

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 15, Number 1

April 2006

Understanding Stormwater

When it rains, water flows across the ground and pavement. While some water seeps into the ground, most drains into storm sewers. This storm water eventually flows directly into our lakes, streams and wetlands. Storm water becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows. Any pollutants carried with storm water empty into our waters, untreated.

New Britain Borough is currently implementing storm sewer mapping, monitoring and water sampling as part of a storm water management program. But we need your help to protect our waterways.

What everyone can do to help

- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as oil, paint and cleaning supplies—never pour them on the ground, pavement or down storm drains.
- Use herbicides and fertilizers properly and efficiently.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. Wherever pets make a mess, storm water can carry it to the drain and eventually into a stream.
- Store materials that could pollute storm water indoors, in containers that do not rust or leak.
- Properly maintain your vehicles to prevent fluids from dripping onto the ground or paved areas.
- Notify the Borough of any signs of dumping of illegal pollutants or excessive soil erosion from construction sites.

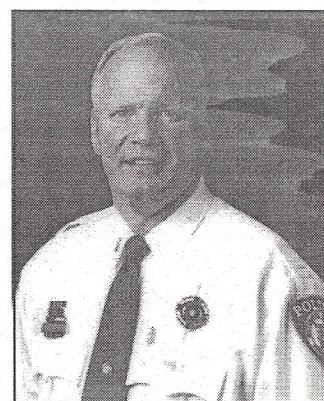
Spring is Here!

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.

Borough hires Police Chief

New Britain Borough is pleased to announce the hiring of a new chief of police. **Donald L. Bowers** took the helm on April 17.

Chief Bowers recently retired as lieutenant of operations in the 34-officer Whitemarsh Police Department, where he served for nearly 27 years. He is also a regional SWAT team commander in Montgomery County and a teacher for the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission.



"We are very pleased to have Chief Bowers to help the Borough move forward with developing a full-time police department to better serve the growing needs of the community," said Borough Manager Robin Trymbiski.

Learn about our History

New Britain Borough's Historic Preservation Committee invites you to our first public meeting

Thursday, June 1, 2006

7 to 9 p.m. in the

Fellowship Hall at the New Britain Baptist Church

The guest speaker will be Bruce Burkart, our own New Britain historian, who will speak about the Borough's history. All are welcome to attend and learn what the Historic Preservation Committee is doing. You can view the surveys that were compiled in 1989 on the borough's historic properties. Since houses 50 years or older are considered historic, you may live in one and not be aware of it. Come and share interesting stories about your house, or just come learn about our historic Borough.

Covered Bridge Summer Camp

June 18 to August 3, 2007 (~~7 weeks~~)

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays

An exciting array of supervised programs are planned at this year's summer camp including arts and crafts, sports and special event days.

~~6-12~~

~~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 forms are available on our website: www.newbritainboro.com.~~

~~Contact the Borough office to see if space is available.~~

~~Fee for 7-week program:~~

~~Borough Residents - \$190 for the first child and \$185 for each additional child in the family.~~

~~Non-residents - \$240 for the first child and \$235 for each additional child in the family.~~

Can you help?

The Borough needs an auditor to perform a once-a-year audit of its financial records. If you are interested, please call the Borough office, 215-348-4586.

Plan now for the 4th of July Parade

The 2006 parade will be held on Tuesday, July 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m. It will start at Town Center on Route 202 and end at 207 Park Avenue.

This tri-municipal parade is hosted by New Britain Township, New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough.

Be part of the fun!

Floats from neighborhoods, organizations and businesses are welcome. Floats will be judged for Most Patriotic, Most Original and Most Humorous. Also needed are marching bands, Scout Troops, dancers, etc. Prizes are awarded and complimentary refreshments provided to participants.

The parade will also feature antique cars, and fire trucks. You're encouraged to decorate your bikes and baby strollers in a patriotic theme.

Local businesses are encouraged to get involved with this family-oriented community event. Please consider becoming a sponsor. Contact Jessica Formica-Miles or Carol Bigham at the New Britain Township office, 215-822-1391.



News from the Borough Police Department

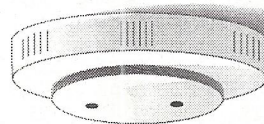
Officer Christopher Armstrong, a graduate of the Montgomery County Community college Police Academy, joined the Borough Police Department in March. Officer Armstrong is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He recently returned from a two-week tour of duty in Honduras.



Officer Christopher Armstrong

PFC Charles Semet is celebrating his 32nd anniversary with the New Britain Borough Police Department this year. He has been serving our community since June 1974.

Officer Aaron Soldavin is leaving to take a full time position with the Solebury Police Department. Officer Soldavin has served this community since January 2005. He was Officer in Charge in December and March. He has been a respected member of the Department and will be missed.



Smoke Detectors save lives

The Fire Marshall reminds us to make sure every home has properly installed SMOKE DETECTORS — and don't forget to regularly check the batteries.

Message from the Tax Collector

All property owners should have received their annual Borough and County tax bill, which were mailed by March 1. If you have not received your tax bill for 2006 please contact the New Britain Borough Tax Collector, Richard Sabol, at 215-489-8658.

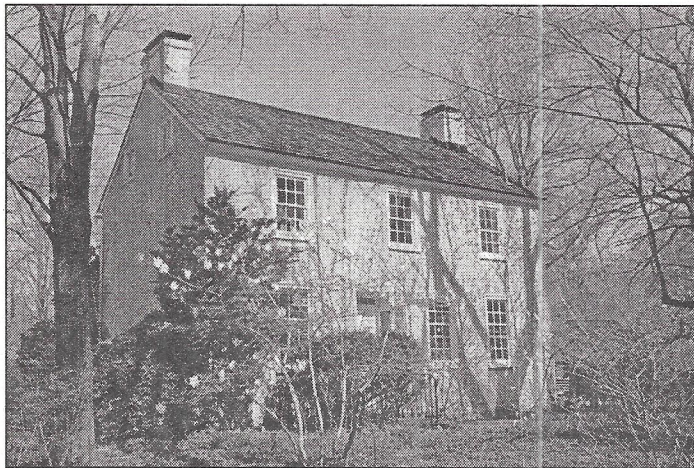
The Miriam G. Groner Homestead

New Britain Borough is the proud owner of a beautiful historic property at 171 Aarons Avenue, thanks to the generosity of Miriam G. Groner who left it to the Borough in her will.

Miss Groner was a long-time borough resident. She graduated from Bucknell University in 1931 and in 1934 received a PhD in Botany from the University of Michigan. She worked as a flower breeder for Burpee Seeds and as a chemist for Lansdale Tube Company. She was also a professor at Penn State University, Ogontz Campus in Abington.

Miss Groner was a talented photographer, specializing in slides of flowers and plants, trees and scenery. Her property is landscaped with exotic trees and flowers. She also painted many oil paintings.

Miss Groner took special interest in the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve, which is across the road from her property. She worked with the Nature Preserve Committee to make sure that the meadow was mowed. She helped with trimming of bushes and trees to keep the trails open.



The house was built in 1812 by Joseph and Benjamin Mathews, brothers who also built a local saw mill. Joseph lived in the house and operated the saw mill until he retired in 1850. Joseph was a respected member of the community and the New Britain Baptist Church, where he is buried.

The main house is stone and stucco, 2½ stories, with a chimney at each end. The interior boasts 3 fireplaces, original wood floors and circular stairs from basement to attic. An addition was built in 1946 in the back and side which includes a study, porch, bathroom and kitchen. The house sits on 3 acres across Sand Road from the Nature Preserve.

The Borough has appointed a committee to oversee work on the property. Look for an update in our fall newsletter.

Clean-Up Day at the Nature Preserve

May 7, 1 p.m.



The Nature Preserve Committee is looking for volunteers to help cut back bushes and shrubs along the trails. Please join us to help maintain this Borough treasure. Bring garden gloves, clippers and Roundup, if you can. For more information call Bill Macklem, 215-348-4932.

Conservation District administers erosion control program

The Bucks County Conservation District administers the state's Erosion Control Program on behalf of the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Earth disturbances of 1000 square feet or more require a plan submission to the Conservation District. For swimming pools, that number is 2000 square feet. If you are planning an addition, deck or pool that will disturb earth on your property, contact the District at 215-345-7577 *EARLY* in the process. Having earth disturbance approval will help facilitate permits at the local level.

Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, July 22



Bucks County's Hazardous Waste Collection program provides an opportunity 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. This year it will be held on Saturday, July 22, 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. They will also accept old **computers**. For details, call 215-345-3400.

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45 Keeley Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901

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New Britain Borough Officials

Mayor:	Robert Snavely
Council:	Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM David Donahue, <i>President</i> ; William Macklem, <i>Vice-President</i> ; 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, <i>President</i> ; David Holewinski, <i>Vice President</i> ; Jane Kinyon, <i>Secretary</i> ; Karl Dieterichs; Wayne Kenton; Paul Land; William Macklem; John Remmey; William Schaefer
Zoning Hearing Board:	Meets, as needed, 3rd Thursday of the month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM Robert Bair, <i>Chairman</i> ; Tony Coia; Peter LaMontague; John Sullivan; John Wolff, Jr.; Jeffrey Gilmore and Margaret Remmey, <i>Alternates</i> . Joseph Wagner, <i>Solicitor</i> .
Tax Collector:	Richard Sabol 215-489-8658 (<i>Hours: Wednesday, 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</i>)
Solicitor:	Michael Goodwin
	Police Chief: Donald Bowers, 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.
Website: www.newbritainboro.com Email: NBBORO@comcast.net

Borough Manager: Robin E. Trymbiski
Treasurer: Lloyd J. Vasant
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