

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 24, Number 1

Winter 2015

Upcoming Events

Police Town Hall Meeting Wednesday, February 25, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Life Science Auditorium – Delaware Valley College

The Central Bucks Regional Police Commission invites you to join them for their first “Town Hall” meeting. Please attend as they discuss the Status of Command for their first year as a Regional Police Department and the impact it has had on our communities. There will be an open forum for questions, comments and/or concerns. Everyone is invited!

Covered Bridges of Bucks County Presentation

Monday, April 6, 2015

7:00 p.m.

New Britain Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

The New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee will host Bill Wilson, Vice Chairman of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society, who will speak about the covered bridges of Bucks County. Everyone is invited!



Welcome Amy Keller, Our New Administrative Assistant!

We are pleased to introduce and welcome our new administrative assistant, Amy Keller, to the New Britain Borough community. She came from Chalfont Borough where she worked as an Executive Assistant to the Police Chief. Prior to that, she had a career in banking and also spent some time working in the IT department of the Doylestown Library.



Amy lives in New Britain Township with her husband Ken, a Commercial Lender with National Penn Bank, and daughter Sidney, currently an Equine Science Major at the University of Findlay in Ohio. Her four-legged family members include the family dog, Brandy, a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, and two horses, both registered with the American Paint Horse Association.

In her spare time, Amy enjoys practicing yoga, hiking, and bike riding. She is looking forward to enjoying the bike path at Covered Bridge Park once the weather gets a little warmer.

We are happy to have Amy join our staff.

New Borough Office Hours

The office is now open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the exception of Tuesday when the office will remain open until 6:00 p.m. The extended hours will, hopefully, accommodate those who couldn't make it into the office by our previous closing time of 3:00 p.m.

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.

The Marciante's became Grandparents!

Dawn and Alfred Marciante became grandparents in 2014. Their son Nicholas and his wife Jennifer gave birth to a daughter, Paisley Marciante, on July 31, 2014. She weighed in at 9 pounds 10 ounces and 21 inches. Everyone is doing well. Congratulations to all!


Gilmore & Associates Works on Trail Study

The Bucks County Planning Commission (BCPC) unveiled plans for the Lower Neshaminy Creek Greenway from Middletown to Bensalem. Earlier this year, Gilmore & Associates, Inc. (G&A) completed a trail feasibility study for the BCPC for the Upper Neshaminy portion of the proposed trail, and is currently studying the middle portion of the trail route, says Senior Landscape Architect Chris Green. Ultimately, the three trail sections create a pedestrian trail system stretching from Chalfont to Bristol. The Neshaminy Creek Greenway is identified on the Circuit Trail Map on www.connectthecircuit.org, which is a 750-mile network of trails in the Greater Philadelphia region. For more information please call: 215.345.4330 or visit: www.gilmore-assoc.com.



Borough Website Updated

Our new website has been up and running for a few 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.



McCabe and Brady
Physical Therapy

Frank McCabe, MSPT, Cert. MDT
Douglas Brady, DPT, JD, MBA
Kady Showmaker, DPT

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

www.mccabebradypt.com

Fusion Gym Gives to kids in Need

The business partners of the new Fusion Gym in the Town Center Shopping Center went above and beyond to make sure needy kids got toys this Christmas. The Toys for Tots donation bin they placed at their gym didn't get as many donations as they would have liked so the business partners rented a U-Haul and bought 280 toys including 50 bikes which they donated to different organizations including Toys for Tots. Kevin Miller with Bucks County Toys for Tots said "this is a huge donation for us and it'll go a long way to putting smiles on a lot of kids faces for Christmas." A very special "Thank you" to the owners of the new gym for their kindness and generosity.



Steven W. Gieseler
President

Steven W. Gieseler
650 E. Butler Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901

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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.

A.Bella Hair Design & Boutique **210 W. Butler Ave.** **New Britain, Pa. 18901**

215-341-6456

abellashairdesign@gmail.com

www.abellashairdesign.com

Want to feel your best, look your best, and have a relaxing experience doing it, go to A. Bella Hair Design & Boutique. It is located at 210 W. Butler Ave across from Town Center Shopping Center and quaintly situated between Bucks-Mont Party Rental and BP gas station. Tucked around the back you come across the lovely unique Hair Salon and Boutique that is always changing as the seasons do. The landscape in front of the hair salon is meticulously maintained by Angela Ciesielka-Feeney, owner of A.Bella, who is constantly gardening and decorating the lovely grounds. The atmosphere is so inviting you just can't help and take a peek inside to see what it is all about.

Angela decided many years ago to make this rental space a very special business. She took on the task of renovating the whole bottom rental space into a Hair Salon and Boutique for her existing and new clientele into a home atmosphere. She had a vision of warmth, friendliness, and functionality to make the hair salon stand out. Lots of vision and working with only local carpenters, electricians, plumbers, architects, and family has made A.Bella so outstanding. By employing only local craftsman to work on the project Angela believes we all need to support other small businesses.

Angela has been in the Hair/ Fashion industry for over 30 years and has resided in Bucks County most of her life. She has worked for other salons in the area and credits all her mentors to making her own business successful. Besides being in the beauty industry, Angela has education in Business and Psychology that is ongoing. Also, added to her list of credits, Angela is presently a member of National Association of Professional Women (NAPW) and also for the 4th year in a row participated in the 8K race to cure women's cancer. And with the generosity of the salons' clientele, donated over \$1,000 to National Foundation for Women's Cancer.

The salon styling area at A.Bella is very tastefully decorated and quaint, plus has an added luxury of a private ventilated nail room for all your hand and feet services. Currently A.Bella has

two employees in addition to Angela that can provide you with your hair/ skin needs. They believe that customer service is their number one priority. Amy Michael has joined the salon recently and has over 20 years of professional experience in men and women's Haircutting, Coloring, Highlighting, Perming, Styling, and special occasion hair dos. She has an honest and sincere ability to connect with you and accomplish your own special hair needs to make you look and feel fabulous. Amy is currently taking new clients and works Wednesdays through Saturdays.

Besides the hair salon part of the business, A.Bella has a wonderful gift boutique with a huge assortment of jewelry, scarves, apparel, candles, skin care lotions, purses, and professional retail hair products for all your needs. The unique gifts in the boutique area range from classics to the latest trends.

You are welcome to visit A.Bella Hair Design & Boutique Tuesday and Thursday 10-7, Wednesday 11-8, Friday 10-4, Saturday 9-3.

New Britain Welcomes New Businesses to the Borough

Fusion Gym

500 Town Center Shopping Center
fusiongyms.com

844-289-5270



Getting to Know Our Council Members

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.

In this and future articles, we will interview our Borough Council members so that our residents and businesses can get to know them. In this issue we will meet William Macklem.



How long and when were you previously on Council? I was appointed to fill a vacancy approximately 1994 and served until February 2010.

You were recently appointed to Council. Why did you decide to rejoin Council? Originally (early 1990's) I wanted to get involved and give back to the community. I felt it was time to do it again.

How long have you lived in the Borough? I am a 40 year resident. It IS a nice and friendly place to live.

Are you married? My wife and I are life partners. Married 51 years – February 1, 2015

Do you have children? I have a daughter, Lynn Ann, with two grandchildren, and a son, Keith.

What is your profession? I am retired from main frame computer software testing after 35 years with one company.

Any other volunteer activities other than Council? Council appointed me a member of the Central Bucks Regional Police Department commission. Also, I will continue attending the Joint Planning Commission meetings, having a great interest in how the Butler Ave. corridor will be developed.

I have been a member of the planning commission, nature preserve committee, building committee, and the road committee.

Do you have any hobbies? No, however, I relax by going to the movies, walking my "grand" dog, and working in the yard (spring & summer).

What goals do you have for the Borough? I want to work with council and the staff to continue the effort to keep the budget in line and not increase taxes.

What would you like people to know about you? A council member is part of the borough leadership that decides what is best for all residents even though not all decisions are favorable. I enjoy living in the borough and I want the community to know I will strive to keep it the "nice place to live".

Moments with the Mayor



A New Year is upon us, where does the time go? Many of us look back on 2014 and wonder if we did everything we could to make it a year to remember. Did you keep your New Year's Resolution or did it get forgotten early in January? Did you take that "Vacation of a Lifetime" or the usual week or so at the Shore? Will your children remember 2014 as a great year for your family or just another year for the books? Looking back is a reminder that what happened in 2014 is now history and we should learn from history, hopefully moving forward, we'll enjoy good times and happiness.

For some, 2014 brought happy times and for others there was sadness. Late in December our Borough lost a longtime, retired, Council member, Kermit Weitzel. Kermit served on Council for about 25 years and will be missed by family and friends. Others in the Borough lost loved ones and yet others found new members of their families who arrived in 2014. The circle of life is unending and we all need to accept that there will be good times and bad times in all of our lives.

At the Borough we have a lot to do in 2015. We will work with the owner/developer of the Knoell property, look at improvements at the Shopping Center, and promote development that fits the needs of residents and developers on other available sites. We will continue to work on the Comprehensive Plan, making the changes that are necessary to maximize results, utilizing the combined efforts of our Planning Commission and those of the Bucks County Planning Commission. We are constantly working to find ways to help our existing businesses continue to enjoy residing in New Britain Borough and attract new businesses to our community.

Now is the time to plan for a 2015 special vacation or an event the whole family can enjoy. Maybe the New Year will bring an addition to the family, a special birthday, a graduation or wedding event. Whatever the future holds in store for you in 2015, I hope it is filled with the happiness and love that all of us look for as we move on in life.

Volunteer Opportunities

The **Public Safety Committee** is looking for a new member to start as soon as possible. This committee meets monthly to assess traffic, parking, and other public safety matters in the borough, and forwards recommendations to council.

The new **Bird Town Committee** is looking for interested residents. This committee plans to promote and facilitate the goals of the Audubon Society's Bird Town program in our community.

Central Bucks Regional Aging Task Force: They meet the first Friday of each month from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.. They help local seniors with local government services, providers, and civic-minded organizations.

The **Zoning Hearing Board** has a vacancy for an alternate member. They meet as needed on the third Thursday of the month. The Board's main function is to hear cases appealed from decision of the zoning officer.

Anyone interested in any of these committees should complete a volunteer form and submit to the New Britain Borough Office. The form is on our website: <http://newbritainboro.com/committees/appointment-advisory/> or call the office at 215-348-4586.

Bucks County ReadyNotify PA

Some of you received a phone call when, it was thought, the alleged killer of six family members in Montgomery County was on the loose in our area. Some did not receive that call. If you want to be placed on a list to get emergency notification you can register with Bucks County. Bucks County uses the Roam Secure Alert Network to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency. The Roam Secure Alert Network delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all your devices: email account (work, home, other), cell phone (via SMS), pager, smartphone/PDA (BlackBerry, Treo & and other handhelds)

When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders will instantly notify you using the Roam Secure Alert Network. The Roam Secure Alert Network is your personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information.

Register at <https://bucks.alertpa.org> to receive alerts.

Wreaths Across America

The New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee wishes to thank the following for their donations and help with the Wreaths Across America ceremony so that wreaths could be placed on the veterans graves in the historic New Britain Baptist Church Cemetery.

The NBB Historic Preservation Committee wishes to thank all who came out to the ceremony at the New Britain Baptist Church cemetery and the Walter Harvey War Memorial on December 13. A special thank you to the following:

- New Britain Borough historian Bruce Burkart for walking the cemetery several times prior to the ceremony to make sure that there were flags on the veterans graves and for reading the names of the veterans buried in the historic cemetery during the ceremony.
- Jackie D'Agostino for storing the wreaths, preparing the memorial wreaths, helping distribute them, and getting her father to meet the tractor trailer which delivered the wreaths from Maine and put them on his truck to place them on Jackie's porch.
- Peter Ulmen who also met the tractor trailer and used his van to place them on Jackie's porch.
- Tony Coia for helping in so many ways including distributing the wreaths on the day of the ceremony.
- The Central Bucks Marine Corp League Color Guard: Robert Sundling, Budd Pearce, and Don Gee.
- Ron Haskell who played Taps.
- Malcolm Rollins for ringing the church bells at noon and coordinating with the church.
- Marie Esher Coia location and group leader who organized the event.
- The gentlemen who presented the memorial wreaths including Marine Corporal William McBride, Air Force Staff Sergeant David Avayou, Navy Seaman First Class Peter Ulmen, Army Specialist Malcolm Rollins, Coast Guard Seaman John Remmey, and Merchant Marine Third Mate Renton Meininger.

Thank you to all of you who sent donations so that we may purchase the wreaths. They include Sandra Alford, Bruce & Maureen Arnold, Bruce & Nancy Burkart, Tony & Marie Coia, Georgie Coles, Thomas Dunn, Edward Dunn, Paul Dunn, Benjamin & Sarah Eastburn, Margaret Fabry, Bill & Ruth Ann Focht, Elaine Hanrahan, Angelia Livingston, Dick & Lorraine Moxey, Cynthia Rozycki, Jo Schuler & Harry Baum, Joseph Waga, Barbara & Paul Wiley, First Friends Childcare and Eiseman Construction.

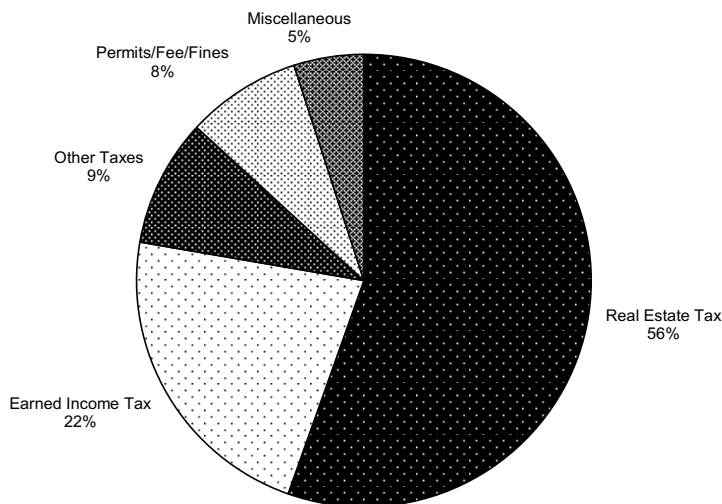


Calendar of Community Events

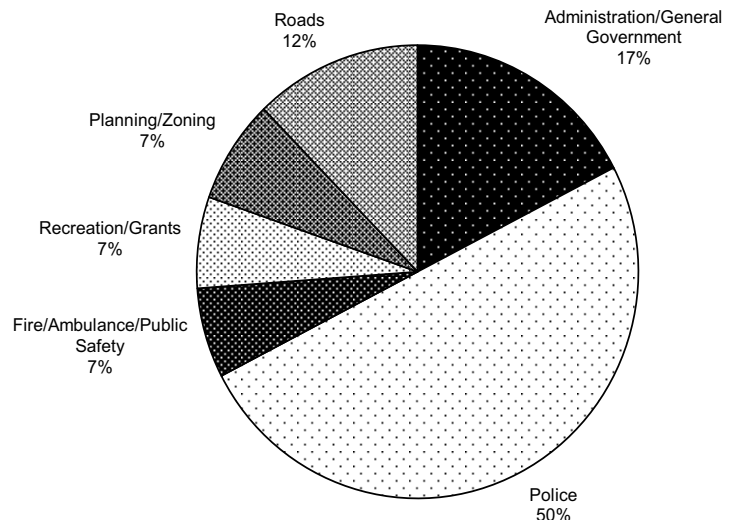
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|------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, January 25 – 3 p.m. | Palisades Community Chorus performs “Darkness Into Light” at Lenape Valley Presbyterian |
| Sunday, February 22 – 3 p.m. | Bucks County Symphony Winter Concert with Central Bucks East Concert Choir at CB East H |
| Wednesday, February 25 – 7:30 p.m. | Central Bucks Regional Police Commission Town Hall Meeting, Life Science Auditorium, Delaware Valley College |
| Sunday, March 15 – 5 p.m. | Bucks County Symphony Pops Concert at Student Center Auditorium, Delaware Valley College |
| Monday, April 6 – 7 p.m. | NBB Historic Preservation Committee hosts Bill Wilson, Bucks County Covered Bridge Society. |
| Saturday, April 25 – 8 p.m. | Bucks County Symphony Spring Concert at Central Bucks South High School. |

New Britain Borough 2014 Actual Revenue and Expenses

REVENUE



EXPENSES





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FEMA/Flood Plain Ordinance

The Borough is considering the adoption of a new flood plain ordinance as required by FEMA. The new ordinance is more consistent with other areas by referring directly to standard building codes (UCC, IBC and IRC).

The ordinance will affect some homes/areas that were not previously regulated since the new ordinance considers flood proofing to be required for basements ('lowest floor') instead of the 'finish floor' elevation, which was previously considered. This may affect your insurance rates and whether or not flood insurance is required. You may need a flood elevation certificate from a surveyor in order to prove to your insurance company whether or not flood insurance is required. Please call the Borough with any questions.

Stormwater Information

SNOW REMOVAL

Please clear your sidewalks of snow as soon as possible to avoid icing and to provide safe access for your neighbors. Do not blow or shovel snow into the street as this creates more work for the snow plow contractor. Be safe and alert for traffic while working near the roadway.

STREAM PROTECTION

Dispose of hazardous materials such as oil, paint, medications, etc. to a hazardous waste drop off, 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.

RAINWATER RUNOFF

Now is a good time to consider Spring projects such as installing rain barrels on your downspouts, lowered planting beds (rain garden), connecting roof drains to stone pits, etc. in order to reduce runoff and aid water quality for your downstream neighbors.. These methods will help provide ground water infiltration, increase stream base flows, reduce droughts and decrease flooding.

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/npdsm4/ms4cd/Education/RainDrainbrochure.pdf>. and the Borough's website <http://www.newbritainboro.com/>.

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.

Great Gastro Pub Menu

- **New Winter Menu**
- **Everything Homemade**
- **Covered Deck Dining**
- **24 Beers on Tap**
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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*; Amy Keller, *Secretary*;
Jeffrey Gilmore; Michael T. Parke; Rick Eggleston; Bob Binkley; 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;
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. Tuesday open until 6 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