

Borough of NEW BRITAIN

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*Spring/Summer
2023 Issue*

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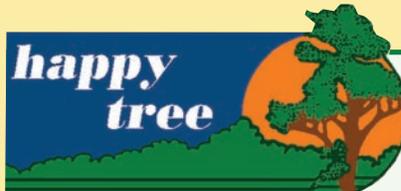
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"SATISFACTION THAT GROWS!"

Message from the Mayor – James Donovan

It's Spring of 2023 and while I can't predict how the weather will be, or how the stock market will act, I can tell you something that definitely will happen in the future here in New Britain. The organizations and committees that work tirelessly to help our residents and surrounding communities will struggle without a new influx of volunteers. From Doylestown and Chalfont Fire and EMS, New Britain Civic Association and Borough Committees, each and every one of them is desperately in need of help. That is likely the most important thing I have learned in the first year as Mayor.



The services our Fire and EMS organizations provide are beyond measure and they are volunteers. The New Britain Civic Association is a private organization with no connection to your local government. They own and operate the only recreational park in New Britain and activities such as Covered Bridge Day, Duck Derby, Tree Lighting with Santa, and Covered Bridge Summer Camp are all possible because of a small group of volunteers. Right now, they are working on the installation of a Special Needs playground area which will cost tens of thousands of dollars, with little to no funding. Government Committees such as Planning, Finance, Parks & Rec among others are also made up of small groups of residents and businesspeople. They organize and arrange events such as the New Britain Car Show, the Farmers Market, Pop-Up Park, and Community Garden. Once again, all through volunteers.

If you are beginning to see a trend here, I hope you will take that understanding a step further and ask someone if you can help. Your involvement doesn't have to take you away from family and loved ones, as a matter of fact, bring them along. Get involved with the Nature Preserve or help out at a Community Workday. If you don't know who to contact, I am just an email away or you can contact the Borough Office and ask for a point of contact.

We're all dealing with a world where most of the news you hear and read about is bad. A world that is quick to judge, quick to act first and ask questions later. As I said in the beginning, there are things I can't predict but if more of us can find a little time and the willingness to help out our fellow residents, New Britain will continue to be a great place to live, work, relax and enjoy all that it has to offer. The following list of websites would benefit tremendously if you would take that first step and reach out. I predict it will be worth it.

www.Doylestownfireco.org
www.Chalfontfirecompany.com
www.Chalfontems.org
www.Cbems.org
www.Newbritaincivic.com

James Donovan, *New Britain Borough Mayor*
215-348-4586
jdonovan@newbritainboro.com

NBB Civic Association's "Campaign for Play" Needs Your Support

Many people are not aware but the New Britain Borough Civic Association, not the borough, owns and operates the Covered Bridge Park in New Britain Borough. The park is the crown jewel of the borough where our residents can go to enjoy many activities like fireworks on New Britain Covered Bridge Day, picnics in the pavilion, walk along the trails, fish in the pond or watch the Duck Derby, and send their kids to one of the most affordable summer camps in Bucks County (registration is now open).

All these fun family and community activities are either paid for or subsidized by the NBB Civic Association. But if you are the parent of a handicapped child, you know there is one thing that Covered Bridge Park isn't designed for, and that is your child to play. At one time the park had a single swing that could accommodate a handicapped child, but due to vandalism, that swing is long gone.

Since developing its Master Park Plan, the Civic Association has been working to fix the situation by purchasing 2 pieces of playground equipment designed in accordance with ADA specifications. The plan has been in effect for a few years, but the pandemic put a hold on the job, and as with everything else these days, the cost to purchase and install the equipment has gone up. The current price tag for the 2 pieces of equipment is \$53,000. So far, the civic association has raised about \$17,000.00 of the money needed.

To make up for the shortfall the Civic Association is selling personalized bricks, which will be used to build a new path and pay for the new equipment. The new equipment will be delivered, and installed, this September.

If you would like to contribute to the fund to build the new ADA compliant playground at Covered Bridge Park, you can buy a brick (\$120.00), or make a charitable donation of any denomination, by going to <https://newbritaincivic.com/donate>. All contributions are tax deductible, as the civic association is a 501C3 charity. Please donate or join today!

4th of July Parade



The Tri-Municipal 4th of July Parade is scheduled for Tuesday, July 4 at 9:30AM.

The parade starts at the Town Center in New Britain Borough and ends at North Branch Park in New Britain Township, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont PA 18914.

Wreaths Across America

Thank you on behalf of the New Britain Borough Preservation Committee!

In 2022 Wreaths Across America provided more than 2.7 million wreaths that were expected to be laid by an estimated 2-3 million volunteers at 3,702 sites across the nation and around the world.

The New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee has brought Wreaths Across America to honor the veterans buried in the historic New Britain Baptist Church cemetery for the past 11 years and wishes to thank all the individuals that supported our 2022 Wreaths Across America program. This important event wouldn't be possible without the dedication and support of the organizers, ceremony participants and volunteers that came out to place wreaths on the veteran's graves.



Jackie D'Agostino, Location Coordinator and Group Leader for organizing the event.

June Bair, New Britain Historic Preservation Committee Chair for fundraising.

Marie Esher Coia for coordinating the ceremony.

David Holewinski for leading our ceremony.

Bruce Burkart, New Britain Borough Historian for making sure that all of the veteran's graves are identified by an American flag and for reading the names of the veteran's during the ceremony.

Color Guard veterans Marine Corp Sergeant George Uhl, and Air Force Master Sergeant Chuck McNevin, veterans from the Chalfont VFW Post 3258

The veterans who presented the memorial wreaths including Army Specialist Anthony Coia, Coast Guard Seaman John Remmey, Marine Corp Sergeant George Uhl, Navy Petty Officer Wayne Senft and Air Force Master Sergeant Chuck McNevin

Pastor Jim and the New Britain Baptist church for supporting the event.

Ron Haskell and Dana Ballentine for playing taps at the conclusion of our ceremony.

The teachers and their families from Hatboro-Horsham High School for providing refreshments.

Thank you to everyone that sent in donations and participated in the Dine & Donate event at the New Britain Inn. Because of your donations, we were able to place a wreath on the graves of our veterans buried in the historic New Britain Baptist Church cemetery. For more information about Wreaths Across America visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org. Donations for 2023 can be made to our location by searching for New Britain Baptist Church cemetery.

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2023 – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

Jackie D'Agostino
jdagostino4@verizon.net

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Borough Council Supports “CBSD Fair Votes” Redistricting Plan on Behalf of Borough’s Residents

At its February meeting, New Britain Borough’s Borough Council unanimously approved a resolution supporting a Bucks County Court petition filed by “CBSD Fair Votes,” which opposes a redistricting plan by the Central Bucks School Board to realign the nine voting regions of the School District. The school board’s plan, which CB Fair Votes contends is unconstitutional, would result in the residents of New Britain Borough not being able to vote in this year’s school board election. Instead, the school board’s redistricting plan would place New Britain Borough in a voting region where a school board director isn’t up for election until 2025, effectively denying the residents of New Britain Borough any vote for school board director for a period of six years.



The alternative redistricting plan proposed by CB Fair Votes would split the School District into three voting regions, with each region represented by three school board members. Under this plan, now supported by New Britain Borough, our Borough’s residents would be able to vote for their school board director, as scheduled, this year. The resolution passed by Borough Council expresses the Council’s belief that the Fair Votes Plan is in the best interest of the Borough’s voters and requests that the Court of Common Pleas in Bucks County adopt this plan.

The Bucks County Court hearing was originally scheduled for February 9, the day after the February Borough Council meeting. That hearing was canceled, however, after all eighteen Bucks County judges recused themselves from hearing the case. A judge from outside Bucks County will now need to hear the case. As of this writing in late February, no hearing on the redistricting plan has been scheduled. As a result, any changes to the School District’s voting regions won’t take place until 2025, as there is no longer time to make any changes for this year. The hearing will be rescheduled, and our Council Resolution will be introduced in court as an exhibit, putting New Britain Borough’s opposition to the disfranchisement of its residents on the record.

Tom Price, *Council Vice-President*



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Taking Care of Your Lawn – and your Watershed

We each have our own lawn care style --- some are protective (mow, mow, mow!), while others take a more laid-back approach. No matter your style, there are ways to reduce the environmental impact of your lawn care practices. Overwatering is not only bad for your lawn, it's a strain on water supplies and often ends up as wasted, excess runoff to the Borough's storm sewer system and streams.

Watering Your Lawn

Light, frequent watering supports healthy grass and resists disease and pests. The best schedule for watering is 15 - 20 minutes per day between noon and 4:00 p.m. when the grass is under the most stress. If daily afternoon watering is not practical for you, try an every-other-day schedule of 30 - 40 minutes. For best results, combine light, frequent watering with grass mulching and slow-release fertilizer applications.

Grass Mulching Tips

Mow High!

Set the mower blade at the highest setting, leaving grass blades 3 inches tall. If you cut your grass at 2 inches or less, the grass will draw energy from its root reserves to grow, instead of drawing energy from the sun. Tall grass encourages deep roots, which require less water, and also shades out crabgrass and low-growing weeds. Keeping grass tall during the summer also helps the plants tolerate the heat and dry weather, rather than requiring more water.

Let your clippings Lay

Let the grass blades fall back onto the lawn. Short clippings quickly decompose, adding valuable nutrients to the soil. Grass clippings can return 50-100% of the nitrogen your lawn needs and are free fertilizer. If you are concerned about the appearance of lawn clippings, you can use a mulching mower, which will chop them into fine bits. Another bonus? Grass clippings are 85 percent water and can also reduce your watering needs.



A common myth is that grass clippings cause thatch, a layer of living and dead roots and stems growing between the green layer and the soil. Troublesome thatch is actually caused by improper use of lawn chemicals, compacted soils, and excessive watering.

Fertilizing Your Lawn

In the case of fertilizer, more is not better! Over-applied fertilizer will wash off your lawn when it rains, drain into the Borough's storm sewer system and ultimately end up in streams as a pollutant. A soil test will tell you what nutrients are already contained in your lawn so that you are not over-applying fertilizers. Soil testing is available through the local county Penn State Extension office: <https://extension.psu.edu/soil-testing>.

For more information about the Borough's Storm Water Management plan, check out: <https://www.newbritainboro.com/information/storm-water-awareness/>

Help keep our water clean! To report a non-stormwater discharge to the stormwater system, storm drain, or to a stream, please call the Borough's offices at 215-348-4586.

Karen McNair, *Borough Engineer*
Gilmore & Associates

New Britain Borough Shade Tree Commission Celebrates Arbor Day ...

Each Year the New Britain Shade Tree Commission celebrates Arbor Day with a Tree Planting Ceremony in our borough. Please join us this year for this special occasion.

DATE: Saturday April 29, 2023

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Orchard Park

We will be planting a Serviceberry Tree. These multi season trees have white flowers in spring, bright red fruits that birds love in June and an array of brilliant red and gold leaves in fall. Our aim each year is to add beneficial native trees to our borough properties. This is a good opportunity for you to learn more about our commission and the native trees we are adding to the borough properties.

Since we are planting trees not just for our enjoyment but for the younger generation whose job it will be to care for these trees in years to come, we have invited a scout troop to join us in this endeavor.

Written by Marge Eberz

Secretary New Britain Borough Shade Tree Commission, mte54@verizon.net



Backyard Discovery

45 years ago, my husband, Tony Coia, and I bought an old schoolhouse in New Britain Borough locally known as “The Cabbage Hill School”. While digging various flower beds, we have uncovered different items buried over the years.

One of the most interesting things we found happened shortly after we moved in. While digging in the yard, Tony uncovered an interesting looking stone which he thought was an old tool, and he has been using it for a paperweight ever since. Please see attached photo.

Recently, we found out a friend of ours has a hobby of discovering, researching, identifying and writing about pre-historic and historic Native American artifacts. Tony mentioned to him the stone he found over 40 years ago and took a photo of it to send to him. Much to our surprise he said it was an axe handle tool from the Archaic Period. This sparked our interest, so we did some research.

We emailed a photo of it to Cory Amsler, Vice President of Collections and Interpretation for the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle. He said “What you have is a full-groove stone axe, Archaic period. The battering creating the groove is for attaching a wooden handle”. We offered to donate it to the museum, but Mr. Amsler said they already had some from when the museum first opened.

According to the National Park service, there are four periods used to identify Native American culture with the Archaic Period being 4,000 - 10,000 years ago!

Artifacts from the Archaic period found in the Delaware River Valley include grooved axe heads, banner stones, net-sinkers and several types of projectile points. A grooved axe is a large stone tool, one end typically tapered, with a groove around the midsection where a split wooden handle would have been attached or hafted to the stone using animal sinew. Grooved axes were used by Native Americans to aid in the chopping down of trees and splitting wood.

We are very excited to have found an artifact in our backyard from many thousands of years ago when the Lenape lived and roamed this area and our backyard! While my husband always thought it was some kind of tool, he never thought it could be thousands of years old. Although we will still use it as a paperweight, we have developed a whole new appreciation for it.

Marie Esher Coia, *Resident*



New Street Signs Brand New Britain Borough as a Friendly and Green Community

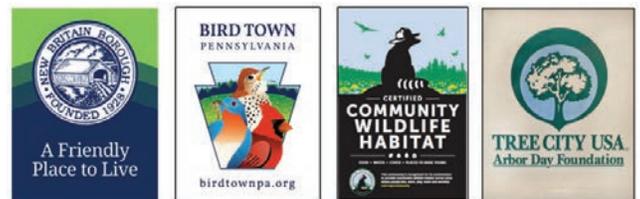
You can tell a lot about a municipality’s values by the street signs it uses to brand itself. Usually displayed at the key entrances to a community, these signs inform both residents and visitors alike about how that community views itself and what the municipality considers to be its major sources of civic pride.

The new street signs being installed at all the major entrances to our Borough reaffirm our long-standing belief that New Britain Borough is “A Friendly Place to Live.” They also reflect a strong public commitment to the environment and to the creation of a green, healthy, and attractive place to live.

More specifically, the new Bird Town and National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat street signs affirm the Borough’s commitment to the restoration and preservation of bird and wildlife-friendly habitat, to prioritizing the use of native plants in the landscape, to reducing the use of pesticides and lawn chemicals, and to other environmentally sustainable practices. Many Borough residents have also made this commitment by certifying their own properties with these programs and displaying similar signs. The Tree City USA street sign affirms the Borough’s commitment to, and passion for, trees. All three of these programs brand the Borough and its residents as a community that values the environment and supports conservation measures to protect it.

As for civic pride? New Britain Borough is the only community in Pennsylvania that has earned the program certifications permitting it to display all three of these signs.

Tom Price, *Council Vice-President*



The 2nd Annual New Britain Borough Car Show- A Success Story



The 2022 Annual New Britain Borough Classic Car Show took place on a warm but windy November 5, 2022, at the Town Center Shopping Center. This event was the second car show organized by the volunteers of the New Britain Borough Community and Business Committee with help from borough resident and council volunteers. Over 110 cars showed up for the event and day of registrations had to be closed when it was evident that capacity for the space provided by the Giant market was at capacity.



The Doylestown Road Angels Car Club provided the expert judging and trophies were awarded to the top 20 cars that day. John Creider of the Mango Men provided the music for the event and created a festive atmosphere as well as acted as emcee for the event. Many car enthusiasts were on hand to enjoy the wide variety of classic cars from all over Bucks, Montgomery, and Hunterdon counties.



Thanks to those who participated in the raffles nearly \$500 was donated to the Friends of New Britain Borough earmarked for the ADA compliant playground equipment recently purchased for the Covered Bridge Park. Raffle winners received gift certificates donated by local merchants such as Precision Autocraft, Delizio Pizza, The New Britain Inn, Heavenly Ham, buckets of car care products from the AutoZone, and an overflowing basket of cheer, provided by the CBC.

The annual event was sponsored by New Britain Borough's Community and Business Committee, Penn Community Bank, American Heritage Federal Credit Union, Chant Engineering and other community members.

Plans are in the works for the 2023 Car Show, the date and place to be announced soon. Sponsors and vendors interested in participating can contact the New Britain Borough office

for more information. Volunteers will be needed as well, the initial meeting time will be announced soon and we can definitely use all the support we can get, as the show has grown exponentially. Pre-registration of the cars this year will be encouraged. Keep an eye out on the New Britain Borough website www.newbritainboro.com and Face Book page for more information.

Loren Frasco, *Council Member & Committee Chair*
lfrasco@newbritainboro.com



New Britain Civic Association

PO Box 5124, New Britain, PA 18901 • www.newbritaincivic.com

The New Britain Civic Association, a 501C3 non-profit organization, is the provider of a recreation venue in the borough. Covered Bridge Park on Keeley Avenue at the Pine Run Covered Bridge provides not only a location for children and adults alike to indulge in exercise and relaxation, but the Association sponsors the Annual Covered Bridge Camp, a Fishing Contest, Covered Bridge Day Celebration, The Family Picnic and Duck Derby and the Annual Tree Lighting complete with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The Park is owned and operated by the Civic Association which obtains its financial backing from the public and area businesses. There is no Federal, State, County or Local Municipality money received by the Civic Association.

Our dedicated volunteers work continually to improve the park for your enjoyment. I'm sure if you visit our park, you will notice the recently cleared and beautified entrance to the park. Volunteers cut down the overgrowth and expanded the space available as you walk or drive into the parking area. The walking bridge at the pond has also been replaced with a new bridge allowing you to access more of the pond area.

We are currently awaiting delivery and installation of new equipment designed especially for children with disabilities. According to the latest reports from our vendor, we expect this equipment to be available sometime in September of this year.

There are additional plans for future improvements at the park as a result of a Master Plan that the Civic Association, in conjunction with the Engineering firm of Gilmore and Associates, completed recently. We appreciate any and all donations to our Park for the new Brick walkway to the play area, or for the other costs associated with Civic. The average monthly costs of maintaining the park continue to increase and as stated previously our only source of income is from the public and business donations. Go to our website www.newbritaincivic.com and take a look at what we are doing.

Exciting Developments for the Bird Town Program!

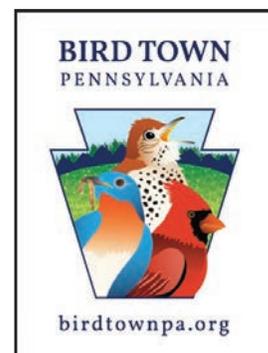
New Britain Borough has been a Bird Town since 2013. The Bird Town program was established by Audubon PA in 2010 to partner with local municipalities in the creation of a “healthier and sustainable environment for birds, wildlife, and people.” While the Bird Town program remained vibrant in our own community, it suffered from neglect at the state level due to staffing and funding issues at Audubon PA.

Today, however, the Bird Town initiative is stronger than ever and expanding throughout the state. Now administered by a new entity, Bird Town Pennsylvania, this revitalized grassroots program provides tools for municipalities to engage, educate and empower their residents, schools, and businesses to make more positive social, economic, and ecologically friendly decisions.

Promoting a culture of conservation, where everyone is a potential steward of nature in their own backyard and community, is a major goal of Bird Town PA. The restoration of natural systems and native plant communities for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, on both private and public lands, has many positive impacts on communities, including creating a healthier environment, reducing stormwater runoff, greenhouse gases and maintenance time, increasing property values, and building community pride.

To learn much more about the Bird Town program, please visit Bird Town Pennsylvania’s new website at <https://birdtownpa.org/>. You can also join the Bird Town PA Facebook group, “Bird Town Forum,” at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/birdtownforum>, or sign up to receive Bird Town PA’s eNewsletter, “Bird Beat,” at <https://birdtownpa.org/bird-beat-newsletters/> to keep up with Bird Town events or learn more about how to create bird-friendly habitat in your own backyard.

Tom Price, *Council Vice-President & Bird Town Committee Chair*
pricet@newbritainboro.com



Changes Coming to the Borough’s Volunteer Committees

Our Borough has always benefited from the strong base of residents who volunteer to serve on our various standing committees. These committees do important and necessary work that would otherwise need to be done by outside contractors or Borough staff. This work saves the Borough’s taxpayers thousands of dollars every year and frees up our small Borough staff for other tasks and responsibilities.

In recent months, Borough Council has approved the following changes to our committees that should augment their efficiency and increase their value to the Borough:



- Give Council liaisons a vote on committees (but not on boards or commissions) unless prohibited by PA Borough Code or other Pennsylvania law.
- Eliminate caps on the number of committee members, unless capped by PA Borough Code or another Pennsylvania law.
- Modify the responsibilities of the Community & Business Committee to focus on supporting and attracting local businesses.
- Create a new Events/Activities Committee to organize Borough events and to assist the Civic Association with its events.
- Eliminate the Public Safety Committee, the Roads Committee, and the Facilities Committee and assign their responsibilities to a new committee responsible for advising Council on issues related to public works, public safety, traffic, roads, parking, public services, and the maintenance of Borough facilities.
- Replace the Bird Town Committee with an Environmental Advisory Council. This EAC would be responsible for the Bird Town program in the Borough but would also serve as an advisory committee to Council on other environmental issues.
- Create a new Communications Committee to assist Borough staff with the Borough’s newsletter, website, and social media.

Once these changes are fully implemented, additional volunteers will be needed to serve on these new and revamped committees. If interested, please contact the Borough Office, and let us know at nnboro@newbritainboro.com

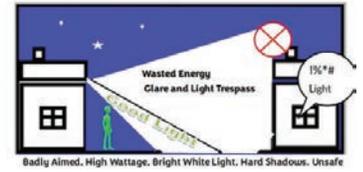
Tom Price, *Council Vice-President*

Is Your Outdoor Lighting a Problem?

The Borough occasionally receives complaints from residents about the brightness of their neighbor's outdoor lights. This is often a legitimate concern, and one that most of us might not be thinking about when we install those lights. Please be aware of what our Borough Code says about outdoor lighting and be considerate of how your lighting might be impacting your neighbors.

These are the general standards spelled out in Section 450-35 of the Borough Code (Ordinance No. 281):

"Lights for all nonresidential uses shall be designed to minimize undesirable off-premises effects. Outdoor illumination in all districts shall be diffused or shielded in such a manner as not to create any hazardous situations for passing vehicular traffic or a nuisance to persons residing in the area. No use shall produce glare off the premises by illumination originating on the premises. No bare or direct light source shall be visible beyond the lot lines. This applies to all pole-mounted lights, building-mounted lights, sign lights, walkway lights, and any other type of illumination. No light shall shine directly into windows or onto streets and driveways off the premises. These standards shall not apply to decorative lights that are temporarily displayed during seasonal holidays."



In addition to being a considerate neighbor, there are other good reasons for limiting the brightness of your outdoor lighting, including the impact on wildlife and the impact that light pollution has on our ability to view the night sky. An article on the National Wildlife Federation's website says that "on clear, moonless nights, up to 5,000 stars should be visible from almost anywhere in North America. Yet most U.S. city dwellers are lucky if they can see any at all." Most of our children have never seen the Milky Way.

Research is showing that our porch and security lights are major causes of insect decline. Many insects are drawn to light, but artificial lights can be fatal to them. According to one study cited by Smithsonian Magazine, "an estimated one third of the bugs swirling around those lights die by morning, either by being gobbled up by predators or simply from exhaustion." Dramatic declines in insect populations have raised alarm bells in recent years. And all species, including humans, that rely on insects for food or pollination are directly impacted by this insect decline.

Bright outdoor lights can also have a devastating impact on birds. Up to 1 billion birds die from building collisions each year in the United States, and according to several recent studies, bright lights in big cities are making the problem worse. Every year, billions of birds migrate north in the spring and south in the fall, the majority of them flying at night, navigating with the night sky. However, as migrating birds pass over big cities, they can become disoriented by bright artificial lights and skyglow, often causing them to collide with buildings or windows. The schedules of migratory birds are also based on seasonal cues. Artificial lights can cause them to migrate too early or too late and miss deadlines for nesting, foraging and other behaviors. And, according to the National Audubon Society, when lights throw birds off their migration timetables and paths, "fatalities often occur when birds waste energy flying around and calling out in confusion, leaving them exhausted and vulnerable to other urban threats." For more information on the impact of artificial lighting on birds, and what you can do to mitigate that impact, please read about Audubon's "Lights Out" initiative (<https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program>).



So, what can we do? One suggestion is to use motion-sensor security lights that only light up when an intruder enters your yard. Installing directional covers on lights so the light is aimed only to where it's needed is another option. Lowering the wattage as much as possible and replacing the white bulbs in your lights with amber bulbs is strongly recommended since yellow wavelengths are the least attractive to nocturnal insects. LED lighting may be a contributing factor to insect decline as nocturnal insects are most attracted to blue and white light. But the best piece of advice, according to the study cited earlier in Smithsonian Magazine, may be to "simply shut off lights at times and in places when they are not necessary."

Reducing the impact of artificial outdoor lighting is a goal of both Bird Town Pennsylvania and the National Wildlife Federation. By taking steps to do that, we are doing what residents of Bird Towns and NWF Community Wildlife Habitats are asked to do. Making some changes to your own outdoor lighting will benefit our local wildlife. Your neighbors will be grateful, as well.

Tom Price, *Council Vice-President*

..... Community Service Opportunity!

New Britain Borough's Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve



Spring Workdays
Saturdays 9:00 - 12:00
April 1 May 13
April 15 May 20



Please help us maintain and steward this Preserve!

For information, email pricet@newbritainboro.com

2023 Friends of New Britain Parks

Have you heard about Friends of New Britain Parks?

It turns out that if you give money to a municipality for a charitable purpose it does not qualify as a charitable deduction on your income tax! For you to receive a deduction, your donation must be given through a qualified charity.

When the Borough purchased the Miller Properties, a resident wished to donate \$18,000 to support the purchase, but it had to be through a IRS approved charity. Thus, New Britain Borough established Friends of New Britain Parks, which has a three-member board of voluntary directors headed by Tess LaMontagne, who is a qualified tax preparer.

- The Board of Directors is responsible to see that:
- The donor has clearly expressed the purpose of the donation.
- If so directed, the donor's name will be protected.
- The Borough Administration agrees to use the money for the intended purpose.
- The Borough Manager creates an account for the money.

The donor receives the correct information to include in their income tax return should they qualify for a deduction.

The Board of directors oversees the Borough Manager who is the one who handles the money.

Money donated to the charity will be spent as the donor wished. You can be anonymous, or your name can be made public. You can specify exactly what you wish the money is to be used for. Tess LaMontagne, the volunteer Chairperson for Friends of New Britain Parks can discuss how your donation will affect your taxes.

Since the fund was established, donors have given over \$50,000:

- Repairs & upgrades to the Nature Preserve's Miller House
- Trees replanted on the two Islands along Butler Avenue
- Unspecified money for the Nature Preserve
- Landscaping around the Borough office and Burkhart Hall

Opportunities for giving (Following the Borough's Comprehensive Plan) might be:

- Planting Street trees along Butler Avenue

- Purchasing and installing Benches along Butler Avenue sidewalks
- Establishing "Pocket Parks." At a minimum, they are small sitting areas, perhaps with benches by the sidewalk, and some landscaping.
- Funds to assist the purchase of land adjacent to the Nature Preserve.
- Development of walking paths in the Borough. (These are foot paths, not sidewalks.)

We will do our best to leverage donor funds by using them as our match for grants. For example, a \$1,250 donation might be matched by the donor's employer, resulting in a \$2,500 cash donation. In many cases the Borough can obtain a grant and use that money as its 50% match resulting in \$5,000. Add to this labor donated by our volunteers may amount to another \$1,000. So, your \$1,250 donation could become \$6,000! We can also include a memorial plaque.

If you are interested, please contact John Wolff, our Borough Manager. Wolffj@newbritainboro.com



An example of a Pocket Park located in front of The Perk, in Perkasié PA

Tess LaMontagne, Committee President

Peter LaMontagne, Council President

lamontagnep@newbritainboro.com

News from New Britain Borough's Shade Tree Commission

New Britain Borough is dedicated to becoming a walkable community. To this end, we have obtained well over a million dollars in grant funding to build sidewalks and bike and hike paths which enable people to walk and ride bikes for exercise and to reduce dependence on automobiles.

We established a Shade Tree Commission to develop and care for street trees along sidewalks and trails. Among the goals of the commission are:

- Conserve and protect the existing trees.
- Ensure that planned developments include suitable trees and shrubs to meet the borough's development requirements.
- Plant suitable trees along sidewalks and Bike and Hike trails to provide shade, buffer traffic noise, and reduce pollution.

The New Britain Borough Planning Commission has laid out in a general way the street scape along the sidewalks and paths. This would include benches and sitting areas and other amenities such as drinking fountains and bike maintenance stations where practical. The Street Tree Committee will help plan the details of how this will be carried out.

Our first project was the two islands on either side of the Post Office on Butler Avenue. The islands had dead and dying trees. We obtained some grant funding, some donations from individuals, and some Borough funds. Grants for almost anything require some cash, and to encourage donations, we've established a charity, Friends of New Britain Parks. (Money given through this portal qualifies as a charitable contribution on your tax return, and donors can place restrictions on what it can be used for).

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) and Tree Tenders

PHS's **Tree Tender Program** teaches people how to plant and care for trees. The Borough's Shade Tree Commission is partnering with the PHS to encourage homeowners to plant trees along the sidewalks and B&H trails

Under this program interested Borough Residents can take a short course to obtain training in trees planting and tree care through. Ideally, it's in person training in Philadelphia, but if that's not possible for you, they also offer a virtual program.

The next training program is Wednesdays May 10, 17, and 24, from 6 to 8:30 PM. There will be another program in the fall.

With completion of the training, you will join three other Borough Tree Tenders, and become one of over 6,000 volunteers who have gone through the program. Tree Tenders living in our Borough work to encourage and help residents choose suitable trees and to plant them along the sidewalks. We planted 14 trees last fall, and this spring we'll plant 20 more. It works like this:

We choose a section of the Borough, in this case Keeley Avenue, Butler Avenue to Lenape. We assist you in selecting trees for your lot. They must be planted within 10 feet of the sidewalk. You select the trees you would like to have from our list. The trees are sorted by their ultimate size. Small trees reach 20 to 30 feet when mature and are ideal under power lines. Medium trees 30-50 feet are suitable if the overhead lines are just communication lines, and the biggest trees that reach 60-70 feet are suitable where there is

nothing overhead. We'll look at your location and help you decide what size is suitable.

Applications for the Fall Planting will open later this open this summer. Contact New Britain Borough now to be put on the list for notification of the program.

The cost of the trees this Spring was \$60 per tree. This price is subsidized by other's donations to PHS. The trees aren't little sticks, they are 8 to 12 foot tall. You can see the ones we planted last fall along North Tamenend Ave. You'll recognize them by the two stakes which stabilize the trees through mid-summer.

A couple of weeks before the delivery of the trees, we'll have PA One Call come out and mark the underground water, gas and electric lines in your yard (obviously you don't want to lose the tree if the utilities have to be dug up at some point). Other than that, you choose where you want to plant them.

A few days before planting, Fran Dougherty, of Dougherty Landscaping, donated the time equipment and labor to drill 36" diameter holes. Later, Trained Tree Tenders, with the help of the Boy Scouts of Troop 36, will do some hand digging and enlarge the hole as necessary and assure that the tree is planted at the proper depth. We prune roots that are crossed, spread the roots out radially, and enlarge the hole as necessary. Lastly, we fill and tamp the hole, pound two stakes (which we supply) into the ground to brace the tree and tidy up the area. The homeowner removes the grass we dug up, and supplies bucket of water to start the tree on its way in its new home. That's it! Other than weekly watering the tree from early spring through the fall leaf drop for the first two years, you're done.

We live in the neighborhood, so if you have any questions, we will be glad to stop by.

In addition to the Shade Tree Program, the Borough's 2020 Comprehensive plan has recommended benches every 1/4 mile along the sidewalks and trails. The sidewalk is completed from the railroad tracks to Shady retreat road. There is one existing bench by the Post office, so the Comprehensive Plan suggests four additional benches. The plan also recommends some "Pocket parks" along the sidewalks and trails.

We're planning to plant trees along Butler Avenue, together with some miniparks,

An important part of walkability are places to sit. While they are only a convenience for many, they're a necessity for others. We are looking into a PECO grant which requires a 50% match. Friends of New Britain Parks currently has over \$2,000 in donations earmarked for the project, but we'll need about \$6-8,000 dollars more.

The Shade Tree Commission also interfaces with the Arbor Day Foundation. The Foundation is a nonprofit conservation and education organization with nearly one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, celebrate and nurture trees. As part of that, the Foundation awards a Tree City Designation to municipalities who meet their standards and goals for planting trees.

Peter LaMontagne, *Council President*
lamontagnep@newbritainboro.com

2023 BUCKS COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Registration is not required in Bucks County this year.

April 1	Lower Bucks	Bucks County Community College 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, Newtown Township
May 13	Upper Bucks	Upper Bucks Area Vocational Technical School 3115 Ridge Road, Perkasie, Bedminster Township
June 24	Central Bucks	Central Bucks South High School 1100 Folly Road, Warrington, Warrington Township
August 12	Lower Bucks	Bucks Technical School 610 Wistar Road, Fairless Hills, Bristol Township
October 28	Upper Bucks	Strayer Middle School 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown, Richland Township



Collection events run from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Rain or shine



What You Can Bring

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 or phrases that can signal hazardous products include: *poisonous, hazardous, combustible, flammable, corrosive, volatile, caustic, irritant, explosive, toxic, use with adequate ventilation, or avoid inhaling*.

Pesticides

- Chlordane
- DDT
- Malathion
- Sevin
- Rodent Poison

- Oil-based Paint
- Paint Thinner
- Spot Remover

Caustics

- Ammonia-based Cleaners
- Degreasers
- Drain Cleaner
- Household Lye
- Metal Cleaner
- Oven Cleaner

Flammables

- Aerosols
- Gas/Oil Mixture
- Gasoline
- Heating / Motor Oil
- Kerosene

Fire Extinguishers

Toxics

- Antifreeze
- CFLs (fluorescent bulbs/tubes)
- Mercury
- Photographic Chemicals
- Pool Chemicals
- Rust/Paint Remover
- Weed Killer

Batteries

- Button Batteries
- Lithium Batteries
- Re-Chargeable Batteries

Lead-Acid Batteries

- Car
- Marine
- Motorcycle
- Truck

Propane Tanks

- Mini Propane Tanks Only (2 lbs. or less)

What You Can't Bring

- ELECTRONICS**-TVs-Computers-Cell Phones-Any Corded Devices
- LATEX PAINT**-Non-Hazardous Waste/Water-based*
- Appliances**-with or without Freon
- Asbestos**
- Explosives / Ammunition**
- Gas Cylinders**
- Household Batteries**-Regular Alkaline
- Medical Waste / Prescription Drugs**
- Non-Hazardous Waste**
- PCBs**
- Pressurized CFCs / Freon**
- Propane Tanks**-Greater than 16 oz.
- Smoke Detectors**
- Radioactive Waste**
- Tires**
- Unidentified Waste**

*Remove lid to allow to air dry or mix with absorbent (e.g., kitty litter) until no longer a liquid and discard in plastic trash bag.

For additional information on disposal options, contact:

Bucks County Planning Commission

www.buckscounty.gov/recycling

215-345-3400

or

The PADEP Recycling Hotline at

1-800-346-4242

Why bring your household hazardous wastes to a scheduled event?

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 the air, water, or soil.



1260 Almshouse Road · Doylestown, PA 18901
215-345-3400 Fax: 215-345-3886

Email: planningcommission@buckscounty.org Website: www.buckscounty.gov

This program is a community service of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners and participating municipalities and is not open to business, industry, or institutions.

Bucks County Board of Commissioners

Robert J. Harvie, Jr., *Chair*

Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW, *Vice Chair*

Gene DiGirolamo, *Secretary*



02/21/2023

Dear New Britain Borough resident,

WM is proud to provide residents with automated 96-gallon cart services for waste and recycling collections. Thank you for helping keep our community clean and green.

Once-a-Week Waste, Recycling and Bulk Item collections:

Waste, recycling and one (1) bulk item will be picked up weekly on Wednesday. All carts and items must be at the curb no later than 6 a.m. on collection day. Place carts with handle facing away from street. Keep 4 feet between carts and away from trees, cars, mailboxes, etc. Contact WM to obtain a waste or recycle cart.

Waste cart – Please bag all waste before placing in cart. Do not overload. Waste outside of cart will not be collected. Additional waste cart is available at no charge. No household hazardous wastes allowed in cart.

Recycle cart – DO NOT BAG your recyclables – place items loose in the cart. Please flatten or breakdown cardboard boxes to fit. No plastic bags allowed in cart. See adjacent panel for recycling information.

Bulk item – One (1) bulk item per week is allowed. Please call WM to schedule a bulk item pickup 24-48 hours in advance of your collection day. Bulk item examples include: furniture, appliance, mattress, box spring, microwave, etc. Mattresses and box springs must be plastic wrapped for pickup. Carpet rolls (4 rolls = 1 bulk item) are acceptable when: cut into 4 ft width, rolled and bound, less than 50 lbs. each. Building material bundles (5 bundles = 1 bulk item) are acceptable when: bundle is less than 18 inches in diameter, less than 4 ft in length, and free of nails and screws. Refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers and dehumidifiers contain CFC/Freon gas and we prefer the gas be removed by a certified technician prior to pickup. Any questions you have about bulk item acceptance, please call WM customer service.

2023 Yard Waste Collections:

Grass, leaves, clipping, small branches, etc. are collected as trash. Residents may place out up to 180 gallons (3 bags) of yard waste per week on regular collection day. Place loose yard waste into rigid container or sturdy lawn waste bags. Branches may be bundled when: less than 4 ft long, bundled and tied with string. Each bundle or container should be less than 40 lbs. each. No dirt, stumps, root balls or rocks accepted.

Holiday Schedule

New Year’s Day	Memorial Day	Fourth of July
Labor Day	Thanksgiving Day	Christmas Day

When a holiday falls on or before your collection day, pickup will be delayed by one day for that week.

Electronics and Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) are NOT ACCEPTED

Under Pennsylvania law, WM will not pickup ANY TV, cell phone, computer, printer, monitor or electronic device. HHW such as; toxic chemicals, pesticides, oil-based paints, weed killers, automotive batteries, fuel, fluids or rechargeable batteries of any kind are NOT accepted. Please refer to the New Britain Borough website or Bucks County Recycling website for information and options.

For more information:

WM Customer Service	(800) 869-5566
New Britain Borough office	(215) 348-4586
Borough website	www.newbritainboro.com
Electronics/HHW disposal	www.buckscounty.org/recycling

Great things happen when New Britain Borough residents use Recycle Right and recycle the items shown below.

- Place only the acceptable recyclables shown below together in your recycling cart
- Containers that held food should be rinsed free of food debris and liquid
- Do not bag your recyclables - empty recyclables directly into your recycling cart

The following items may be recycled:



Always Recycle



Plastic Bottles & Containers



Paper



Glass Bottles & Containers



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Food & Beverage Cans



Do Not Include In Your Recycling Container



NO Food or Liquids



NO Foam Cups & Containers



NO Green Waste



NO Batteries

Check local drop-off programs for proper disposal



NO Loose Plastic Bags, Bagged Recyclables or Film
Empty recyclables directly into your bin.



NO Clothing, Furniture & Carpet

2023 Collection Calendar

Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste and Bulk Collection Days **Observed Holidays**

January 2023							February 2023							March 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023							May 2023							June 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
30																				

July 2023							August 2023							September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																			

October 2023							November 2023							December 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Observed 2023 Holidays

Please note, if a holiday occurs on or before collection day, your service will be delayed one day that week only.

New Year's Day: Sunday January 1, 2023

Independence Day: Tuesday July 4, 2023

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday November 23, 2023

Memorial Day: Monday May 29, 2023

Labor Day: Monday September 4, 2023

Christmas Day: Monday December 25, 2023



NEW BRITAIN BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

45 Keeley Avenue, New Britain, PA 18901

General Phone: **215-348-4586**

Website: www.newbritainboro.com General Email: nbboro@newbritainboro.com

Office Hours: 8:30am – 4:00pm Monday-Friday

BOROUGH DIRECTORY

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

James Donovan Mayor

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Peter LaMontagne President
 Tom Price Vice-President
 Lori Kesilman Council Member
 Steve Ascher Council Member
 Robyne Keleman Council Member
 Loren Frasco Council Member
 Jennifer Salisbury Council Member

BOROUGH STAFF

John Wolff Borough Manager
 Andrea Dewhurst Assistant Borough Manager
 Dave Bernhauser Financial Director
 Bryan Coleman Road Superintendent
 Mike Italia Building/Zoning Officer
 Nicole Percetti Tax Collector
 Michael Peters Borough Solicitor
 Karen McNair Borough Engineer
 Judy Stein Goldstein Borough Planning Consultant
 Michael Italia Fire Marshal
 Karl Knott Police Chief @ Central Bucks Regional Police

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

9-1-1

Barry Issett (Code & Zoning)	484-928-8132
Bucks County Board of Elections	215-348-6154
Bucks County Visitor's Bureau	215-639-0300
Bucks County Court House	215-348-6000
Bucks County Health Department	215-345-3318
Bucks County Recycling	215-345-3400
Bucks County Voter Registration	215-348-6163
Bucks County Wildlife (Animal Control)	215-752-8725
Central Bucks EMS	215-348-3343 (non-emergency)
Central Bucks Regional Police	215-345-4143 (non-emergency)
Chal-Brit Regional EMS	215-822-1308 (non-emergency)
Chalfont Fire Department	215-822-3434 (non-emergency)
Dart Bus	215-794-5554
Doylestown Fire Department	215-348-2656 (non-emergency)
Doylestown Hospital	215-345-2200 (non-emergency)
Dog Licensing	215-348-6244
Gaming Commission - Southeast Division	610-926-3136 (for dead animals on roads)
New Britain Borough Inspection Scheduling	610-723-7719
New Britain Civic Association	215-345-8750
PennDot	215-345-6060
PA One-Call (BEFORE YOU DIG)	8-1-1
PADEP	800-346-4242
SEPTA (R5 LINE)	215-580-7800
Tax Collector (Nicole Percetti)	215-822-2930
Tax Collector (Keystone)	215-491-1282
Waste Management	800-869-5566

NEW BRITAIN BOROUGH DISTRICT COURT

962 Town Center, New Britain, PA 18901
215-230-7265
Judge Armitage

NEW BRITAIN POST OFFICE

85 W Butler Avenue, New Britain, PA 18901
215-348-7082



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Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 675-2330

New Britain Office:
100 Town Center
New Britain, PA 18901
(267) 247-5049

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New Britain, PA 18901

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- Members will have access to unlimited online classes and over 100 different courses from which to choose. Whether you love music, art, writing, birdwatching or history we have something for everyone.
- CLR offers online social events for members through Zoom
- Expert tech support volunteers make sure everyone has a great experience!

▶ delval.edu/clr



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