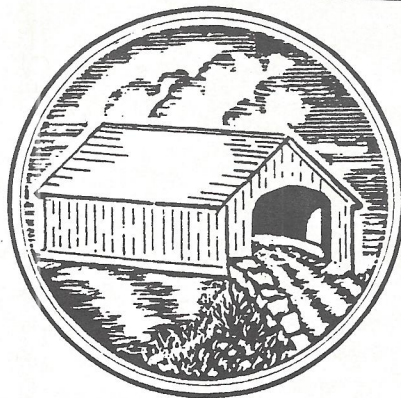


# New Britain Borough



# NEWS

Volume 16, Number 1

April 2007

## *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. Phone - 215-348-4586; email - [nbboro@comcast.net](mailto:nbboro@comcast.net)

For additional details about stormwater, read the document Rain Drain brochure available on our website, [www.newbritainboro.com](http://www.newbritainboro.com).

(See page 2)

## *Historic Preservation Committee formed*

The New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee was formed by Borough Council in 2006 to create a framework for a positive coexistence between the past and the future. To accomplish this, the committee has been exploring ways to preserve our Borough's heritage and historic buildings, covered bridge, 18th century cemetery, and the residential character of the Borough's Butler Avenue corridor by establishing a historic preservation overlay zone. While incorporated in 1928, the Borough was settled in 1715. Recently, the Borough was gifted a 1812 historic stone home and nature preserve by Dr. Miriam Groner, the noted botonist and New Britain resident. The borough will maintain the historic integrity of the home and grounds (see below).

The Historic Preservation Committee is committed to the preservation of historic properties and artifacts and the enhancement of citizen enjoyment of our history through public education and access. The committee's mission is enhanced through creating alliances with the Bucks County Historical Society, local elected officials and key public and private sector professionals.

For more information, please call Marie Esher Coia, 215-348-1043.

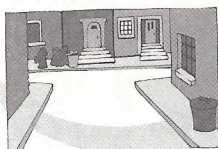
**House for Rent** - Historic 1812 stone house in the Nature Preserve in New Britain Borough. Long term rental. Wonderful restoration. 2-3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, new kitchen, C/A, grand living room. Walking distance to train station and shopping center. \$1500/mo. Available immediately. Call 215-348-4586.



# What happens when it rains?

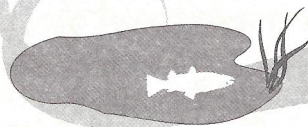
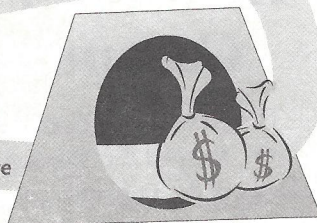


Rain is an important part of nature's water cycle, but there are times it can do more damage than good. Problems related to storm water runoff can include:



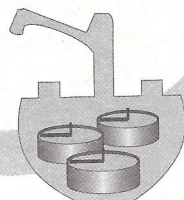
Flooding caused by too much storm water flowing over hardened surfaces such as roads and parking lots, instead of soaking into the ground.

Increases in spending on maintaining storm drains and the storm sewer system that become clogged with excessive amounts of dirt and debris.



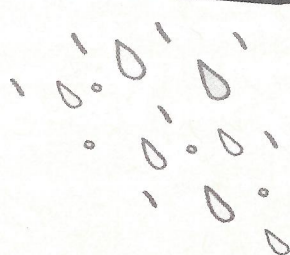
Decreases in sportfish populations because storm water carries sediment and pollutants that degrade important fish habitat.

More expensive treatment technologies to remove harmful pollutants carried by storm water into our drinking water supplies.



Closed beaches due to high levels of bacteria carried by storm water that make swimming unsafe.

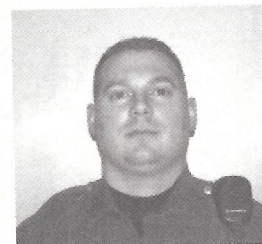
We can help rain restore its good reputation while protecting our health and environment while saving money for ourselves and our community.



## Police News

### New officer hired

The New Britain Borough Police Department (NBBPD) welcomes its newest member, Officer Blake Hamer. Officer Hamer joins our department with 2-1/2 years experience as a full-time Deputy Sheriff in Montgomery County and part-time officer with the Bridgeport Police Department. Officer Hamer is a graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy and is pursuing his Criminal Justice degree.



### We appreciate your feedback

A number of residents have written letters thanking our Department as well as individual officers for their professionalism and kindness. All of our officers are dedicated to making New Britain Borough a safe and great place to live and work.

### New No Parking signs

Please take note of the new *No Parkings* signs throughout the cul-de-sacs in the Borough. For everyone's safety, residents and visitors are encouraged to abide by these signs. The Department will be monitoring these streets for parking compliance.

### T.E.A.M.

The NBBPD has kicked off its newest community service program, Teaching, Educating And Mentoring (TEAM). The TEAM project is a pro-active effort to make schools and communities safer. Officers Kraft and Armstrong are certified TEAM teachers and are leading the program for all six graders at Pine Run Elementary. The lessons focus on safety, reporting crime, drug/alcohol/tobacco use, violence and traffic safety. Students learn to take responsibility for their individual actions while working together as a TEAM in pursuing solutions to problems facing their school and community.

### Bike Rally



Mark your calendars. On Saturday, May 12, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the NBBPD will hold its first annual "Bike Rally". Children ages 5 to 12 are encouraged to take part in this fun-filled community event featuring a bicycle ride with the police officers. The ride will begin at the Town Center and end at the Covered Bridge Park with a picnic.

**Check out our Website**  
[www.nbbpd.org](http://www.nbbpd.org)

Visit our website often for updates, upcoming events, useful phone numbers and links. As always we welcome your feedback, suggestions and comments.



## Community Alert Network

New Britain Borough is part of Bucks County's Community Alert Network which allows Borough Officials to make telephone notification to Borough households in the event of an emergency or crisis situation. Automated dialers would call those households specified by the Borough and give a pre-recorded message providing information and direction in response to the emergency or crisis situation. If you have an unlisted telephone number, you would not automatically receive such notification. Your household can be added to the Network if you provide your unlisted number to the Borough. Your phone number will not be shared, released, or sold. Call the Borough Office at 215-348-4586.

*Robert E. Bair  
Emergency Management Coordinator*

## Road projects scheduled

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

Reconstruction of Landis Mill Road (from Mathews Ave. to Aarons Ave.)

Reconstruction of the intersection of Lampost Rd and Route 202

Rolimac on Sioux Road, Pawnee Road and Cedar Drive

## 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.

And please remember, NEVER put grass clippings, leaves or garden waste into storm drains.

## Chalfont Emergency Medical Services

For those homes and businesses which were previously served by the Chalfont Fire Company Ambulance, Chalfont Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (CEMS) is the name of your new Emergency Medical (ambulance) Service.

CEMS was formed on January 1, 2007, when the separation of the Chalfont Fire Company and the former ambulance service took effect. The transition was relatively seamless and nearly all of the personnel and equipment have been retained. The new ambulance service is in good financial condition thanks in no small part to the financial stewardship practiced by the Fire Company. The CEMS Board of Directors is dedicated to continuing these good practices.

Our goals are simple:

- Provide the highest level of emergency medical care possible, while maintaining quick response times to all within our service area.
- Maintain a financially sound business plan to continually support our first goal. The reality is that CEMS is a not-for-profit business and must support itself to complete its mission. We will continue to rely upon the municipalities and our citizens' support to maintain our fiscal integrity and to protect the financial investment made over the years by our citizens and taxpayers.

You may hear about a new EMS (Emergency Municipal Services Tax) tax enacted by New Britain Borough. Each person employed in the Borough who earns more than \$12,000 per year will pay this \$52 annual tax. The money raised by this tax will be used to help pay for the municipal services that benefit those employed in New Britain Borough. The EMS tax will supplement property taxes. The EMS tax goes directly to the Borough – not to the CEMS or the Chalfont Fire Company.

CEMS will begin its subscription drive in the Spring. Your contribution will guarantee that all occupants of a residence will not be billed for ambulance service regardless of whether or not insurance coverage is available. The subscription fees will help keep your ambulance service financially sound and protect your family from charges not covered by health insurance.



# 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.

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

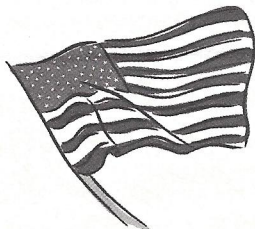
**Location:** Covered Bridge Community Park, Keeley Avenue

**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](http://www.newbritainboro.com).

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

**Fee for 7-week program:**

Residents	\$195 for the first child and \$190 for each additional child in the family.
Non-residents	\$245 for the first child and \$240 for each additional child in the family.



## Plan now for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

The 2006 parade will be held on **Wednesday, 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. Call New Britain Township at 215-822-1391.

## Outdoor Concert Series presented by Chalfont Borough

A series of four concerts will be held at Krupp Park during the 2007 season. The first concert is

**May 20, 6 p.m. at Krupp Park**

**Featuring "Cool Beans"**

**an interactive show for the entertainment of kids and parents**

**Sponsor: Pina's Pizza, Chalfont**

**Refreshments available at a reasonable cost.**

Come and bring the family; relax and enjoy this free concert.

## Upcoming Events Chalfont Fire Company

April 22	Buffet Breakfast	8 a.m. to noon (or until sold out)
May 6	Chicken Bar-b-Que	11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - take out only
May 12	Turkey Hoagies	9 a.m. - noon (or until sold out)
June 23	Flea Market	8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	Turkey Hoagies	9 a.m. - noon (or until sold out)
Sept. 30	Buffet Breakfast	8 a.m. to noon (or until sold out)

All events are held at the Chalfont Fire Company, 101 N. Main St., Chalfont. Phone 215-822-9685.

## Hazardous Waste Collection

**Saturday, July 14**



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 14, 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, visit [www.bucks.county.org](http://www.bucks.county.org) or call 215-345-3400.



## Yellow Fever comes to New Britain

*The old Haas house once stood on the northwest corner of the present Cedar Drive and Butler Ave. (Route 202). The early stone house with corner windows no longer exists, but the stone barn to that property today serves as offices of a legal firm. The following is an account of the role the Haas house played during the Yellow Fever epidemic of the late 1700s.*

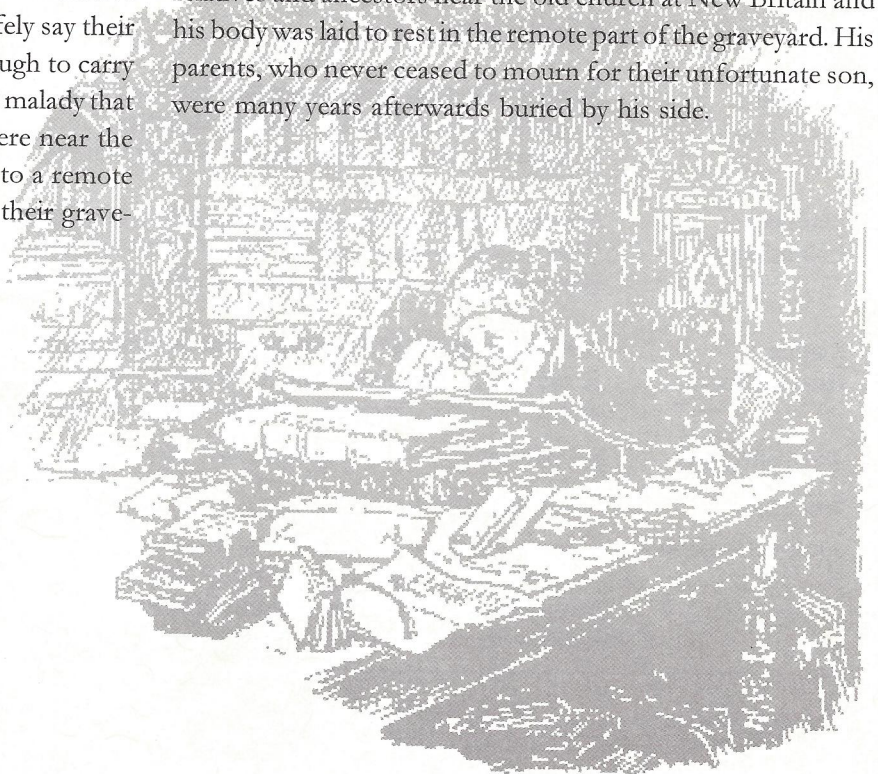
Tradition ascribes that the house was built by a German family named Haas, about 20 years prior to the Revolution, around 1755. The Haases appear to have been among the few families of that heritage who entered old New Britain at this period. They and their descendants have long since disappeared from the area.

The old house was destined to witness a scene of gloom, despair and death within its walls. In 1793 the Yellow Fever was ravaging Philadelphia — in fact, decimating its population, as the disease is reputed to have carried off 4,000 out of 40,000 residents of the city. Those who could leave fled in every direction to the purer air of the country, oftentimes carrying the seeds of the pestilence with them to remote hamlets and lonely country farm houses.

It was such that the Haas family came hither from the city, either already sick or carrying the infection with them. They soon died and their bodies were buried in the neighboring graveyard in New Britain. The fear of the disease was excessive and carried to the point of superstition. We can safely say their funerals were not extensively attended, hardly enough to carry the coffins. Such was the absurd fear of the dreaded malady that the victims were not allowed to be buried anywhere near the church building, but their bodies were consigned to a remote part of the yard down the sloping hillside, where their gravestone may be seen to this day.

Nearby is the gravestone erected to the memory of Dr. John Meredith, a young physician of great promise, who died on the 9th of October, 1793. He had commenced practice at Quakertown the preceding spring, with brilliant prospects, but during that September he rashly visited the city to procure medicines. As he passed through the silent and almost deserted streets — as he afterward said — an ominous presentiment of his fate came over him. Returning to Quakertown, he soon felt the early symptoms of the disease upon him. His knowledge as a physician caused him to know too well their fatal import. He was determined to die at home, at least, and mounting his horse he rode across the country twenty miles to his father's house near Castle Valley. The family fled in dismay or kept at a distance. But a mother could not desert a son in his great extremity, and Hannah Meredith, assisted by a faithful black woman, bravely faced the danger, attended to his wants and soothed his last hours. The sick man warned his brother, who came to the open window, to keep away, and the physician, his uncle, Dr. Hugh Meredith of Doylestown, brought the medicines and handed them in at the window. In a few days the disease ran its course and he died. His mother suffered a mild attack of the fever, but recovered.

John Meredith was likewise denied internment beside his relatives and ancestors near the old church at New Britain and his body was laid to rest in the remote part of the graveyard. His parents, who never ceased to mourn for their unfortunate son, were many years afterwards buried by his side.





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## ***New Britain Borough Officials***

<b>Mayor:</b>	Robert Snively
<b>Council:</b>	<b>Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM</b> David Donahue, <i>President</i> ; William Macklem, <i>Vice-President</i> ; Robert Belchic, Mary Pat Holewinski; Margaret Remmey; Nancy Schuyler; Kermit Weitzel;
<b>Planning Commission:</b>	<b>Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM</b> 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
<b>Zoning Hearing Board:</b>	<b>Meets, as needed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM</b> Robert Bair, <i>Chairman</i> ; Tony Coia; Peter LaMontague; John Sullivan; John Wolff, Jr.; Jeffrey Gilmore, <i>Alternate</i> . Joseph Wagner, <i>Solicitor</i> .
<b>Tax Collector:</b>	Richard Sabol 215-489-8658 ( <i>Hours: Wednesday, 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.</i> )
<b>Solicitor:</b>	Michael Goodwin <b>Police Chief:</b> 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](http://www.newbritainboro.com) Email: [NBBORO@comcast.net](mailto:NBBORO@comcast.net)

**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**