

2021 | SUMMER ISSUE



NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

The Official Newsletter

A Message from the Code Enforcement Department

Topic: Civil Disputes

One of the functions of the Township's Code Enforcement Department is to investigate and resolve code violations. The Code Department often receives reports from residents about various issues in their neighborhoods or surrounding areas. While we are happy to help when we can, there are many instances when the issues being reported are civil disputes and not code violations. While we understand that certain situations can be frustrating, if there are no code violations, unfortunately, the Code Department does not have any authority to intervene. Here are some examples of frequently reported civil disputes:

Property line disputes: The Township cannot intervene in disputes over property line locations. Owners of private property are responsible for determining the boundaries of their own property. When there is a dispute over these boundaries, a professional survey should be considered first to hopefully resolve the dispute.

Fencing, structures, or other encroachments of private property: Much like property line disputes, if your neighbor is encroaching on your property with something that belongs to them such as a fence, or swing-set, that dispute must be handled between neighbors.

Trees on private property: Wheth-

er your neighbor's tree branches are dropping leaves on your property, or a neighbor's tree might look questionable, trees located on private property are a civil matter. This also includes trees and/or branches that have fallen on to your property.

Tenant/Landlord disputes: Disagreements between tenants of a property and their landlords is a private matter.

So how do you know if the issues you are facing are enforceable through Township ordinances, or are civil disputes? Township ordinances are posted online for public review. You are always welcome to start on the Township website at

IN THIS SEASON'S ISSUE:

Stormwater - 2

4th of July, Tax Collector - 3

Police News - 4

Township Info - 5

Township Events - 6

www.newbritaintownship.org.

You can also file a Resident Concern/Complaint Form either in person at the Township building, by mail, or via email at:

nbt@newbritaintownship.org.

We will look into your reports and let you know if the issues are enforceable by the Township Code Department or if they need to be handled privately. When something first arises with your neighbor, it is always a good idea to start by having an open dialogue with them. Often times, having a friendly conversation will not only result in amicable solutions, but will also help to preserve hospitable relationships between neighbors.

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



This year's Annual Tri-Municipal 4th of July Parade will be held on **Saturday, July 3rd, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.** All are welcome! Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy your hometown parade. The parade starts at Town Center in New Britain Borough and ends at North Branch Park in New Britain Township.

Please check out www.newbritaintownship.org/events.html for more details. Fill out and send the participant registration form **below** and the regulations page found **online** to the Township Office at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont if you, your family, or your organization would like to enter a float, or participate in the parade.

2021 TRI-MUNICIPAL PARADE RESPONSE FORM: Saturday, July 3, 2021 starting at 9:30 a.m. (Town Center Rt. 202)

- Yes, I (we) wish to participate in the 2021 Tri-Municipal July 4th Parade.
- No, I (we) cannot participate this year. Please send us information next year.
- No, I (we) cannot participate this year. Please take us off the list.

Organization Name _____ Contact Name _____ Phone No. _____
 Mailing Address _____ E-Mail Address _____ # of Participants _____
 # of Vehicles* _____ Make/Model of Car(s) _____

**ALL vehicles must have current insurance or exempt status*

(All Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult)

Enter a Family, Neighborhood or Business Float.

Prizes will be awarded for the Most Original, Most Patriotic, and Most Humorous.

Yes, I (we) wish to enter the Float Contest

Number of Float Participants _____ Name of Float _____

Category: Humorous Float Neighborhood Float Patriotic Float

Other (Describe theme) _____

Music (describe) _____

**** All floats must be "family friendly." NO POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING ALLOWED.**

Please return by June 1, 2021 to:

New Britain Township
 Attn: July 4th / Chelle Clancy
 207 Park Avenue
 Chalfont, PA 18914
mclancy@newbritaintownship.org
 PHONE: (215)822-1391

Township Use:

DATE: _____

AREA: _____

NUMBER: _____

A Message from the Tax Collector

by Nicole Percetti

The School Tax Bills will be mailed to property owners on July 1st and are due in the discount amount by August 31st or the face amount by October 31st. After October 31st, the school taxes will be due in penalty until the end of the year. If you would like to pay the school bill in installments, the first installment must be postmarked by August 31st, the second installment by September 30th, and the third installment by October 31st. Please note that if you elect to opt in to pay by installments, you cannot opt out after the first payment is made.

If you have not received a copy of your County & Township bill, please contact me for a copy as soon as possible. PA Law states that failure to receive the tax bill does not relieve taxpayers of their responsibility to pay the taxes due.

There are various ways you can pay your tax bill, you can pay in person during the hours listed on the bill, you can pay online by visiting newbritaintax.com under the "making payments" tab, and there is also a drop box located outside of the New Britain Township Building at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont.

For any questions, please contact me at newbritaintax.com or by phone 215-822-2930.

New Britain Township Police Department News

by Chief Robert Scafidi

Ryan Lischke is the most recent addition to the New Britain Township Police Department. Ryan previously worked for the Temple University Police Department in Philadelphia, and most recently for the City of Allentown Police Department. In his spare time, Ryan is the Deputy Chief of the Fairmount Fire Department in Lansdale. Ryan has been a volunteer firefighter for many years.

Chief Robert Scafidi is retiring at the end of June after a long tenure with the New Britain Township Police Department. Chief Scafidi has resided in the Township since 1979. The Chief is proud of the men and women who make up the New Britain Township Police Department and know they will continue to make the Township a safe place to live and work. Chief Scafidi graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and the FBI National Academy. He came to the Township after serving in the U.S. Army as a Paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division and in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group. Chief Scafidi is proud that some of the officers in the department are Veterans of the Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror. We all appreciate their service.

Giant Supermarket donated \$2,500 to the Chal-Brit Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Fund during the pandemic. Giant Supermarket has made generous donations to the New Britain Township Police Department who in turn transferred donated items to the Local Food Bank. The New Britain Township Police Department thanks Giant Supermarkets and the Local Store Manager Bob Griffith for their generosity.

Finally, remember to lock your vehicle's doors when parked and do not leave any valuables in sight. Many vehicles are entered this time of year.

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.



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.

LIKE
SHARE
COMMENT

[Facebook.com/newbritaintownship](https://www.facebook.com/newbritaintownship)



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
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.

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP 2021 EVENTS

Fourth of July Parade

This year's Annual Tri-Municipal Fourth of July Parade will be held on **Saturday, July 3rd, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.** The parade starts at Town Center in New Britain Borough and ends at North Branch Park in New Britain Township. See page 3 for the participant registration form and for more information.

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.

Santa House

December (TBD).

Thank you to our Bingo Sponsors!



Babylon School of Dance
Little Farm Estates
McCaffrey's Food Market
MERCK SHARPE & DOHME

Northampton Valley Country Club
SkyZone Trampoline Park
TARGET WORLD, Inc.
Windmill Day School & Camp