Brandon, this is going to be a lot of work," he warned, but I was excited at the prospect of having a project.

A week later, I received an email from my realtor. The subject line read, "I hope you're not afraid of ghosts," and the message included the historical documentation of the estate. Norman Augustine, the homeowner during the 1980s, had

done extensive research on the house before registering it with the Bucks County Conservancy. As I read each document, my fascination grew. The house was built in 1817, and the man who built it, Benjamin Mathews, was the grandson of an original settler of New Britain who had served as the Justice of Peace under the Crown rule of King George III. I finally understood where "New" Britain got its name! With each page, I learned more about the property – the famous "Execution of Mina," rumors of an old man in the attic – and I fell more and more in love with the house, even if it was haunted!

Fast forward to day 30: Settlement! For a first-time homebuyer, I didn't know what to expect other than a mountain of paperwork. I met the previous owner, Jonelle, and learned that she and her husband, Sean, purchased the house in 2001 with the same goal I had – to preserve a piece of local history. Four kids and 15 years later, their priorities had shifted, so they decided to sell. While it was hard to part with the house, Jonelle was happy to see that I possessed the same enthusiasm and passion for restoring this particular stone house as Sean once had. A mere hour later and the keys were in my hands!

My first full day as a homeowner, my realtor asked if the seller could contact me. "Odd," I thought, since the sale was already final. Later that day, Jonelle reached out to me with perhaps the best news a new homeowner could hear. My house was selected to be on TV! Earlier in the summer, she saw an ad

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Borough Treasures (continued from front page)

in *The Wire* for a new renovation show about stone houses taking place in Bucks County. She entered an application despite knowing the house would soon be on the market. Months went by without any news, but she finally heard back just a few hours after settlement. I couldn't believe it! What are the chances? I was in shock, but quickly got to work.

Over the next few weeks, I was in constant communication with the casting company for HGTV. They had to make sure I was "good" for TV. After submitting another application and taking dozens of pictures, I moved right along to the next stage of casting – a Skype interview and a video tour of the house. They asked for my renovation ideas, and my creative juices started flowing. What the program didn't show on TV was that the unfinished room in the middle of the first floor actually had a hole in the wall that opened to the living room. My idea was to turn it into a hidden 1920s-style speakeasy wet bar complete with a player piano and all. They could build a swinging bookcase that, as it opened, would reveal the bar while the piano would start playing a tune. The crew loved the idea, but ultimately decided that it didn't quite work for TV. Instead, they focused on developing plans for the kitchen and turned my speakeasy bar into a more functional pantry.

As the process continued, the production team – Jeff Devlin, the host of the show, a team of designers, and the head carpenters – came to my house on multiple occasions to brainstorm and take pictures and measurements. It was during these months that I also had to sign my life away with non-disclosures. I couldn't tell a soul! Then, I just had to wait. From this point forward, their plans were a secret even to me, and my type A personality made me question going through with it at times.

Finally, it was time for production to begin. First, they provided me with a design booklet – a sneak peek of what they were planning. I was beyond excited! Their plans calmed my anxieties about the renovation, but now I had to deal with nerves that came with being on camera in a few days to film the "before" shots. The staff put me at ease yet again, and after 5 hours of shooting, I had to pack my bags and let the team get to work. After all, they had a lot to do in just under 3 weeks! During that time, I wasn't allowed to enter the first floor of my house or peek through any of the windows. I honored their request since I truly wanted to be "wowed" come the day of the reveal. I won't spoil the surprise if you haven't seen the episode, but to say I was impressed is an understatement; they couldn't even use my first reaction! (Disclaimer: each scene is filmed three times.) I hate to admit it, but I literally danced my way off camera. The host of the show dubbed it the "DiCola reveal dance."

After the reveal, I invited some friends and family over to see the new space. I was still processing the fact that this was my new kitchen. How could this be the same house I had driven by all those days and bought just a few months earlier? My family asked what my favorite aspect of the design was, but it was too hard to choose just one feature out of such a cohesive design. The custom kitchen island that Jeff built for me, the newly exposed stone wall corner, and the reclaimed window are definitely at the top of my list. The island is truly a one-of-a-kind piece made from a live edge slab of black walnut that Jeff purchased from Ambrose Randa. I'm sure my father wasn't the only woodworker who cringed when he watched the host take my hatchet to it to add some character! The stone corner makes the kitchen feel as if it were literally wrapping around the original house. And the window...let's just say that's magical.

Reflecting back on the experience almost nine months later, I could not be happier with my decision to participate in the show. Not only do I have an amazingly designed "historically modern" kitchen, as I like to call it, but the corner stone has been laid for how I'd like to continue the restoration process of 16 South Tamenend. Even though this is a small house, I have big dreams for it, and I cannot wait to share them with everyone that lives in the Borough of New Britain!

If you are interested in continuing to follow the renovation process of my house, I have created a blog I hope you'll read (16south.wordpress.com), and, of course, if you haven't seen my episode of *Stone House Revival*, be sure to check it out by searching "1817 Chopped-Up Kitchen" on the DIY Network.



A. Bella
Hair Design & Boutique
215-341-6456
210 West Butler



NEW BRITAIN INN
GASTRO PUB

- Come see the Changes
- New Winter/Spring Menu
- Everything Homemade
 - Family Friendly
- 37 Best of Bucks Awards

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NEW BRITAIN INN  
Rt. 202  
215-348-1968  
NewBritainInn.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.*

### **Montgomery Bucks Endodontics PC**

**Robert A Caruso Jr, DDS, MS**

**314 West Butler Avenue, New Britain**

**215-348-5570**

Endodontics is the dental specialty involving the pulp or “root canal” of a tooth. An endodontist treats all associated diseases of the pulp and related surrounding tissues. Prudent general dentists will refer cases to ensure that the highest quality and most predictable care are provided for their patients. Additionally, the increasing complexity of advanced endodontic treatment make the endodontist an indispensable partner with the referring general dentist. Stable, healthy supporting root structure is literally the foundation on which all dental work is built. The field of endodontics has undergone a dramatic technology boom over the past decade. The use of surgical operating microscopes (like the ones used by physicians for eye, ear, nose and throat surgery) and the advent of digital x-rays have greatly increased the ability to provide predictable quality care.

Montgomery Bucks Endodontics PC offers a complete spectrum of endodontic services, including surgical and non-surgical endodontic therapy, oral diagnosis and biopsy, and consultations. Surgical treatments offered include root resective, regenerative and reconstructive procedures. An individual must complete an additional two years of training beyond dental school to become an endodontist. Because these specialists limit their practice to endodontic procedures, they have concentrated experience in all endodontic treatment modalities including complicated retreatment and surgical root canal procedures.

Dr. Caruso graduated from Case Western Reserve University, School of Dentistry in 1991. Upon graduation he entered the United States Navy and was selected for a hospital based residency at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda Maryland. Upon graduation he was assigned as Dental Officer aboard the USS LaSalle (AGF-3) forward deployed in the Persian Gulf to provide dental services to military forces in support of Operation Desert Storm/Southern Watch. In 1996 he was selected to complete an Endodontic Residency at National Naval Dental Center, Bethesda MD. In 2001 he separated from Active Duty and joined the Reserves at Willow Grove JRB. He retired from the reserves in June 2010 holding the rank of Commander.

Montgomery Bucks Endodontics PC was founded on May 1, 2002 with offices in Chalfont. The staff consisted of Dr. Caruso, a receptionist and a dental assistant. Since that time Montgomery Bucks Endodontics has grown to include eight employees and has outgrown the Chalfont location. The old Dietrich's homestead on Butler Avenue was purchased in July 2007 as a new location for the office. In 2008, an architectural firm was hired to design a new office building to house the practice. The goal was to create a facility to compliment the farmhouse and maintain a “Bucks County” touch while enhancing the ambience of the Borough. Environmental concerns were considered, and a geothermal system was installed to reduce carbon emissions: the design also allowed for solar energy systems to be placed when financing is available. The first patient was seen at the new location in December 2009. Subsequently Dr. Michael Brady moved his office, Bucks Country Wellness Centre, to our campus January 2016. Plans are for the Dietrich farmhouse to be restored and preserved for future use.

## **Wreaths Across America**

The Wreaths Across America ceremony, organized by the Historic Preservation Committee, was cancelled due to the poor weather conditions this year. However, a few volunteers came out to make sure the wreaths did get placed on our veterans' graves that day. Thank you to Bruce Burkart, Ruth Ann & Bill Focht, Dan O'Leary, David Holewinski, Tom Price and Michael, Jackie & Julia D'Agostino for placing the wreaths!

The New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee also wishes to thank the following individuals for their support of our 2016 Wreaths Across America Program. Without your generous donations we would have no wreaths to place on our veterans' graves in the historic New Britain Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mark & Jill Farrington, Bruce Burkart, Bill & Ruth Ann Focht, Benjamin & Sarah Eastburn, John & Kathleen Tatu, Giesler Insurance Agency, Inc., Angelia Livingston, Joann Malta, Elaine Hanrahan, Tony & Marie Coia, Jeff Gilmore, Michael & Jackie D'Agostino, Michael Parke & Amy Gulden, The Paper Planner, John & Peg Remmey, Barbara & Paul Wiley, Joseph Waga, Jill Coulton, Jane & John McGroarty, Betsy & Warren Klinger, Lorraine & Dick Moxey, Girl Scout Troop 2309, David & Mary Pat Holewinski, Jo Schuler & Harry Baum, Margaret Fabry and Bruce & Maureen Arnold.



# New Britain Welcomes New Businesses

**Nico's Pizza  
& Italian Restaurant**  
**416 Town Center Shopping Center**  
**215-340-1440 / 215-340-1447**  
**marcospizza74@gmail.com**  
 Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
 Sunday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Marco Morabito became the new owner of the formerly Roma's Pizza and Italian Restaurant at the end of September. Marco, who grew up in Horsham, has been in the pizza business all his life because his father and mother owned a pizza restaurant when they came to the states from Italy. He has owned and worked in a few pizza places but moved to New Britain Borough because he likes the area.

Nico's, named for Marco's youngest son, one of his three children, offers all of the great food one expects from an Italian restaurant including standard and specialty pizza, stromboli, calzones, baked pasta dishes, salads, wings, entrees, burgers, hoagies, grinders, Italian-style sandwiches, wraps, and a full catering menu. They even make their own lasagna!

Marco enjoys meeting new people, and he now considers many of his customers friends. People have followed him from place to place because of the great food and friendly atmosphere. While some take-out restaurants give their customers a number, Marco takes your name when you order because he likes to get to know people and provide a friendly atmosphere. Check out Nico's for your next lunch, dinner or pizza!

**Just Paint**  
**422 Town Center Shopping Center**  
**justpaintstudio.com**  
**justpaint1976@gmail.com**  
**267-406-4642**

As a mother of three, Alison Abelson was always searching for new and different art experiences for her kids. She tried other paint studios and while they were fun, they were more suited to adults. She decided to open a place of her own combining the best elements of many different types of art and pottery studios.

Just Paint is an open painting studio, which means no reservations necessary. They offer a unique experience because they provide a fully equipped, open art studio. Artists of all ages can just walk in and get creative! Choose from a blank canvas or one with a pre-drawn image to get you started.

Check out their upcoming workshops and events for more exciting art opportunities. They have a calendar full of great classes including cake decoration, pallet wood signs, clay, etc.

Their private party room is also the perfect place for your next children's or adults birthday party, shower, office get-together or girls-night-out. Their private room is open 7 days a week so it is perfect for corporate team building events as well! So stop by and check out Just Paint.



Featuring Garden Portraits with the Look of Bucks County

**Certified Professional Photographer** 215 527-8325  
 - Families, Newborns to Graduation bille@coolstudio.com  
 - Executive / Business Portraits facebook.com/edwardsstudios  
 - Commercial Photography 104 east butler avenue new britain



**McCabe and Brady**  
**Physical Therapy**  
**Frank McCabe, MSPT, Cert. MDT**  
**Douglas Brady, DPT, JD, MBA**  
**Kady Showmaker, DPT**

[www.mccabebradypt.com](http://www.mccabebradypt.com)

**Warminster Office:**  
 607 Louis Drive, Suite H  
 Warminster, PA 18974  
 (215) 675-2330

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

## What Do You Know About the Borough?

We are including a few questions and answers in the next few newsletters, space permitting, to challenge your knowledge of our town. We hope you enjoy it.

1. What are the names of the two former one-room schools in the borough?
2. Where are they located?
3. When were they built?
4. When was the final year they held classes?
5. When was the Detwiler School built?
6. When did classes begin in the Detwiler School?
7. What was the original name of the Detwiler School?
8. Where was the Detwiler School located?

- Answers**
1. New Britain School, aka Cabbage Hill School, and Shady Retreat School.
  2. New Britain School – 138 West Butler Ave, the Shady Retreat School on Shady Retreat Road off of Butler Ave.
  3. Approximately 1872
  4. 1930
  5. 1930
  6. January 1931
  7. New Britain Elementary School
  8. Butler Ave between Keeley & Lamp Post roads

# Catching Up With Council

By Robyne Kelemen, Council President

This column discusses notable items from our recent Borough Council meetings. I thought it would be good to highlight a few of the items covered and decisions made that may be of particular interest to residents and local businesses. Want to learn more? Join us for the council meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, or contact the Borough Administrative office with any questions.



## September

Ordinance #377 was approved requiring connection to public water for new construction of 5 or more residential properties and all new commercial properties. This does not affect existing properties. This is being done to not additionally burden our existing ground water reserves as well as to assure good availability of potable water for future development.

Council approved purchase of our borough's street lights for up to \$19,000 from PECO. PECO will continue to own the poles. This is an approach commonly undertaken by local municipalities for cost-savings. We have been paying PECO monthly for the lights, including maintenance, and expect that the purchase will "pay for itself" in less than a year. We also will have flexibility for future lighting decisions (where, how bright, what type of lights).

## October

Mike Italia was appointed as the borough's zoning officer. He is an employee of Barry Isett & Associates, a company that the borough approved in September to provide our building inspection services. Their pricing is very competitive, and will help us hold the line on our budget.

The plan for primary land development at the Knoell property (Butler and Iron Hill) was approved by Council. This action approved the conceptual plans for a 5-building, multi-use development for the site, including shopping space and apartment units. The plans align well with our "Main Street" development plan. The detailed development plan is expected to be presented to Council in 2017.

## November

November was a busy month. It was announced that the single-trash hauler initiative would be abandoned. The results of a survey on using a single company for trash hauling in the borough was presented in September. After additional review, it was determined that the benefits of a single-hauler did not outweigh the broader needs of the residents. With no changes to current practice, residents and businesses will continue to have the freedom to select the best hauler among those that service the borough, and select the best plan for their needs.

Budget activities were high on the November agenda. The borough budget was advertised and subsequently approved in December. The police budget was also approved by Council in November. The bottom line is that there is no borough real estate tax increase for 2017. We are pleased to be able to hold the ground on spending with the cost savings suggestions from our new manager and suggestions from Borough Council. Also revitalization and new controlled development in the borough are bringing in new fees that help us not raise taxes.

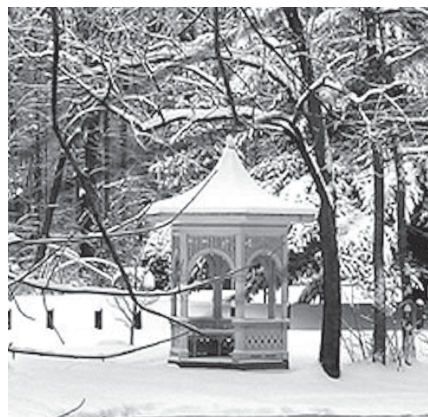
Council approved that Burkart Hall will connect to public water after shocking the well did not reduce bacterial count. For a cost of \$5500, this is a long-term solution that will provide reliable water utility service to the building.

A resolution was passed changing the name of the Burkart Hall Committee to the Facilities Committee. Since the big project to make Burkart Hall handicapped accessible (as well as modernized) has been beautifully completed by Facilities Committee members, the committee will now broaden its focus to all Borough-owned facilities.

## Where in the Borough Is It?

The cat doesn't always get the bird as we see here. In the old days the wind direction predicted the weather, but now they're for decoration. For thirty years this weather vane has presided over ducks and geese on one of the busiest streets in the Borough.

*Answer on page 8*



Photos by  
Patrick Huss





## Bird Town News

### Education Programs Offered this Winter

The Bird Town Committee of New Britain Borough is offering three educational programs this winter on **January 25, February 22, and March 22.**

The January program will be about the Bird Town program, common backyard birds, and this year's Great Backyard Bird Count. The February program will focus on winter bird feeding, common feeder birds in our area, and Project Feeder Watch. In March, as spring approaches, the program will be about using native plants to create more bird-friendly habitat in our backyards.

All three Wednesday evening programs will be presented at 7:00 p.m. in Burkart Hall on Keeley Ave. No pre-registration is required and admission is free.

## Call for Volunteers

The following volunteer opportunities are currently available in the Borough. Put your talents to work to help your community!

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – 2 vacancies – This committee encompasses several previously separate committees, including Orchard Park, Bird Town, Open Space, and bike and hike liaison.

**Public Safety Committee** – 1 vacancy – This committee assesses and makes recommendations to Council on items of concern including traffic and parking issues, as well as other matters affecting the protection or safety of the citizens.

**Historic Preservation Committee** – open to interested persons. The New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee was formed to create a framework for a positive coexistence between the past and future. It meets the third Wednesday at 10 a.m.

One of the best ways to find out if a committee is right for you is to join them at a regular meeting or two. All committee meetings are open to the public. Please contact the Borough office at 215-348-4586 for more information and to submit your volunteer information form. Vacancies are ultimately filled by Council appointment.

### Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (February 17-20)

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org).

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2017. Please visit the official website at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) for more information and instructions on how to participate.



## Volunteer Appreciation Day

Borough Council and staff held a holiday party for the volunteers in the borough on Saturday, December 17, which was well attended. A special thank you to our secretary, Carrie Gamble, who ordered the wonderful treats. A good time was had by all. The Borough has a wealth of hard-working volunteers that makes our community a great place to live.



Photo by Aaron Kelemen

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## ***Moments with the Mayor***

The days of winter are now upon us and we look forward to the coming of spring and more pleasant weather. The Borough of New Britain is also looking at a brighter future thanks to the efforts and foresight shown by residents and members of



Borough Council over the last five-year period. Our new Borough Manager now has over a year under his belt and has proven to be an asset to our borough and its residents. We have welcomed new families into the Hidden Meadows townhomes along Shady Retreat. We have also seen new businesses in the Giant Shopping Center and there is continued interest in filling the open spaces that still exist there.

The Butler Avenue Corridor plan has been completed and accepted by our Borough Council, there has been preliminary approval of the Knoll property development and we'll see a transformation of additional properties in the University area. New Britain is coming closer to the "walk ability" plan that our residents told us they wanted. Connections are soon going to allow us to walk from New Britain to Chalfont, Doylestown, the farm market at Del Val and to the scenic parkway with its 9 miles of bike and hike paths. The safe route to schools project is now complete and this spring we'll see construction of our route to the New Britain train station begin.

A new Comprehensive Plan will be completed by the time summer arrives and this new plan will outline what we envision the future of New Britain to look like. We also now have almost a year of Chalfont Borough being part of the Central Bucks Regional Police Department. This move has given our police better resources in development of officers and increased coverage of our area by a very professional police organization. Safety is the major concern for our residents and that combined with efficiencies of scale make this move a positive for all of us.

The transformation of Burkart Hall has been completed and it has been a plus for those using it as well as for the borough meetings and events.

That's all for now: stay tuned to our website,, [www.newbritainboro.com](http://www.newbritainboro.com), for updates on activities and information concerning our Borough and the surrounding area.

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## ***No Increase in Borough Real Estate Tax for the Third Consecutive Year***

2017 marks the third year in a row the Borough will not increase its real estate taxes.

Borough Council and all our staff know that it is incredibly important to be as responsible and as efficient as possible with taxpayer funds.

We have our new manager of only a little more than a year, Sam Bryant, to thank in large part for the tax savings. He reduced the electric use in our Borough offices in 2016 by half compared to 2015 because of the use of timed thermostats. After much research he suggested Council sign a four-year agreement with a new electric supplier that will cut our electric costs by nearly a third. He also suggested that the Borough assume the maintenance of our streetlights from PECO in 2017, which will reduce that cost by half. In addition he thoroughly researched vendors and consultants resulting in major savings for Borough engineering and capital projects and he changed the vendor for Building Inspection Services, which enabled the Borough to lower many of its permit fees.

Sam also increased revenue without changing tax rates. For example, the Borough changed banks in 2016 to eliminate banking fees and generate higher interest rates and increased the number of individuals participating in the summer camp program without increasing costs to the Borough (a fee increase was implemented to offset the costs of payments via credit card).

In addition, our secretary, Carrie Gamble, suggested ways to save money by finding a less expensive copy machine. Also, economic development in the Borough resulted in increased collections of property taxes, earned income taxes, and local services taxes.

Changes to staffing also resulted in savings to the budget for our taxpayers. In 2015, when our former manager was retiring, the then treasurer suggested the new manager also take on the duties of the treasurer. The search committee sought someone who had the skills to assume both positions. Consequently, in 2016, the treasurer and manager positions were combined in one person, Sam Bryant.

The Borough is very fortunate to have many active volunteers. Our volunteers, who include Council, the Mayor and Borough residents, save us tax dollars in many ways. Just a few of the ways are maintaining and improving the Nature Preserve and Orchard Park, writing grants to supplement the costs of our activities, writing, editing, and coordinating our newsletter, and renovating Burkart Hall.

These are a sampling of activities undertaken in 2016 to improve the Borough's financial health. The above was a major reason why the Borough passed its first budget in more than five years which didn't use savings to plug the gap between expenses and revenue. The Borough will continue to work in 2017 and beyond to ensure that taxpayer funds are used as judiciously and efficiently as possible.

# Calendar of Community Events

|                                       |                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, January 21 - 10 am to 12 pm | Chalfont Fire Co., Soup, Used Book & Rummage Sale -301 N. Main St.           |
| Wednesday, January 25 - 7 pm          | Bird Town Committee educational program - Burkart Hall, Keeley Ave.          |
| Wednesday, February 22 - 7 pm         | Bird Town Committee educational program - Burkart Hall, Keeley Ave.          |
| Saturday, February 25 - 7 pm          | DelVal Symphonic & Jazz Bands, Winter Concert-Life Sciences Bldg <i>Free</i> |
| Sunday, February 26 - 3 pm            | Bucks County Symphony Winter Concert - DelVal Life Sciences Bldg             |
| Saturday, March 18 - 10 am to 12 pm   | Chalfont Fire Co., Soup, Used Book & Rummage Sale -301 N. Main St.           |
| Sunday, March 19 - 5 pm               | Bucks County Symphony Pops Concert - DelVal Student Center Auditorium        |
| Wednesday, March 22 - 7 pm            | Bird Town Committee educational program - Burkart Hall, Keeley Ave.          |
| Saturday, April 8 - 9 am to 12 pm     | Chalfont Fire Co., Mommy Market - 301 N. Main St.                            |
| Saturday, April 8 - 7 pm              | DelVal Chorale and Jazz Band Concert- Life Sciences Bldg <i>Free</i>         |
| Sunday, April 23 - 8 am to 12 pm      | Chalfont Fire Co., Buffet Breakfast - 301 N. Main St.                        |
| Saturday, April 29 - 7 pm             | DelVal Symphonic & Jazz Bands, Spring Concert-Life Sciences Bldg <i>Free</i> |
| Saturday, May 6 - 9 am to 12 pm       | Chalfont Fire Co., Turkey Hoagies - 301 N. Main St.                          |

## The Importance of Recycling for our Environment and Taxes

*By Sam Bryant, Borough Manager*

Recycling helps preserve our planet's valuable natural resources by lowering the environmental footprint of both households and corporations. Recycling helps make more efficient use of our resources and reduces the size of landfills. For example, more than a ton of resources are saved for every ton of glass recycled — 1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar. Every ton of paper made from recycled materials saves 17 trees, about 450 gallons of oil and about seven gallons of water. Every ton of plastic that is recycled saves the equivalent energy of 1,000 to 2,000 of gasoline.

In addition, the Borough receives a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania based upon the tonnage of recycling reported each year. For example, in 2016, the Borough received more than \$7,000 in such funding. While that's a great amount for our small Borough, many municipalities in Pennsylvania receive much more funding. This is money that helps the Borough hold down taxes and fees.

Whether you own a home or business in the Borough, please check with your individual trash hauler, as many haulers accept more recyclables than you may know. In addition, for commercial businesses, please be sure that you or your hauler is reporting the tonnage of recycling collected.

Whether your goal is to help the environment or to help the budget, recycling is a simple and sure way to do so.

## Where in the Borough Is It?

**Answer:** *The weather vane was designed by Sarah Dieterichs and built with a recycled street sign by Peter LaMontagne. It's on the gazebo in Covered Bridge Park on Keeley Avenue by the pond.*



**Lisa Heuckeroth**  
New Britain Branch  
Sales and Service Manager

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**Melissa Ceresi, DMD PC**

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# Money Saving Tips

## Electricity

PECO delivers our electricity and charges a generation charge and a transmission charge, both of which can be purchased from independent suppliers for possibly less than PECO charges. The PA Public Utility Commission has an easy to use website: <http://www.papowerswitch.com>. There are a couple of things to consider. Is this particular price is guaranteed for three months? Do other suppliers offer longer price guarantees? Consider that guaranteeing the price for a longer period of time could increase the cost. You will be notified before the contract expires. At that time you have to sign up for a new plan. If you don't change suppliers, the supplier can charge the "market rate," which may be much higher.

## Trash

Of the 184 completed trash hauler surveys that were returned, approximately 120 residents gave us information about what they pay per quarter. While Council ultimately chose not to pursue a single hauler, the information from the survey could benefit many of you. 25% are paying \$55 to \$75/quarter, 33% are paying less than \$80, 50% are paying less than \$90, and 20% of you are paying over \$125/quarter. It can make a difference if you have trash picked up once or twice a week and whether or not you get the senior rate, but negotiating with your trash hauler and shopping around could save you money.

# Summer Camp

Our six-week summer camp at the Covered Bridge Park will be held again this summer. Registration for New Britain Borough residents will begin sometime in April. Please see our website, [www.newbritainboro.com](http://www.newbritainboro.com), in March for information.

# Winter's Here



It's that time of year again, with the beginning of winter and snow events, please keep your sidewalks clear and do not blow snow into the roadways as the plow trucks will most likely relocate this to your driveway. Ensure that your mail boxes are secure and located 6"-8" behind the curb / edge of road line. Be safe and alert for traffic while working near the roadway.

Stormwater Information is available at <http://www.newbritainboro.com> and <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/npdsm4/ms4cd/Education/RainDrainBrochure.pdf>.

## Where in the Borough — the Flamingo

The only response we received regarding how and where the flamingo came from, according to someone who works in construction, is when there are major power outages, PECO sometimes hires electric workers from out of the area to help out. Sometimes these groups leave a mark of some kind where they did work. The rumor is that an outfit from Florida did work for PECO and placed the flamingo on the pole to note they did the repair job. Our guess is that it was after Super Storm Sandy.

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## ***New Britain Borough Officials***

**Mayor:** David Holewinski

**Council:** **Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in Burkart Hall, 7:30 PM**  
Robyne Kelemen, *President*; Peter LaMontagne, *Vice-President*; Robert Binkley; Mary Pat Holewinski;  
Jeffrey Gilmore; Lori Kesilman; Thomas Price

**Planning Commission:** **Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Burkart Hall, 7:30 PM**  
Michael Stanislaw, *Chairman*; Karl Dieterichs, *Vice Chairman*; Robert Binkley (Council Liaison)  
Rick Eggleston; Loren Frasco; David Holewinski; Richard Moxey; Michael Parke; Peg Remmey

**Zoning Hearing Board:** **Meets, as needed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in Burkart Hall, 7:30 PM**  
Robert Bair, *Chairman*; Anthony Coia, *Vice Chairman*; John Wolff; David Siegfried  
Andrea Antell; William Schaefer – *Alternate*; Matthew Benscoter – *Alternate*

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

**Solicitor:** Michael Savona

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

**Newsletter Editor:** 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](http://www.newbritainboro.com) Email: [secretary@newbritainboro.com](mailto:secretary@newbritainboro.com)

**Borough Manager/Treasurer:** ..... Samuel Bryant  
**Roadmaster** ..... Mark Hintenlang  
**Borough Secretary:** ..... Carrie Gamble  
**BCO/Zoning Officer:** ..... Michael Italia

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

**EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911**