

# New Britain Borough



# NEWS

Volume 6, Number 1

May 1997

## Vote YES for Open Space

The New Britain Borough Council recommends a **YES** vote on the following Open Space Bond Issue which will appear on the May 20<sup>th</sup> primary ballot:

*"Should debt in the sum of \$59 million for the purpose of acquiring and preserving open space be authorized to be incurred as debt approved by the electors."*

The \$59 million would be borrowed in three phases: \$35.9 million in 1997, and \$11.55 million each in the years 2000 and 2003, and would be divided into four categories:

Municipal governments, \$20 million

County parkland, \$16.5 million

Farmland preservation, \$13.5 million

Natural areas, \$9 million

The tax impact to the average county tax payer is estimated to be about \$25 a year for over 10 years.

The allocation of \$20 million to municipalities will be based on population and will require a 25 percent match.

Council feels this is a good way to protect valuable open space in the Borough and throughout the county.

## Tri-Municipal Panel Seeks Youth Input

New Britain Borough, Chalfont Borough and New Britain Township have joined together to study the possible need for after-school activities for our youth. Each municipality has contributed \$5,000 to fund a feasibility study to determine what activities would best attract youth, how the program should be organized, and the level of interest in such a program.

Area officials believe the young people need a place of their own to meet, to talk, and to participate in group activities.

"We want the information to come from the kids," said New Britain Borough Manager Bob Schaffer. To that end, students ages 12 through 17 are invited to participate in one of three Focus group sessions to be conducted on Saturday, **May 17**, each one and a half hours long. The session for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls will begin at 10 a.m.; the session for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys will meet at noon; and a session for 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls will begin at 2 p.m. To encourage participation, students will receive \$20 for their involvement.

The sessions will be interactive and focus on what the youth like to do in their free time, when and where they would like to participate and what sort of supervision they suggest. Then both the students and their parents will be asked to complete a separate survey about the likelihood of participating in a youth program.

The findings and recommendations will be presented to the municipalities in June. Depending upon the results, the municipalities may seek to acquire or lease a building to be the home of the program.

Anyone interested in participating in the focus groups should call the consultant, Communication Solutions Group at (215) 884-6499.



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## Post Your House Number

Homeowners are required to post their house number in front of their home, in letters at least 3-inches high, and clearly visible from the street. The numbers assure a quick response by emergency services, and they are used by the U.S. Postal Service for mail delivery.



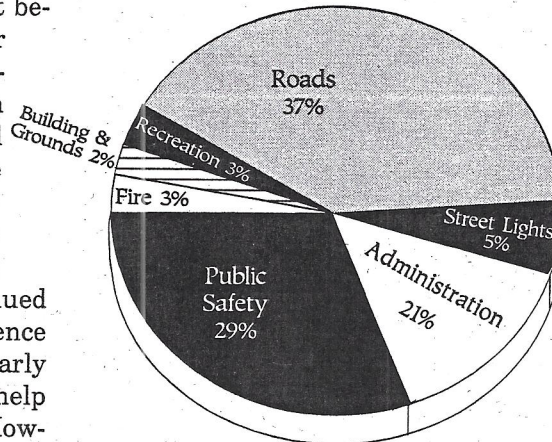
## 1997 Budget

The 1997 budget approved by Borough Council totals \$797,399. It became necessary to raise taxes for only the second time since an unprecedented 10 mill decrease in 1991. In addition, the Occupational Privilege and Per Capita taxes were rescinded at that time. Subsequently, a 3 mill Road tax was instituted in 1994 increasing the total to 18 mills, which has continued until the present time. The emergence of the earned income tax in the early 1990s provided new funding to help offset increasing expenditures. However, the budgets for 1995 and 1996 required using surplus funds to prevent a millage increase. Now, with those excess funds depleted and the current Borough revenues reaching a static level with no foreseeable additional sources of income, the only alternative was to increase the tax to maintain the basic essential services provided annually by the Borough.

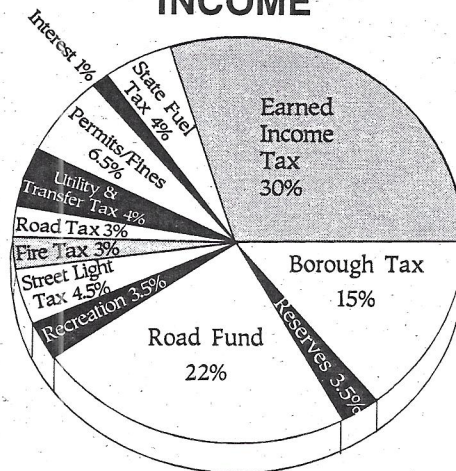
The General Fund rate has been increased from 12 to 16 mills. The 3 mill Road Tax remains unchanged, 3.5 mills were added for Recreation, and 4.5 mills for Street Lights. This new assessment will cost the average homeowner about \$120.00 in 1997.

In paring down the budget, Council removed several road and drainage projects, deferred purchase of a new police car, and eliminated numerous miscellaneous items while reducing others to a minimum. A reality check of the situation became evident to Council and the difficult task of proposing a tax increase was the only

### EXPENDITURES



### INCOME



viable alternative to this fiscal situation.

A 3 mill Fire Protection Tax provides funds for the two fire companies which serve the Borough, Doylestown and Chalfont.

## Door-to-Door Solicitation

As Spring arrives, so do door-to-door salespeople. If someone should come to your home peddling a product, ask him or her to show you a completed permit to solicit. Such permit cards are issued by the Borough to salespersons who have properly registered with the Police Department. If the salesperson cannot produce the proper paperwork, they are NOT authorized to solicit in the Borough. Even non-profit organizations are required to register, though no fee is charged. The only exception is religious organizations.

If you are unsure that a person is authorized to peddle in the Borough, please contact the Borough Police at 345-1080. It would be most helpful if you could provide the police with a physical description of the salesperson — approximate height, weight, hair style and color, age and clothing — and, if they leave the area, in which direction they went and a vehicle description. It would also help to know the item they are trying to sell and the name of the company for which they work.

For your own safety and privacy, please do not allow the salesperson to gain access to your residence, and if for any reason you feel threatened or unsafe, call 911 immediately.

## A Note from the Tax Collector

The 1997 school real estate tax bills will be mailed during the first week of July. This year the school district requires that checks be made payable to the **Central Bucks School District**. Please note that your payment should still be **returned to the Borough Tax Collector**.

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a property owner from payment in accordance with state law. Residents who do not receive tax bills in the first week of July should immediately contact the tax collector, Ann M. Teschner, 348-1638.

## Hazardous Waste Collection

If you missed the May 10 collection held in Jamison, you still have a chance to safely dispose of hazardous materials. A collection will be held at the Upper Bucks Vo-Tech School, 3115 Ridge Road, on May 17, from 10 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 345-3400.



## Roadway Improvements

A number of road improvement projects are slated for the coming season, as follows:

The existing traffic signal on West Butler Avenue at the Town Center Shopping Complex will be moved to the intersection of Sand Road and West Butler Avenue, which also combines with the entrance to Clemens Market. This change was necessitated by increased traffic at this location due to new businesses in the industrial area along Britain Drive.

Handicapped ramps will be placed throughout the Briarwood community and several other locations in the Borough. These ramps are mandated by state and federal laws and must be installed at all curb and sidewalk locations.

Cherokee Road will be reconstructed from Lenape Road to Pueblo Road with a new recycled base course and a bituminous wearing surface. The North Penn Water Company has installed a new water main at the same location.

Surface treatment of bituminous oil and chips will be made on the following streets in the Borough: Maple Lane, Maple Court, Lampost Road, Elm Terrace, Landis Mill Road, Britain Drive, Keeley Avenue, Hawk Circle and Sand Road.

Road repairs and Rolimac application will be performed on Lenape Drive and Ute Road.

## Civic Association News

### Additions to Covered Bridge Park

A new picnic table and four stools were built and installed by Eagle Scout candidate **Paul White**. Located next to Pine Run Creek, the table and stools had to be secured in 18 inches of gravel to protect it from possible high water. The area has been leveled and grass seed planted. It's going to be a lovely spot for a family picnic!

### Park Sign

The park sign is being repaired and repainted by **Charlene and Jeff McElhaney**, who have a sign business at 558 E. Butler Avenue.

### Civic License Plates

You can show your support for the Civic Association by becoming a member. With a \$15 membership, you will receive a license plate which advertises New Britain Borough as a "friendly place to live." License plates are available at the Borough office. For information on membership and volunteer opportunities, leave a message at 345-8750.



## Fourth of July Festivities

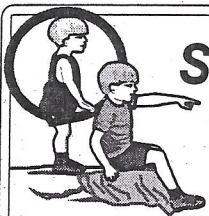
Celebrate the nation's independence right here in your community!

The big parade will begin at the New Britain Township building, proceed west on Park Avenue to Route 152 in Chalfont, south on Route 152 to Route 202, and east on Route 202 to the Town Center. The celebration will continue at Town Center with music, food, children's activities, and more.

The festivities conclude with a giant fire works display on the grounds of the Shrine of Czestochowa on Ferry Road.

## Volunteers Needed for Community Playground

After much planning, the Kids' Castle Playground in Doylestown Township's Central Park is about to become reality. Kids' Castle is unlike any playspace currently available in the area because our community's children designed it and the builders will be people like YOU. Several thousand volunteers are needed to fill one or more four-hour shift during Build Days that are tentatively planned for May 29 - June 1 and June 11 - June 15. No skills required — just willingness to help! Also needed are donated building materials, the loaning of tools, food for the volunteers, childcare for children of workers, and cash donations. Call 230-0672 to learn how you can help.



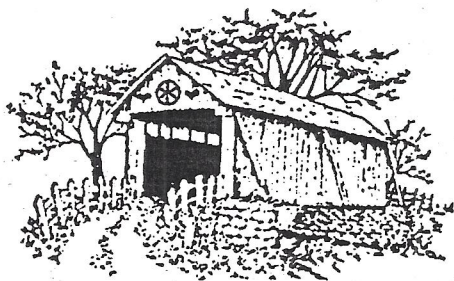
## Summer Recreation Program

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 23 to July 25.

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

The fee for Borough residents is \$75.00 for the entire 5-week program (\$70.00 for each additional child in family).





## Can You Help?

The Borough is seeking candidates for two Borough government Boards; a Planning Commission member and an alternate Zoning Hearing Board member. If you would like to serve your community, please send a brief resume to the Borough office. Or you may call for a description of the available positions.

### New Britain Borough Officials

**Mayor:** Robert Snavely

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

**Planning Commission:** **Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM**  
William Buchanan, *President*; David Holewinski, *Vice President*; Allan Scheckler, *Secretary*; Karl Dieterichs; Paul Land; William Macklem; Lynn Froehlich, *Consultant*

**Zoning Hearing Board:** **Meets, as needed, 3rd Wednesday of the month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM**  
Robert Bair, *Chairman*; Tony Coia; Peter LaMontague; John Sullivan; John Wolff, Jr.

**Tax Collector:** Ann Teschner 348-1638

**Solicitor:** George M. Bush

**EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911**

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

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

**Borough Manager/Zoning Officer:** ..... Robert A. Schaffer  
**Treasurer:** ..... Lloyd J. Vasant  
**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

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

