



2021 FALL/WINTER ISSUE

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

The Official Newsletter

New Britain Township News

Welcome New Township Manager Matt West

Matt West joins New Britain Township after working most recently for Narberth Borough in Montgomery County. Prior to his municipal management experience in Narberth, he worked for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission in Philadelphia as a Geographic Information Systems Analyst and as a Senior Transportation Planner in the Office of Transportation Operations Management. Additionally, Matt taught classes in Geographic Information Systems at Kutztown University. Matt's focus is on building a well-rounded holistic approach to management and utilizing technology to maximize operating efficiencies.

Matt has a Bachelor's degree in Geography from Kutztown University and a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from Temple University. He lives in Lansdale with his wife, Emily, and their three sons.



A Message from the Fire Marshal

There shall be no burning in New Britain Township as per the Township Fire Code Ordinance #2019-04-01.

307.1 General: No person shall kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning in the Township, except for recreational fires and portable outdoor fireplaces. Bonfires are specifically prohibited.

307.2 Prohibited open burning: Any and all open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous in the opinion of the fire code official, such as periods of high winds, drought, or weather inversion. Moreover, the outdoor burning of any rubbish, garbage, or trash is strictly prohibited.

307.3 Extinguishment authority: Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, is not allowed under this code, or a required permit for such burning has not been obtained, the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

307.4 Location: The location for open burning shall not

be less than 25 feet from any property line or public right-of-way and shall comply with the following:

307.4.1 Recreational fires: Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.4.2 Portable outdoor fireplaces: Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 15 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.5 Attendance: Open burning, recreational fires, and operating portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose, or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

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A Homeowner's Guide To Stormwater

The Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is precipitation (rain or snowmelt) that flows across the land. Stormwater may infiltrate into soil, discharge directly into streams, water bodies, or drain inlets, or evaporate back into the atmosphere. In the natural environment, most precipitation is absorbed by trees and plants or permeates into the ground, which results in stable stream flows and good water quality.

Things are different in the built environment. Rain that falls on a roof, driveway, patio or lawn runs off the surface more rapidly, picking up pollutants as it goes. This stormwater runoff flows into streams or storm drains that discharge into waterways.

Why Can Stormwater Runoff Be a Problem?

Poorly managed stormwater runoff can cause a host of problems. These include:

- **Flooding.** As stormwater runs off roofs, driveways and lawns, large volumes quickly reach streams, causing them to rise quickly and flood, instead of a natural slow and steady water rise. When more impervious surfaces exist, flooding occurs more rapidly and can be more severe, resulting in damage to property and people.
- **Pollution.** Stormwater running over roofs, driveways, roads and lawns will pick up pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, dirt/sediment, trash, and animal waste. These pollutants “hitch a ride” with the stormwater and flow untreated into local streams, polluting our waters.
- **Stream Bank Erosion.** When stormwater flows into streams at unnaturally high volumes and speeds, the power of these flows can cause severe stream bank erosion. Eroding banks can eat away at streamside property, create dangerous situations, and damage natural habitat for fish and other aquatic life. This erosion is another source of sediment pollution in streams.
- **Threats to Human Health.** Stormwater runoff can carry many toxic pollutants, such as toxic metals, organic compounds, bacteria, and viruses. Polluted stormwater can contaminate drinking water supplies and hamper recreational opportunities as well as threaten fish and other aquatic life.

Best Stormwater Management Practices

Rain Garden	Native Meadow
Riparian Buffer	Pervious Pavers
Tree Planting	Rain Barrel

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MANAGE STORMWATER RUNOFF?

As a homeowner, you can help avoid the problems associated with stormwater runoff by:

1. Reducing impervious areas so that the rain soaks into the ground.
2. Planting native trees and plants which help infiltrate stormwater and increase evaporation and transpiration.
3. Managing stormwater on-site with rain gardens, rain barrels and similar practices.
4. Following healthy lawn care practices such as:
 - Maintain a dense vegetative cover of turf grass to reduce runoff, prevent erosion, and retain nutrients.
 - Retain clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn and keep them out of streets and storm drains.
 - Set mower height at 3 inches or taller.
 - Do not apply fertilizer within 15 to 20 feet of a stream, pond or other water body and consider managing this zone as a perennial planting, meadow, grass buffer or forest buffer.
5. Doing many small things, you have a big impact on improving stormwater management.

Annual Tri-Municipal 4th of July Parade

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Tri- Municipal 4th of July parade on Saturday, July 3rd, the event was enjoyed by all! The weather held up just in time for a “cool” parade this year! There were over 400 participants, and a great turnout of spectators to boot. What a boost for the community! Don’t forget to post your pictures and tag the Township and Boroughs for everyone to enjoy! <https://www.facebook.com/NewBritainTownship>

A Special THANK YOU to our CORPORATE SPONSORS:

Datacap Systems, Delightful Dinners By Dawn, Doli Construction, Hilltop Family Tire & Auto, Little Farm Estates, Merck, Sharpe & Dohme, North Wales Water Authority, Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, Roll Former Corp, Spatola's Pizza, Target World Inc., Trijay Systems

Fall Yard Waste

Walk-in 40-yard container will be located next to the Municipal Building at 207 Park Avenue, by the fenced area of the parking lot. Nov 16 – Nov 20, 2021; Tues - Fri: 7:30 a.m.— 2:30 p.m. and Sat: 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Please deposit plant materials only. Do not mix trash or other debris with leaves and plant material. You may use 40-gallon biodegradable or recyclable paper bags only! Paper bags are available at local hardware and grocery stores. Remember that recycling is extremely important. It helps the environment and keeps our Township clean. For additional information call 215-822-1391.

Reminder: Dead/dying trees that are located on privately owned property, and any damage caused by them, are civil matters that must be handled between property owners. The Township is only able to request tree removal when/if a tree is in danger of falling onto a Township owned roadway.

11th Annual Fall Festival

Save the date—September 18, 2021! 11th Annual Fall Festival, hosted by the Veterans Committee of New Britain Township! Join us for a fun filled day at North Branch Park, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont.

This year’s festival will include crafters, vendors, bounce houses, free face painting, a Touch-A-Truck area, live performances, food, the 7th Annual Car Show, and many more! The festival will help raise funds to further develop Veterans Park at the corner of New Galena and Walters Road. If you are proud of your car, enter it in the 7th Annual Car Show and show it off to help support a great cause! Awards will be available for the winners of many categories! For sponsors and vendors interested in spaces, please fill out a registration form and send it in. The form can be found online at newbritaintownship.org/vetevents.html

A Message from the Tax Collector

by Nicole Percetti

The 2021-22 School Tax Bills were mailed on July 1st. If you have not received your bill, please contact me and I will be happy to email you a copy or you may pick one up from my office. In order to receive the 2% discount, full payment must be post marked by August 31st. If you would like to opt into the installment program you must pay the first installment by August 31st. Also, once you pay the first installment, you may not opt out of the installment program. Please pay the first, second, and third installments in chronological order using the correct voucher. There are extra public hours at the end of August, September, and October. Please check your bill for those dates. If you would like to pay online the website is newbritaintax.com.

Public hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. For any questions, please contact Nicole at newbritaintax.com or by phone 215-822-2930.

New Britain Township Police Department News

Welcome New Police Chief Richard Clowser

Chief Richard Clowser has over 34 years of law enforcement experience. Chief Clowser comes to New Britain Township as a 28-year veteran of the Norristown Police Department. During his career with Norristown, he rose through the ranks and held the position of Deputy Chief of Police since 2014. Chief Clowser also served as the SWAT Commander. He has a Master's degree in Homeland Security and is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police.

Chief Clowser served in the Army for over 34 years and recently retired in January of this year as Command Sergeant Major for a one-star strategic command.

He resides with his wife Rachelle in Harleysville.

Contacting the Police—The Police Emergency Phone number is 911. Please do not email the Police Department to report a crime or a situation that requires immediate attention. The new Non-Emergency dispatch to Bucks County Communications is 215-328-8508. The Police Station Non-Emergency Phone Number which is unmanned 24/7 is 215-822-1910.

Dogs Running At Large—State law prohibits dogs from running at large and not under the control of the owner. Dogs should be leashed. It is dangerous for the animal, as well the public if dogs are allowed to roam free. Citations are frequently issued for this violation. The Police station's Non-Emergency Phone Number is 215-822-1910.

Lock your vehicle's doors when parked—do not leave any valuables in sight. Many vehicles are entered this time of year.



IMPORTANT POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

Bucks County
District Attorney's Office
215-348-6344

Network of Victim
Assistance
1-800-675-6900

A Woman's Place
1-800-220-8116

Crimes Against Older Adults
1-800-490-8505

Bucks County
Office of Consumer Protection
215-348-6060

Township Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted (please confirm prior to attending). Agenda for meetings are made available on the Township Website several days prior to the Meeting. Residents can call the Township Administrative Office in regard to questions about any Agenda item at 215-822-1391. If a meeting is cancelled, a notice will be posted on the Township website at newbritaintownship.org.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
First and Third Monday of each Month

PLANNING COMMISSION
Second and Fourth Tuesday of each Month

ZONING HEARING BOARD
Third Thursday of each Month



PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Third Tuesday of each Month

VETERANS COMMITTEE
First Wednesday of every other Month
(Meetings start at 5:30 p.m.)

PROUD OF OUR PAST. PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE.

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DO YOU FOLLOW US?
[Twitter.com/newbritaintwp1](https://twitter.com/newbritaintwp1)



Important Township Information

GOVERNMENT

Township Administration Office	215-822-1391
Police Non-Emergency	215-822-1910
Public Works Department	215-822-3698
Tax Collector - Nicole Percetti	215-822-2930
Keystone Collections Group	1-888-328-0565
Voters' Registration Office	215-348-6163
Bucks County Courthouse	215-348-6000

SCHOOLS

Central Bucks South H.S.	267-893-3000
Central Bucks West H.S.	267-893-2500
Tohickon Middle School	267-893-3300
Unami Middle School	267-893-3400
Pine Run Elementary	267-893-4450
Butler Elementary	267-893-4250
St. Jude's Catholic School	215-822-9225
Plumstead Christian School	215-822-0187
North Penn School District	215-368-0400

LOCAL YOUTH SPORTS

Lenape Valley Recreational Council
lenapevalleyrc.org

FIELD & PAVILION RENTALS

To use our fields or pavilions located at North Branch Park, Highlands Park, or West Branch Park, stop in at the Township Office or visit our website to fill out an application today:

[newbritaintownship.org/downloads/fielduse.pdf](https://www.newbritaintownship.org/downloads/fielduse.pdf)



NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP
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Correspondence/Comments concerning this Newsletter should be mailed to:

New Britain Township

207 Park Avenue
Chalfont, PA 18914
215-822-1391

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Gregory T. Hood, *Chair*
Helen B. Haun, *Vice Chair*
William B. Jones, III, *Member*
Cynthia M. Jones, *Member*
MaryBeth McCabe, Esq., *Member*

Township Administration Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday

Township Meeting Information is posted at the Administration Building and can also be found on our website at newbritaintownship.org.

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP 2021 EVENTS

Fall Festival & Car Show	Mark your calendars! This year's event will take place on Saturday, September 18, 2021! The Fall Festival & Car Show takes place at North Branch Park at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont.
Fall Yard Waste Drop Off	November 16 – November 20, 2021; Tuesday— Friday: 7:30 a.m.— 2:30 p.m. and Saturday: 8:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.
Veterans Day Ceremony	November 11, 2021
Blood Drive	October 5, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Santa House	December (TBD)

Check our website for more information and dates: newbritaintownship.org