

2021 | SPRING ISSUE



# NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

*The Official Newsletter*

## New Britain Township 2021 Final Budget

On December 7, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of New Britain Township presented a balanced 2021 FINAL Budget. The Budget provides NO INCREASE in Real Estate Tax millage rates and NO INCREASE in Earned Income Tax from 2020. The 2021 Budget proposes Real Estate tax millage at a total of 13.0625 Mills and the Earned Income Tax at the total rate of 1.125% for General Fund purposes (1% shared 50/50 with CBSD and 0.125% dedicated to NBT Open Space). The Real Estate Millage is proposed to be assessed as follows for Fiscal Year 2021:

- 6.1000 Mills for General Public Services
- 1.2500 Mills for Fire Protection
- 0.5000 Mills for Emergency Medical Services
- 2.4625 Mills for Park and Recreation Services
- 1.0000 Mills for Capital Infrastructure Debt Service
- 1.2500 Mills for Public Works Building and Debt Service
- 0.5000 Mills for Highway Equipment Maintenance & Replacement

The Township has many Funds used for specific purposes. Some of these Funds are operating accounts for normal budgetary expenditures. Others are accounts set up for future capital purchases.

Funds that have been designated as operating funds include General Fund and Park and Recreation Fund. Routine expenditures come out of these funds.

Funds that are used to build reserves for future capital purchases or in the event of unforeseen emergencies include Park and Recreation Capital, General Reserve, Capital Equipment Highway Equipment.

Other dedicated funds include Street Light, Fire, EMS, Land Preservation, Liquid Fuels, Fiduciary, Capital Infrastructure Debt Service and Public Works Debt Service Funds. Monies in these accounts are either distributed to other entities (such as local fire and ambulance companies), are temporary developers' escrows, or are used for specific

purposes (such as payment of debt service, street light maintenance, and road maintenance and land preservation).

Presently, New Britain Township is working on several possibilities for additional land preservation. The Land Preservation Fund is used for purchasing Open Space Conservation Easements and development rights. Keeping a healthy balance is critical to maintain the ability to act on a property when occasion arises.

**The 2021 Final Budget is available for public inspection at the Township Building. You can also download the 2021 FINAL Budget Summary online at [newbritaintownship.org/finance.html](http://newbritaintownship.org/finance.html)**

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## His & Hers Bingo Event

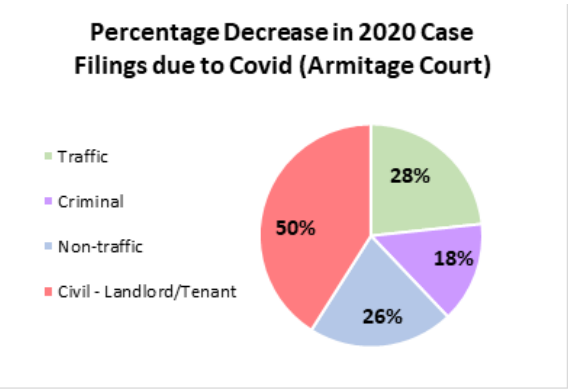
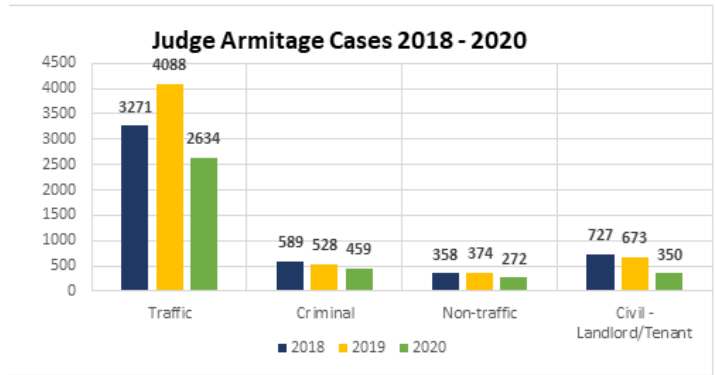
**Join The New Britain Township Veterans Committee for a Designer Bag Bingo Event on Friday, April 30, 2021!** Gather your friends for a fun evening of Designer Bag Bingo and support a great cause! Opportunities for a chance to win fabulous prizes such as Designer Bag Brands like Coach, Kate Spade, Vera Bradley, and many more! Benefits Veterans Park!

Purchase tickets/reserve a table for 10 in advance, call Michael: 215.822.1391; [mwalsh@newbritaintownship.org](mailto:mwalsh@newbritaintownship.org). Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Space is limited. CDC Guidelines will be followed. Get your tickets today!** Friday, April 30, 2021: Doors Open 6 p.m.; Games Begin 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Czestochowa, 654 Ferry Road, Doylestown. **15 ROUNDS OF BINGO! Ticket Prices:** \$25/person in advance. \$30/person at the door.

# A Message from District Judge Regina Armitage

## How did Covid-19 affect District Court Filings?

Looking back on 2020, it is safe to say that just about everyone and everything was somehow affected by COVID-19. As shutdowns and safety precautions were exercised across the state, adjustments here at District Court were also implemented to help minimize the spread. In bidding the year farewell, I thought this would be a good time to see how COVID affected filings and when I ran data for 2018 and 2019, this is what the system reflected.



It appears motorists caught a break as there were 1454 fewer (-28%) traffic violations issued in 2020. With limited contact becom-

ing commonplace, there is no doubt this decrease was a direct impact of COVID. However, even with the drop in numbers, police departments in the district were still some of the busiest in Bucks and 2634 citations were filed for the year. Overall, the court ranked #6 (out of 18) in the county for traffic tickets in 2020.

Another area with a marked reduction were non-traffic cases such

as disorderly conduct, public intoxication, harassment, etc. With past figures averaging about 360 a year, this docket yielded a 26% decrease in summary citations issued.

The biggest change in 2020 was the Civil & Landlord/Tenant filings. Although they comprise just a small portion of our cases, the court saw only half the filings when compared to prior years. We attribute this 50% decrease to the Emergency Order which stayed all Landlord/Tenant matters and evictions across the state. We do, however, anticipate a surge in this docket after the stay is lifted.

Unfortunately, the area that was minimally affected were Criminal filings. In prior years, Criminal case dockets closed out at 589 (2018) and 528 (2019) respectively, yet 2020's total of 467 showed just a slight decline of 18%.

On the upside, I had the honor of performing 23 wedding ceremonies for couples who would not let COVID-19 get in the way of their love. With an average of 24 weddings per year, it seems we remained right on track for that category, so here's to the happy couples of 2020.

# A Homeowner's Guide To Stormwater

The Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is precipitation (rain or snow-melt) 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 re-

- duce 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.

## Fire Marshal News

By Randy Teschner

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.

## A Message from the Tax Collector

by Nicole Percetti

The 2021 County/Township bills will be mailed on March 1st, 2021. The millage rates for the County and the Township were approved with no increase. Therefore, the amounts will remain the same as they were in 2020. If you do not receive your bill by March 15, 2021, please contact me directly, and I will send a copy of your bill either by email, or you can always stop by and pick one up at my office at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont. Please check my website [newbritaintax.com](http://newbritaintax.com) for the most up to date in person hours.

## New Britain Township Police Department News

by Chief Robert Scafidi

**NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SCAFIDI** will be retiring on June 30th, 2021 after forty-seven years of service. When Police Chief Scafidi started his career as a New Britain Township Officer, Police Officers were paid approximately \$7,000 per year and during that time, New Britain Township only had two police cars.

All our officers bring a wealth of varied experiences to the New Britain Township Police Force. They welcome the opportunity to serve you, the citizens of New Britain Township. Here are some tips to take note of:

- Whenever you hire contractors, repair people, or installers to work on your home, always safeguard your valuables. Easily concealed items such as cash, jewelry, and firearms should not be accessible. Often, a homeowner will report an item stolen months after the incident actually took place. This makes it all the more difficult to recover missing items.
- Never fall for the ruse of utility workers at your door that **MUST** check something in your home. Legitimate utility workers will always have company ID to provide you as proof. Contact the New Britain Township Police if you have any concerns at 215-822-1910.

### Contacting the New Britain Township Police Department

- The Police Emergency Phone Number is 911.
- Please do not email the Police Department to report a crime or a situation that requires immediate action.
- The Non-Emergency dispatch phone number to Bucks County Communications is 215-328-8508.
- The New Britain Township Police Station Non-Emergency Phone Number which is manned by clerical staff during business hours from Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (excluding holidays) is 215-822-1910.



### 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](http://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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[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](http://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  
1723

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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](http://newbritaintownship.org).

## NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP SPRING 2021 EVENTS

### **Annual Community E-Recycling Waste & Paper Shred Event**

Limited to Township Residents Only, No Businesses. Event will be held at the New Britain Township Administration Building located at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont on Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Shred One Security Corporation will be onsite to perform the shredding with a mobile unit that will provide the safest and most secure way to shred and dispose of your important personal documents. A few things to remember: 5 bag limit per Household, Paper Items Only, and No Metal, Binder Clips, or Binders! PAR-Recycle Works will accept personal computers, printers, VCR/DVD/CD Players, Game Systems (Xbox, Nintendo, PlayStation, etc.) and much more. For an itemized price list, visit [newbritaintownship.org/trash.html](http://newbritaintownship.org/trash.html)

### **Spring Yard Waste Collection**

From May 4 to May 8, 2021, Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., New Britain Township is offering residents a walk-in 40 yard drop-off container for Spring Yard Waste that will be located next to the New Britain Township Administration Building at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont, by the fenced area of the parking lot. Please deposit plant materials only. Loose or in 40-gallon biodegradable or recyclable paper bags only! Paper bags are available at local hardware and grocery stores. Do not mix trash or other debris with leaves and plant materials.

### **New Britain Township American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Blood Drive to be held on March 17, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 207 Park Ave. Appointments are preferred! Every donor will receive a t-shirt! Please schedule your appointment online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use the sponsor code: **new britain**

### **Photos with the Easter Bunny and Pop & Go Food Drive**

The New Britain Township Park & Rec Advisory Board presents



*There's No Bunny Like the  
Easter Bunny!*

Park your car at North Branch Park and visit the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 20, 2021 (Rain Date March 27, 2021) from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. We are practicing social distance at this event. A Pop & Go Food Drive in partnership with the New Britain Baptist Church Food Larder is also going to be held at the same time. Drive thru, pop your trunk, and let us help you unload your non-perishable or monetary donations. This is a socially distant, no contact event.

### **Street Sweeping Notice**

New Britain Township works very hard to keep its streets as clean as possible. The Public Works Department will begin street sweeping pending on the weather around the end of April and beginning of May.