

New Britain Borough



NEWS

Volume 18, Number 1

April 2009

Indians, outlaws, traders, and farmers

How did our Borough evolve from the original Township of New Britain – the largest and most important within the County of Bucks – formed during the reign of George I of England in 1715? Who were the original settlers? How did they live? What role did our community play in the American Revolution, Civil War and Underground Railroad?

If you have an interest in learning more about the rich heritage of our community,

If you are interested in creating educational opportunities for our citizens, especially our youth,

If you are interested in preserving our historic buildings and artifacts for future generations,

we hope you will join in a dialogue to shape the future role and opportunities of the New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee.

The Committee will be hosting a meeting in late September; details will be forthcoming on the borough website. We hope you will join us for a lively discussion and an opportunity to meet your neighbors while learning more about our Borough's rich history.

If you don't want to wait until September and would like to get involved now, please contact June Bair, 215-345-1747, mamabear44@comcast.net or Donna von Lipsey, 267-808-6658, vonlipsey0671@comcast.net.

David Holewinski appointed Mayor following death of Robert Snavelly

New Britain Council named David Holewinski acting mayor after the resignation and subsequent death of long-time Borough Mayor Robert Snavelly. Mayor Snavelly passed away surrounded by his family on February 20. He served as Mayor for 22 years and was a Council member for 20 years prior. "Bob will be sorely missed," commented Borough Manager Robin Trymbiski. "He helped us through tremendous changes over the years."

Holewinski comes to this position with 26 years of community involvement. He has served on the Borough Planning Commission since 1992, the last several years as Chair. He has been on the board of the New Britain Civic Association since 1982, presently serving as president.

Holewinski worked as advertising manager for Philadelphia Newspapers Inc. for 15 years, and currently is Vice President of Sales/Marketing for Covered Bridge Media, Inc. In addition, he also serves as the New Britain Borough representative on the Tri-Municipal Master Trail and Greenway Planning group.

Holewinski's appointed term expires at the end of 2009. He has filed for candidacy for the mayoral position in the November 2009 election.



Mayor David Holewinski

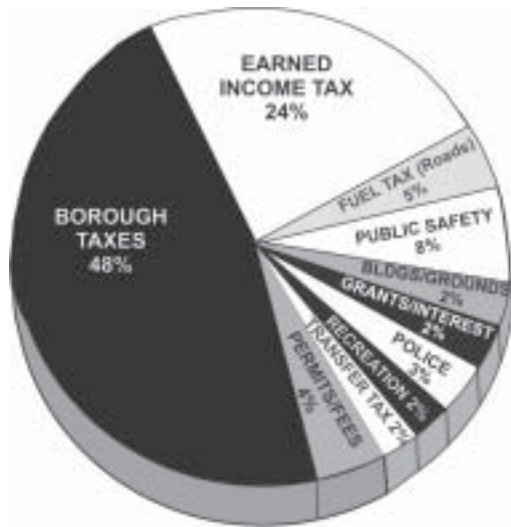
Visit our website
www.newbritainboro.com

2009 Borough Budget

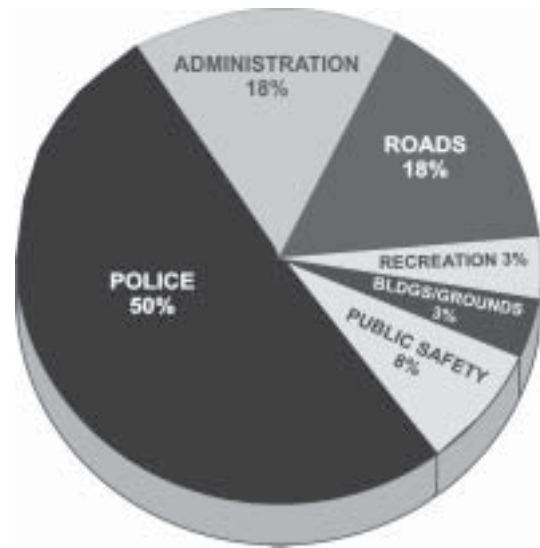
The pie charts provide an overview of the Borough's projected income and expenses, but they don't show the whole picture. For instance projected income from real estate taxes and permits are down this year by some 45% — a sign of the current economic woes. But expenses like health insurance and police presence keep going up. We have and continue to use

some of our reserve funds to offset increasing expenses, but those funds have been greatly reduced, as has the income from them. Therefore the Council found it necessary to increase the Borough tax by 6 mills this year. We take seriously our commitment to the Borough residents to provide for their safety while controlling expenses to the best of our ability.

INCOME



EXPENSES



Road projects scheduled

The following road improvement projects are scheduled for this spring/summer. Your patience and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

1. Landis Mill Road – Reconstruction (Mathews to Aarons)
2. Maple Lane – Raise crown – 500' (North of Vine Street)
3. North Tamenend Avenue – Reconstruct last 100' at end.
4. Spring Lake Drive – Two course Oil & Chip.
5. Keeley Avenue – Butler Avenue to Souix Road (two course Oil & Chip)
6. Pueblo Road – Lenape Drive to Borough line (Surface Sealing)

Proposed School Bus Depot

As many of you undoubtedly know, the Central Bucks School District has applied for Conditional Use approval under our Zoning Ordinance to relocate one of their school bus depots to the old Cayuga Concrete site at Route 202 and Bristol Road. Borough Council conducted a series of hearings through February on the application, where the School District, the Borough and Borough residents had an opportunity to present evidence and argument. Now that the hearings have concluded, the parties are preparing proposed findings, and thereafter Borough Council will render a written decision after a public vote.

Change in Council

Council member William Macklem resigned for personal reasons at the March Council meeting. At that time, the Council appointed Peter LaMontagne to serve out his term.

Peter LaMontagne is the older chap you often see walking about the Borough with Mutley, his big yellow hound. Like his master, the dog looks so good, you'd think he must be something, but he's not. Should you pause in your activities and chat with him (the master that is), he'll gladly tell you what's going on in the neighborhood, and entertain you with the joke of the day.



On the business side, Peter is a Professional Engineer who travels around North America as a Consulting Engineer for water and wastewater treatment plants. Peter is active in the New Britain Civic Association, and built and donated the bench and gazebo in the Covered Bridge Park. In the past he helped to organize the flea markets for CIVIC — in the days when the Town Center had more open space. More recently he worked with the committee restoring the Groner house, served on the Zoning Board, and is currently on the Nature Preserve Committee. He also serves on a committee that is developing a master plan for greenways in the Borough — greenways being sidewalks and bike & hike paths.

We welcome Peter to the Council and sincerely thank Mr. Macklem for his service.

Police News

Merger News: A Police Commission has been formed to oversee the probable merger of the New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough Police Departments. The Commission is currently searching for a location for the new merged Police Department.

New Hire: The New Britain Borough Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Officer Shawn Maguire in November.



Officer Shawn Maguire

Skateboard Ordinance: As a reminder, skateboarding in parking lots and on Borough roads is prohibited. Please encourage youngsters to adhere to this ordinance. Possible citations can be issued for violating the ordinance which holds a fine of up to \$300.

Traffic Enforcement: In order to ensure the safety of Borough residents and the motoring public, Police are increasing traffic enforcement throughout the Borough. Please be a courteous driver and mindful of traffic laws.

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

Special Needs Registry

The Bucks County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), in partnership with the Bucks County Health Department and the County Commissioners, are introducing a Special Needs Registry for individuals who require assistance during an emergency.

Lessons learned from past disasters tell us that advanced planning is especially important for people with special needs. During a natural or manmade disaster that requires evacuation, it is important that the EMA have detailed information about those who will need special help in these circumstances.

Individuals or caregivers on their behalf can register online at www.specialneedspa.org or call Bucks County's EMA coordinator John Dougherty, 215-340-8700.

Spring is Here!

Property owners are required to keep grass and weeds to a height not to exceed 8 inches. The purpose is not only to keep the community neat and attractive, but to protect residents from possible health risks associated with overgrowth.

Summer Camp

June 22 to August 7, 2009 (7 weeks)

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays (fair weather only)

An exciting array of supervised programs are planned at this year's summer camp including arts and crafts, sports and special event days.

Ages: Children age six (or starting first grade in September) through age 12.

Location: Covered Bridge Community Park, Keeley Avenue

Pre-registration is required at New Britain Borough Administration Building, 45 Keeley Avenue. **No on-site registration.** Registration dates:

New Britain Borough residents: April 13-17

New Britain Township and Chalfont Borough residents:
April 20-24

All others: April 27- May 1

Registration forms are available at the Borough office or on the Borough website: www.newbritainboro.com.

Fee for 7-week program:

Residents - \$200 for the first child and \$195 for each additional child in the family.

Non-residents - \$250 for the first child and \$245 for each additional child in the family.

The new director of the Camp program is **Andy Durie**, an elementary physical education teacher in the Central Bucks School District.



Plan now for the 4th of July Parade

The annual parade will be held on **Saturday, July 4th**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. It will start at Town Center on Route 202 and end at 207 Park Avenue. This tri-municipal parade is hosted by New Britain Township, New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough.

Be part of the fun!

Floats from neighborhoods, organizations and businesses are welcome. Floats will be judged for Most Patriotic, Most Original and Most Humorous. Also needed are marching bands, Scout Troops, dancers, etc. Prizes are awarded and complimentary refreshments provided to participants.

The parade will also feature antique cars, and fire trucks. You're encouraged to decorate your bikes and baby strollers in a patriotic theme.

Local businesses are encouraged to get involved with this family-oriented community event. Please consider becoming a sponsor. Call the New Britain Township office, 215-822-1391.

Chalfont Fire Company

Events planned for 2009 benefit our local Fire Company. All are held at the Fire House on Main Street in Chalfont.

April 19	Buffet Breakfast	8 a.m. - noon
May 16	Turkey Hoagies	9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
June 14	Chicken Bar-b-que	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 27	Flea Market	8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	Turkey Hoagies	9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Sept. 27	Buffet Breakfast	8 a.m. - noon

The Fire House is available for banquets, receptions and meetings; call 215-822-9685 for more details.

Bucks County Senior Games

The Bucks County Agency on Aging offers a number of events throughout the county for folks 50 years and older. Co-sponsors include the Bucks County Dept. of Parks and Recreation and Independence Blue Cross. Events local to the Borough include:

May 28	Health Expo	9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Delaware Valley College. Features health screenings, seminars, entertainment and refreshments.		
May 30	Opening Ceremonies	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Central Bucks West H.S. Track and field, badminton and darts.		

For details, registration forms and complete list of events, call 215-348-6116 or visit buckscounty.org/AAA.htm.



Special Event for All

Kid's Father's Day Fishing Derby
Peace Valley Park, Anglers Pier
June 21, 7:30 a.m. - noon

Catch and release derby for boys and girls ages 5 to 15 in four age categories. Pre-registration is required and a small fee is charged. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information and registration, call 215-348-9915. Sponsored by the Bucks County Dept. of Parks and Recreation and Bucks County Conservation District.



Spring 2009

New Britain Civic Association

PO Box 5124

New Britain, PA 18901

215 345-8750

www.newbritaincivic.org

SOMETHING NEW

Visit our website, www.newbritaincivic.org, you'll find information about upcoming events, progress at the park, work weekend's and any number of items that the Civic Association is involved in.

For the first time this year we sent out membership renewals in January to remind our members to renew their membership and to establish a calendar year membership period. We plan to send renewal notices every January. This will make it easier for you to renew and for us to keep track of our members. The membership application on the back of this insert is for new members only or members who did not respond to the renewal letter in January. Please, do not send us the membership application on the back of this insert unless you fall into one of those categories.

EVENTS

Speaking of upcoming events, on Friday, May 15th at 9:00 PM, we will have "Astronomy Night". The Astronomy Club of Bucks County has been very helpful in demonstrating what Astronomy is all about. The young and old alike seem to enjoy these events. We also have one scheduled for Friday, September 18th at 8:00 PM. In addition we will be hosting the Civil War Reenactment Group and their presentation on May 15th beginning at 7:30 PM prior to the Astronomy Event.

GOOD NEWS

If you join the New Britain Civic Association, your membership entitles you to become a member the American Heritage Credit Union, one of our new neighbors in New Britain. So, join up and enjoy all of the benefit of being a Civic Association member and the bonus of membership in the Credit Union.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

There are still some of the commemorative Covered Bridge Tiles remaining and are available for a \$25 donation in addition we have decks of cards for a \$5.00 donations that show our covered bridge and are available at the Borough Hall or by calling the Civic Association. In addition, we have a limited number of Entertainment 2009 books remaining, they are now available for a \$20 donation.

PAVILION RENTAL

Are you looking for a place that is surrounded by nature to hold a family reunion, birthday party or some other special event? Rent the pavilion at Covered Bridge Park; the cost is only a donation of \$75, members \$50 for the day, call 215 345-8750 for details.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

You may be asking yourself ***“What do they want from me?”*** We want you to become a member of Civic, provide financial support and/or volunteer your time, energy and ideas. We don't expect volunteers to get involved in each of our projects unless they want to. We are looking for people with retired friends and relatives to let us know if they have time to read to children and the sight-impaired, to assist our elderly residents with rides, to welcome new residents, and yes, to help us with the park.

Do you have a few hours a month to help out? We want New Britain to have more of an infrastructure to help others and we want you to be an integral part of it.

New Britain Civic will become what you make it.

Please fill out the application below, circle type of membership and return it with your membership dues and/or your contribution to the address on the front of this letter. This is for new members only or members who didn't respond to the renewal letter in January.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Annual membership dues:

Individual memberships: \$ 10

Family memberships: \$ 15 – for all members of the same household

Business memberships: \$ 25 – for businesses located in or serving New Britain.

Larger Donations - *It is important to acknowledge your support. In addition to our appreciation, expressed in a letter suitable for framing, prominent donations will be reported in the New Britain Borough Newsletter. Support for capital improvements to the park can be recognized with signage at the Park or a plaque on the capital item and may also receive newspaper coverage.*

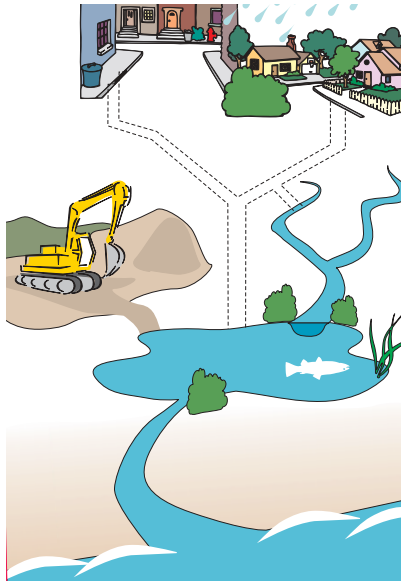
David Holewinski – President Rich Sabol – Vice-President
Malcolm Rollins – Treasurer Peg Havener – Secretary

Managing Stormwater

You can protect our streams

Rainwater picks up debris and pollutants as it travels toward streams. Limiting use of herbicides and fertilizers and disposing of hazardous materials properly to hazardous waste drop offs (see article to right) helps to keep our streams clean. Store any hazardous materials in safe places and dispose of old unused materials properly.

You can also help by checking and repairing oil /antifreeze leaks to your vehicles. Do not dump or spill any materials onto your driveway or roadway that could enter the storm collection system and pollute our streams.



POOL WATER DISCHARGE: Pool owners are required to discharge water responsibly per Borough and PADEP rules and regulations. The Clean Stream Law prohibits the discharge of chemically treated water into streams or storm sewers. Contaminated pool water can quickly make its way to streams where aquatic life is damaged or killed. Property owners and pool companies that violate these laws are subject to prosecution and penalties for damages. Pool owners and pool cleaners need to dispose of old water correctly, and to neutralize wastewaters containing chemicals such as chlorine and muriatic acid. Chlorine will dissipate in 5-7 days so the simplest solution is to wait a week before discharging the water to a grassy area. Filter backwash should also be discharged to a grassy area and never to a street, pond or stream. Pool cleaning wastewater containing muriatic acid (aka hydrochloric acid) must always be neutralized before discharge.

Any illegal dumping or drainage activities should be reported immediately to New Britain Borough at 215-348-4586. Feel free to call the Borough with any questions.

Additional stormwater information is available online at dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/npdsms4/ms4cd/Education/RainDrainBrochure.pdf. There is also more information on New Britain Borough's website, newbritainboro.com.

Safely dispose of household hazardous waste

Household products containing toxic chemicals, like pesticides, oil-based paints, solvents, cleaning products, weed killers and automotive batteries can be a threat to people and the environment if improperly discarded. Never throw these materials into the trash, as the toxic chemicals may harm sanitation workers, or result in fires in collection vehicles. It is also not safe to pour them into a sink or storm drain as they can end up in the environment polluting our air, water, or soil.

Bucks County's Hazardous Waste Collection program provides an opportunity for residents to safely dispose of household hazardous waste. Out of nearly 1000 households in the Borough only 30 took advantage of this disposal option last year. Let's try to improve upon that this year.

There are six drop off locations; the three closest to the Borough are:

June 20, 2009, Upper Bucks County Area Vo-Tech School
3115 Ridge Road – Bedminster Township

July 18, 2009, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology,
2740 Old York Road (Route 263) – Warwick Twp.

September 26, 2009, Quakertown Community Pool,
Mill Street – Quakertown Borough

What can you bring?

As many as three old computers and up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous products. Hazardous products will have cautionary words on the label; for example: Danger, Warning, or Caution. Other words that can signal hazardous products include: poisonous, hazardous, combustible, flammable, corrosive, volatile, caustic, irritant, explosive, toxic, use with adequate ventilation, or avoid inhaling. **If there are no words indicating it is a hazardous product, it likely isn't.**

Common household items being collected include **caustics** such as oven cleaner and ammonia-based cleaners; **batteries** including rechargeable and button type as well as automotive; **pesticides; toxics** such as weed killer, pool and photographic chemicals, rust remover and wood preservatives; **flammables** such as oil-based paints, varnishes, gasoline. **DO NOT BRING** latex paint, appliances, asbestos, explosives or tires.

For additional information on disposal options contact:
PADEP Recycling Hotline at 1-800-346-4242
Bucks County Planning Commission: 215-345-3400 or visit buckscounty.org.

New Britain Borough
45 Keeley Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S.Postage
PAID
PERMIT #118
New Britain,PA

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 LaMontague;
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*; Jane Kinyon, *Secretary*;
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 and Jeffrey Gilmore, *Alternates*. Joseph Wagner, *Solicitor*.

Tax Collector: Richard Sabol 215-489-8658 (*Hours: Tuesday, 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.*)

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: 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