

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 13, Number 1

April 2004

Planning Commission discusses historic preservation

New Britain Borough Planning Commission recently discussed the possibility of forming a historic district in the Borough. According to Lynn Bush, Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission, designating such a district would aid in the preservation of the Borough's historic buildings. A zoning ordinance for the district could help preserve the character of the designated area by providing some control over demolition or non-conforming exterior changes.

The Borough has a survey and evaluation of historic buildings compiled some years ago by the Bucks County Conservancy (now Heritage Conservancy) that would be useful in nominating an area for National Historic District designation. A map provided by Ms. Bush will be used to determine the boundaries of a proposed historic district.

If you are interested in helping with the research for this project, please call the Borough office, 215-348-4586.

Can you help?

The Borough is adopting a Uniform Construction Code, in accordance with state requirements. A Board of Appeals must be appointed to review any appeals to this code. We need five professionals for this board, particularly architects and engineers. Please call the Borough office to offer your services.

The 202 Bypass will not be built

Sadly this may happen if those who are concerned with the long-term safety, viability and revitalization of the communities along the 202 corridor don't become involved. We have all seen the signs popping up in our communities and, as nice as that is, the signs alone won't get the bypass built unless more proponents of the bypass become active.

The 202 Bypass is under attack by a sophisticated, politically connected and well-financed minority in Buckingham, Solebury and Plumstead townships. Even though in the past 21 years, according to the U.S. Census Bureau Data, of eight central Bucks municipalities, Buckingham, Solebury and Plumstead townships have issued 60% of all new residential building permits, contributing greatly to the congestion on Route 202 and other local roads that you and I travel every day.

We all know the history of this project. It was first proposed in 1968 as part of an overall transportation plan for our region to alleviate local traffic problems as well as prepare for projected traffic growth. In 1996 PennDOT announced, after careful studies of various alternatives, the Bypass would be the best alternative for improving the traffic congestion along Route 202 and local roads between Montgomeryville and Doylestown. We had all hoped it would alleviate high incidents of traffic accidents and unacceptable response times for emergency services. In the summer of 2000 PennDOT announced the Bypass would be finished by the winter of 2004. *It is now the spring of 2004 and not only is it not built, but construction hasn't even started!*

Because of several municipalities whose agenda has been to place one obstacle after another in the way of the progress of the project and because of their success, delays in construction have increased the cost. Consequently, the designated funding for the project is now threatened. To add insult to injury, Governor Rendell has contracted for yet another study to evaluate an alternative to the Bypass called the "Smart Mobility Study". This study, which was submitted by those same municipalities, is going to give us traffic circles on Route 202 much like the ones they are eliminating in New Jersey. Traffic circles slow traffic; they do not alleviate it.

Unless you act now the 202 Bypass will not be built. Here is what you can do for starters. Write Governor Rendell and PennDOT Secretary Biehler. Tell them you support the Route 202 Bypass. Go to a web site, buildthebypass.com and look for updates of future activities and community events supporting the bypass. Remember, only active citizens can get the bypass built.

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Secretary Allen D. Biehler
PA Dept. of Transportation
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Marie Esher Coia and Anthony L. Coia

Summer Camp

June 21 to August 6, 2004 (7 weeks)
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays



An exciting array of supervised programs are planned, including arts and crafts, sports and special event days.

Ages: Children age six (or starting first grade in September) through age 12.

Location: Covered Bridge Community Park, Keeley Avenue

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

Registration Dates:

New Britain Borough residents: April 19 - 23

New Britain Township and Chalfont Borough residents: April 26 - 30

All others: May 3 - 7

Fees: Residents - \$175 for the first child and \$170 for each additional child in the family.

Non-residents - \$225 for the first child and \$220 for each additional child in the family.

Road projects scheduled

The following road improvement projects are scheduled for this spring. Your patience and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

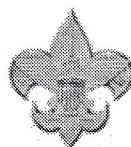
Drainage improvements at Lamp Post Road and Route 202
Reconstruction of Iroquois Circle

Safely dispose of household hazardous waste

The Hazardous Waste Collection program provides a way for residents to safely dispose of household hazardous waste. The location closest to the Borough is the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology, 2740 Old York Road (Rt.263) in Warwick Township, on Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Common household items being collected include **caustics** such as oven cleaner and ammonia-based cleaners; **batteries** including rechargeable and button type as well as automotive; **pesticides**; **toxics** such as weed killer, pool and photographic chemicals, rust remover and wood preservatives; **flammables** such as oil-based paints, varnishes, gasoline. **DO NOT BRING** latex paint, appliances, asbestos, explosives or tires. For details, call 215-345-3400.

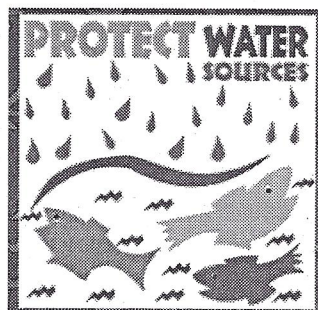
Needed — An auditor to perform a once-a-year audit of the Borough's financial records. If you can offer this service, please call the Borough office, 215-348-4586.



Boy Scout Troop reactivated

The Bucks County Council of the Boy Scouts of America is proud to announce that Boy Scout Troop 41, chartered to New Britain Baptist Church, has been reactivated. It has been approximately 30 years since Troop 41 was active. The troop, which has 14 boy scouts, is currently recruiting new members. Young men between the ages of 10 and 18 are encouraged to join. It is the mission of the Bucks County Council to meet the spiritual, developmental, and social needs of young people by instilling lifetime values that result in achieving full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on the Scout Oath and Law. For more information contact Scoutmaster Scott Masi at 215-345-0997 or ScottMasi@comcast.net.

Cub scouts for Cub Pack 4 are also being recruited. Boys in grades 1-5 are eligible. For information contact Jeff Gilmore at 215-345-6975 or LenapeCommish@comcast.net.



Our streams and rivers are becoming more and more polluted as Bucks County continues to develop. The EPA along with PADEP developed a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems program intended to monitor and improve this condition. It is being implemented through the Bucks County Planning Commission and New Britain Borough.

This program requires municipalities to ensure that construction activities limit pollutants and to provide monitoring systems for storm sewer and discharge location outlets. New Britain Borough has set up monitoring locations and is currently preparing additional mapping and water sampling processes.

You can help by reducing pollutants to streams and by notifying the Borough of illegal pollutants, excess erosion of streams or drainage channels, and by changing your own activities. Please limit fertilizer use and cutting grass along stream channels. Fertilizers increase nitrates and phosphorus to the water bodies which kill fish and micro-organisms and can cause algae blooms. Vegetation along streams is natural, removes pollutants from runoff entering the streams and prevents erosion during major rainfall events. Don't dump grass clippings or leaves near water courses or floodplains, since these items could change the chemical structure of the stream. Similarly, don't store chemicals, gasoline, oil, or other hazardous materials near water courses, since a flood or a spill could pollute a stream.

There are many other tasks that can be undertaken to preserve our portion of Bucks County. The Borough has begun its task of maintaining and preserving our natural areas. If you have suggestions, would like to help, or know of a community group that would consider assisting with these projects, call New Britain Borough at 215-348-4586.

New Britain and the Revolutionary War

There were very few battles in our area during the Revolutionary War. The battle of Germantown was no doubt a concern to the local residents. Isaac James, a third generation of James that lived in our area, had two sons, Abel and Nathaniel, who were soldiers in the American Army. Nathaniel was a second lieutenant. He died in 1845 at the age of 91 and is buried in the New Britain Baptist cemetery. Abel died in 1798. Other James family members, John James' sons Simon and Morgan, were also soldiers and fought in many battles in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Simon died in 1814; Morgan in 1816.

Walter Shewell, whose property was on the south side of Featherbed Hill and is now owned by Delaware Valley College, and Matthew Grier were members of what was known as "A committee of safety of six." Each county sent a committee which formed an association to be instructed in the arts of war. Arranged geographically, they went to war intact as an association.

When the British occupied Philadelphia in the winter of 1777-78 it brought terror to Bucks County. Washington and the American troops were encamped at Valley Forge. Washington sent small detachments to various places in Bucks County to protect the inhabitants and supplies being sent to Valley Forge.

The British conducted many raids searching for food and feed for their horses. One such raid was in Newtown where they captured Major Murray and 2000 yards of cloth intended for clothing for the American Army, along with a herd of cattle and other items badly needed in Valley Forge.

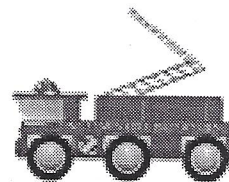
On June 18, 1778 the American Army left Valley Forge on their way to Monmouth, New Jersey where they defeated the British on the 18th of June. On the way, they traveled through New Britain on the Doylestown Road (Route 202) and camped just below the Baptist Church near the location of today's railroad station. Washington's surgeon knew a doctor who lived in a house on Tamenend Avenue. One group of soldiers camped on the east side of Old Iron Hill Road on the north side of Pine Run. This group was called the "Gray's Invincibles," a group specially trained by a Mr. Gray. The Army proceeded to New Hope and crossed the Delaware River on Coryell's Ferry.

While no combat took place in our direct area, many of our residents were involved with securing the freedom that we enjoy today.

Keep storm drains clear

Please do not rake or blow grass clippings or leaves into the street. They can cause backups in the storm drains.

Fire Company Celebrates 100 Years



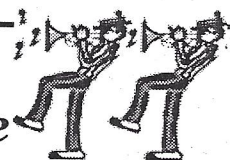
May 2004 marks the 100th Anniversary of Chalfont Chemical Fire Engine Company No.1. Through the years they have provided fire, ambulance and emergency services to Chalfont, New Britain, and the surrounding communities.

On June 12, the Chalfont Fire Company will host the annual Bucks County Firemen's Association parade. It will begin at 1:00 P.M. from Rte. 202 and Skyline Drive and proceed North on Rte. 202 to Rte. 152 North (Main Street) to Park Avenue and end at the New Britain Township building. From there, all participants will be transported to the grounds of Our Lady of Czestochowa for food, entertainment and judging of all participating Fire and Ambulance apparatus.

Everyone is encouraged to come out in support of your local and all fire companies as we join in this grand celebration parade, rain or shine. Please be reminded of the lack of ingress and egress through Chalfont Borough between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on that day.

To help fund the celebration many souvenirs are for sale: commemorative afghans and silver coins, replicas of Chalfont's fire station, pins, magnets, caps and t-shirts. These can be purchased at the Fire House during special events or by calling Ruth Moyer, 215-822-2346.

Plan now for the 4th of July Parade



The parade will be held on **Saturday, July 3**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Clemens Shopping Center on Route 202 and ending at North Branch Park.

Wanted — Parade Floats!

Floats from neighborhoods, organizations and businesses are welcome. Floats will be judged for Most Patriotic, Most Original and Most Humorous. Call the New Britain Township office, 215-822-1391, for more details.

Also wanted — Parade marchers, decorated bikes, bands and baby strollers.

Bring the family!

The annual parade would not be possible without the generosity of the business community. We thank the following Borough businesses for their sponsorship of the 2003 parade:

Bucks-Mont Party Center Jar-Brit Assoc. LP
D.B.A. Incorporated UNIVEST
Eyehealth Alliance Center

If you can provide support this year, call New Britain Township, 215-822-1391.


Spring is Here!

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.

Sidewalk Inspection

An inspection of all sidewalks in the borough will be conducted this spring. Property owners are responsible for keeping in good condition the paved footway, curb and gutter along which the property abuts. Please inspect these areas and arrange to repair any dangerous conditions. For specifics on the ordinance requirements, call the Borough office.

New Britain Borough Officials

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Mayor: Robert Snavelly

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

Planning Commission: Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM
William Buchanan, *President*; David Holewinski, *Vice President*; Jane Kinyon, *Secretary*; Karl Dieterichs; Scott Fischer; Stephen Hazzard; Paul Land; William Macklem; William Schaefer

Zoning Hearing Board: Meets, as needed, 3rd 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 Margaret Shute, *Alternates*. Joseph Wagner, *Solicitor*.

Tax Collector: Ann Teschner, 215-348-1638 (Tues. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.)

Solicitor: Michael Goodwin

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.; email: NBBORO@comcast.net. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Borough Manager: Robin E. Trymbiski
Treasurer: Lloyd J. Vansant
Building Inspector: Austin C. Brown (9-11 a.m., Mon, Wed. & Fri.)
Zoning Officer: Thomas Yatsky (9-12 a.m., Mon, Wed. & Fri.)

Borough Engineer Mark Hintenlang
Roads Superintendent: Edward Deschamps
Borough Secretary: Jane Kinyon

EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911

New Britain Borough
45 Keeley Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901

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