

# New Britain Borough



# NEWS

Volume 3, Number 2

November 1994

*You're Invited*

*to the*

*New Britain  
Borough*

*Open House*

*December 16, 1994*

*5-7 p.m.*

The Council and staff of New Britain Borough cordially invite all residents and local business owners to a Holiday Open House to be held in the Borough Office Building, 45 Keeley Avenue. This is a chance to share the holiday spirit with your neighbors and meet informally with Borough officials. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

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## Council Passes Revised Zoning Ordinance

Following more than 2 years of study, discussion and review, Borough Council passed a revised zoning ordinance in June 1994. According to Lynn Froehlich, Consultant, changes to the state Planning Code since the last revision in 1984 necessitated the update.

The new ordinance gives Borough Council more control over use regulations. It also provide residents with more complete guidelines and interpretations. "Overall, it is an easier document to work with," says Ms. Froehlich.

A new classification, Village Historic District, was established along Route 202 between Lenape and Lamp Post Roads. The Heritage Conservancy's survey of historic buildings was used as a basis for this district. The intent is to protect the residential character of this area and to encourage the preservation of traditional structures. Home and accessory offices which meet the intent and requirements of the ordinance are permitted.

The new ordinance addresses the "home office" in more detail, acknowledging that many people use office space in their home as part of their employment. Home offices as defined by this ordinance are permitted in all residential areas of the Borough. The main requirement for this use is that there be no external effect on the neighborhood such as business signs and excessive traffic and parking.

Regulations for existing Commercial Districts along Route 202 were refined. Such uses as service stations and convenience stores are permitted only in the area around the existing shopping center.

The new ordinance recognizes existing uses established prior to zoning within the Borough. For instance, the Delaware Valley College area is now zoned as a College-University District. This classification will help facilitate DelVal's requests for building and uses.

The ordinance is available for review at the Borough office.



# Are We Winning the War on Drugs?

*A message from David Sempowski, Chief, New Britain Police*

Contrary to popular belief, we are not yet winning the war on drugs. We are making progress, however, and it's up to each and every one of us to support drug prevention efforts within our homes and community.

We must be willing and open to talk to our children about the dangers of drugs, giving them useful information so that they can make an informed decision to remain drug free.

The most recent statistics from a drug survey conducted by the Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) shows an alarming upward trend in the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. Most studies indicate that drug use among children begins in the 5th and 6th grades, and that this use starts with alcohol and tobacco. These are the most abused drugs in our society today, probably due to their easy availability. Remember, alcohol and tobacco are drugs.

In our community you are not likely so see illegal drugs being sold on the street corner or in front of your home. This may give us a false sense of security, but illegal drugs are here they are just well hidden.

The dangers of drug use are many the first experimentation can cause death or serious health problems. We can generally classify the dangers of drug use into four categories:

1. **Health** — The use of drugs can severely affect physical and mental health, both short and long term.
2. **Safety** — The use of drugs puts you and your neighbor's safety in jeopardy. Drugs inhibit control of emotions, behavior, judgement and coordination.
3. **Trouble** — Possession of illegal drugs is a criminal offence. Users can find themselves in jail, expelled from school, fired from a job and shunned by the community.
4. **Loss** — Possible losses can include family, friends, jobs even life.

The excuses for using drugs are many: peer pressure, low self-esteem, curiosity, boredom, stress, societal influences. The best prevention begins in the home. Parents should establish the following guidelines:

1. Establish a family rule to make drug abuse non-negotiable.
2. Educate yourself about drugs so you can talk informatively with your child.
3. Know your child's friends, where they are going and with whom they are associating.
4. Teach your child to value individuality and develop good self-esteem.
5. Teach your child to say "NO". Create an atmosphere of honest, open family communication.
6. Coordinate with other parents to establish uniform rules regarding curfew, spending money, use of cars, etc.
7. Listen to your children; never treat their problems lightly.
8. Don't be overly critical or have higher expectations than are practical.
9. Be alert to behavioral changes and seek professional help if a problem is suspected. The accompanying chart list the warning signs of possible drug abuse.

For a free copy of a Parents Guide to Prevention, call 1-800-624-0100. For further information, contact the following sources: Your local Police Department, Hospital and Library, the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission at 345-8576, the Pennsylvania Clearing House at 1-800-582-7746, and the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, P. O. Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20852, 1-800-729-6686.

## Warning Signs of Drug Abuse

- School tardiness
- Loss of motivation
- Loss of interest in normal activities
- Forgetfulness
- Short attention span
- Aggressive or hostile behavior
- Sullen, uncaring attitude
- Disappearance of money
- Change in friends
- Unhealthy appearance changes

## Borough Roads Renewed

Two Borough streets, Evergreen Drive and Barrie Circle, have been reconstructed during the past fall season. The base course was renewed utilizing a type of construction known as Cold Recycled Base Course. The existing roadway is removed, mixed with an asphalt emulsion and relaid, all in one operation. The intent is to recycle 100% of the existing asphalt pavement, adding material if necessary, to produce a base course material of consistent thickness. Following a curing period of 7 to 14 days, a hot bituminous wearing surface 1½" in depth is placed and compacted to complete the roadway.

This method costs less than the normal removal and replacement type construction. It is anticipated that more of the Borough streets will be renewed using this method in the future.



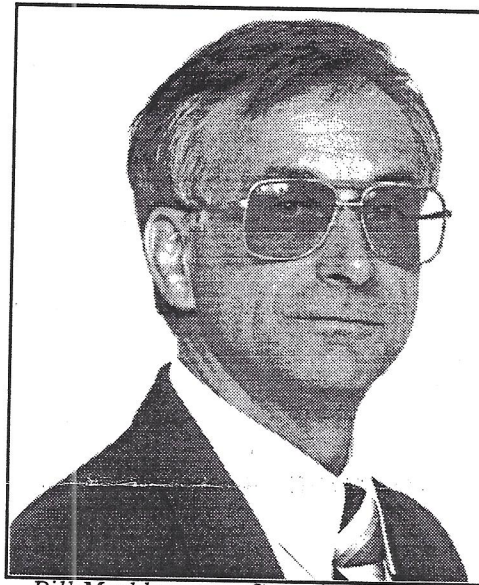
## A Change in Borough Council

Council member John Schneck recently moved from the area and had to resign from Borough Council in September. The Council appointed Bill Macklem to fill the vacancy and he will serve the remainder of a 4-year term which expires in December 1997.

Bill is no stranger to New Britain Borough government. He has been a member of the Borough Planning Commission since 1990, and in 1992-93 served on the Council for 13 months. Bill was a member of an ad-hoc committee that studied the feasibility of building a Borough office which came to fruition in 1992. He has also served on the Road Committee.

Bill and his family have lived in the Borough for more than 20 years. He is employed as a Computer Programmer with Unisys Corporation.

Bill enjoys being involved with the community and doing his part to insure that New Britain Borough continues to be a pleasant place to live and work.



*Bill Macklem, new Council member.*

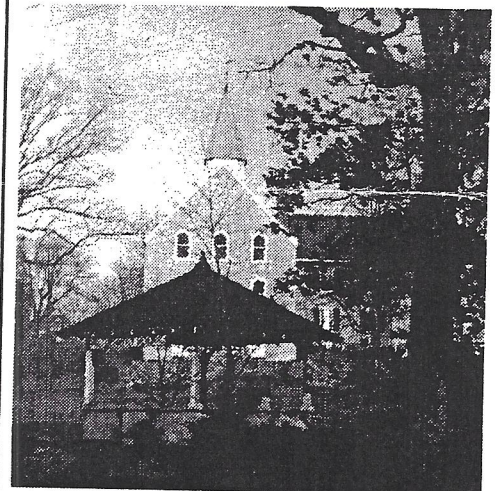
## War Memorial Revived

On the New Britain Baptist Church property on South Tamanend Avenue there stood for many years a tribute to area residents who faithfully served their country during World War I. The Walter Harvey Memorial plaque was erected in the mid-1920s on the church grounds with a protective roof overhand. The years had their toll on the small structure. Recently, Bruce Burkart of the Borough's Historical Committee rescued the memorial. The bronze plaque has been cleaned up and mounted on a wall in the Borough Hall for public display.

The plaque, named after Walter Harvey, a New Britain resident who was killed in the war, contains the names of members of many New Britain families. It is worth mentioning that the list includes one woman.

A wooden plaque paying tribute to World War II veterans has unfortunately deteriorated and no longer exists.

The public is encouraged to view the Walter Harvey Memorial plaque and an array of other historical documents, deeds and photographs on permanent display in the Borough Hall.



*1939 photo of the structure at the New Britain Baptist Church which housed the Walter Harvey WWI Memorial plaque.*

## Disposing of Leaves

Waste haulers licensed in the Borough must pick up leaf/garden waste at least once a month. Residents should contact their hauler for specific instructions which usually include using biodegradable leaf bags available from the hauler.



- ✓ Some environmentally sound ways to dispose of leaves include:
- ✓ Compost the leaves to create a valuable soil additive
- ✓ Spread leaves in wooded areas of your property.
- ✓ Shred leaves on your lawn by running over them with your mower, leaving remnants to break down into useful mulch which will benefit your grass.
- ✓ Leaves are "recycled" and used by William Hirst of Highland Hill Farm.

Residents can drop off leaves at the farm located at 520 Dublin Pike or call for pick up at 345-0946.

Lastly, if you must burn your leaves, the Borough Ordinance sets forth the following rules:

- ✓ Public roads cannot be used for burning leaves.
- ✓ Leaves should not be burned when atmospheric conditions make fires hazardous. Choose a cool day with low atmospheric pressure (the smoke will dissipate more rapidly). Burn when the wind is calm.
- ✓ Fires must be continuously monitored until extinguished. Extinguishing equipment (hose, buckets of water, etc.) should be available.
- ✓ No fires are permitted after sunset.



 Let it snow . . . let it snow . . . 

Last winter's storms doubled the Borough's cost for snow removal. The Borough applied for assistance from the state emergency program, and we are pleased to report that the program reimbursed \$15,615 of our total cost of \$18,904. A new winter lies just ahead. The Farmers' Almanac is predicting twice as many storms as last year — let's hope they're wrong! Just in case, however, you should be familiar with the Borough ordinances relative to snow and ice:

- ◆ Sidewalks should be cleared of ice and snow by at least 12 hours after the snow stops falling.
- ◆ Parking on any Borough street is prohibited during and after snow falls until the roads have been cleared. If snow is predicted, do not park your car on the road.



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## New Britain Borough Officials

**Mayor:** Robert Snavelly

**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; Robert Leavy; 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*; Warren Nace; Joe Johnson; James Davis; Peter LaMontague; Tony Coia; Joseph Wagner, *Solicitor*

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

**EMERGENCIES:** DIAL 911

**Solicitor:** ..... George M. Bush      **Police Chief,** 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 9am to 12 noon.

**Borough Manager/Zoning Officer:** ..... John K. Wolff  
**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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