

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 20, Number 2

October 2011

War Memorial Rededication Ceremony

November 12, 2011, 2 p.m.

Please join the New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee for the rededication of the H. Walter Harvey War Memorial.

You may have noticed our latest project, the restoration of a small pavilion located on South Tamenend Avenue on the grounds of the New Britain Baptist Church. This pavilion is the original site of the 1931 H. Walter Harvey World War I Memorial.

The impetus for the restoration project was a suggestion by Committee member Jackie D'Agostino, and fueled by the discovery of pictures of the original monument along with a letter from Louise Burkart dated June 25, 1957 written to explain the history of the Memorial. Louise Burkart is Borough Historian, Bruce Burkart's grandmother.

"The committee and others felt the present location, a good one, & were able to secure permission from the Church Authorities to place same on their ground, using the water from a strong spring that came from a westerly direction.... think the date was about 1925. Wishing to have a Memorial that would be of benefit to the community, it was decided to build a tank of 600 or 800 gals. capacity. The work was in charge of John Hohlbain the concrete mixer machine from the farm of Francis Myers.



The Memorial as it was restored in 1957



The Memorial prior to restoration

Robert Johnson, a plumber from Chalfont, attended to that part of the work. Chas. S. Kratz, son of the late Dr. Harvey Kratz of New Britain, had charge of the bronze tablet inscribed with the names of the heroes of World War I.

When completed, the Chalfont Fire Company inspected the work to see if suitable to use with their equipment to put out fires – the first fire that needed attention was at the Church, and the good supply of water from the Memorial and

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Proper disposal of pool water

Pool owners are required to discharge water responsibly per Borough and PADEP rules and regulations. Chlorine will dissipate in 5-7 days, so the simplest solution is to wait a week before discharging the water to a grassy area. If you have any questions, please contact the Borough.

Visit our website
www.newbritainboro.com

House for Rent -

This historic 1812 stone house, owned by the Borough, sits in our Nature Preserve. Long term rental. 2-3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, C/A, new kitchen. Walking distance to train station and shopping. \$1650/month. 215-348-4586.



News from the New Britain Borough Police

New Police Officer: NBBPD announces the hiring of Police Officer Scott Stewart. Officer Stewart was sworn in by Mayor David Holewinski on August 17, 2011. Officer Stewart is Act 120 certified from Montgomery Municipal Police Academy and a graduate of Delaware Valley College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. NBBPD, New Britain Borough Council and New Britain Borough residents all welcome the addition of a valued Officer to the Department.

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 15 mph speed limit in order to keep our children safe.

Be Smart: Residents are encouraged to secure their vehicles. Theft is a crime of opportunity where entry is gained due to carelessness. Be sure to secure valuable items and remove from vehicle when possible.

Halloween Safety – Halloween is a lot of fun for the entire family; however, some precautions should be taken to ensure a happy and safe day of festivities.

- Teach children to stop only at well-lit houses and to never enter a stranger's home.
- Instruct children not to eat any treat until they return home and treats are inspected.
- Provide a flashlight to help children see better and be seen more clearly.
- Only fire-retardant materials in costumes should be used.
- Costumes and treat bags should have some reflective qualities to be seen by motorists.
- Costume length should not be so long that it is a tripping hazard.
- Accessories such as swords or knives should be made from cardboard or flexible materials and made so as not to resemble a real weapon.

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

Have a Dog?

Please be considerate



Man's best friend can bring enjoyment to the owner, however with dog ownership comes responsibility. Dog owners are reminded that they should clean up after their pet in public areas and parks and on other people's properties. Also your dog must be on a leash in our parks.

Proper Leaf Disposal

Autumn is here and leaves are falling. The best method of disposal for the environment is to keep the leaves on your property. Leaves make a great winter-over mulch for flower beds, gardens and shrubbery. Or try shredding the leaves with your lawn mower.

If you wish to bag your leaves for pick up, please contact your trash haulers for special pick up dates and instructions.

Should you choose 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 leaves when the wind is calm.
- ✓ Fires must be continuously monitored until extinguished. Extinguishing equipment (hoses, 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.

Tree and Shrubby Trimming

Please maintain your lot's frontage by pruning to provide a minimum of 6' clear above all sidewalk areas to be courteous to walkers. If you have a corner lot, or are located near an intersection, or a sharp curve in the street, ensure that your landscaping does not obstruct views of motor vehicles. If your vegetation is blocking signage, keep the streets safe by pruning it back.

Stream Protection

Please dispose of your trimmings, leaves, and lawn litter appropriately. Keep any on-site drainage channels cleaned out or they will silt in and cause flooding on your or your neighbor's property.

Help keep our streams clean by limiting use of herbicides and fertilizers, and disposing of hazardous materials properly to hazardous waste drop offs. Maintain your vehicles by checking and repairing oil and antifreeze leaks.

If you notice any signs of stream pollution or have any questions, please notify the Borough. Illegal dumping or drainage activities should be reported immediately to New Britain Borough at 215-348-4586.

Please visit our website, www.newbritainboro.com, for additional information.

War Memorial *(continued from front page)*

the chemicals of the Fire Company, saved the old colonial Church from destruction.

Other fires received aid too; farmers would bring milk cans in hay wagons to get water for their stock in times of draught.

Neighbors and travelers on the road would come for a drink of fine spring water.”

(excerpted from L. Burkart letter, June 25, 1957)

From fund raising to construction, the rebuilding project is a grass roots effort in keeping with the original project and is scheduled for completion in time for a rededication ceremony on Veteran’s Day weekend. The program will honor local veterans of every conflict including the current Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The committee desires to identify current or past New Britain Borough residents who served during war time. If you are a veteran or know the name of a Borough veteran, please contact Donna von Lipsey at 267-808-6658 or by e-mail: vonlipsey0671@comcast.net.

We would like to thank the following individuals and local businesses for their donations, without there support we would not be able to restore this important piece of local history to its former glory.

INDIVIDUALS:

Marie Bennett
Robert Binkley
Bruce Burkart
Jim Chant
Tony & Marie Coia
Mrs. Frank Coulton
Jill Coulton
Jackie Dieterichs
Benjamin & Sarah Eastburn
Margaret Fabry
Sarabeth Gadd
Eugene & Marjorie Hamilton
David & Mary Pat Holewinski
Peter & Tess LaMontagne
Oskar H & Ruby Larsson
Lorraine Moxey
Doris G Myers
Ruth A Peters
Malcolm Rollins
Edna J Schmieder
Peter Ulmen
Karl & Donna von Lipsey
Goldy Weaver

BUSINESSES:

3rd Federal Bank
Access Investigative Group
Ambrose Randa Hardwoods
Bauman Crane Company, Inc.
Chalfont Hardware
Doylestown VFW
The Hair Café, Town Center
Marvic Supply Company, Inc
Moxey Associates, Inc
Montgomery Bucks Endodontics
New Britain Civic Association
Paper Planner
Rissi Automotive Service, Inc.
Showalter Construction
Smith Marine, LLC
Tinsman Brothers, Inc.
Zaer LTD, Zaza Ergernlidze

There is still time for you to help. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to New Britain Borough and reference the H. Walter Harvey Memorial. You may mail or bring checks to the Borough office at 56 Keeley Avenue. All donors will be recognized in the Veteran’s Day dedication program.

Let’s come together as a community on November 12 to rededicate one of our Borough treasures as we recognize and honor the service of our veterans in a lasting and tangible way, and embrace those of our neighbors who currently serve.

Nature Preserve

New Britain Borough only has one Borough owned recreational property, and that is the Wilma Quinlin Nature Preserve, on Landis Mill and Mathews avenue. Forty years ago, the borough bought 23 acres along the Neshaminy Creek for \$63,000 (\$360,000 in today’s money). In 2007, we received a bequest from Dr Miriam Groner of her home, three acres, and an endowment of \$700,000 to benefit the Nature Preserve. Dr Groner’s bequest allowed New Britain Borough to re- look at the preserve and what it could become. It took the Nature Preserve Committee a while to develop a plan for the Preserve, and the committee’s work was presented formally to the public at a special meeting of Borough Council, where upon, with citizen involvement, several things were generally agreed upon.

- The mission of the preserve would remain low impact public use by local residents, with foot paths occasional benches and signage including maps of the preserve, informational signs and boundary markers. The goal is to make it more user friendly and allow residents to better appreciate the diverse habitat.
- Active recreation, such as playgrounds, paved paths and picnic tables are not consistent with a nature preserve.
- Where we can purchase land adjacent to the preserve using open space grants, income from Dr. Groner’s bequest, and perhaps very little Borough funds, we should do so. Most of the land we are interested in is flood plain or open space, now in private hands, and by acquiring it will be available to the public in perpetuity.

It takes a municipality a long time to purchase land using only Open Space grants and the Groner endowment. We have nearly completed purchase of a broad right of way to connect the preserve with 18 acres of the Bridge Creek Farms Homeowners Association lands across Cooks Run.

Peter LaMontagne and/or Tom Price will conduct tours of the Nature Preserve at 10 a.m., **October 22 and 29**. Please call 215-348-7879 if you plan to attend. We’ll meet at the Preserve parking lot on Mathews Ave., near Sand Road.



New Britain Borough
45 Keeley Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Doylestown, PA
Permit No. 640



New Britain Borough Officials

Mayor: David Holewinski

Council: **Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM**
David Donahue, *President*; Robert Belchic, *Vice-President*; , Mary Pat Holewinski; Peter LaMontagne;
Margaret Remyey; Craig Sturza; Kermit Weitzel;

Planning Commission: **Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Borough Office, 7:30 PM**
David Holewinski, *Chairman*; Karl Dieterichs, *Vice Chair*; Denise Spence, *Secretary*;
Jack Brady; David Donahue; Rick Eggleston; Paul Land; John Remyey

Zoning Hearing Board: **Meets, as needed, 3rd Thursday of the month in Borough Hall, 7:30 PM**
Robert Bair , *Chairman*; Tony Coia; John Wolff, Jr.; David Ziegfried; Jeffrey Gilmore,
Alternates: William Schaefer, Andrea Antell. *Solicitor*, Christen Pionzio

Tax Collector: Richard Sabol 215-489-8658 (*Hours: Tuesday, 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - noon*)

Solicitor: Michael Goodwin

Police Chief: James Donnelly, 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

Borough Secretary: Jane Kinyon

Treasurer: Lloyd J. Vasant

Zoning Officer: Thomas Yatsky

Roadmaster Edward Deschamps

Building Inspector and Fire Marshal: Dan Jenkins, Keystone Municipal Services

Assistant Austin C. Brown

EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911