

# New Britain Borough



# NEWS

Volume 9, Number 1

April 2000

## ***New Britain Borough – Rich in History***

The township of New Britain was originally among the largest and most important within Bucks County. It bordered on the Montgomery County line and was about 6-1/2 miles long and 4-1/2 miles wide. The creation of Doylestown in 1819 and Warrington in 1849 greatly reduced the township's size. The land of New Britain was well watered and heavily timbered, the soil fertile and easily cultivated, the scenery beautiful and the surface rolling.

In what is now the eastern corner of the township, the Mathews family first took up its abode. The land afterward owned by them embraced at one time the land between Pine Run and the several branches of the Neshaminy Creek and the land stretching from the present village of Chalfont to New Britain.

The earliest mention of the purchase of the land by Europeans was that of an English company formed in London in 1682 by the name of the "Free Society of Traders," which purchased a large tract in New Britain (including parcels in Doylestown and Warrington). As this tract was first purchased from "The Society," our New Britain was first called "Society."

Simon Mathews, from Pembrokehire, Wales, and Simon Butler, his brother-in-law were the first settlers on the tract in about 1680. Butler was a miller and he and Mathews erected a mill at the junction of Pine Run and the North Branch of the Neshaminy. It was called "Butler's Mill," and gave rise to the naming of the present Route 202 as Butler Avenue. The mill stood across the street from Simon Butler's home, which is now R.L. Showalter and Associates on Butler Avenue at the bridge entering Chalfont from the east.

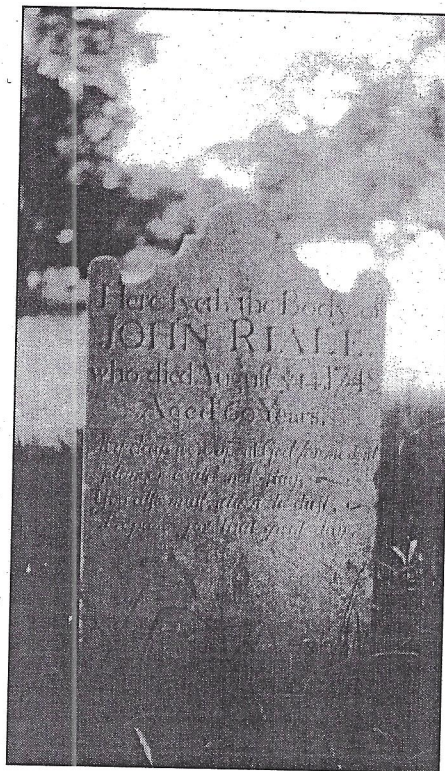
Simon Mathews' home was next door to Butler's and is now Nostalgia Home of Country Caterers. These two men had large families – 10 and 12 children – most of whom died in infancy or of consumption.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1754. Its members were mostly Welsh. The first pastor was Joseph Eaton. The oldest marked grave is that of John Riale, who died on August 10, 1748.

Beulah Cemetery was started in 1882. In 1857 the Reading Railroad opened a branch between Lansdale and Doylestown, and New Britain has had a train station ever since.

The store property standing on the southwest corner of Tamenend and Butler Avenue was built in 1760. One of the last proprietors was Paul VanToor. He served as Postmaster for 43 years, having been appointed in 1897 by President William McKinley. He had the store for more than 50 years and ended his postmaster career on January 31, 1940.

*(continued on page 2)*



## **Hazardous Waste Collection**

To safely dispose of household hazardous materials, a collection will be held at the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology, 2740 York Road (Route 263), Warwick Township, on Saturday, June 10, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items being collected include pesticides, toxic chemicals, batteries, oil-based paint, and caustic household cleaners. For specific information on the materials being collected, call 215-345-3400.

## Council approves 2000 budget

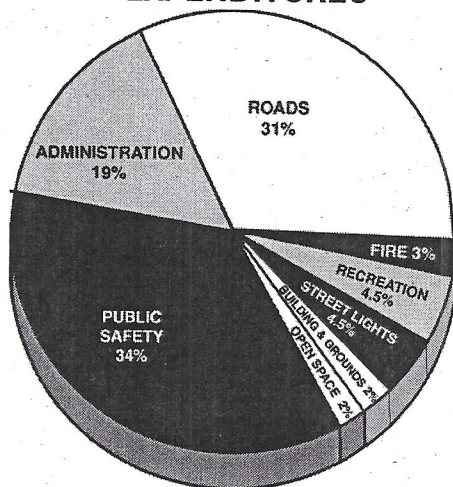
Borough Council approved a 2000 budget of \$894,220. Total anticipated revenue is \$705,432. In addition there is a Road Fund balance of \$52,200 and a cash reserve of \$200,000.

The 27-mill Borough tax is comprised of:

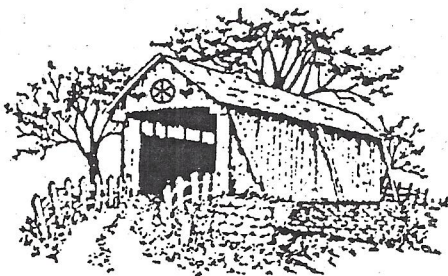
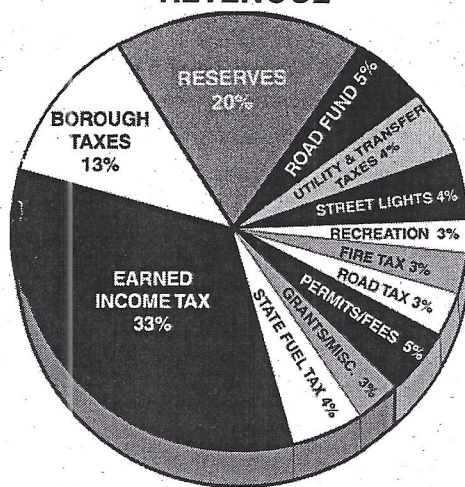
General.....	16%
Roads .....	3%
Recreation .....	3.5%
Street Lights .....	4.5%

In addition, a 3-mill Fire Protection Tax provides funds for the two fire companies that serve the Borough, Doylestown and Chalfont.

### EXPENDITURES



### REVENUE



## Area Agency on Aging offers assistance

The Bucks County Area Agency on Aging located in Doylestown offers assistance to older adults and their families. Services include Adult Day Care, Meals-on-Wheels, nursing home assessments, transportation, in-home services and more. For further information call 215-348-0510.

## Scholarship Fund established in memory of Michelle Belchic

A scholarship fund has been created to honor the memory of Michelle Belchic, a CB West student who tragically lost her life last year in an automobile accident. The proposed scholarship will be awarded to a CB West senior who has successfully overcome personal difficulties.

Donations to the scholarship fund are being accepted by Third Federal Savings Bank, 600 Town Center, New Britain, PA 18901. Please make your checks payable to the Central Bucks School District. Your generosity will help make Michelle's dream a reality for others.

## History

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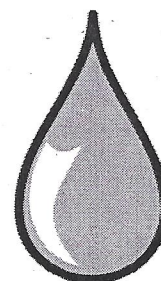
Historical records indicate that on June 20, 1778, George Washington and the Continental Army camped near the present railroad station. Dr. Samuel Adams, a surgeon on his staff, wrote a letter to his "Dear Sally" from New Britain. The continental Army was enroute from Valley Forge pursuing the British who had evacuated Philadelphia and were retreating to New York. Washington used New Hope and Lambertville crossing the Delaware. After reaching anew Jersey, Washington learned that the British were headed for Sandy Hook instead of Perth Amboy, so he turned south and caught them at Monmouth. In the ensuing battle, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were severely decimated.

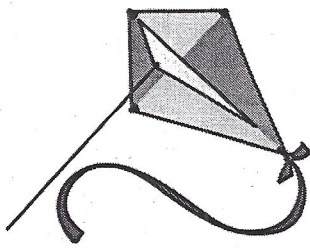
New Britain Borough was incorporated on May 21, 1928.

## Do You Want Public Water?

The Doylestown Municipal Water Authority has offered to provide public water to the residents of New Britain Borough. Borough Council needs your input.

Have you had problems with your private well? Please let us know if you are interested in pursuing public water. You can email us at [NBBORO@bux.com](mailto:NBBORO@bux.com) or send a note to New Britain Borough, 45 Keeley Avenue, New Britain, PA 18901.





## Civic Association Opportunities

**Come one, Call all . . .**

... to the 1st Annual **Kite Flying Contest** in New Britain Borough. The competition will be held at Covered Bridge Park on Keeley Avenue on May 28<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be three age groups; preschool( ages 1 to 5 years), 6-9 years and 10-13 years. There will also be an opportunity for adults to show off their kite flying skills. More than \$200 worth of prizes will be awarded for the largest, highest flying, best homemade kites and the Charlie Brown Award.

The event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather. Please call 215-345-8750 if you have any questions.

### Money-saving coupons . . .

The Civic Association still has some Entertainment Books for sale. These money-saving books cost \$25.00 and contain hundreds of discount coupons on local dining and national chains, shopping, movies, sports, travel and more. Proceeds from the sale of the books benefits Covered Bridge Park. To order, call 215-348-7083 or buy one at Clemens Market at the New Britain Town Center.

## Upcoming Road Repairs Announced

A number of road improvement projects are scheduled for completion in 2000. Your patience and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

**Pawnee Road** from Lenape Drive to North Tamanend Avenue and **Cedar Lane** from Birch Road to Vine Street will be milled and reconstructed this summer.

The following streets will be surface sealed with a two course application:

Elm Terrace	Woodland Drive
Sand Road	Mathews Avenue
Keeley Avenue	Birch Road
Sioux to the covered bridge	

North Tamanend from Butler Avenue to Pawnee Road (if the price is acceptable)

North Penn Water Authority is going to replace the existing water main on **Sioux Road** between Lenape and North Tamanend in September/October.

We plan to replace the storm drain system between Elm Terrace and Cooks Road in **Hillside Village** this year if all the legal and design work is completed.

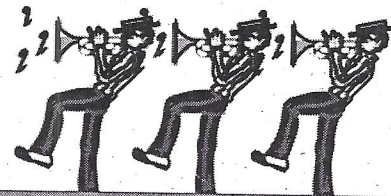


## Summer Fun and Discovery

Our successful Summer Recreation Program will once again be offered at Covered Bridge Park on Keeley Avenue. The camp for children ages six (or beginning 1<sup>st</sup> grade in September) through 12 will operate daily Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June 19 through July 28.

Supervised programs will include arts and crafts, sports and special event days. Registration forms will be circulated to local schools. Sign up at the Borough office.

The fee for Borough residents is \$125.00 for the entire 6-week program (\$120.00 for each additional child in family). Pre-registration is required. Borough residents should register at the Borough Administration Building (45 Keeley Avenue) on April 24-28.



## Join the Fourth of July Parade

**Wanted: Parade Floats!** Join us in our annual July 4th Community Parade by entering a neighborhood, organization or business float. Floats will be judged for Most Patriotic, Most Original and Most Humorous.

**Also wanted:** Parade Marchers, decorated bikes and/or baby strollers.

The Parade will be held on Tuesday, July 4 and begin at 10 a.m. at the Clemens Shopping Center on Route 202. It will end at North Branch Park. Bring the family!

## Permits Required for Roofs and Siding

New Britain Borough residents who want to install new roofs or siding must have a zoning and building permit before work begins. In addition, the roofer and siding contractor should submit a certificate of insurance.

## Grass & Weed Ordinance

Property owners are required to keep grass and weeds to a height not to exceed 8 inches. The purpose is not only to keep the community neat and attractive, but to protect residents from possible health risks associated with overgrowth.

## New Britain Borough Officials

**Mayor:** Robert Snavelly

**Council:** Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM  
David Donahue, *President*; Robert Belchic, *Vice-President*; Mary Pat Holewinski;  
Bernie Peak; Nancy Schuyler; Kermit Weitzel; William Macklem

**Planning Commission:** Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM  
William Buchanan, *President*; David Holewinski, *Vice President*; Jane Kinyon,  
*Secretary*; Karl Dieterichs; Patrick Digangi; Paul Land; Stephan Laurie; William Macklem;

**Zoning**

**Hearing Board:** Meets, as needed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM  
Robert Bair, *Chairman*; Tony Coia; Peter LaMontague; John Sullivan; John Wolff, Jr.;  
Jeffrey Gilmore and Joseph Fluehr, IV, *Alternates*. Michael Goodwin, *Solicitor*

**Tues 11-7**  
**Tax Collector:** Ann Teschner, 215-348-1638

**Solicitor:** George M. Bush

**EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911**

**Police Chief, David Sempowski, Office . 215-345-1080**

The following Borough personnel are located at the Borough Building, 45 Keeley Avenue.  
Phone 215-348-4586. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Borough Manager:** ..... Robin E. Trymbiski  
**Treasurer:** ..... Lloyd J. Vasant  
**Building Inspector:** ..... Austin C. Brown (Hours 9-11, Mon, Wed. & Fri.)  
**Borough Engineer** ..... Mark Hintenlang  
**Roads Superintendent:** ..... Edward Deschamps  
**Zoning Officer:** ..... Thomas Yatsky (9-12 M.W.F.)

New Britain Borough  
45 Keeley Avenue  
New Britain, PA 18901

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
New Britain, PA  
Permit #118

