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NEWS OF NEW BRITAIN BOROUGH

“A Friendly Place to Live”

Volume 27 ~ Number 2

Summer 2018

Nature Preserve Committee Wins Land Ethics Award

Tom Price ~ *Chair of Nature Preserve Committee*

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve held its 18th Annual Land Ethics Symposium at Delaware Valley University on March 15th. This symposium is an event dedicated to the sharing of best practices and new ideas to conserve our native landscape. The highlight of this event is the presentation of the Land Ethics Award, which honors the creative use of native plants in the landscape and ethical land management practices. Individuals, non-profit organizations, government agencies, community groups, and business professionals may be nominated for this prestigious award. According to Kelly Joslin, Bowman Hill's Educational Coordinator, “the Preserve received an overwhelming number of submissions in 2018.”



This year, the judges selected the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve Committee of New Britain Borough as the 2018 recipient of the Land Ethics Award. This all-volunteer Borough committee is responsible for the management and stewardship of the Borough's 30-acre Nature Preserve located on Mathews Ave.

According to the press announcement released by Bowman's, the committee's work in the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve “exemplifies what the Land Ethics Award seeks to celebrate” by demonstrating, “the creative use of native plantings to create a sustainable habitat for wildlife and a place for the public to learn about and enjoy nature.” The press release goes on to say that, “the combination of the use of native plants, volunteer involvement, the educational component as well as documented public and ecological impacts earned this project the top honor.”

The Nature Preserve Committee won this award based on the habitat restoration work it has carried out in the Nature Preserve over the past three years. In 2015, the Nature Preserve Committee wrote a Strategic Plan outlining the Committee's stewardship goals and priorities for the Preserve, which can be found on the Borough's website.

Highlights of the Committee's work over this three-year span include the following:

- The Preserve's three meadows have been routinely maintained and enhanced with the installation of additional native plant species to improve them as pollinator habitats. Native, bird-friendly, understory trees and shrubs have been

added to the borders surrounding these meadows.

- Key degraded sections of the Preserve have been cleared of multiflora rose and other invasive species and replanted with native trees and shrubs. A total of 261 trees and 113 shrubs have been planted in the Preserve over the past three years. Scores of existing trees within the Preserve have been freed from choking vines and hundreds of invasive plants have been removed from the Preserve.

- 30+ nesting boxes for species such as Bluebirds, Screech Owls, and Wood Ducks have been constructed and installed throughout the Preserve.

- The experience of visiting the Preserve has been improved through the addition of message boards, trail signs, trail improvements, additional benches, and the creation of another entrance to the Preserve on Landis Mill Road.

While the planning and much of the physical labor that lies behind the above achievements has been carried out by the eleven members of the Nature Preserve Committee, it should be noted that the Committee has also had the help of many other community and student volunteers on the six work days that it now holds each year. Community volunteers have included Borough residents and local Scouts. Student volunteers have come from the National Honor Societies of C.B. West and C. B. South High Schools, and the Key Club of C.B. West. Without the help of these enthusiastic volunteers, the Nature Preserve Committee couldn't have reached these achievements and would not have won this award.



Nature Preserve Committee Members: (First row, left to right) Peter LaMontagne, Halsey White, Betsey Klinger, Tom Price, Sue Minetti, Marge Eberz, (Second row) Jo Schuler, Dave Horne, Bob Binkley, Mimi Volker, and Taylor Thompson.

New Britain Borough Officials

Mayor:	David Holewinski	Zoning Hearing Board:	Robert Bair - <i>Chairman</i> Anthony Coia - <i>Vice-Chairman</i>
Borough Council:	Robyne Kelemen - <i>President</i> (Meets 2nd Tues. of the Month at Burkart Hall 7:30 PM)	(Meets 2nd Wed. of the Month at Burkart Hall 7:30 pm)	John Wolff David Siegfried Andrea Antell William Schaefer, Matthew Benscoter - <i>Alternates</i>
Planning Commission:	Michael Stanislaw - <i>Chairman</i> (Meets 3rd Tues. of the Month at Burkart Hall 7:30 PM)	Borough Staff:	Sam Bryant: <i>Borough Manager/Treasurer</i> Mark Hintenlang: <i>Borough Engineer/Roadmaster</i> Carrie Gamble: <i>Borough Secretary</i> Michael Italia: <i>Building Inspector/Zoning Officer</i> Dawn Tremmel: <i>Administrative Support</i> Alex Nagy: <i>Borough Intern</i>
	Loren Frasco - <i>Vice-Chairwoman</i> Robert Binkley - <i>Council Liaison</i> Karl Dieterichs David Holewinski Richard Eggleston Michael Parke Margaret Remmey	Emergency Mgmt & Fire Marshal: Michael Italia Borough Solicitor: Michael Peters - <i>Eastburn & Gray PC</i> Tax Collector: Nicole Percetti - 215-822-2930 Police Chief: Chief Karl Knott Office: 215-345-4143 Central Bucks Regional Police Dept, Dispatch: 215-348-3524	
Planning Consultant:	Kent Baird - <i>Gilmore & Associates</i>	Newsletter Editor:	Dawn Tremmel



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Catching Up With Council

Robyne Kelemen ~ Council President



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

DECEMBER: In December we briefly reviewed the list of grants New Britain Borough has received, totaling an impressive \$1.4 million since 2014. These include PA state grants awarded in late 2017 from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for \$30,000 to improve ADA access to Orchard Park, and \$210,000 toward land acquisition of properties adjacent to the Nature Preserve (Miller properties), as well as a major grant of \$600,000 from the Department of Community and Economic Development's Multimodal Transportation Fund to grow our connected trails and sidewalks from Keeley Avenue, along Butler Avenue toward the University. I would like to once again express my sincere appreciation to our highly capable Borough staff, and skilled and dedicated Borough volunteers who assist in grant writing and related activities.

The 2018 budget was also reviewed and approved in December. The 2018 budget does not draw on any Borough cash reserves, and has not required any tax increases.

Councilmember Tom Price reviewed the excellent progress being made at the Nature Preserve with regards to meeting the goals of the 2007 stewardship strategic plan, including new native plantings and removal of invasive species, as well as efforts for soil erosion control.

Also in December, Resolution number 2017-18 to prohibit the placement and operation of "mini-casinos" in the Borough was approved. New Britain Borough is located within 25 miles of other gaming facilities, and Council expressed that such activities do not meet with the desired character of the Borough.

Finally, the Borough appointed Mr. Michael Peters of the law firm Eastburn and Gray, PC to be our solicitor. Mr. Peters had been providing support to the Borough through his firm, but as of December was voted in by Council as our official solicitor. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania

State University and George Washington University Law School. In 2017, Mr. Peters was named by Chambers USA - America's Leading Lawyers for Business, as an "Associate to Watch" due to his accomplishments in the fields of municipal governing, land development, and zoning.

JANUARY: In early January, a Borough Council reorganization meeting was held, post the November elections, to elect council officers. No changes to council membership resulted from the 2017 elections. Council President Robyne Kelemen and Council Vice-President Peter LaMontagne were voted to continue in their roles.

In January, at the monthly council meeting, good news on the grant front was announced: The Borough was awarded a \$90,000 Bucks County Community Development Block Grant to fund further Burkart Hall-related improvements including sidewalks and a crosswalk, as well as paving for the Borough parking lot.

Starting in January, Council Executive Sessions were held related to proposed property acquisition of the Miller properties as additions to the Wilma Quinlan Nature preserve. In January, coming out of Executive Session, and in subsequent meetings this spring, votes were taken to continue the inspection and appraisal process, and work to apply to Orphans' Court related to the matter. This effort is still in progress.

FEBRUARY: Councilmember Tom Price reported that the Nature Preserve Committee won the highly competitive 2018 Land Ethics Award from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. The award is for the past three years of habitat restoration in the preserve, and is thanks to the hard work of our many volunteers who dedicate many hours of effort to the maintenance and enhancement of the Preserve.

Borough Manager Sam Bryant provided an update on behalf of the Streetlight Subcommittee of Public Safety Committee. Council approved his request for an additional \$5000 in budget funds to replace existing lights with LEDs when they burn out. The LED lights are better for visibility and are more energy efficient, about 1/10th the cost of operation compared to traditional street lights.

Also, in February, a vote was taken to expand the membership of the Borough's Roads Committee. The Committee makes recommendations on professionally repaving, resurfacing, and otherwise maintaining our nine miles of Borough-owned roads.

MARCH: In March, Borough Historian Mr. Bruce Burkart continued his ongoing series of informative presentations on Borough history, this month speaking about John

Summer Projects in the Borough

Sam Bryant ~ Borough Manager

As noted in a previous edition of the newsletter, the Borough has received funding to improve the Borough Office, Burkart Hall, Orchard Park and install trail along Keeley Ave.

This article is intended as an update on these projects. For any follow up questions, please feel free to contact me, Sam Bryant, directly at 267-406-4442 or manager@newbritainboro.com.



Borough Administration Building at 45 Keeley Avenue.

Borough Office and Burkart Hall

New Britain Borough received slightly more than \$90,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funding with a Borough match of about \$10,000. This money will be used to pave the Borough parking lot, install stormwater management facilities at the Borough Office, create sidewalk between the Borough Office and Burkart Hall and improve pedestrian lighting between the two buildings. The Borough Engineer has prepared a plan that has been reviewed by the Facilities Committee. Our goal is for Borough Council to select a contractor this summer to complete this work later in the year.

Orchard Park ADA Improvements

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded a Small Communities Grant to New Britain Borough valued at around \$35,000 to install improvements to Orchard

Park to make it more accessible. This will consist of a new handicap parking spot at Covered Bridge Park, with a path that leads to Orchard Park from there. The existing bridge near the Orchard Park entrance will be replaced with a walkway that meets the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Thanks to a generous donation of labor from both Dougherty Landscaping (owned by Borough resident Fran Dougherty) and the Wood Butchers (a group of resident carpenters), no Borough match is required.

Keeley Ave Sidewalk / Trail

The Borough received \$600,000 in Multimodal funding from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to make Keeley Ave and Butler Ave walkable. The first phase of this project will be to install trail and sidewalk along the east side of Keeley Ave from where the current bike trail ends at Sioux Road to the Borough Office. Trail/sidewalk would also be installed along Sioux Road between N Tamenend and Keeley Ave. Survey work for this project was completed this winter, and the Borough Engineer is still developing construction plans. Our goal is to have this work done by the end of 2018.



Keeley Avenue, facing Northwest. Trail/sidewalk will be on right side.

Summer Calendar of Community Events

June 4-15.....(Varied Hours).....	36th Annual Bucks County Senior Games ~ Check for Details: www.buckscounty.org
June 23.....8:30 am to 1:00 pm.....	Flea Market ~ Chalfont Fire Company ~ 301 North Main Street, Chalfont
June 23.....4:00 pm to Dark.....	Covered Bridge Illumination & Birthday Celebration with Fireworks ~ Covered Bridge Park, 229 Keeley Avenue, New Britain
July 4.....9:30 am.....	Tri Municipal 4th of July Parade ~ Begins at New Britain Borough's Town Center
Sept 8.....9:00 am to 12:30 pm.....	Turkey Hoagie Sale ~ Chalfont Fire Company ~ 301 North Main Street, Chalfont
Sept 21-23.....(varied hours).....	Pop-Up Park ~ Weekend-long event at New Britain Borough's Town Center
Sept 23.....10:00 am to 1:00 pm.....	Buffet Breakfast ~ Chalfont Fire Company ~ 301 North Main Street, Chalfont
Sept 29.....11:00 am to 3:00 pm.....	Duck Derby ~ Sponsored by New Britain Civic Assn. ~ Covered Bridge Park, 229 Keeley Ave.

Recycling S.O.S.

Andrea Antell ~ Parks & Recreation Committee



Lately, there has been a lot of news surrounding Chinese tariffs on various commodities. What hasn't been widely covered but will affect just about everyone in America is what is happening to the consumer recycling market (single-stream) due to a Chinese initiative called National Sword. For the past decade, many of your curbside recyclables likely ended up in China, loaded onto empty container goods ships heading overseas to receive the next load of consumer products. While this was a great way to reuse materials, it also transferred many, many tons of unusable trash to the Chinese. In March of this year, China has essentially eliminated receiving vast quantities of recyclables from America due to excessive contamination. This is just starting to be felt across the industry and will eventually make its way to everyone's trash bill.

You may be asking 'So, what can I do?' China does still accept recyclables with less than a .5% contamination rate, so while it may seem that your household contribution is minuscule, you can take steps to help to preserve recycling. Single-stream sorting is designed for residential curbside trash using an impressive combination of optical plastic sorters, physical sorters, magnets, and sifters.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Do not bag your recyclables - thin plastic bags clog the machines
- Return your plastic grocery bags to the grocery store - better yet, use reusable bags
- Eliminate 'wishful recycling'. Just because it's plastic or metal, doesn't mean the sorting system can figure it out
- Plastics should only be 'consumer - grocery store type products' #1 - #7
- Glass should be normal soda ash - no Pyrex, lightbulbs, drinking glasses, or mirrors
- Metal should be 'consumer-grocery store type products' essentially soup, pet food, and soft drink cans
- Spoon clean or rinsed preferred
- Recyclers still love cardboard, ideally collapsed and non-waxed mixed paper (do not bag in plastic)
- Lastly, open and empty - caps off so the bottles can be crushed and baled

Even though New Britain Borough does not manage your trash service, this issue has the potential to affect almost every resident in the Borough. Of course, even perfect recycling is energy-intensive, so for the conservation-minded, it is always best to 'not make waste.'

Borough Marks Arbor Day

Image Credit: Bucks County Herald



Members of Pine Run Elementary School's staff, Student Council, New Britain Borough's Shade Tree Commission and Mayor David Holewinski.

New Britain Borough's Shade Tree Commission marked Arbor Day with a tree planting on April 27th. A Sugar Tyme Crabapple tree donated from Colibraro Landscaping & Nursery was planted on the campus of Pine Run Elementary School during a gathering of staff, including Principal Dr. Amanda Mumford, and Student Council members from Pine Run School, Shade Tree Commission members including Chairwoman Jackie D'Agostino, as well as Mayor David Holewinski. This event marked the Borough's new membership status in Tree City USA, which supports and recognizes urban forestry management. Thank you to all Borough residents who support the landscape of our lovely Borough in big and small ways!



Fourth of July Tri-Municipal Parade!

Please join us on the 4th of July for our annual Tri-Municipal Parade that kicks off at 9:30 AM in New Britain's Town Center Shopping Center, Business Rte 202 in New Britain Borough and ending at North Branch Park, 207 Park Ave in New Britain Township. Come and cheer on the marchers, bands, floats and fire trucks. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the parade!

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT THE PARADE

Local Cub Scout Pack 133 is collecting non-perishable food items for the New Britain Food Larder. Donations will be collected by the Scouts during the Tri-Municipal 4th of July Parade. For more information and to view the list of generous parade sponsors: <http://www.newbritaintownship.org/events.html>

Knoell and his wood products factory. As a reminder, Mr. Burkart's presentations can be found in the recordings of our monthly Council Meetings found at the following web address: <https://tinyurl.com/NBBYouTube>

Zoning and Land Development Ordinance #385 was approved to amend our zoning regulations to include detail and limitations on where several categories of facilities could be located in the Borough, including medical marijuana facilities, and sober living facilities. Without such an ordinance, location of these facilities would not be specifically directed to certain zoned areas, if such businesses were proposed.

Finally, Resolution 2018-03 was approved in March. This resolution provides a stipend of \$500 per year for each volunteer firefighter who resides in the Borough. The monies are administered through the area fire companies. The Borough is pleased to begin providing this stipend, which is also offered by a number of area municipalities to their residents, to those who take on the critical volunteer need of providing firefighting protection for all of us.

Recently adopted Borough laws including the ordinances described in this column may be found at the Borough website at the following address: <http://www.ecode360.com/laws/NE3059>.



Steven W. Gieseler
President

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Summer Camp Update

As of May 21, 2018, New Britain Borough has transferred the Covered Bridge Summer Camp Program to the New Britain Civic Association, an unaffiliated non-profit organization that owns and maintains Covered Bridge Park. All questions regarding Summer Camp policies and programs should now be directed to the New Britain Civic Association at: 215-345-8750. Covered Bridge Summer Camp runs Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM from June 25th through August 3rd.

Moments with the Mayor

David Holewinski ~ Mayor



Spring is fading and summer is almost upon us. We have planted our flowers and gardens and the weather is hopefully going to give us warm days and cool evenings with just the right amount of rain. Summer is an exciting time of year; the children are home and active, and the family is looking forward to some sort of getaway. Yes, summer is a time of family picnics, spending time with friends, making new acquaintances, and enjoying life in New Britain Borough.

Now, in the Borough, we have accomplished some of our goals. Steve Gieseler has completed the relocation of his business and made improvements to the parcel of land at the western border of our Borough. Carlton Pools has opened their new location in the Borough and it looks inviting, especially on a hot day. We'll soon see a new addition to the New Britain Inn, making more accommodations for parties and winter events. The walkability of the Borough from the Chalfont line to Tamenend Ave. and to the New Britain Train Station and beyond to the 202 Scenic Byway via a combination of sidewalks and the Bike and Hike Trails is now complete.

Our Borough is celebrating its 90th birthday and the Pine Valley Covered Bridge turned 175 years old recently. In celebration of these two major events, a party is scheduled for Saturday, June 23rd at Covered Bridge Park. The day will begin with a fishing derby for the kids at the Park's pond in the morning hours, followed by a large celebration beginning at 4:00 PM with food and entertainment. The entire event will be capped off in the evening with the "Grand Illumination" of the bridge which will be followed by a fireworks display at the Park's soccer field.

This summer, children will be attending the Summer Recreation Program at Covered Bridge Park and people will also be enjoying the Bike and Hike Trails alongside the park. Families can enjoy the pavilion and picnic area at the park as well. Nature abounds in Orchard Park, which is home to the Community Garden, and also along the trail which leads to the reservoir area and beyond. The Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve is also a major asset to our Borough and the area has been transformed into a first-class nature preserve through the many efforts of dedicated volunteers.

We have a beautiful Borough! Everyone is invited to take advantage of what we have to offer and enjoy the summer including our upcoming 4th of July Parade. I wish you all a wonderful summer and I hope to see you around the Borough!

2018 A-Day Event at Delaware Valley University

New Britain Borough recently participated in Delaware Valley University's annual A-Day. Even the rain couldn't dampen the fun! The Borough had a booth at the event that featured giveaways, informative handouts, a calendar of notable upcoming Borough events, and a large gift-filled basket that was raffled off (free raffle tickets!) to one lucky A-Day attendee. The "free" raffle basket was filled with many gifts from generous local businesses. The Borough wishes to extend its thanks to all those who volunteered in our booth and encourages Borough residents to support our local businesses.



Special thanks for gift basket donations go to:

- America Heritage Credit Union
- Bucks County Wellness Centre
- Bucks-Mont Party Rental
- Byrne Sewing Connection
- Gieseler Insurance Agency
- Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
- Institute for Hand & Upper Extremity Rehabilitation
- McCabe & Brady Physical Therapy
- New Britain Civic Association
- New Britain Inn
- Penn Community Bank
- Pina's Pizza
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Commercial Lighting in the Borough

With new technology in lighting comes a new set of code related issues. LED lights are much stronger than the older style halogens and illuminate clearly and brightly. The New Britain Borough Code regulates lighting for non-residential uses. In section 450-35 Lighting – it addresses lights shining off of the property. In order to be in compliance, the light at the lot line must not be brighter than 0.5 footcandle and it cannot shine directly into windows, streets and driveways. It could interfere with a driver's vision or be a nuisance to property owners/residents.

At the Borough, we realize that these lights are needed to protect your property and keep the areas illuminated for public safety. To stay in compliance, please have a hood or a shield installed on the light so that the illumination stays on your property. If there is any question on whether or not your light is violating the ordinance, please do not hesitate to call the Borough Administration Office and ask for the zoning officer. We would rather get ahead of any potential problems then have to deal with complaints and violation notices.

If you would like to review the ordinance, please go to:
Chapter 450: Zoning
§ 450-35: Lighting
<https://ecode360.com/15490976>

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A Message From Our Borough Engineer

Mark Hintenlang ~ Borough Engineer

CLEAN STREAMS:

As part of an annual permit process New Britain Borough is required to reduce pollution to the streams which pass through the Borough. The following pollution has been identified by the State:

Pine Run Creek – Excessive algae.

Cooks Run – Nutrients.

Neshaminy Creek – Pathogens, nutrients, organics, low dissolved oxygen, siltation and suspended solids.

The main contributor of these nutrients is suspended solids. We need everyone's help in reducing these pollutants by limiting/eliminating lawn fertilizers. Fertilizers contain nitrogen, nutrients and phosphorus, etc. which is the main source of pollution which causes other ill affects such as algae, organics, etc. especially in slow moving water and ponds. If you have a lawn care service please let them know our concerns.

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. The Borough has initiated a program to provide additional street sweeping to remove grit and pollution from the roadways before it can enter our streams. We've also eliminated 'grit' which is normally mixed with salt for winter snow and ice control in order to reduce sediment in our streams.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:

Always dispose of hazardous materials properly. Dispose of hazardous materials before they leak or get knocked over. Additional stormwater information is available at: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/npsdms4/ms4cd/Education/RainDrainBrochure.pdf> and at <http://www.newbritainboro.com/>

YARD WASTE:

Help us keep our streams and ponds free of fertilizer and debris by directing lawn mower discharge back onto your yards, not into the streets where it is quickly washed into the storm collection system and streams. 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.

SWIMMING POOLS:

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 contami-

nated water into streams or storm sewers (located on every Borough street). Contaminated pool water quickly makes its way untreated and directly to streams by way of the storm sewer drains on our streets, where aquatic life can be harmed or killed.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:

Stormwater control / reduction is an important method to reduce the pollution of erosion, sediment, and suspended solids in our streams. While the Borough's ordinances require developers to provide methods to reduce runoff, existing residential lots and businesses can do their parts to prevent excessive runoff by providing their own sources of stormwater management such as the following:

1. '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.

2. 'Rain gardens' are also a popular method of decreasing runoff and beautifying your property with landscaping and/or water features.

3. If you notice illegal dumping or drainage activities, please report it immediately to New Britain Borough at 215-348-4586.

SIDEWALK SAFETY:

Sidewalks are provided for your safety and to promote pedestrian activity. Please enjoy the new sidewalk along South Tamenend Ave. We are also working on a plan to provide sidewalk/trail along Keeley Avenue. It important to properly maintain your sidewalk; please be considerate and trim branches that extend over sidewalk and into the street. Also, check your sidewalks that there are no uneven joints that could cause injury.

Thank you, please feel free to call with any questions.

Mark Hintenlang, New Britain Borough Engineer

215-348-4586

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