

# New Britain Borough



# NEWS

Volume 13, Number 2

September 2004

## ***Learn about our History***

***Presented by the New Britain/  
Chalfont Historical Group***

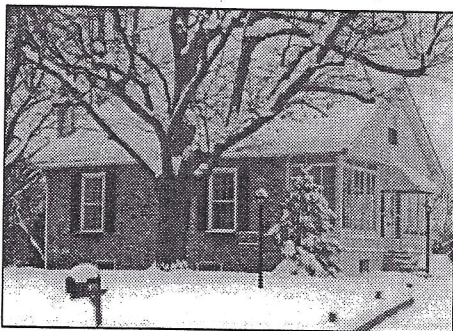
**Monday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.**  
Chalfont Borough Hall  
Main Street, Chalfont

History of Squire Thomas  
MacReynolds  
*presented by Marilyn Becker*  
&  
History of Chalfont Inn  
*presented by Bob Showalter*

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**Monday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.**  
New Britain Borough Hall  
56 Keeley Avenue

History of Local One-Room Schools  
*presented by Marie and Tony Coia*



*The 1870 Cabbage Hill Schoolhouse*

## ***Stuck In Traffic on 202? Build the Bypass!***

For the last 30 years, New Britain Borough has prepared for the impending construction of the Route 202 Bypass. Preparing for the Bypass has held an important place in zoning and land use consideration by your current and former New Britain Borough Council. All of the required engineering and environmental studies have been completed and environmental clearances and final designs have been approved. Public hearings were held and public comment was gathered with thousands of citizens and hundreds of business owners clearly voicing their strong support for the project. Construction was supposed to be completed this year according to a spring, 2000 PennDOT newsletter. Yet construction hasn't even begun, and growing traffic concerns along the Route 202 corridor continues to plague our community.

With the delay in the building of Section 700 of the Route 202 Bypass, the quality of life of New Britain Borough residents continues to be reduced. The congestion of our roadways with traffic originating in surrounding communities makes a simple trip a dreaded event. The pollution generated by this increased traffic is choking our towns. It is getting more and more difficult for our residents who live along 202 to get in and out of their driveways. We need relief now!

In just a few weeks, PennDOT will announce the results of the Smart Mobility Alternative Plan. This "alternative" plan calls for "roundabouts" or "traffic circles" at key intersections throughout our communities such as the five-point intersection in Montgomery Township and Upper State Road and Bristol Road

in Warrington Township. Two "traffic circles" are proposed for the intersections of Routes 202 and 152 in Chalfont Borough in the downtown historical district. Some of the direct impact on New Britain Borough are a "traffic circle" at Route 202 and Shady Retreat Rd. and an additional lane, a so called "3-Lane Conversion", between Shady Retreat Road and the Delaware Valley College main entrance which will necessitate the "taking" of some of the front yards and driveways in that area. In addition, this plan proposes to use our existing local roads for all traffic including transient and tractor-trailer traffic. It is imperative that Governor Rendell understands the expensive "quality of life" costs and health and safety issues that would be imposed upon the residents with this alternative plan.

**New Britain Borough wants the Route 202 Bypass.** We ask that you help us send this message to Governor Ed Rendell, who holds the keys to this project.

You can write to Governor Ed Rendell, 225 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, and tell him that New Britain Borough residents want the 202 Bypass. Send your letter to the Borough office 45 Keeley Ave., New Britain, PA 18901 for inclusion with the packets of letters and petitions that are making their way to the Governor's Office. You can also show your support and learn more about the project by visiting [www.buildthebypass.com](http://www.buildthebypass.com). Act today, and let Governor Rendell know that your time is valuable and so is your quality of life. With your help, we can make sure that, as a community, our voice will be heard.





You are invited  
to the  
**New Britain Borough  
Holiday Open House**

Thursday, December 9, 2004

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Borough Office, 45 Keeley Avenue

The Council and staff of New Britain Borough cordially invite all residents and local business owners to our annual Holiday Open House. This is a chance to share the holiday spirit with your neighbors and meet informally with Borough officials. Snacks and beverages will be provided.



## SAFETY TIPS

- Go Trick-or-Treating with a grownup
- Don't eat treats until you show them to your parents or a trusted adult
- Visit only people you know
- Make sure your costume lets you see and hear clearly
- Wear brightly-colored clothing: use "glow in the dark" patches
- Make sure your costume fits properly

## Changes at the New Britain Borough Police Department

Officer Robert J. Milligan has left his position as a part-time Borough police officer to take a full-time position with Chalfont Borough. Officer Milligan was a valued employee and an asset to the Department and the community. He will be missed and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

Our new part-time Police Officer is Steven A. Duda. Officer Duda is an experienced Law Enforcement Officer, having



Officer Steven A. Duda

previously worked for both the Philadelphia and Temple University Police Departments. We welcome Officer Duda to the New Britain Borough Police Department.

## Police Department receives \$20,000 Grant

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the New Britain Borough Police Department for the purchase of Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) for the police vehicles.

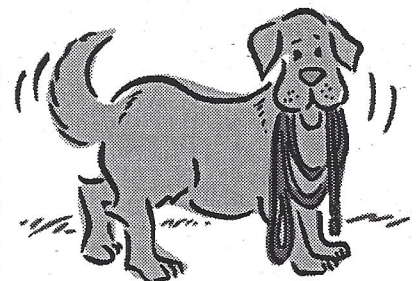
An MDT is a computer that is mounted inside a police car and attached to a modem. This allows the officer to communicate directly with computers at the Bucks County Dispatch Center, the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation, Pennsylvania State Police and the FBI. The MDT is one of the most valuable and important tools

available to law enforcement officers today. It increases officer effectiveness by providing easy access to remote database files, which in turn results in improved officer safety, enhanced communications capabilities and increased public safety. Data regarding stolen vehicles, wanted or missing persons and other important information is immediately available to the officers.

The New Britain Borough Police Department would like to thank Representative Katharine Watson and her staff for assistance in obtaining the grant.

## Do you have a dog?

Man's best friend can bring owners lots of enjoyment and companionship. However, with dog ownership comes responsibility. As we spend the lovely autumn weather out of doors, please be considerate of your neighbors. Barking dogs can be a great annoyance to many people. A Borough ordinance prohibits more than ten minutes of continuous barking.





# Tales of an Early New Britain Family

John James and his wife Elizabeth came to America from Wales in 1711. They had four sons and two daughters. The family became one of the first members of the newly organized Montgomery Baptist Church in 1719.

On April 13, 1720, John and his son Thomas purchased 1000 acres in New Britain, which was part of a 5000 acre parcel granted by William Penn to Thomas Hudson in 1683. The 1000 acres comprised the slope and summit of the ridge known as Iron Hill, including the fertile valley of Pine Run.

It is known that John James lived with his son William in a log house a short distance from the present-day Pine Run Covered Bridge in 1727. John passed away in 1747.

William had 10 children, Isaac had 7, James, 9 and Thomas, 5. One of William James' descendents was O.P. James, a physician in Doylestown. His name is familiar today as the Central Bucks Ambulance has an ambulance known as the O.P. James.

Thomas James, the eldest son of John and Elizabeth, married Jane in 1725 and lived just east of where the Pine Run Covered Bridge stands today. That bridge was not built until 1842.

Thomas' oldest son, Thomas Jr., and his wife had 6 children, all of whom tragically died in the epidemic of 1778 of a malady thought to have been diphtheria within one week's time.

In 1754, when the New Britain Baptist Church was organized, four of the 22 members were James. By 1796, 18 of the 34 members were from the James' family.

After the Revolutionary War, many of the James moved to North Carolina.

Another descendent of the James' family, Wynne James, was a lawyer who lived in Doylestown. He purchased land on both sides of Route 202 between Shady Retreat and Iron Hill roads and also owned properties on Barrie Circle. That Borough property became known as James Manor.

# Dispose of Leaves Properly

Waste haulers licensed in the Borough must pick up leaf/garden waste at least once a month. BFI collects yard wastes, which can include leaves, each Monday. Waste Management will collect leaves on regular pick-up days (their maximum of 5 containers, bags and cans, applies). Leaves can be placed in the regular yard waste containers or biodegradable paper bags — NO PLASTIC BAGS PLEASE. Contact your hauler for more specific instructions.

Some environmentally sound ways to dispose of leaves are:

- ✓ 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.

## BURNING ORDINANCE

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.) should be available.
- ✓ No fires are permitted after sunset.

## Summer Camp a Success

New Britain Borough's popular Summer Camp was enjoyed by 180 children this year. Looking ahead to next summer, remember that space is limited and preregistration is required. Make plans to register early!

## Fall back . . .

Daylight savings ends on October 31



Don't forget to move your clock back one hour before you go to bed on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Begin the Holidays at our Christmas Tree Lighting

Wednesday, December 1, 7 p.m.

Town Center  
(rain date December 2)

Songs of the season will be performed by the Central Bucks Elementary School Band directed by Marie Springer.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there too!

## As Winter approaches....

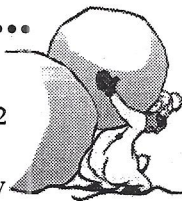
Please remember:

**Clear sidewalk** of ice and snow by at least 12 hours after snow stops falling.

Make sure the **fire hydrant** near your property is cleared of snow and ice.

**Parking is prohibited** on all Borough streets during and after snow falls until the roads have been cleared.

**Mail boxes** must be 6" behind the curb or edge of pavement to allow for plowing.



## For Your Own Safety . . . Post your house number

Homeowners are reminded that their house number should be posted in front of their house, clearly visible from the road. Numbers should be a minimum of 3 inches tall. Your house number is required to insure quick response by emergency services (police, rescue squad and fire company). They are also used by the U.S. Postal Service for mail delivery.

### New Britain Borough Officials

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**Mayor:** Robert Snavely

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

**Planning Commission:** Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM  
William Buchanan, *President*; David Holewinski, *Vice President*; Jane Kinyon, *Secretary*; Karl Dieterichs; Wayne Kenton; Paul Land; William Macklem; John Remmey; William Schaefer

**Zoning Hearing Board:** Meets, as needed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM  
Robert Bair, *Chairman*; Tony Coia; Peter LaMontague; John Sullivan; John Wolff, Jr.; Jeffrey Gilmore and Margaret Shute, *Alternates*. Joseph Wagner, *Solicitor*.

**Tax Collector:** Ann Teschner, 215-348-1638 (Tues. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.)

**Solicitor:** Michael Goodwin

**Police Chief:** David Sempowski, Office..215-345-1080

The following Borough personnel are located at the Borough Building, 45 Keeley Avenue.  
Phone 215-348-4586.; email: NBBORO@comcast.net. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Borough Manager:** ..... Robin E. Trymbiski

**Treasurer:** ..... Lloyd J. Vasant

**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**

New Britain Borough  
45 Keeley Avenue  
New Britain, PA 18901

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