

Borough of NEW BRITAIN

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Fall/Winter 2023/24 Issue

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"SATISFACTION THAT GROWS!"

2023 New Britain Borough Car Show

We hope you have time this Fall to attend the 3rd Annual New Britain Borough Car Show to be held Saturday November 4th, at the Lenape Valley Church, 321 W Butler Ave, New Britain, PA.

The event will be held from 9:00AM – 3:00PM weather permitting with a rain date set for Saturday 11/11. Registration information is available online at the Borough website www.newbritainboro.com.

There were over (100) participants last year and we are expecting an even bigger turnout this year. Plans to have Live Music, Food and Drinks, 50/50 Raffle and Vendors with additional support from our local business community, volunteer Fire Companies as well as Lenape Valley Church are in the works.

If a wide range of beautiful automobiles from multiple decades piques your interest, this will be a New Britain event you won't want to miss. Please mark your calendar and support our local and greater community at large as we plan on this being a day to remember.

Thank you,
James Donovan



3RD ANNUAL

NEW BRITAIN BORO

CAR SHOW

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER

PRE-REGISTRATION \$15.00 PER VEHICLE
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\$20 DAY OF SHOW

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PROCEEDS TO THE NEW BRITAIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION ADA PLAYGROUND FUND
WINNERS SELECTED BY THE ROAD ANGELS CAR CLUB OF DOYLESTOWN, PA.

Chalfont Fire Company Auxiliary

- September 23 (9:00am - 12:30pm or sold out) - Turkey Hoagies & Bake Sale
- October 28 (9:00am - 2:30pm) - Craft Show, Bake Sale & Homemade Soup
- November 26 (4:00pm) - Community Christmas Sing with the arrival of Santa & Mrs. Claus by firetruck.

Girl Scout Troop #252 Visits Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve

Written by: Marge Eberz (Nature Preserve Committee)

In 2021 Girl Scouts of USA launched a tree planting plan to plant, protect or honor 5 million trees by 2026. They were doing this in partnership with the Elliot Wildlife Values Project, American Forests and Arbor Day Foundation. By undertaking this project, scouts can earn The Girl Scout Tree Promise Patch. Girls are urged to protect, identify, and note changes in trees. They are also asked to help plant trees.

In April 2023, the scouts in Troop #252 from Butler School in Chalfont under the leadership of their leaders, Jennie Temple and Christine Hoffman began their quest for this patch. The troop visited the Wilma Quinlan Preserve and were led on a hike over the trails where invasive plants and native plants were identified by their guide, Marge Eberz. Girls were shown how to take cuttings from a red twig dogwood. Each girl was given a cutting to take home in her water bottle and plant it after it developed a root system. A walk along Cook's Creek concluded the tour.

In May, the girls returned to the preserve to plant a dogwood tree. The girls helped loosen the roots of the tree and added soil to the hole where the tree was to be planted so it was at the correct height in the hole. Each girl was given a book "Common Trees of Pennsylvania" to learn more about our native trees. Upon completion of these activities the girls earned their Girl Scout Tree Promise Patch.

The preserve committee looks forward to helping more scouts earn this patch.



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Message from the Mayor – James Donovan

To New Britain Borough Residents,

It will have been almost two years since the election in 2021 when, much to my surprise, I was elected Mayor of New Britain Borough. I have learned so many things about our community, met a great many people and discovered how much it really takes to provide the services and activities that help make this such a wonderful place to live. We are fortunate to have dedicated and highly qualified people serving this community. I feel they should be recognized for all the things they have done, because they truly provide unparalleled service to New Britain and our neighboring communities. The time invested goes above and beyond what could be expected from anyone in their position, and we are fortunate to have them here.

CBRPD Chief of Police (Karl Knott), Chalfont Fire Co. Chief (Nick Marino), Doylestown Fire Co President (Paul Kreuter), Chalfont EMS Chief of Operations (Russ Leets)

We have all chosen to live here in New Britain Borough for a variety of reasons. We all want our community to be safe, our businesses to be successful, and you deserve to have your local elected representatives provide you with the guidance and information necessary to stay informed about what is being planned for our area. I believe we are trying to do that but sometimes I feel it is difficult to contact all of our residents quickly and easily. To that end I would like to ask that you take a moment and contact the Borough office (nbboro@newbritainboro.com) to make sure we have the means to reach you quickly and easily. Provide us with your email address, phone number and let us know, let me know what this Borough can do to keep you informed. I also want to help you with important issues, answer questions you may have and let you know what plans are being discussed for the future of New Britain Borough. We have a Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, and Business Committee just to mention a few. With many people and resources available, it's just as important for us to be able to communicate with you as the other way around.

As always, I ask that when you have a choice, whether it is to shop or do business, attend and support an event, or eat out, try to do it here in New Britain Borough. It means a great deal more to your community than you might really know.

James Donovan, *New Britain Borough Mayor*
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Fall Is For Planting

Written by: Marge Eberz (Secretary - Shade Tree Commission)

Did you know that fall and winter are a great time to plant trees and shrubs.

The combination of cooler temperatures and falling rain allows trees to establish their roots, making it easier for them to adjust to the heat or drought in the summer.

It is safe to plant trees and shrubs until the ground freezes, generally after the first hard frost. Even if there is snow on the ground, if you're able to push a spade into the soil, it is still okay to plant.

Once you have planted your tree or shrub it will require the same care no matter what time of year you plant it. Always put a three-inch ring of mulch around its base, BUT do not pile it against the trunk. Water it right after planting, even if it is cold outside. During the fall, your newly planted tree/shrub will still require watering on a regular schedule.

Regardless of the time of year that you are planting, if you do not plant it properly, it will not survive. This includes planting the right plant in the right place. Before planting, evaluate your space to make sure it will be suitable for your tree or shrub as it grows.

Here is a suggestion for a good multi season shrub: **FOTHERGILLA**.

This shrub can be purchased in a dwarf size of 3 to 4 feet or as larger size of 10 to 12 feet. Both bloom in the spring with creamy white bottlebrush- like spikes. In the fall leaves turn to brilliant shades of red, orange, or yellow. This plant grows in full sun or part shade, but the best flowers and fall color are grown in full sun. Its deer resistance, insect and disease resistance make this an ideal addition to a shrub border or as a single specimen.

Please visit our page on the New Britain Borough's website

<https://www.newbritainboro.com/committees/shade-tree-commission/>

Here you will find information on our Tree and Shrub list to help you select a tree that is suitable for your location and planting conditions.

FOTHERGILLA GARDENIA Part-sun/part shade - Bloom -spring - Height-3-5 feet



Fothergilla in Fall



Fothergilla in Spring

New Britain Borough Shade Tree Commission Celebrates Arbor Day



Each Year the New Britain Borough Shade Tree Commission celebrates Arbor Day by holding a tree planting ceremony in our borough. This year we planted a Serviceberry Tree in Orchard Park. 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.

We'd like you to consider joining us on the Shade Tree Commission. We meet at 7:30 PM on the third Monday of the month. Please call the borough office (215- 348-4586) to learn how you can join us and make a real difference in our community.

Shade Tree Commission members pictured from left to right Fran Dougherty, James Donovan, NBB Mayor, Jackie D'Agostino, Marge Eberz and Ben Rakus

New Britain Borough's Shade Tree Commission – Tree Tender Program

Written by: Peter LaMontagne (Council President) lamontagnep@newbritianboro.com

New Britain's Shade Tree Commission has partnered with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders Program, (<https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-programs>).

Thus far the Shade Tree Commission has focused on planting trees along sidewalks and trails. The cost to the homeowner this spring was \$60.00 a tree. You were able to choose what tree you wanted from a pretty large selection. Based on their mature height, 'small' trees can be planted beneath power lines, 'medium' trees under Verizon wires, and 'large' trees where there are no overhead lines. As delivered, the trees were 8 to 12 feet tall.

In our Borough, Peter LaMontagne Jacky D'Agostino, and Tom Price have taken the Tree Tenders Course, which is a three-evening program to learn how to plant and care for trees. It's offered in person as well as virtual. Call Peter LaMontagne (267-252-3283) for more details. We really need to have more volunteers to take the course to be able to assist in planting more trees. Fran Dougherty, of Dougherty Landscaping, pre-digs the holes, so the hardest work is done before we start planting. Other than the course, the time commitment is only two or three scheduled mornings a year, and parents are welcome to bring children along to help.

This is a three (3) part workshop series taking place on Wednesday evenings: September 20th & 27th and October 4th, 2023, at 6:00pm – 8:30pm. Attendees may catch up on missed live sessions by viewing the session recordings at their convenience, though we encourage live participation whenever possible.

We plan to offer these trees again this fall.

If you think you might be interested in participating, Email Peter at: lamontagnep@newbritianboro.com

Think about it!

This picture is from fall, 2022. It was a cold day!





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With Fire Departments Struggling For Volunteers, States Respond To The Alarm

More than 80% of U.S. fire departments are composed mostly of volunteers.

By: Alex Brown

When firefighters show up to a blaze or medical emergency across much of the United States, they most likely are volunteers. It's also likely the department is understaffed, struggling to replace old equipment and facing uncertainty about its next generation of firefighters.

"So much of our country relies on the volunteer fire service," said Kimberly Quiros, chief of communications with the National Volunteer Fire Council, a nonprofit advocacy organization.

"Right now, we're seeing less volunteers and more calls [for emergency response], but a lot of communities don't have the tax base and support to switch to a career staffing model."

More than 80% of the nation's fire departments are made up entirely or mostly of volunteers, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Volunteers comprise 65% of U.S. firefighters overall. But participation has dwindled, from nearly 900,000 volunteers in 1984 to a low of 677,000 in 2020. Meanwhile, fire departments have responded to more than triple the number of calls over that same period.

With volunteer departments stretched thin, some states have begun their own response. Lawmakers from both parties have advanced bills to provide financial benefits or tax breaks for volunteers or funding for new equipment, in hopes of incentivizing firefighters to join up or stay in service. Without state investments to keep volunteer agencies afloat, the lawmakers say, taxpayers would have to support full-time firefighters or face risks to public safety.

While some departments have brought on full-time paid firefighters to fill the gaps volunteers can't cover, many communities, especially in rural areas, can't afford the cost of a professional fire service. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that the time donated by volunteer firefighters saves communities nearly \$47 billion each year.

"Counties would have to increase taxes to have paid departments out there, or insurance premiums would go up substantially," said Mississippi state Rep. Donnie Scoggin, a Republican. "The amount of money volunteers saves us makes a huge difference for the taxpayer, and right now we are not able to recruit and retain enough firemen."

Scoggin sponsored a bill, passed unanimously this session and signed into law, that will establish a Length of Service Award Program for volunteer firefighters in Mississippi. For every year of service, they will receive \$500 placed in an investment fund, eligible to be withdrawn with interest when they retire from the department.

"We see this as a means to recruit new firefighters and encourage retention of the valuable firefighters we already have," said John Pope, president of the Mississippi Firefighter's Association and chief of the Collins Fire Department. "It's going to save lives."

Fire agency leaders say the reasons for volunteer departments' struggles are myriad. Many young people are leaving rural areas, which are more likely to rely on volunteer service. The rise in two-income households means fewer people have available time to volunteer. Most states now have extensive training requirements, which can be a time-consuming and costly barrier for new recruits.

At the same time, many fire departments now are expected to respond to medical emergencies, hazmat incidents, active shooter situations and other scenarios that have drastically increased call volumes.

"It seems like there's more and more runs every year, they're almost full-time," said Michigan state Sen. Jon Bumstead, a Republican and former volunteer firefighter. "There's no health care, no retirement. If we're going to fully man these departments, we've got to start offering more than what we are now."

Bumstead sponsored a bill that would expand worker compensation benefits to volunteer firefighters and part-time police officers. He noted that volunteer firefighters face risks even while training and shouldn't have to pay out of pocket if they're injured or develop a health issue. He also called for future legislation requiring the state to cover the costs of the extensive training programs it requires volunteers to undertake.

The Pennsylvania Senate voted unanimously earlier this year to establish three pilot programs at community colleges and universities to offer fire training to interested high school students. The bill is currently before a House committee.

In South Dakota, lawmakers voted this year to allocate \$5 million to help volunteer fire departments cover equipment costs. State Rep. Kevin Jensen, the bill's Republican sponsor, said his son had to spend \$600 for boots when he joined the fire service.

"To equip one firefighter can cost anywhere from \$6,000 to ,000," Jensen said. "Over 99% of the landmass in South Dakota is covered by volunteer fire departments that get no formal funding. Some departments are using outdated equipment but don't have the money to do anything about it."

With Fire Departments Struggling For Volunteers *(continued)*

The pandemic made it difficult for fire departments to conduct the pancake and chili fundraisers that traditionally had propped up their budgets, Jensen said, setting them back further. He said some fire agencies have had to turn away volunteers because they can't equip them, making the state funding an important tool for increasing staffing as well.

Last year, New York lawmakers unanimously passed a measure enabling local municipalities to enact property tax breaks of up to 10% for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Then-Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, a Republican, sponsored that bill and now serves as Putnam County executive. The county adopted the 10% tax break earlier this year.

"It's hard to get young members, and it needs to be sustainable so they can justify going to a call at 3 in the morning and leaving their loved ones," Byrne said.

"That's where the property tax exemption is meaningful and makes it easier for people to justify the work," he said. "If we were to shift from a volunteer fire service to a municipal tax-funded fire service, it would cost so much more money than what this exemption is. It pays for itself and then some."

Meanwhile, Wyoming lawmakers enacted a law last month to allocate \$9 million to the state's volunteer firefighter pension fund, replacing money that had been diverted to keep a fund for paid firefighters' solvent. State Rep. Sandy Newsome, the bill's Republican sponsor, said the state's current funding surplus made it an opportune time to restore the pension account. She called it a "helpful tool," if not the determining factor, in recruiting volunteers.

Ryan Woodward, chief of legislative and regulatory affairs with the National Volunteer Fire Council, said many leaders are looking at financial incentives to keep volunteer departments in service.

"Volunteers serve a really irreplaceable role within a majority of communities in the United States," he said. "There are a number of people out there who say, 'Hey, it could be good to serve my community,' but may be on the fence and need that extra push."

Doylestown Fire Departments Need You As Volunteers

We call New Britain Borough our home, just like you. Like all of us in New Britain Borough we have found a hometown filled with neighborhood friendships, a caring community and peace. One thing that makes this place so special is the giving by so many to those in need, whatever form it may take. Churches providing not just spiritual food to sustain us but material food for the hunger that some experience. Great schools for our children are part of this special place as well. A community government that puts the health, safety and public services needed by all of us as its priority. And volunteer organizations, like the Doylestown Fire Company, protect our lives and property and have done so uninterrupted for over 100 years. As your neighbors and as members of the fire company, we'd like to invite you to join this worthy work. The rewards you'll feel in your heart, your mind and your life are indescribable. To be a part of a team that saves a life, home or business is incredible.

We are strong but always need more members to carry this work forward. Learn more by visiting our website: <https://doylestownfireco.org>, contacting the Doylestown Fire Company #1 at 215 348-2656 or stopping by our stations at 86 Shewell Avenue, Doylestown Borough or 40 Warden Road, Doylestown Township.

Sincerely, your neighbors,

Michael Wood, Fire Chief

Barbara Jean Wood, Captain, Fire Police

Stephen Walther, Past Chief

John (Ed) Truman, Past Chief

Karen Truman, Firefighter



Support National Wreaths Across America Day

Saturday, December 16, 2023

The New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee is proud to sponsor Wreaths Across America again this year at the New Britain Baptist Church cemetery. Wreaths Across America is a nationwide program to remember and honor our fallen heroes.

How can you be a part of National Wreaths Across America Day in New Britain Borough?

You can help by sponsoring wreaths to honor the veterans buried in our historic New Britain Baptist Church cemetery. Each wreath is only \$17.00.

You can scan the QR code below to sponsor a wreath to our location (PA0067)

OR a check made payable to "Wreaths Across America" can be mailed to: New Britain Borough Administration Office
45 Keeley Ave. New Britain, PA 18901

*Donations need to be received by Friday, November 17th.

Historic Preservation Committee Sponsoring a Dine & Donate Event

This year the Historic Preservation Committee is also sponsoring a Dine & Donate event at the New Britain Inn on Sunday, November 12th, 2023, from 5-8:00 pm. 20% of your total food bill will go towards sponsoring wreaths at our location. Please bring a copy of the flyer below to the event.



DINE & DONATE PROGRAM

Dine with us for an evening of fundraising to benefit:

Wreaths Across America

Present this flyer to your server on:

DATE: November 12, 2023

TIME: 5-8 pm

20% of your total food bill will be donated to your organization!
(Dine In Only - Take Out Not Included)

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Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach

★ **December 16, 2023** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day

Help Wreaths for New Britain Baptist Church honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at New Britain Baptist Church Cemetery.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit www.wreathsassamerica.org/PA0067





#ServeAndSucceed

Join us on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at the New Britain Baptist Church cemetery!

We will gather to honor veterans buried in the historic cemetery by placing wreaths on their graves. The ceremony starts promptly at noon (please arrive by 11:45 AM) at the Walter Harvey Memorial on the grounds of the New Britain Baptist Church. Come join us to remember our veterans and the sacrifices they made for our freedom.

Photo Contest

We are having a Photo Contest in New Britain Borough!

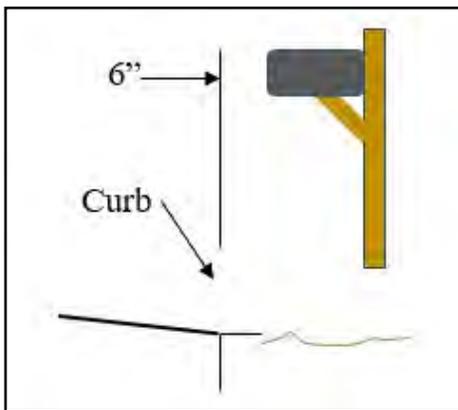
Please submit your best picture from in and around the Borough. It can be photos of our beautiful parks and/or of our fun local events! The picture selected will be on the cover of our next Newsletter Issue (Spring/Summer 2024). (If photo has any individual(s) pictured in it, we will need to have their written permission to publish it. The written permission will be that of the photographer's to acquire for submission for the contest).



Mailboxes Vs. Snowplows

To minimize the possible damage to a homeowner's mailbox, the Borough provides the following recommendations:

- Locate the mailbox as far from the shoulder of the road as the carrier can reach from a vehicle; In accordance with current postal guidelines, mailboxes are to be installed at least six (6) to eight (8) inches from the front face of the curb or edge of the pavement.
- All mailboxes are to be securely fastened to a sturdy post which is firmly anchored in the ground to resist the impact of plowed snow. Make certain your mailbox has strong support; check it frequently.
- Use reflective tape (6-8 inch) or similar material to assist the snowplow driver during dark hours or driving snowstorms.
- Clear snow from the front of your mailbox and deposit it properly (never shovel snow onto the road)
- The height of the bottom floor of the mailbox should be between 41" and 45" from the road surface. A semi-arch or extended arm-type support is recommended so that the snowplow can sweep under the box, avoiding contact.



Homeowners who have followed these guidelines in the past, and still experience mailbox damage may want to consider installing a cantilever mailbox support that will "swing" a mailbox out of harm's way.

Being pro-active and taking the necessary measures to winterize your mailbox, making it stable and visible will allow for efficient snow removal operations and the continued convenience of mail delivery to your home.

Efforts to remove snow from roadways curb-to-curb or to the shoulder of the road may result in damage to private property. While every measure is taken to minimize damage, heavy snowfall, and areas where there are no curbs makes it difficult for operators to identify the edge of the roadway surface.

The Borough maintains a list of areas damaged during Winter snow removal operations. Once the weather breaks, the Borough contractor will place topsoil, grade, and seed damaged areas.

The Borough is only responsible for mailboxes that are hit by the plow blade. This does not include damage that may have resulted from the weight of the snow. The Borough will reimburse residents up to \$50 for the damages if it is determined that the mailbox damage was caused by the direct contact of a snowplow. Repeat damages to the same residential property will be reviewed as per each situation arises. A receipt of mailbox cost must be produced for reimbursement. The Borough will not repair or replace any mailboxes or posts. The repair or replacement will be done by the homeowner.

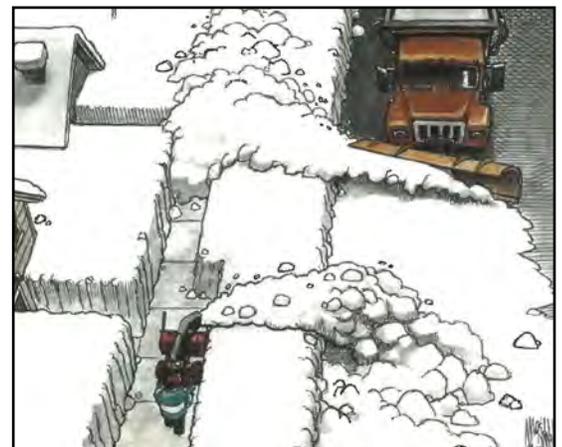
If physical contact by a snowplow is suspected, please contact the Borough in writing via mail or email with your address, information about where your mailbox is on your property, and the date. The Borough will inspect the mailbox and decide based on specific criteria. A mailbox or post will not be considered for reimbursement if the post shows signs of dry rot or is otherwise previously unstable. The owner of the mailbox has forty-eight (48) hours from the end of a snow event to submit a claim for reimbursement.

Snowplow operators make every attempt to exercise care and maintain lower speeds when plowing in areas where mailboxes are curbside. However, sometimes due to heavy snow and slush conditions, higher speeds must be maintained to clear the roadway.

Winter Reminders For Borough Residents

John Wolff, New Britain Borough Manager

Help our snowplow services this Winter Weather Season. Please do not blow your sidewalk and driveway snow into the streets.



Autumn Reminders For Borough Residents

Written by: Michael Italia, Barry Isett Associates, Zoning Officer & Fire Marshal

This is the time of year to enjoy backyard fires.

- A reminder... fires must be contained inside of a commercially made fire pit, or within blocks.
- Open burning in yards is PROHIBITED.
- Open fires should be attended at all times and until the fire is completely extinguished.
- No outdoor fires shall be ignited prior to 9:00 a.m. on any day, and they must be extinguished by 12:00 a.m. midnight of the same day.



The updated regulations for burning can be found at: <https://www.ecode360.com/15538278>

- Leaves will be beginning to fall from trees... as a reminder:
- Leaf Burning is PROHIBITED in New Britain Borough.
- Tree limbs and branches are still allowed to be burned (in a fire pit), but leaves are not.

All leaves must be disposed of either by compost, recycling, or through the normal trash disposal in yard waste bags.

It Is That Time Of Year, Election Season! Political Campaign Signs... Know Your Rights

Written by: Michael Italia, Barry Isett Associates, Zoning Officer

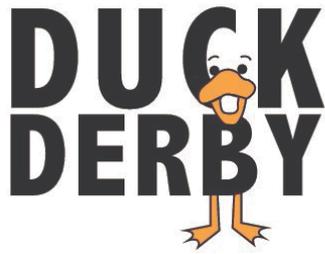
Many residents choose to display their support for a candidate or party by placing political campaign signs on their lawn. Most signs require zoning permits, however one of the exceptions to zoning permits are political campaign signs.

When displaying your political campaign signs this fall, please be sure to keep in mind the Zoning Ordinance regulations:

1. Political campaign signs cannot exceed four (4) square feet in area.
2. Political campaign signs shall be displayed by the owner of the property, or by the party or candidate with permission from the property owner. If someone places a sign on your property without your permission, you have the right to remove the sign.
3. Political campaign signs cannot be displayed more than 30 days prior to the election and 20 days following the election. This year, political signs can be displayed October 9, 2023, through November 28, 2023.
4. Political campaign signs shall not be located in a position to limit sight distances along any roadway or driveway. This ensures the safety of all residents and visitors to the Borough.

And remember, don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 8th!





**NEW BRITAIN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION**
**PICNIC IN
THE PARK**
*Annual Fundraiser
for the Covered
Bridge Park*
2023

THE ANNUAL PICNIC-IN-THE-PARK & DUCK DERBY

FOOD FUN GAMES RAFFLES

Saturday Sept. 30, 2023
11am to 3pm
Covered Bridge Park on Keeley Ave.
Rain or Shine



PURCHASE CHANCES FOR YOUR DUCK(S) TODAY!

\$5 for one Duck or a flock of 5 Ducks for \$20

Cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100

Along with gift certificates for the runners-up.

ORDER YOUR DUCKS HERE: <https://form.123formbuilder.com/5876414/duck-derby-order-form>

**ANNUAL TREE
LIGHTING CEREMONY**

Join the
New Britain Borough
Civic Association
at their Annual
Tree Lighting
Ceremony

Wednesday,
December 6th, 2023
Festivities Start
at 7:00 p.m.

Located at
Covered Bridge Park

Bring an
Unwrapped Toy
for Toys for Tots



For more information, please contact New Britain Civic Association
at 215-345-8750 or David Holewinski at davidholewinski@comcast.net

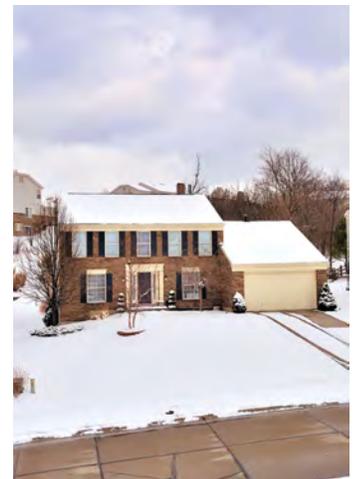
Prepare Your Home for Winter

As winter approaches, our thoughts turn to other activities as we plan for the annual hibernation to the indoors. This is also a good time to plan a safe hibernation for your house as well. The constant change in the weather can have a significant effect on your house that, if left unchecked, may result in major repairs in the future.

Now is the time to inspect your house for anything that does not appear to be normal. Things to look for include loose siding, missing or torn shingles, broken or sticking doors, missing caulking around windows or any other item that will leave your home exposed to the elements. Now is the time to start addressing these items before the cold weather sets in and these items are forgotten.

You may also want to take a look at other items that are often overlooked until it is too late. One important item is your home heating system. Most people who are not on a maintenance program forget to have service performed until well into the heating season when the furnace decides to stop working. Unfortunately, this is the time that most heating contractors are busiest and you may have to wait for service. Avoid the headache and plan ahead.

Items such as your water heater may need your attention as well as other home appliances. Remember to check and make sure water pipes are properly insulated and not exposed to freezing temperatures. Be sure that leaves and debris do not obstruct water flow from gutters and downspouts. Water that freezes and is allowed to back up rooftops often provides you with unwelcome leaks. The lists are endless, but remember your home is a major investment - take good care of it.



Do You Know. . .The Difference Between A Storm Sewer And A Sanitary Sewer?

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

Storm sewers collect rainwater and snow melt from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, untreated, directly to streams and rivers. Sanitary sewers collect water from inside homes and businesses (e.g., sinks, showers, toilets, washing machines) and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater or snow and ice melt that seeps into the ground and flows across the ground and pavement. While that precipitation is an important part of nature's water cycle and replenishes drinking water supplies, recreation, and healthy wildlife habitats, it can become a problem when pollutants from activities like our car maintenance, lawn care, and dog walking are left on the ground for rain to wash away or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks.

When it doesn't seep into the ground, stormwater drains into what we call the storm sewer system. This includes the drains you see near street corners or at low points on the sides of streets, but also includes the various ditches and channels along roads and parking areas meant to carry water away from these surfaces.

The stormwater collected by the storm sewer system eventually flows directly into Pine Run, Cooks Run, and the Neshaminy Creek. Any and all of the pollutant's stormwater carries along the way empty into these waterways too because stormwater does not get treated.

What you can do to help reduce stormwater pollution in New Britain Borough:

- Look for signs of soil and debris leaving construction sites in stormwater runoff or tracked into roads by construction vehicles. Report any of these conditions to the Borough.
- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies, and paint. Never pour them down any part of the storm sewer system. Report any such disposal you see to the Borough.
- Store materials that could pollute stormwater indoors and use containers for outdoor storage that do not rust or leak to eliminate exposure of materials to stormwater.
- Use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess from running off.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess – in a backyard, at a park, or near the road – stormwater runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system, to the waterways.

Remember: Only rain should go into storm drains

For more information, you can check out the Borough's Stormwater Management webpage: <https://www.newbritainboro.com/information/storm-water-awareness/> If you notice water flowing in the public storm sewer system, Pine Run, Cooks Run, or the Neshaminy Creek during times of dry weather, this is a potential sign of a problem. Please report any concerns to New Britain Borough at 215-348-4586.

Volunteers Needed to Serve on New Borough Committees

Over the past several months, our Borough Council has been busy reevaluating a number of the Borough's volunteer standing committees. A few committees have been eliminated, other committees have been revised, and several new committees have been created. Here is a summary of the changes that have taken place:

The former Bird Town Committee is now an Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) with the following responsibilities:

- Identify environmental issues within the Borough and recommend actions to address those issues.
- Make recommendations to Borough Council as to the impact of land development in the Borough on the environment, as requested by Borough Council.
- Recommend community-based actions supporting a healthier, more sustainable environment within the Borough, and promote such actions as requested by Borough Council.
- At the request of and with the approval of Borough Council, educate Borough residents about environmental issues.
- Serve as the Borough's representative for Bird Town Pennsylvania's Bird Town Program, promote the goals of the Bird Town program within the Borough, and oversee Bird Town activities in the Borough.

Continued on next page

Volunteers Needed to Serve on New Borough Committees *continued*

- Serve as the Borough's representative to the EAC Network (managed by WeConservePA), with other environmental organizations, and with other habitat recognition and certification programs.
- Provide recommendations for protection of native ecosystems and encourage the restoration and creation of native plant communities on both public and private properties throughout the Borough.
- Subject to the approval of Borough Council, encourage Borough residents and property owners to create a healthy habitat for people and wildlife in their landscapes by removing invasive and exotic species, planting native species, reducing pesticide and herbicide use, conserving water, protecting water quality, and adopting other healthy yard practices.

A new Community Events Committee has been created with these responsibilities:

- To create, plan, organize and staff specific Borough-sponsored community events.
- To establish separate ad-hoc committees, as needed, for Borough-sponsored events.
- To coordinate with other Borough committees, and assist them, as needed, with their events.
- To coordinate with, and assist, outside organizations, including, but not limited to, the New Britain Civic Association, with their events held in the Borough.
- To coordinate, with other committees and Borough staff, the preparation and maintenance of a community events calendar, which calendar shall be subject to the control and review of Borough Council or its designee.
- To facilitate the marketing, promotion, and publicizing of Borough events, the materials for which shall be subject to the review and approval of Borough Council or its designee.
- To assist Borough Council and Borough staff in the creation of an annual budget for community events.
- The Roads, Facilities, and Public Safety committees have been replaced by a new Public Works Committee with these duties and responsibilities:
 - To advise and assist Borough Council and Borough staff on all issues related to the safe and smooth operation, planning, and funding of public works and public services within the Borough.
 - To advise and assist Borough Council and Borough staff on issues related to Borough streets, including stormwater management systems, traffic control, parking, snow removal, street sweeping, street patching and paving, striping, signage, street lighting, and any installation or maintenance of Borough owned curbs, sidewalks, or bike paths.
 - To advise and assist Borough Council and Borough staff with maintenance, renovations, and long-range planning related to buildings owned or leased by the Borough to ensure they are safe, effective, reliable, clean, code compliant, aesthetically pleasing, energy efficient, and environmentally friendly.
 - To advise and assist Borough Council and Borough staff on all issues which affect public safety, including the identification of unsafe or hazardous conditions within the Borough and the recommendation and implementation of safe practices.
 - To address normal or urgent public safety concerns of the police, fire department, ambulance, or emergency management agencies and coordinate, as needed, with these emergency services.
- The Community & Business Committee has been streamlined to focus on the following:
 - To serve as an advisory body to Borough Council and Borough staff on all issues concerning the local business community.
 - To support and promote local businesses.
 - To serve as a liaison between the Borough and the local business community.
 - To help cultivate an energetic and business-friendly environment that grows existing businesses and attracts new businesses, industry, and development to the Borough.

Now we need community members to serve on these committees! Our strong base of volunteers is a vital component of what makes New Britain Borough such a great place to live and without these volunteers our Borough would cease to function as it does now. Please consider volunteering to serve on one of these committees. Our Volunteer Application Form can be downloaded from the Borough website and then turned in to the Borough office (<https://www.newbritainboro.com/information/volunteer-opportunities/>).

Pop-Up Park Returning to Town Center September 15th and 16th



The borough's EAC and Bird Town Committee's Native Plant Pop-Up Park will be held on the third weekend in September. The Pop-Up Park will again be located in the parking lot at the New Britain Town Center on West Butler Ave. The Pop-Up Park will open at noon on Friday, September 15 and close around 10:00pm on Saturday, September 16. There will be live music on both Friday and Saturday evenings and park visitors are invited to dine at the park both nights. You can bring your own food and beverages from home or order dinner from Nico's, Sakana, or Old School Burgers and have dinner delivered right to your table.

Native Plants on Display and For Sale

The Pop-Up is an opportunity to highlight the value of native plants to the local ecosystem and to learn about healthy-yard practices that will help your property become a haven for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife. Creating wildlife habitat using native plants is a major goal of the Bird Town program. Educational materials will be available, and members of the Bird Town Committee will be on hand to answer your questions about landscaping with wildlife in mind. Native plants will be on display and offered for sale throughout the two-day event. Native plants will also be given away to lucky raffle winners.

Community Wildlife Habitat Certification Celebration



This year's Pop-Up Park is an opportunity to celebrate New Britain Borough's recent certification as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Our Borough is only the fifth municipality in Pennsylvania to earn this certification. Many Borough residents helped us achieve this certification by making the commitment to landscape their properties with wildlife in mind and by registering their properties as wildlife habitat. We hope to see everyone

who registered their properties in attendance, as an incentive, and thank-you, to those residents, anyone who brings their property certificate to the park will receive a free native plant!

And it's not too late to register your property as wildlife habitat. Register your property at the Pop-up Park and you'll receive a free native plant, as well! More information about this registration program can be found at <https://www.nwf.org/CommunityWildlifeHabitat/>.

Volunteer Opportunity! Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve Fall Workdays



Saturdays 9:00 - 12:00

September 23

October 7

October 21

November 11

Please help us maintain and steward this Preserve! For information email pricet@newbritainboro.com



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
 Maureen Loh Council Member
 Lucille Siegfried 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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(215) 675-2330

Warminster Office:

607 Louis Drive, Suite H
Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 675-2330

New Britain Office:

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

www.mccabebradypt.com

**THANK
YOU**

TO THE BUSINESSES!

This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

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- Susan Cerbone, CLR member

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Questions? Contact us at:
clr@delval.edu | 215.489.4990

Have an idea for a course? Interested in becoming a volunteer CLR instructor? Email us!