

2020 FALL / WINTER ISSUE



NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

The Official Newsletter

A Message From The Board of Supervisors

In an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our residents and neighbors, the Board of Supervisors of New Britain Township announced that the Annual September Fall Festival and Car Show will be regrettably cancelled for 2020. Ongoing mandated restrictions for public gatherings during the current Pandemic make planning for sanitation and social distancing extremely difficult, if not impossible for the number of event participants, staff and public. Ultimately, we must do what's best for all of our Community. The Fall Festival will return next year, with lots of harvest fun for all. In the meantime, keep checking our website and social media posts for smaller events to keep the fun rolling in a safe manner! Reach us at www.newbritaintownship.org or 215-822-1391.

Bristol Road Extension Update

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is proceeding with their Bristol Road Extension (BRE) Project. The BRE will run from the intersection of Bristol Road and Butler Avenue to the existing dead-end street that connects with Park Avenue.

The project has proceeded to the preliminary engineering phase. PennDOT will be conducting field engineering activities along Park Avenue and other areas along the planned route of the BRE project. For more information, residents may call New Britain Township at 215-822-1391 or PennDOT at 215-345-6060.

TO ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS,
THANK YOU!

New Britain Township thanks all Essential Workers, from Professionals in Healthcare, Retail Grocery and Food Service, Custodians and Janitorial staff, First Responders, Delivery and Mail Carriers, Maintenance, Public Works, to Community Leaders and Volunteers.

We sincerely thank the Chalfont Fire Company, Chal-Brit Regional EMS and the New Britain Township Police Department for carrying on the tradition of our July 4th Parade. In a year when we could not do it ourselves, we are truly thankful these heroes stepped up for the community.

ZONING 101: Zoning Hearing Board

by Kelsey Harris, Zoning Officer

What is a Zoning Hearing Board?

Every municipality in Pennsylvania that enacts a zoning ordinance is required by law to establish a Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB). A ZHB is a quasi-judicial board tasked to hear appeals and/or requests for relief from the literal interpretation of the zoning ordinance when certain hardships are present.

The ZHB has no legislative authority: they cannot enact, repeal, or amend the content of a zoning ordinance. This can only be done by the elected Board of Supervisors (BOS). The ZHB of New Britain Township is comprised of three members and one alternate member. Each serves a three-year term. The BOS appoints each ZHB member by resolution. Members must be residents of New Britain Township and cannot hold any other elected or appointed office.

What are the functions of the ZHB?

The ZHB has exclusive jurisdiction over these specific matters: substantive challenges to the validity of a zoning ordinance, applications for variance requests and special exceptions, appeals from the determination of the Zoning Officer (including

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permit approvals or denials), appeals of enforcement notices, appeals from erosion and/or stormwater provisions not related to subdivision and land development, and appeals of administration of floodplain ordinances. The ZHB assures fair and equitable application and administration of the zoning ordinance.

What makes the ZHB “quasi-judicial”?

ZHB public hearings must adhere to specific procedures set by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Public notices are mailed to properties within 500 feet, the notice is published in a local paper, and the property is posted with hearing information. A stenographic record of the hearing is taken.

The ZHB accepts evidence into the record and takes sworn testimony from parties of the application. A party of the application is any participant who has “standing to be affected” by the application. Typically, you must own a property in close proximity to be considered a party in the hearing. New Britain Township is always a party to every application. The ZHB has the

right to grant or deny party status during the hearing. Once granted party status, you have the right to cross-examine, bring your own witnesses, and present evidence. Formal rules of evidence do not apply and the ZHB has the authority to exclude evidence that is irrelevant, repetitious, or immaterial.

Once a verbal decision is rendered by the ZHB, that board has 45 days to issue a written decision to all parties. If any affected party disagrees with the decision of the ZHB, that party has 30 days from the issuance of the written decision to appeal that decision to the Court of Common Pleas. The case then moves to the jurisdiction of the Bucks County Courts.

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“The purpose of the Zoning Hearing Board is to assure fair and equitable application and administration of the zoning ordinance.”

A Homeowner’s Guide To Stormwater

by 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 the soil, discharge directly into streams, water bodies, 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. The 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 naturally 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 oils, 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 the 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 natural 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:
 - Maintaining dense vegetative cover of turfgrass to reduce runoff, prevent erosion, and retain nutrients.
 - Retaining clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn and keeping them out of streets, storm drains and trash.
 - Setting mower height at 3 inches or taller.
 - Not applying fertilizer within 15 to 20 feet of a stream, pond, or other water body and considering managing this zone as a perennial planting, meadow, grass buffer, or forest buffer.
5. By doing many small things, you have a bigger impact on improving stormwater management in your local area.

Fire Marshal News

by Randy Teschner

Per the New Britain Township Fire Code Ordinance #2019-04-01, there shall be **no burning** in Township.

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.

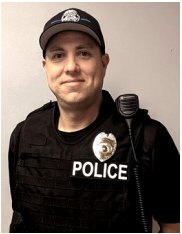
307.4.2 Portable outdoor fireplaces: Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 15 feet of a structure shall be eliminated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

New Britain Township Police Department News

by Chief Robert Scafidi

All of our recently-hired Police Officers bring a wealth of varied experiences to the New Britain Township Police Force. We welcome the opportunity to serve you, the citizens of New Britain Township.



OFFICER DANIEL GONZALEZ

Officer Gonzalez is the newest Police Officer serving New Britain Township. Officer Gonzalez is a proud United States Marine Corps Veteran who served in the Iraq war. He has a wide range of experience having previously served with the Philadelphia Police Department, as well as the United States Border Patrol. Please help the Township welcome Officer Daniel Gonzalez!

Other Featured New Britain Township Police Officers

OFFICER KATE PEFFALL has been with the New Britain Township Police Department for three years. She is a former Philadelphia Police Officer who grew up in Montgomery County, and comes from a law enforcement family. She is a crisis negotiator with the Central Bucks Special Response Team which is a multi-jurisdictional agency comprised of twenty one municipalities served by 18 police departments. The CBSRT responds to high-risk incidents in Central and Upper Bucks County.

OFFICER ALEX KOMATICK has also been with the New Britain Township Police Department for three years. He was recruited by New Britain Township from the Allentown Police Department. Officer Komatick grew up in New Britain Township and is also a member of the Central Bucks Special Response Team.

CORPORAL MARK DUNCAN is a Patrol Supervisor with the New Britain Township Police Department. Corporal Duncan recently graduated from the prestigious school of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. Corporal Duncan is also a member of the Central Bucks Special Response Team, he is a United States Marine Corps Veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns, where he served as an Infantry Squad Leader.

CORPORAL RICH MICHIE was recently welcomed back from being deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with the United States Coast Guard. Corporal Michie serves as Chief Petty Officer with the U.S. Coast Guard and this was his second deployment to the Navy Base in Cuba.

Contacting the New Britain Township Police Department

- The Police Emergency Phone Number is 911.
- 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.
- Please do not email the Police to report a crime or a situation that requires immediate action. This will severely delay response.



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.

Important Township Information

GOVERNMENT

Township Administration Office	215-822-1391
Police Non-Emergency	215-822-1910
Public Works Department	215-822-3698
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

REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX

Tax Collector	Nicole Percetti
Mailing Address	PO Box 565, Chalfont, PA 18914
Phone	215-822-2930
Office Hours	Tues. & Thurs. from 9AM-3PM
Email	newbritaintax@gmail.com
Website	newbritaintax.webs.com

See website for any updates.

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[Twitter.com/newbritaintwp1](https://twitter.com/newbritaintwp1)



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Correspondence/Comments concerning this Newsletter should be addressed to:

New Britain Township

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

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Township Administration Office Hours

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

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

**Fall Yard Waste
Collection Drop Off**

New Britain Township is pleased to offer our residents a drop-off container for Fall Yard Waste. The 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. The container is available November 17 through November 21, Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please deposit plant material-er debris with leaves and plant material. You may use 40-gallon biodegradable or recyclable paper bags only! Paper bags are readily available at most local hardware stores and grocery stores.

Community Shredding and E-Recycling Event

New Britain Township, Chalfont Borough, and New Britain Borough are pleased to announce the Annual Community Shredding and Electronics Recycling Event! The event is limited to Township and Borough Residents Only, no businesses. The event will be held at the New Britain Township Administration Building at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont on Saturday, October 3, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. PAR-Recycle Works will supply both shredding and electronic recycling services.

A few things to remember:

- You must provide a valid Driver's License or ID indicating you are a Township resident upon arrival.

Shredding:

- Five (5) bag limit per household (bags should be no larger than the size of a leaf bag).
- Paper Items Only! No Metal, Clips, Binders.

Electronic Recycling:

- Personal computers, printers, VCR/DVD/CD Players, Game Systems (Xbox, Nintendo, PlayStation, etc.) and much more will be accepted. No Batteries.
 - Cost per item is as follows: \$5 LCD Monitor, \$10 Flatscreen TV's, \$5 Flat Computer Monitors, \$5 Microwaves, \$15 AC's, Dehumidifiers & Air Purifiers, \$25-\$75 Tube TV's & Monitors (size varies).
 - No cost for all other items.
- Please check for event procedure updates on our website and social media.