

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 17, Number 1

October 2008

Bronze Marker Dedication

Please join us on **Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.**, at the New Britain Baptist Church Cemetery to dedicate the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) bronze marker on the gravesite of our heretofore unrecognized brother-in-arms, **Colonel Joseph Barbieri**, Commander of the Alabama Reserve Cavalry, Confederate States of America (CSA). Our thanks to the New Britain Baptist Church, the church staff, and its historian Doris Sadenrecht for their assistance and for permitting us access to the church cemetery, where the Colonel is buried. The Church is located at Rt. 202 and Tamenend Ave. in the Borough. The JEB Stuart Camp SCV has graciously agreed to provide us with a color guard for the dedication.

All are welcome: SCV, GAR, members of the press, public, interested parties, historians and members of the living history and re-enacting community are invited. It will be a small ceremony with a brief dedication outlining Colonel Barbieri's military and civilian careers, followed by cider and cookies.

A special thank you to **Ruth Ann and William W. Focht** of New Britain for all their hard work and dedication in doing all the historical research that made this possible.

The SCV graves registrar has been provided with the Colonel's resting place and it has been entered into the archives for posterity.

This Winter...please remember:

- * **Clear sidewalks** of ice and snow within 24 hours of a snowfall.
- * Make sure the **fire hydrant** near your property is cleared of snow and ice.
- * **All vehicles** must be off the street within one hour of beginning of snowfall and until the roads have been cleared.
- * Make sure your **mail box** is at least 6" behind the curb or edge of pavement to allow for plowing.

Bike and Hike Trails

New Britain Borough Council is creating a committee of volunteers to study, plan, and develop a long-term plan for bike and hike trails and sidewalks within the Borough.

As background, bike and hike trails, like streets, are paid for and maintained by public funds, and are not the responsibility of adjacent landowners. You may have noticed such trails along roads in surrounding municipalities. They are a bit wider than sidewalks, paved with asphalt, and preferably separated somewhat from heavy traffic. Like roads, they are more valuable if they connect to other paths.

The long-term goal is to connect to existing paths so that anyone in New Britain Borough can safely bike to various points of interest such as Doylestown, Pine Run and Unami Schools, Chalfont, the train station, and local parks.

Currently bicycles are mostly used for recreation and rarely for transportation in part because it is not safe to bike on the arterial roads. It is foreseeable that high fuel costs will result in longer walks for school children, and make the use of bicycles for utilitarian purposes more attractive.

This won't happen without good planning. If you are interested in bike and hike paths and sidewalks, can serve on the committee, or just want to be kept informed of the committee's work, please email PeterLaMontagne@yahoo.com, or call 215-348-7879. The committee will meet one evening a month.



Save on Entertainment Support your Civic Association

The New Britain Civic Association is selling 2009 Entertainment books to benefit the Covered Bridge Park. The books are available for \$25 at the Third Federal Bank at New Britain Town Center, at the New Britain Borough office at 45 Keeley Avenue or by calling 215-348-7083.

Chal-Brit Emergency Services needs your support

The past couple of years have brought significant changes to our ambulance and fire protection services. In 2007 to better serve the community, the Chal-Brit Regional Emergency Medical Services was created to provide ambulance service previously performed by the Chalfont Chemical Fire Company.

Today the resident populations of Chalfont Borough, New Britain Borough and New Britain Township have

grown to 20,000, with hundreds more commuting to work within these borders. In efforts to continue to make the Chal-Brit area a desirable place to live and work, many municipal services have had to expand and improve operations to adequately support this growth. Ambulance and fire protection services are no exception. These services also help to serve our surrounding neighbors who have also experienced similar growth.

— FAQs —

Why did the Ambulance and Fire Company really split? Why can't you both utilize one building?

Despite the news reports, the fact is that the nature and volume of the ambulance services requires extensive use of paid live-in staff. Conversely, fire and rescue services are provided with all volunteer staff. It was therefore apparent these two organizations needed to be organized separately to adequately provide service.

How will the contributions be divided between C.B.R.E.M.S. and C.E.C.? Can I pledge to one organization?

This is a joint fund raising effort only. Contributions are allocated with 2/3 to CFC and 1/3 to CBREMS. This formula was determined based on the square footage of the respective buildings.

Don't you have money saved for this purpose?

As has been reported, many emergency services organizations, Chalfont included, have been excellent stewards of the public's money. Some money has been saved for this construction; however the large majority of funds are required for equipment and truck replacement.

What is wrong with the current facilities?

In 1906, there were no codes in places such as the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and as a result our current facilities are not compliant aside from being too small for modern equipment. Also, we want all members of our community to be able to easily access our facilities.

/ pay taxes to support these organizations, why do you need additional money? Why not raise the taxes?

Earmarked tax revenues are used to pay for the on-going operations and are not enough to pay for new buildings that are needed.

What will you do with the existing building?

It will be sold at some point in the future after the new facilities have been built. The proceeds of the sale will be used to help pay down the mortgage but certainly won't cover the costs of the new buildings.

Are there government grants available for these projects?

We are trying very hard, but sadly it appears government grant money is earmarked to go towards smaller equipment (radios, supplies, tools, etc.) and homeland security type needs. We are hearing that very few grants, if any, are available for building construction projects.

Benefits Versus Mandatory Tax Increases:

Allows donors to determine amount of the donation.

Allows opportunity for more generous donations from those who can afford to do so.

Allows the donor to "adjust" the donation, up or down, annually as circumstances change.

Donation may be tax deductible as both the CFC and CBREMS are non-profit organizations.

Provides opportunity to educate citizens and business owners about our operations and services.

Donations should be sent to:

Abington Bank
CFC/CBREMS Building Fund
329 N. Main St. Chalfont, Pa. 18914

Donation Levels:

\$10 - \$99	Donor
\$100 - \$199	Bronze Donor
\$200 - \$499	Silver Donor
\$500 & over	Gold Donor

Leaf Burning Regulations

If you plan to burn 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.) is required.
- ✓ No fires are permitted after sunset.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are not permitted to blow or rake leaves or grass clippings into the street. That practice can clog stormdrains.

Discharging water on to a street is prohibited

Regulations make it unlawful for an individual or business to discharge roof water, cellar water or drainage of any kind on to the legal right-of-way of any street, road or public thoroughfare in New Britain Borough in such a manner as to cause damage to any such street, road or public thoroughfare or as to create or tend to create a hazardous condition. Please also note that water discharged to the street enters the road bed and can cause the pavement to deteriorate.

The Borough's state-mandated stormwater responsibilities requires it to increase ground water infiltration and yard flow times where possible and to eliminate direct discharges. Furthermore we are required to perform laboratory testing on all outfall locations and report the findings to the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

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 stormwater eventually flows directly into our lakes, streams and wetlands. Stormwater becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows. Any pollutants carried with stormwater empty into our waters, untreated.

New Britain Borough is currently implementing storm sewer mapping, monitoring and water sampling as part of a stormwater 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, stormwater can carry it to the drain and eventually into a stream.
- Store materials that could pollute stormwater indoors, in containers that do not rust or leak.
- Properly maintain your vehicles to prevent fluids from dripping onto the ground or paved areas.
- Dispose of swimming pool water properly; it is illegal to discharge chlorinated water.
- 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.

For additional details about stormwater, read the document Rain Drain brochure available on our website, www.newbritainboro.com.

What happens when it rains?

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

- Flooding caused by too much water flowing over hard surfaces such as roads and parking lots.
- Increased spending on maintaining storm drains that become clogged with debris.
- Decreased sport fish populations because stormwater carries sediment and pollutants into the streams.
- More expensive treatment technologies to remove pollutants carried by stormwater into drinking water supplies.

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

Important messages from your Police

New Hire: The New Britain Borough Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of **Officer David Interrante**, a former SEPTA police officer.

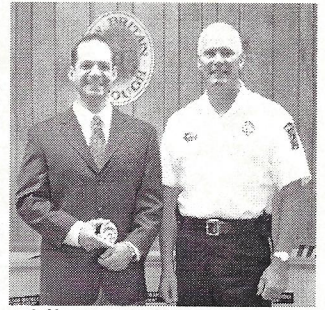
Be Smart and Safe: Police are urging citizens to lock unoccupied vehicles and residences. All thefts and burglaries reported in 2008 have been a result of not securing property. Please report any suspicious activity to the police as soon as possible (business hours 215-345-1080, after-hours 215-348-3524).

School's Open: Pine Run Elementary School is monitored by police during the opening and closing of school each day. Please be cautious and adhere to the 15mph speed limit.

Traffic Light: Doylestown Township installed and activated the traffic light at 202 and New Britain Road. In an effort to avoid any confusion as to what that means to traffic entering 202 from Old Butler (the road in front of Foundations), please remember the following:

- Drivers **MUST** stop at the Stop Sign and yield to south-bound 202 traffic, **NO MATTER** what the traffic light is doing at the time
- Drivers may only proceed south on 202 if the traffic light is green **AND** traffic permits your entry. If the above traffic light is **RED**, you can't enter 202
- Drivers shall not make a left onto New Britain Road **OR** north on 202 from Old Butler
- Drivers wishing to do either of the above should utilize the light at 202 and Burpee Road to enter 202 in either direction.

Contact Us: Visit our website often for updates, upcoming events, useful phone numbers and links. We welcome your feedback, suggestions and comments, nbbpd.org.



Officer Interrante (left) with Chief Bowers.

Residential Rentals

The Borough Ordinance does not permit renting a residential property (R-1) for a fee to a group of unrelated persons. The ordinance in the R1 district limits occupancy to families.



Chalfont Fire Company events

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| October 9, 7-9 p.m. | Fire Prevention Open House |
| October 25, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Craft Show |
| December 7, 6:30 p.m. | Community Christmas Sing |
| December 14, 1 - 4 p.m. | Family & Pet Photos with Santa |
| December 14, 1 - 2 p.m. | Holiday Cookie Sale |

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





New Britain Borough
45 Keeley Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901

PRESORTED
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New Britain
Borough
Holiday Open House
Thursday, December 4
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Borough Office
45 Keeley Avenue

Council and staff of New Britain Borough invites all residents and local business owners to our annual Holiday Open House. Share the holiday spirit with your neighbors and meet informally with Borough officials. Snacks and beverages will be provided.



New Britain Borough Officials

Mayor:	Robert Snavelly
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; Margaret Remyey; Craig Sturza; Kermit Weitzel;
Planning Commission:	Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM David Holewinski, <i>Chairman</i> ; Karl Dieterichs, <i>Vice Chair</i> ; Jane Kinyon, <i>Secretary</i> ; David Donahue; Rick Eggleston; Paul Land; John Remyey; 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 LaMontagne; John Wolff, Jr.; David Ziegfried and Jeffrey Gilmore, <i>Alternates</i> . Joseph Wagner, <i>Solicitor</i> .
Tax Collector:	Richard Sabol 215-489-8658 (<i>Hours: Tuesday, 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. Vansant
Building Inspector: Dan Jenkins, Keystone Municipal Services
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