

# *Borough of* **NEW BRITAIN**

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*Spring/Summer 2024 Issue*

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• **Cutting-edge plant health care treatments**, including nutritional support, feeding, pest control, and treatment of disease.

**"SATISFACTION THAT GROWS!"**

## New Britain Civic Association .....

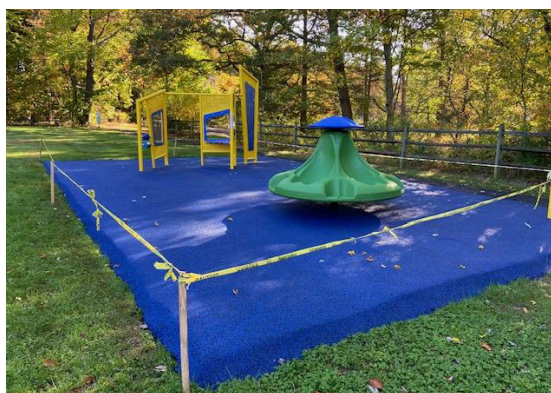
Covered Bridge Park and the Civic Association which owns and operates the park is a 501-C-3 non-profit and receives no monies from any government organization. Please visit our website ([www.newbritaincivic.com](http://www.newbritaincivic.com)) for more information.

A big shout out to all who contributed to the New Equipment for children of special needs at Covered Bridge Park. These are specifically designed for children of special needs and were installed on November of 2023.

The major contributors were:

- \$10,000 o the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown Hospital
- \$1000 up to \$3000 o Eastburn and Gray
  - Gilmore and Associates
  - Ambrose Randa

We also want to thank all of those who made a contribution to this project, which had a total cost of just over \$53,000. We do plan on expanding the number of pieces of equipment at the park in the future. Again, thanks to all who support Covered Bridge Park and the New Britain Civic Association which owns and operates the Park.



Covered Bridge Summer Camp Program will continue this year! **Registration begins February 1st, 2024, and it fills up fast!** Camp is being held starting Monday, June 24th and ending Friday, August 2nd. The camp offers a great opportunity for children between 6 and 12 years of age to participate in numerous activities daily. It is held 'weather permitting', from 9 am through 3 pm. More information will be available on February 1st. The cost for the entire 6-week program will be **\$550 per child**. Check our website [www.newbritaincivic.com](http://www.newbritaincivic.com).



The New Britain Civic Association is planning on having our Covered Bridge Day Event this year on June 1st, 2024. Keep the day open for entertainment, food, and family fun with fireworks after dark. More information will be available on our website as the date approaches. We also ask that everyone will consider making a donation to offset the cost of the fireworks, which is anticipated to be in excess of \$4,500.

...also, a big

*Thank You!*

To all those who attended Duck Derby and the Tree Lighting events in 2023!! Both were well attended and enjoyed by the community.

*continued on page 4*

# Summer Camp

Summer Camp 2024 will run from

**June 24 to August 2, 2024 (9am to 3pm)**

CHILDREN 6 to 12 YEARS OF AGE ~ NO EXCEPTIONS ~



..... **Fiftieth Anniversary of Borough's Nature Preserve!** .....

***It was in 1974 that New Britain Borough established what became the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve***



*The Sidebotham Tract viewed from Matthews Avenue in 1970*



*Wilma Quinlan in 1981*

It was over fifty years ago that New Britain Borough purchased the land that is now the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve. But without the efforts and vision of a small group of determined Borough officials and residents, that purchase would never have happened, and the Nature Preserve would not exist today.

The land, 23.75-acres along the Neshaminy Creek, was the largest piece of open space remaining in the Borough. It had been part of the former Spagna Farm and had been sold to Frank and Jane Sidebotham in 1965. The Sidebothams formed the Side Land Development Company to develop the property for commercial or industrial use. Alarmed at that prospect, Council member Wilma Quinlan rallied support for a different idea: to have the Borough purchase the Sidebotham Tract as a nature preserve where Borough residents and other visitors could enjoy passive recreation activities such as hiking, nature study, wildlife observation, and birding. The purchase was necessary, she said, to “preserve open space for our children and grandchildren.”

The Sidebothams were willing to sell the land to the Borough. There were no Borough funds available for the proposed purchase, however, so Wilma Quinlan and resident Larry Miller launched a year-long campaign to obtain the grants and contributions that eventually made the purchase possible. While supporting the campaign, Borough Council made it clear it had no intention of purchasing the land if the grants and contributions failed to come through.

While both the Borough Council and the Borough's Planning Commission endorsed the effort to purchase the Sidebotham Tract, not everyone did. Following the monthly council meeting in July 1970, the *Intelligencer* reported that “several citizens spoke pro and con” about the proposed land

purchase. And the Mayor at the time was strongly opposed at first, citing the “too high” purchase price, the already existing park in the Borough, future maintenance costs, and the loss of tax revenue.

The initial asking price for the property was \$68,000. The Borough made a counteroffer of \$60,400, which was the eventual purchase price. Appraisal, legal, and settlement costs raised the total cost of the purchase to \$62,570, but most of that money came from federal and state government grants. Thanks to those grants, and several private contributions obtained through the fundraising campaign, the cost of the purchase to Borough taxpayers was just \$4,229.02!

Settlement for the purchase was held on August 16, 1971, which is the date on the deed to the property. The deed was held in Escrow for four months until all the promised grant money was received. An *Intelligencer* article, “Many Chip in to Buy Park,” reported on the formal transmitting of the deed to the Borough and stated that the Borough “closed the deal” in February 1972. A ceremony was held on the Sidebotham Tract to mark the completion of the property's acquisition.

In 1972, an Open Space Committee was established for the management of the Sidebotham Tract. Borough residents Dr. John Mertz, associate professor of biology at Delaware Valley College and Dr. Miriam Groner, a professor of botany at Penn State's Ogontz campus, were the committee members most involved in the initial planning and creation of the new nature preserve. At the request of Borough Council, Dr. Mertz wrote a detailed development plan for the preserve, and while there were no funds available to implement the plan, Council wanted the area immediately available for “passive recreation.” Dr. Groner created the first trail maps for the new preserve, conducted a plant inventory, and wrote a proposal for future plantings of “only native plants.”

*continued on page 5*

## Fiftieth Anniversary of Borough's Nature Preserve! (continued from page 4)

Formal dedication ceremonies for the "New Britain Nature Preserve" were held on September 21, 1974, at which the President of the Bucks County Audubon Society was the featured speaker. An Intelligencer article announcing the scheduled dedication pointed out that an objective of the committee responsible for managing the Preserve is "to provide an opportunity for nature lovers to see how nature itself reforests what was once farmland."

In January 1980, Borough Council passed a resolution recognizing Wilma Quinlan's efforts "in securing the New Britain Nature Preserve" and changing the name of the preserve to the "Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve." The Intelligencer article reporting on the rededication included a photo showing Wilma Quinlan in front of a new preserve sign

bearing her name. The article described the former council member as "the driving force behind the creation of a nature preserve." Mrs. Quinlan is quoted as saying, "we wanted to do something for preservation, thinking that if we didn't, there would be nothing left for our grandchildren." She goes on to express satisfaction that "we did the sensible thing."

*Note: Since the purchase of the original 24 acres in 1971, the Borough has continued to add land to the Nature Preserve, so that the Preserve encompasses 34 acres today. Continuing the precedent set with the purchase of the Sidebotham Tract, this additional acreage had been obtained entirely through grants and donations - of both land and money. No Borough funds (i.e., Taxpayer dollars) have been used to expand the Preserve.*

## Thank you on behalf of the New Britain Borough Preservation Committee .....

In 2023 Wreaths Across America sent 3 million wreaths to place on veteran's graves at 4,225 sites across the nation and around the world. Our historic cemetery at the New Britain Baptist Church was one of those sites.

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 12 years and wishes to thank all the individuals that supported our 2023 Wreaths Across America program. This important event wouldn't have been 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

June Bair, New Britain Historic Preservation Committee Chair, and Fundraising Lead

Marie Esher Coia Ceremony Coordinator

David Holewinski Master of Ceremonies

Veterans from the Chalfont VFW Post 3258

Veterans who presented the memorial wreaths, New Britain residents Coast Guard Seaman John Remmey and Army Specialist Anthony Coia. Veterans from the Chalfont VFW Post 3258 including Airforce & Marine Colonel Woody Hippel, Air Force Master Sergeant Chuck McNevin, Navy Lieutenant Commander Jeremy Biediger and Army Sergeant Major David Dantzler.

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

Thank you to everyone that sent in donations for wreaths 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 all the veterans buried in the historic New Britain Baptist Church cemetery.

For more information about Wreaths Across America visit [www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org). Donations for 2024 can be made to our location by searching for New Britain Baptist Church cemetery (PA0067).

## Chalfont Fire Company Auxiliary Events For 2024 .....

**2/17** Rummage, soup, baked goods and Used Book sale

**3/16** Rummage, soup, baked goods and used book sale

**4/21** Buffet Breakfast

**5/28** Turkey Hoagies

**6/29** Flea Market

**9/4** Turkey Hoagies

**10/26** Craft Show

**11/16** Bingo

**12/1** Community Christmas Sing



## Stormwater Management Program .....

*Written by: Karen MacNair, Gilmore & Associates, Borough Engineer*

The Borough is required to enforce a Stormwater Management Program designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the public storm sewer system to protect water quality per the requirements of the Clean Water Act and Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law. The public storm sewer system includes storm sewer inlets, piping, swales, catch basins, channels, and even roads. Pollutants include soil, garbage, sewage, and nutrients found in fertilizers.

As part of this Program, the Borough submits periodic reports to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection detailing how it complies with 6 Minimum Control Measure categories: Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts; Public Involvement/Participation; Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination; Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control; Construction Stormwater Management; and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping. The Borough is also required to enforce a Pollution Reduction Plan and Total Maximum Daily Load Plan to reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorus reaching Cooks Run, Pine Run, and Neshaminy Creek via the public storm sewer system.

The most important thing to keep in mind is that the public storm sewer system does not get treated - anything that enters the Borough's system eventually reaches Cooks Run, Pine Run, and Neshaminy Creek. Some easy things you can do every day to help protect water quality include:

- Dispose of pet waste in the trash
- Mulch lawn clippings back into the lawn to provide natural fertilizer
- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains
- Store and dispose of any hazardous products properly
- Reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides on lawns and gardens
- Place litter in trash receptacles

If you notice water flowing in the public storm sewer system during times of dry weather, this is a potential sign that there could be a problem. Please report any concerns to New Britain Borough at 215-348-4586.

For more information, you can check out the Borough's Stormwater Management webpage: <https://www.newbritainboro.com/information/storm-water-awareness/>

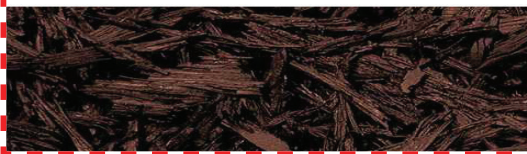
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## Message from the Mayor – James Donovan .....

To the Residents of New Britain Borough,

When you read this, another year will have come and gone with many memorable events and a new year will have started with a great deal of changes, some of which will have a direct impact on all of us.



- The New Britain Borough Car Show, held at Lenape Valley Church was a huge success and there are too many people to thank. So let me say a general thank you to all the area businesses that allowed for much of what we did on that day and to Lenape Valley Church for hosting the event.
- The Pop-Up Park held at the Town Center is becoming an event that many are attending and sourcing their native plants, trees or shrubs for their homes and businesses.
- Many improvements have been made at the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve, Orchard Park and the Civic Association's Covered Bridge Park. All through the tireless support of volunteers.
- Wreaths Across America which was a nationwide celebration for all those men and women who have served this great country with honor and distinction. A wonderful tribute held at the New Britain Baptist Church attended by many residents, Borough Council members, a local Cub Scout troop and a color guard made up of retired service members who laid wreaths in remembrance of all those who have served in every branch of the U.S. military. It was truly an honor just being in attendance.
- The Borough's holiday party was held at the New Britain Inn to say thank you to all the volunteers who go above and beyond with their time and effort to help make New Britain Borough a great place to live. They are all irreplaceable.

We continue to be supported by the Chalfont Fire Company and EMS, as well as the Doylestown Fire Company and they do all of it with volunteers. We owe them a debt of gratitude and if you have an interest in getting involved, please give them a call.

One of the changes that will have happened is with Borough Council. Alex Bentrin won election in November and will finish a 2-year term as its newest member. Please welcome him and reach out if you have questions, concerns or just to say hello.

The biggest changes to occur in the Borough this coming year are all a bit interrelated. Three new officers will have been hired by Central Bucks Regional Police Department, a much-needed new staff member will have been hired at the Borough office and hopefully we will have an agreement with Chalfont Borough to help provide municipal services to our Borough that is so badly needed. The relationship all these changes have is the tax increase that was passed in order to pay for these specific additional services. I truly wish this didn't have to happen, but each change was badly needed and there was no other way to accomplish it. We're all going to feel it, but I am hopeful the financial situation here in New Britain Borough has a better outlook for the next couple of years.

As I have in each of these letters, I ask that you to reach out to me if there is something I can do. It can be as simple as answering a question or as involved as needed to help with a problem or important issue. I will continue to do my best to make New Britain Borough a wonderful place to live.

James Donovan, *New Britain Borough Mayor*

215-348-4586

[jdonovan@newbritainboro.com](mailto:jdonovan@newbritainboro.com)

## Hello New Britain Borough Neighbors .....

My name is Maureen Loh, and I am one of your newly elected council members. I am humbled and honored to be a voice on council, and I thank all who voted for me. The reason I chose to run for this position is simple; I want to help make New Britain Borough a great place to call home. We have a lot to be grateful for in this community: our parks, our businesses, and you, the great people of New Britain.

I have been fortunate to live here for over five years and in Bucks County for almost 35 years.

I hope that during my term as council member I can contribute to maintaining our parks and infrastructure, spending our tax dollars responsibly and developing relationships with our state officials as well. I will also be heading the annual car show. It has been very successful in the past, largely because of volunteers. Please email me or call the borough office if you are interested; it takes people like you to pull it off!

I also encourage everyone to try and attend a council meeting. There, you have an opportunity for the council to hear your concerns and ideas.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. If you see a short woman walking a big black Great Dane, that's me; stop and say hi!

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve all the people of New Britain Borough.

## A Self-Portrait of YOU! .....



### Picture yourself...

- Helping your friends and neighbors in times of greatest need, saving lives and property in New Britain Borough;
- With new, nationally recognized knowledge and skills in a field respected by all;
- As part of a team that cares for one another and their families, always there to share the joys, challenges and possibilities life brings;
- Constantly growing in your ability to serve others with the education and training needed ALL paid for by the team of which you're a member;
- As a person serving New Britain Borough in a way that makes your family and friends prouder than ever to have you in their lives.

If you find your interest in this new self-portrait growing and your heart warming to the possibilities, you need to contact us at Doylestown Fire Company #1!

For over 100 years, the men and women of Doylestown Fire Company #1 have been serving New Britain Borough, Doylestown Borough, Doylestown Township, New Britain Township and Buckingham Township in protecting and saving lives and property via the service described above. Through Doylestown Fire Company #1, people who want more from life realize the power of service to others in defining who they want to be.

**To learn more and explore YOUR possibilities contact us at:**

**Doylestown Fire Company #1**

**Phone: 215-348-2656**

**[www.doylestownfireco.org](http://www.doylestownfireco.org)**

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## POP UP PARK RETURNING TO TOWN CENTER SEPTEMBER 20th and 21st

The New Britain Borough's EAC (Environmental Advisory Council) will be holding its NATIVE PLANT POP-UP PARK on the third weekend of September. The Pop-up Park will be located in the parking lot of the New Britain Town Center on west Butler Avenue. It will open at NOON on FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 and close at 10:00 P.M. on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21. We plan on having live music on Friday and Saturday evening. Park visitors are invited to dine at the park both evenings. You can bring your own food or order it from one of our local restaurants.

### NATIVE PLANTS on DISPLAY and FOR SALE

FALL IS FOR PLANTING and there will be a variety of native plants for you to purchase. These plants have been chosen for their value as pollinators as well as food and shelter for birds and wildlife. Members of the EAC committee will be at the park to answer any questions about our plants and help you make the best selection for your yard. There will be free handouts and displays of literature on native plants. We look forward to helping you create a healthy haven for birds and butterflies. NOW is the time to mark your calendar for this event!

Marge Eberz - EAC and Bird Town committee member, [mte54@verizon.net](mailto:mte54@verizon.net)





## Street Trees for Hillside Village, New Britain Borough .....

Written by: Peter LaMontagne

For several years, New Britain Borough has been partnering with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) to enable residents to have trees along the streets and sidewalks. It's a big program, this fall PHS planted 1,700 trees in municipalities in and around Greater Philadelphia! Over this year and last, New Britain Boro volunteers have planted 50 trees with a 95% survival rate. This has been possible in part by **Fran Dougherty Landscaping**, who donates the equipment and labor to predrill the 36" diameter holes, saving us a huge amount of shovel work, A bit more complicated than it appears. There is an initial 2" cut that removes the grass. It's important that grass is not buried in the dirt as it will inhibit tree growth. Then the hole is drilled 8 to 10 inches deep. Planting the tree usually requires some hand digging, and hand packing the dirt around the roots. Lastly the tree is staked and tied to keep it up right and allow the roots to grow. The stakes remain until the summer growing season is over. The homeowner supplies one bag of mulch which we spread around the tree. Thereafter the Homeowner is responsible for watering the tree. They don't require much watering until the spring, and then about 5 gallons of water every 3-4 days, and this continues until late fall.



Volunteer PHS Tree Tenders and other volunteers' others plant the trees and provide follow up care

These trees are grown in upstate New York, and harvested bare rooted, treated, bagged, and shipped to Philadelphia.

The trees are typically 1.5" diameter trees 8-12 feet tall. The price this fall was \$70 each, which is about 1/3 the cost of a tree from a nursery. Trained volunteers can help you decide where to plant them (PHS requires they be planted within 10 feet of a road or sidewalk). We can also help you select trees that are suitable for the intended location. In the list of trees below, those planted near PECO power lines need to be Small, trees under communication lines can be medium, and trees not under lines can be large.

(The table below is from the fall 2023 planting and is typical).

We also locate underground utilities so as not to plant over underground utilities. PHS does require that they be within 10 feet of the road or sidewalk.

If you drive down Keeley Avenue, or better yet walk, you'll see trees near the sidewalk, bike, and hike trail staked with two stakes. These are among the many trees planted in this program.

This year we are focusing on **Hillside Village**. The trees' mature heights are listed below. This list is from fall 2023. The spring 2024 list will be out about four to six weeks before the spring planting.

Species	Common	Native*	size	Notes
<b>SMALL (20-30' tall)</b> , compatible near electric lines				
AMELANCHIER 'ROBIN HILL PINK'**	Apple Serviceberry	X	20x12	Edible street or lawn tree; part shade to full sun; great wildlife value; full, uniform crown; pink buds turn to white flowers; occasionally diseases such as powdery mildew, rust, leaf spot, and fire blight may affect the plant's health; may root sucker; mildly resistant to deer; natural hybrid between Downy ( <i>Amel. arborea</i> ) & Allegheny serviceberry ( <i>Amel. laevis</i> )
AMELANCHIER LAEVIS 'LUSTRE'**	Allegheny Serviceberry	X	25x15	Edible street or lawn tree with upright open form; part shade to full sun; great wildlife value; some deer resistance; some drought and salt tolerance; minimal suckering; orange-red fall color; no serious insect or disease problems. Rust, leaf spot, fire blight, powdery mildew and canker are occasional disease problems
CARPINUS CAROLINIANA	American Hornbeam	X	30x25	Full sun to shade, slow growth, tolerates wide range of soils and moisture levels, low salt tolerance, muscle-like trunk
CERCIS CANADENSIS	Eastern Redbud	X	25x30	Flat-topped spreading, open, irregular; purplish-pink flowers; has flat leguminous pods; tolerant of drought and many soil types; full sun or slight shade; nursery/Cornell cautions may be mod. difficulty transplant as bare root, but PHS has seen good establishment (even as urban street tree)
MALUS 'PURPLE PRINCE'	Crabapple		20x20	Bronze leaf; Rose red flower; Maroon fruit; good disease resistance

continued on page 10

## Street Trees for Hillside Village, New Britain Borough ..... (continued from page 9)

Species	Common	Native*	size	Notes
<b>SMALL (20-30' tall), compatible near electric lines</b>				
PRUNUS X 'ACCOLADE'	Flowering Cherry		25x20	Rounded to vase shaped, double pink flowers.
<b>MEDIUM (30-50') May NOT be compatible near electric lines</b>				
ACER RUBRUM 'REDPOINTE'	Red Maple 'Red pointe'	X	40x35	Strong central leader; well branched, symmetrical crown; bright red fall color; great shade and street tree; climate resilient tree
CLADRASTIS KENTUCKEA	Yellowwood	X	40x35	Broadly rounded form; may have low branching; slow growing; climate change adaptable; full sun; white drooping fragrant flowers; small seedpods; prune only in summer, excessive bleeding may occur in winter/spring
AESCULUS GLABRA	Ohio Buckeye	X	30x30	May grow 20-40 tall, early leaf out, bright green foliage and greenish yellow flowers -- Native
GLEDITSIA T.I.'SKYLINE'	Honey locust	X	40-45 x 35	Some sources report it can grow over 50'; broadly pyramidal; good central leader; uniform habit; has high potential to lift sidewalk so prepare wide pits if planting as a street tree, climate resilient tree
HALESIA CAROLINA	Carolina Silverbell	X	35x25	Rounded; prefers acidic, organic, moist, well-drained soil; quite pest resistant; white bell-like flowers; Sun or partial shade.
MAGNOLIA VIRGINIANA 'MOONGLOW'	Sweet Bay Magnolia	X	35x18	Small evergreen magnolia, cold hardy, vigorous upright, low maintenance
OSTRYA VIRGINIANA **	American Hophornbeam	X	40x25	Climate change is appropriate. Dlr says moderate growth rate, low maintenance, compatible with streets and urban soils, seedlings are variable
<b>LARGE (50' and greater) NOT compatible near electric lines</b>				
ACER SACCHARUM 'GREEN MOUNTAIN'	Sugar Maple	X	70x40	Rounded form; southern adaptive; leathery leaves don't tatter; great shade tree; heat tolerant, thus more climate change appropriate than other sugar maple; more drought tolerant in open areas; will tolerate a wide variety of soil types (except compacted soil) but is not salt-tolerant; strong branch attachments
CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS	Hackberry	X	60x40	Irregular rounded form; corky bark; urban adaptable; tolerates adverse conditions; needs room to grow; wildlife value
GINKGO BILOBA 'MAGYAR'	Ginkgo		50x25	Pyramidal, symmetrical, upright, narrow; golden yellow fall color; male seedless tree with no fruit
GYMNOCLADUS DIOICUS 'ESPRESSO'	Kentucky Coffee tree	X	60x30	Seedless male cultivar; upright, arching branches present elm-like form; slow growing and awkward youth but gorgeous adulthood; clean branching; adaptable to poor and urban soils; heat and drought tolerance - said to be a climate change survivor
LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA**	Tulip tree	X	70X40	Tall pyramidal; needs lots of room; perhaps less climate change appropriate
PLATANUS ACER. 'EXCLAMATION'	London planetree		55x35	Upright pyramidal; strong central leader; urban tolerant, resistant to anthracnose and frost cracking, not as much canker outside city
QUERCUS BICOLOR	Swamp White Oak	X	60x40	Rounded; tolerates wet and dry; easy transplant; exfoliating bark; 1" acorns; prefers acid soil; One of our most popular selections last seasons and for good reason!
TILIA AMERICANA 'REDMONDI'	American Linden	X	65x30	Pyramidal form; good street or lawn tree; tolerates dry, variable pH; fragrant flower; glossy foliage
ULMUS X 'TRIUMPH'	Hybrid Elm		55x45	Oval to vase form; symmetrical; DED and phloem necrosis resistance; Accolade x Vanguard cross (both carcinophobia - smooth leaf)

This really is a good deal for everyone! Please contact Peter LaMontagne ( LaMontagneP@newbritainboro.com.) Or call 267-252-3283. if you would like to consider participating in this program to improve our neighborhoods.





## Friends of New Britain Parks, Inc. 509(a)(3)

### Donation Form

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (for any questions): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If your donation amount is \$1200 or more, please fill out the dedication information below so that a plaque can be made in honor of the organization or person you would like to pay tribute to. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form along with your check to: Friends of New Britain Parks, Inc. • 45 Keeley Avenue • New Britain, PA 18901*



## New Britain Borough's Monthly Scheduled Meetings

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st	Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting 7:30pm Burkart Hall	Friends of New Britain Parks Meeting 6:00pm Burkart Hall (WILL MEET AS NEEDED)  Financial Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00pm Burkart Hall (WILL MEET AS NEEDED)  Human Relations Commission Meeting 7:30pm Burkart Hall (WILL MEET AS NEEDED)		Nature Preserve Committee Meeting 7:30pm Burkart Hall	
2nd	EAC Meeting 7:00pm Burkart Hall		Borough Council Meeting 7:30pm Burkart Hall	Community & Business Committee Meeting 7:30pm Burkart Hall	
3rd	Shade Tree Commission Meeting 7:30pm Burkart Hall	Bike & Hike Committee Meeting 8:00am Doylestown Twp  Planning Commission Meeting 7:30pm Burkart Hall	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting 10:00am Admin Building	Zoning Hearing Board Scheduled Hearings 7:30pm Burkart Hall (WILL MEET AS NEEDED)	
4th	Civic Association Meeting 7:00pm Burkart Hall		Public Work Committee Meeting 7:00pm Burkart Hall (WILL MEET AS NEEDED)	Appointment Advisory Committee Meeting 7:30pm Burkart Hall (WILL MEET AS NEEDED)	

UPDATED 01/2024

## Car Show Committee

November 6, 2023

To All,

On Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, New Britain Borough held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Show at Lenape Valley Church on Butler Ave. With the weather cooperating, the day turned in to a huge success. We are still waiting on a final count for the number of registered vehicles, but it appears to be well over (100) with many others just bringing their cars around to get a look. The New Britain Civic Association's ADA Playground will be the recipient of donation proceeds.

There are so many people involved and things that have to be done and organized to put on an event like this. I want to personally thank Lenape Valley Church for so graciously offering to let us use their building, grounds and equipment. Without them, the show would not go on. To the greater New Britain Borough Business Community, there are too many names to mention, but your generosity and support were critical to the success of our show.

To all the members of the Doylestown Road Angels who gave their time, advice and expertise, your support is greatly appreciated. To all the members of Chalfont Fire Department and the Central Bucks Regional Police Department, your time and support provided to our community is outstanding and does not go unnoticed.

To our vendors and musicians, we appreciated you working with us and your support of our event. I hope the community showed you their support in return.

To the participants (Car Owners), you all showed up and I believe provided a wonderful cross section of old and new vehicles that gave everyone a sense of the great history and connection to our automobiles. I personally spoke with many of you, and I can't emphasize strongly enough, how enjoyable it was hearing your stories and seeing the time, effort and pure joy every one of you put in to your vehicles. I truly hope we gave you a day to remember.

A few people to mention whose time and effort truly helped put this show on. Thank you.

- Loren Frasco
- Steve Ascher
- Janice Kimenhour
- Al Tursi
- Greg Bullough
- Andrea Dewhurst
- John Wolff

I hope to see you again next year.

James D. Donovan  
Mayor of New Britain Borough





## Letter from the Manager .....

### 2024 Budget Process

New Britain Borough's fiscal year coincides with the calendar year, beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

The annual Borough budget is developed and analyzed throughout the fiscal year. In many cases, three fiscal-year budgets are being worked on in one fiscal year: closing out the previous year's budget, analyzing and working through the current year's budget, and developing the next year's budget. At the same time, Borough Council and staff continue to monitor the rolling budget and make additions or deletions as warranted.

The process begins with a comparison of the current budget to actual revenues and expenditures. We are able to learn from any discrepancies and incorporate that knowledge into the proposed budget. We also evaluate current operations and staffing to see if adjustments are needed.

Starting in August, staff begin providing input and identifying needs for the coming fiscal year. We then develop estimated costs for those needs using the past 3 years' budget as a starting point. Additional Capital budget requests are also reviewed.

Police protection for New Britain Borough is provided by the Central Bucks Regional Police Department, which serves Doylestown, New Britain, and Chalfont Boroughs. The Department was formed in 2014 by Doylestown and New Britain Boroughs, with Chalfont Borough joining in 2016. The percentage share contributions from each municipality are reviewed annually and are based on road miles, three-year average call volume, three-year year average crimes and population.

The foregoing information in hand, a first draft of the budget is assembled. Once the first draft is ready, and revenue and expenditure numbers solidified, the Borough Manager makes decisions on what to recommend to the Borough Council. The analysis takes into account the priority of budget requests, impact to the community, and potential tax implications. After the analysis is complete, the Borough Manager finalizes the proposed budget and transmits it to Borough Council. The first budget work session is held in October and is the Council's first review of the entire budget and capital requests for all departments.

A second budget review was being held at the Council's regular November meeting. Through this process, the Council will work with the Manager and Finance Director to understand the proposed budget and ensure it meets the needs of the community. The Council may amend the proposed budget as it deems necessary. When Borough Council is comfortable with the budget, it will provide notice to the public, including through advertisement in the local paper, that the proposed budget is ready for public inspection.

After the Council provides notice of the proposed budget and the required time for public inspection has passed, it may make final amendments to the budget, if desired, and then adopt the budget no later than December 31. In conjunction with adoption of the budget, Borough Council will establish millage rates and fees for the coming year.

New Britain Borough's 2024 Budget calls for an eight mill increase **overall** in the property tax levy. This increase is one of the highest increases this Borough has ever had to make but will provide several services New Britain Borough needs to provide. With the support of our council and residents this tax levy will strengthen our police force in a changing time. Our police department has been understaffed for a while and our Police Commission has agreed to hire 2 new additional police officers to help this department. The other service that Council has approved is a shared Public Works Department. For the first time in the history of the Borough we will have a pro-active public works. This is an intergovernmental agreement between New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough that will have someone on-call for emergencies 24/7, fill potholes, repair signs and clean and repair stormwater in-lets and systems as well as other projects. We will not have to contact or find a contractor to do these projects. This is an exciting time for the borough.

This year Council has reinstated the Park and Recreation tax category. In 2014, this category was removed, and the associated costs were assigned to the General Fund. This puts a strain on the General Fund, which covers the cost for most of the Borough's operations.

The New Britain Borough Real Estate Tax continues to be the lower portion of a Borough homeowner's overall Real Estate Tax bill at 42.550 compared to the School District's 131.60 mills. All these changes come with a minimal cost. This is why there is an 8 mill increase overall.

If you would like any more information or comments regarding this 2024 budget, please do not hesitate to call the office or stop in and we can give you the complete budget package.

Sincerely,

John Wolff, *Borough Manager*



## 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  
Steve Ascher Council Member  
Robyne Keleman Council Member  
Loren Frasco Council Member  
Maureen Loh Council Member  
Alexander G. Bentrim Council Member

#### BOROUGH STAFF

John Wolff Borough Manager  
Andrea Dewhurst Assistant Borough Manager  
Dave Bernhauser Financial Director  
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) 215-622-1616  
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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# Safety with E-Bikes and E-Scooters



*The popularity of electric bikes and electric scooters (e-bikes and e-scooters) has taken off over the past few years. Lithium-ion batteries are usually the source of power for both, and if not used correctly, or if damaged, those batteries can catch on fire or explode. Whether you use e-bikes or e-scooters as your main way of getting around, or just for fun, there are important safety tips to keep in mind when charging or storing these devices.*

## THE PROBLEM

- Damaged or defective batteries can overheat, catch fire, or explode.
- Lithium-ion battery fires give off toxic gases and they burn extremely hot.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.
- Always follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- Only use the battery and the charger that were designed for, and came with, the device.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Only charge one device or device battery at a time to prevent overloading the circuit.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Do not store batteries in direct sunlight or inside hot vehicles, and keep them away from children and liquids.
- Store e-bikes, e-scooters, and batteries away from exit doors and anything that can get hot or catch fire.

- Only have device repairs performed by a qualified professional.
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take the batteries to a battery recycling location or contact your local waste department for disposal instructions.

## SIGNS OF A PROBLEM

Stop using the e-bike or e-scooter if you notice any of these problems with the battery: unusual odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, smoking, or not keeping a charge.



*If you see a fire...*

- Leave the building immediately
- Don't try to fight the fire
- Call 911

**LEARN  
MORE**

Visit [nfpa.org/ebikes](https://nfpa.org/ebikes)



*Information sourced from [nfpa.org/ebikes](https://nfpa.org/ebikes)*





## RAIN BARRELS

*Help Conserve Water  
and Save Money!*



### WHAT EXACTLY IS A RAIN BARREL?

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rain water from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains, streams, and eventually the Delaware River watershed. It is constructed using a reused 55 gallon food grade barrel, a bottom drain, a spigot, an overflow a screen to keep debris and insects out, and a downspout diverter to carry the water into the rain barrel.

A rain barrel is a relatively simple and inexpensive way to capture and store rain water for use at later times. It conveniently sits under residential gutter downspouts from you home, garage, and/or shed.

### BENEFITS OF USING A RAIN BARREL

Lawn and garden watering can take up a large percentage or total percentage of total household water use during the summer months. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most, during periods of drought! A rain barrel provides an ample supply of FREE water for flowers, gardens, lawns, and even car washing!

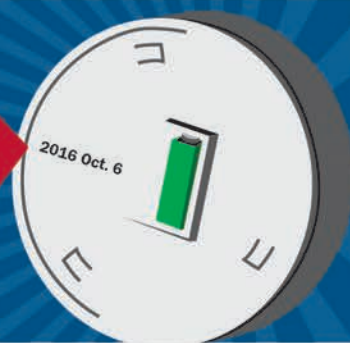
A rain barrel can conserve water and save YOU money during peak summer months. Conserving water helps protect the environment, saves energy (decreased demand for treated tap water and well water) and decreased the impact of runoff to streams and the Delaware River. Therefore by installing a rain barrel YOU can help protect the water quality, aquatic species, drinking water quality, and recreation in the Delaware River watershed.

A formula to remember: 1 inch of rain on a 1,000 sq. ft. roof yields 623 gallons of water. Calculate the yield of your roof by multiplying the square footage of your roof by 623 and divide by 1,000.



# Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



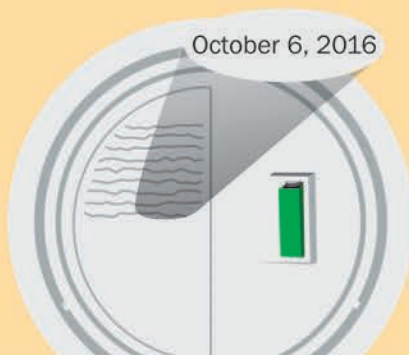
Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



October 6, 2016



2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).



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*Spring/Summer 2024 Issue*

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