

# New Britain Borough



# NEWS

Volume 5, Number 1

March 1996

## ***New Borough Manager***

Borough Manager John Wolff announced his retirement effective March 31, 1996. John began his tenure with New Britain Borough as Zoning Officer in 1986 and moved to Manager in 1989. John and his wife will continue to reside in the Borough and he plans to serve the Borough on a voluntary basis. John looks forward to having more leisure time to spend in the mountains and golfing and on home repairs.

Council reviewed several outstanding candidates and chose to appoint Robert Schaffer to the position. Bob is no stranger to New Britain Borough. He has served as Borough Engineer on a permanent part time basis since 1968. He is a retired construction engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. He has assisted the Manager for the last 5 years. His years of service to the Borough will make the transition smooth and easy.



*Retiring Manager John Wolff (left) congratulates Bob Schaffer as he assumes the Borough Manager position.*

Bob and his wife Jean have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. He is active in the New Britain Borough Civic Association and Chairs the Summer Recreation Program. Bob also serves the Central Bucks West Football Team by collecting and publishing team statistics each year.

## ***The "Real" Story***

Recently a local newspaper published a series of articles on the spending habits of municipalities in the Central Bucks area. New Britain Borough Council feels compelled to reply. In 1990 the Borough was given a choice: to accept one half of the 1% earned income tax to be imposed, or to not accept it and have the entire 1% go to the school district. This tax was going to be imposed regardless of whether or not the municipalities decided to accept their share.

Since 1990, the Borough reduced the property tax by 60%—from 25 to 15 mills. The tax base (population) has remained steady, but expenses have risen dramatically mostly as a result of rapid population increases in neighboring communities and changes in state regulations and responsibilities. The largest Borough expense by far is for Roads (see Page 2). The Borough maintains 10 miles of roadway which has seen rapid increase in usage in recent years. Some 90% of these roads are at least 30 years old. According to the Borough engineer, the life expectancy of a road is 20 years. The combination of aging infrastructure and increased use is necessitating high expenditures for maintenance and repairs. In 1990 the total cost of maintaining our roads was \$20,000; in 1996 that figure is over \$300,000 — a 1500% increase! Also contributing to this massive increase is an additional mandate from the state requiring better stormwater control. Adding insult to injury the PA Dept. of Transportation is assuming less responsibility for state roads, leaving work such as maintaining storm drains and mowing grass strips to the municipality. The Borough's revenue from the state "fuel" tax is only \$30,000.

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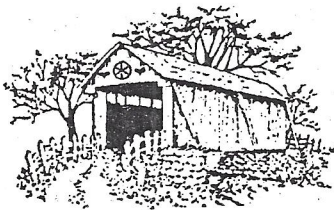


# 1996 Budget

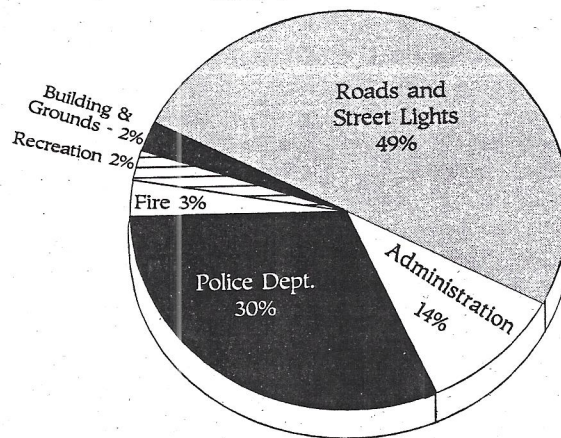
Borough Council recently approved a 1996 budget totaling \$839,000. This represents an increase of \$135,000 over 1995, but the tax millage remains at 12 with a special 3 mill road tax. Council chose to use some of the reserve funds to make up the difference.

The pie charts graphically depict the major categories of expenses and income. The complete budget is available for review at the Borough office.

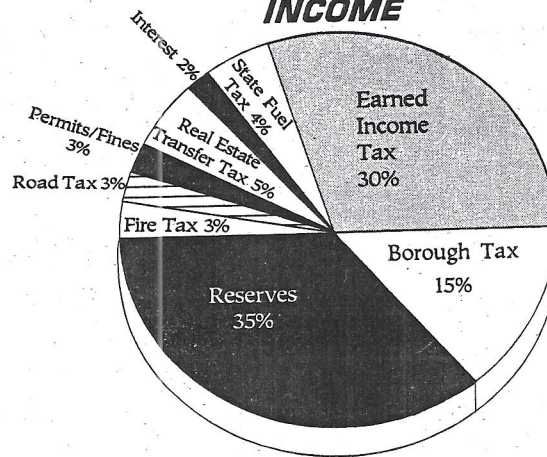
A separate 3-mill Fire Protection Tax provides funds for the two fire companies serving the Borough, Doylestown and Chalfont.



## EXPENDITURES



## INCOME



# Route 202 Bypass Update

Officials from New Britain Borough and other effected municipalities met in early March with PennDOT representatives to discuss the three alternatives being considered. State representative Tom Druce and Senator David Heckler, as well as Commissioner Warren, were also in attendance. The three options are: widen Upper State Rd. from Montgomery Twp to the 611 bypass in Doylestown Township; widen Upper State Rd. to Detweiler Rd. in Warrington and construct a limited-access bypass to the 611 bypass; or build a bypass along the entire route from Montgomery Twp. to the 611 bypass. Druce said a draft report on an environmental impact study should be completed by July and public hearings held after Labor Day.

Municipal officials urged the state to buy rights of way along the proposed route before houses are built in its path. Some of the municipalities have been preserving land along the corridor for years, but are facing pressure from developers who want to built in the path of the proposed highway.

Heckler and Druce noted that PennDOT has shown a renewed commitment to the Route 202 project. Particularly encouraging was the fact that the project was not cut from PennDOT's 12-year plan.

## Police Seek Input

Chief David Sempowski wants to encourage residents to communicate with him on any matter that might concern the police. You can call or visit the Police Station at 56 Keeley Avenue (345-1080) anytime to speak with him or an officer on call. To help the police force evaluate their performance, please complete the following brief survey. "We appreciate comments, both positive and negative," says the Chief. "We cannot correct situations that we don't know about," he continues. "Please help us serve you well."

(Clip and return survey to 56 Keeley Ave., New Britain, PA 18901)

## New Britain Borough Police Survey — 1996

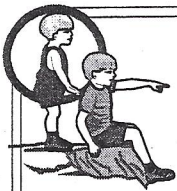
1. Do you receive prompt service? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Are the Officers courteous and professional? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Have you been satisfied with the service you have received? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Are the needs of the community being met? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How can we improve police service? \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments or questions? \_\_\_\_\_

Optional — Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_





## Summer Recreation Program

The Borough will once again sponsor a five-week program at Covered Bridge Park. The camp will operate daily Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., from June 24 to July 26, 1996.

The camp will feature arts and crafts, special events and sports activities, and is open to children ages six through twelve. Registration information will be circulated to local schools later this spring. Watch for the announcements — registration fills up quickly.

## New Britain Civic Association

Having made it through another winter, the Civic Association is coming out of hibernation. By the time you read this, our young children will have enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt held on March 30 at Pine Run School.

Our next community event will be the Spring Flea Market scheduled for Saturday, May 11 (rain date May 18). This is a perfect time to clean out your attic, basement, garage and kids' rooms. Spaces are available for \$15 (we do not supply tables). Set up time is 7 a.m. For more information, call 345-8750. This is an answering machine, but a real person will call you back. Proceeds help in the care of the Covered Bridge Park.

If you have a family picnic or reunion, graduation, birthday, etc. coming up, don't forget the pavilion at Covered Bridge Park. You can rent the pavilion from dawn till dusk for \$35.

For information and reservations, call Amy Crasto at 340-0633.

For just \$15 your family can become a member of the Civic Association and get a beautiful license plate for the front of your car. (See membership form below.)

Last but not least — we have noticed some mighty fine gardens in our Borough and are thinking of sponsoring a Garden Tour in 1997. If you are interested in participating, please contact Peter LaMontagne at 348-7879.

If you would like to know more about the Civic Association, please join us at our meetings. We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Administration Building.

Hope you all have a great spring and — ah! — summer.

*Jackie Dieterichs, President  
New Britain Civic Association*

## The Real Story

(continued from Page 1)

The second highest Borough expenditure is for Public Safety — Police. With increased commercial activity in the Borough has come increased crime and vandalism. The safety of residents is the Council's primary concern.

The newspaper insinuated that the new Borough office was built with revenues from the earned income tax. In truth this modest building was financed by the sale of real estate already owned by the Borough. In addition, through a unique cooperative effort with the Middle-Bucks Technical School, the Borough paid only for materials; the labor was performed by the students. This resulted in a tremendous cost savings while giving the students the experience they needed. The building is low maintenance and provides much needed space for conducting business. An amusing anecdote — the newspaper eluded to "music filtering into the room" from stereo speakers installed in the building. This stereo system was donated by the Borough engineer from his barn!

The Borough Council is committed to maintaining the quality of life its residents want and deserve — and doing so as prudently as possible. The best way to know what's happening in the Borough is to attend meetings (meeting schedule on back page).

## 1996 New Britain Civic Association Membership Join Us!

**Special Offer**

The New Britain Civic Association is devoted to maintaining and preserving our Borough treasure — Covered Bridge Park. The Park, which has been owned by the Civic Association 1959, is enjoyed year-round by residents. In addition the Civic Association sponsors a number of community activities such as the Easter egg hunt, Halloween parade and Santa come to New Britain. We need the interest and support of all Borough residents.

For the low annual membership fee of \$15 you will receive a beautiful New Britain license plate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to New Britain Civic Association. Mail to New Britain Borough, 45 Keeley Ave., New Britain, PA 18901. You should pick up your license plate at the Borough Office.

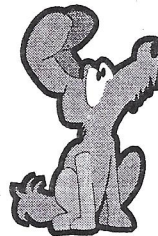




# Ordinance Review

## Grass & Weeds

This Borough ordinance requires that grass and weeds must be cut or trimmed so that they do not exceed 8" in height. The purpose is not only to keep the community aesthetically pleasing, but to protect residents from possible health risks associated with overgrowth.



## Pets

Pet owners are required by Borough Ordinance to be responsible for their animal not becoming a private or public nuisance. Please be considerate of public and private property and your neighbors.



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## New Britain Borough Officials

<b>Mayor:</b>	Robert Snively
<b>Council:</b>	Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM David Donahue, <i>President</i> ; Robert Belchic, <i>Vice-President</i> ; Mary Pat Holewinski; Denise Steskal; Nancy Schuyler; Kermit Weitzel; William Macklem
<b>Planning Commission:</b>	Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM William Buchanan, <i>President</i> ; David Holewinski, <i>Vice President</i> ; Allan Scheckler, <i>Secretary</i> ; Karl Dieterichs; Robert Leavy; Paul Land; William Macklem; Lynn Froehlich, <i>Consultant</i>
<b>Zoning Hearing Board:</b>	Meets, as needed, 3rd Wednesday of the month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM Robert Bair, <i>Chairman</i> ; James Davis; Tony Coia; Peter LaMontague; John Sullivan; John Wolff, Jr.; Joseph Wagner, <i>Solicitor</i>
<b>Tax Collector:</b>	Ann Teschner ..... 348-1638
<b>Solicitor:</b>	George M. Bush
<b>EMERGENCIES:</b>	<b>DIAL 911</b>
<b>Police Chief:</b>	David Sempowski, Office .. 345-1080

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

**Borough Manager/Zoning Officer:** ..... Robert A. Schaffer  
**Treasurer:** ..... Lloyd J. Vansant  
**Building Inspector:** ..... Austin C. Brown (Hours 9-11, Mon, Wed. & Fri.)  
**Roads Superintendent:** ..... Edward Deschamps  
**Borough Engineer:** ..... Robert A. Schaffer  
**Borough Secretary:** ..... Robin E. Trymbiski

New Britain Borough  
45 Keeley Avenue  
New Britain, PA 18901

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