

# New Britain Borough



# NEWS

Volume 1, Number 1



Winter 1992

*Dear Residents of  
New Britain Borough,*

*Welcome to the first edition of the New Britain Borough News. We plan to issue this newsletter several times a year focusing on issues of interest to Borough residents and Borough business people. We encourage your comments and suggestions.*



## Permits Required for Home Alterations

Some residents are unintentionally violating Borough regulations by having structural alterations done to their homes or by installing sheds, patios and/or pools without proper permits.

Noting that virtually all repairs and additions to buildings require Borough permits and inspections, John Wolff, Zoning Officer and Austin Brown, Building Inspector, want to remind residents who plan such work to contact them at 348-4586 **PRIOR** to the commencement of work.

## New Britain Borough Welcomes New Council Members

The New Britain Borough Council is made up of seven members of our community who voluntarily devote their time and expertise to keeping New Britain Borough a pleasant and safe place to live.

This year three new Council members begin their 4 year term.

**Robert Belchic** has been a resident of the Borough for 14 years, and lives here with his wife, Marjory, and their two children. Bob is self-employed in the home furnishings industry, enjoys tennis, and is a jazz pianist. So far, he finds his work with the Council to be interesting, enjoys the challenge of differing viewpoints among the members, and finds the work "enlightening and educational."

**Nancy Schuyler** is practically a life-long resident of New Britain Borough - 32 years. She is married with one daughter and is an executive secretary. Nancy likes to ski and collect dolls. She is excited about her role on the Council, sees it as a wonderful learning experience and an opportunity to be of service to her community.

**Kermit Weitzel**, a resident of the Borough for 37 years, is married and has 3 children. Retired profes-



sionally, Kermit works part time for the school district. He enjoys woodworking and collecting model trains. Kermit is deeply concerned with keeping expenditures under control.

All of the new council members are longtime residents of the Borough with deep roots here. We are privileged to have them serving us.

## Post Your House Number

A reminder to clearly post your house number, in 3 inch high letters, visible from the street. The numbers assure a quick response by emergency services. In addition, these numbers will be required and used by the post offices for mail delivery in the near future.



## Planning for the Future

The New Britain Borough Planning Commission has been working for the past year and a half on revisions to the Borough Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan, which sets general policies for the future of the Borough, was last revised in 1968, so Borough Council decided to look at it again and to set goals for the future. The Plan considers the existing land uses in the borough, community facilities and services, park and recreation facilities, and recommendations for future land use patterns.

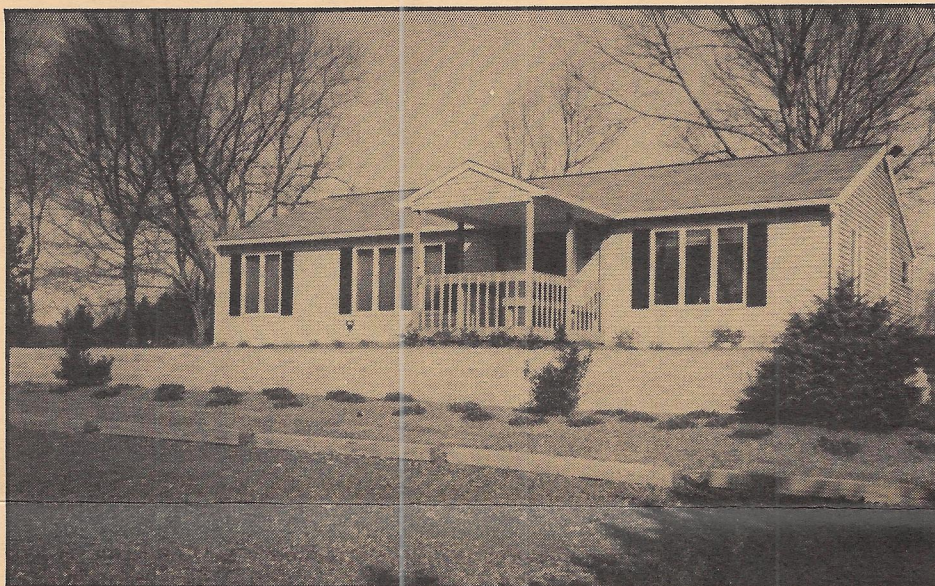
Because the Borough is largely developed, the primary focus of the discussions has been the future of Butler Avenue--Route 202--which runs through the center of the Borough. The thrust of the draft recommendations is to keep the residential sections of Butler Avenue as residential and to resist changes to commercial uses. Some provisions for allowing home offices have been recommended for Butler Avenue. In addition, the Plan also recommends that a Village Historical Area be designated covering the central part of the Borough--the portion with the most historical significance.

The Planning Commission has also been considering revisions to the Zoning Ordinance. This document differs from the Comprehensive Plan in that it contains regulations for how land is used while the Comprehensive Plan recommends land use policy. The purposes of revising the zoning ordinance are:

- ✓ to bring the ordinance up-to-date with the State's legal requirements for zoning
- ✓ to clear up any problems which may have been encountered in administering the ordinance during the past five years
- ✓ to make any changes in land use regulations based on the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

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## New Borough Office Become Reality



On December 6, 1991, an open house was held to celebrate the dedication of the newly constructed New Britain Borough Municipal Building located at 45 Keeley Avenue. This event brought to fruition a plan that began in January 1990 when the Borough applied to the Zoning Hearing Board to obtain permission to construct a new business office at the rear of the existing Borough parking lot. This action was necessary since the property is zoned R-1 and Governmental offices are permitted only by special exception. Previously an in-depth search had been conducted by an Ad-Hoc Committee appointed to determine the most feasible location for a new municipal office.

After a conditional approval by the Zoning Board, plans and specifications were developed for the proposed building. In the summer of 1990, Borough officials became interested in bidding on a modular-type building that was placed for auction by the Middle-Bucks Co-Tech School. This spawned the idea to contract with the Vo-Tech School to construct a 28' x 48' building, in two sections, and have it moved to its present location. The Borough agreed to buy all the necessary materials and the Vo-Tech School provided the student-in-training labor. This resulted in a tremendous cost savings while giving

the Vo-Tech students a necessary and worthwhile project for the school year.

During the time that the building was being constructed the Borough made site improvements including lot clearing, basement construction, installation of sewer and electric lines, and the drilling of a well.

On June 6 and 7, 1991, the building was moved from the Vo-Tech School to the Borough lot by a professional mover from Bernville, PA (near Reading). The next three months were spent putting the finishing touches on the structure, and in early September the offices were officially occupied by the Borough personnel.

In contrast to the cramped single room that served as working space for all Borough employees in the old building, the new quarters provide general office area, Borough Manager's office, building inspector and engineer's office, conference room, kitchenette, bathroom, and full basement for storage. Since the new building was financed by the sale of real estate owned by the Borough, no new tax millage was necessary to pay for the construction.

The present facility should certainly fulfill the needs of the Borough for many years to come and provide a pleasant atmosphere for those who visit for business or information.



# 1992 Budget Approved

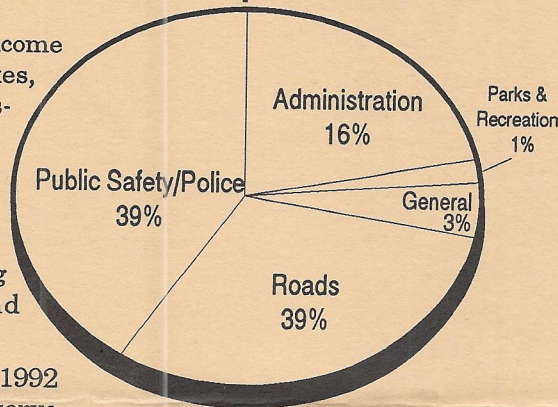
The New Britain Borough 1992 budget has been approved which will not require a tax increase.

The majority of Borough income is derived from property taxes, earned income tax, and real estate transfer taxes.

A separate 3 mill Fire Protection Tax provides about \$21,000 which is divided among the two fire companies serving the Borough, Chalfont and Doylestown.

Projected expenditures for 1992 total \$629,000. Significant reserve funds in the roads maintenance account will allow us to proceed with major road improvements this year. (See separate article.) As you can see

1992 Projected Expenditures



on the chart, expenditures for Public Safety/Police and Roads maintenance represent over three quarters of the total budget.

## Roads to be Repaired

In 1990 the Borough Road Committee proposed a four-year road improvement plan to Borough Council. Under this plan, 90% of borough-owned roads were to be upgraded. The committee proposed both major and minor improvements as needed to maintain our roads in the best condition possible. In 1992 the Borough plans to accomplish the following improvements:

- ❖ Repairs, including excavation and resurfacing, to sections of Spring Lake Drive, Pueblo Road and Matthews Avenue, as well as to the intersections of Route 202 with Lamp Post Road and Evergreen Drive.
- ❖ Sealing road cracks and tarring and chipping all streets in the Briarwood area, Sand Road, Matthews Avenue, Landis Mill Road, and Woodland Drive.
- ❖ Improvements to drainage along part of Woodland Drive.
- ❖ Acquisition of a small right-of-way strip along Sioux Road between Tamenend and Keeley Avenues for future road widening.

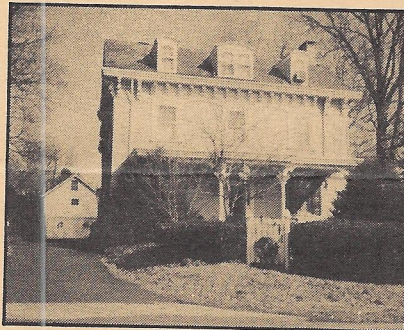
The work is scheduled for this spring, summer, and fall. Other streets will be improved in 1993 and 1994. These projects will be paid for out of state and borough funds set aside in previous years. No tax increases will be necessary to accomplish this year's work.

## Take Pride in our History

New Britain Borough, carved out of the Township when it was incorporated in 1928, is rich in Early American history. Scattered throughout the Borough are a number of colonial farmhouses and bank barns built of fieldstone and still in use today, giving testimony to the craftsmanship of the early settlers. Many of these unique structures have been recognized for their historical significance by being designated "Historic Landmarks." Extensive research conducted by our local historical committee, the Bucks County Conservancy and often the homeowner is done to establish that the property and/or those who lived there played an important role in our nation's history. This is the first in a series of articles which will appear in our periodic newsletters. It is our hope that these articles will make us all more aware of our rich heritage and history which abounds in New Britain Borough.

### Hawkins-Moxey House

Located at 31 N. Tamenend\* Avenue in the Borough of New Britain, the Hawkins-Moxey House is an excellently preserved example of a Victorian German clapboard home built in 1859-1860. Particularly significant is the cornice heavy with frieze board, topping a series of Italianate arches above the second story and attic windows.



The home sits on 1/2 acre of land originally part of the New Britain Baptist Church property. George Snyder, a carpenter for the Church, bought the lot for \$200 and built the house. The first occupant was the Rev. Charles Pavey, then minister of Hilltown Baptist Church. William Hawkins, a prominent citizen of New Britain, owned the property from 1874 - 1910. Mr. Hawkins operated the General Store and Post Office (where Bradley Realty is today). From 1910 - 1940, Mary Whitehead owned the property. She was the daughter of the minister of New Britain Baptist Church, Rev. Whitehead, and also operated the General Store and Post Office until 1915.

From 1941 - 1959, F. Buttrill owned the home during which time he acquired the rear tract making the property continuous to Keeley Avenue. Mr. Buttrill operated the Harleysville Feed & Grain Mill.

The present owners, Richard and Lorraine Moxey, continue the loving care of this historical property in New Britain Borough.

\*Tamenend was reputedly the name of the Indian Chief with whom William Penn negotiated his famous treaty.

*continued from Pg. 2- Planning*

All meetings at which these projects are discussed have been open to the public, and there have been comments from many people on a number of issues. The Planning Commission takes these concerns into advisement as they continue working on these projects.



# New Britain Borough Officials

**Council:** David Donahue, President; Robert Belchic, Vice-President; Tara Gladysz; Don Noll; Nancy Schuyler; Kermit Weitzel; James Williams

**Mayor:** Robert Snavelly

**Planning Commission:** William Buchanan, President; Jan Conover, Vice President; Allan Scheckler, Secretary; Robert Leavy; Paul Land; Bill Macklem; Dave Donahue

**Zoning Hearing Board:** Warren Nace, Chairman; Joe Johnson; James Davis; Robert Bair; Karl Dieterichs; Tony Coia; Joseph Wagner, Solicitor; Susan Eggleston, Secretary

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

**Solicitor:** George M. Bush

**EMERGENCIES: ..... CALL 911**

**Police Chief ..... David ..... (other than emergencies) 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

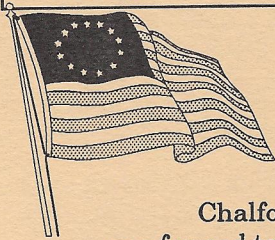
**Treasurer:** ..... Lloyd J. Vasant

**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



## Everyone Loves a Parade !



Last year a parade was held on the 4th of July and was a huge success. It was initiated by New Britain Township and New Britain Borough, and this year Chalfont Borough is joining us in the celebration. During the fall of 1991 a committee was formed to plan the event for 1992 including all three municipalities. Would you like to take part, or do you know anyone to march -- a musical group, bicycles, Civic Associations, etc. -- there are many possibilities. Please contact Bea Barr, Manager of Chalfont Borough, 822-7295, Robert Bender, Manager of New Britain Township, 822-1391, or John Wolff, Manager of New Britain Borough, 348-4586.

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