



NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP NEWS

Your Hometown Newsletter

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP 2020 FINAL BUDGET

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On December 2, 2019, the Board of Supervisors of New Britain Township presented a balanced 2020 FINAL Budget.

The Budget provides for a one mill increase in Real Estate Tax millage rates and a 0.1 % increase in the 2020 Earned Income Tax. The 2020 Budget reflects 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 assessed as follows for the Fiscal Year 2020:

- 6.1000 mills for General Public Services
- 1.25 mills for Fire Protection Services
- 0.5 mills for Emergency Medical Services
- 2.4625 mills for Park & Recreation Services
- 1.0 mills for Capital Infrastructure & Debt Service
- 1.25 mills for Public Works Building & Debt Service
- 0.5 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. Some are accounts set up for future capital purchases. Some Funds contain monies dedicated to specific purposes.

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 (specifically where the 2020 increases will go), General Reserve, Capital Equipment, Highway Equipment.

Funds that are used for dedicated purposes 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, 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, and the development and maintenance of those open spaces. Keeping a healthy balance is critical to maintaining the ability to act on a property when the occasion arises.

The 2020 Final Budget is available for public inspection at the Township Building. You can also download the 2020 FINAL Budget Summary online at:

newbritaintownship.org/finance.html

300 Committee Volunteers Needed

New Britain Township is quickly approaching its 300th Anniversary, and the Township is looking for ideas and volunteers to aide in the planning of our Big Celebration! New Britain Township is seeking creative individuals who would like to join the 300 Committee.

If you are interested in volunteering, call 215-822-1391 or send an email to:

mwalsh@newbritaintownship.org

ZONING 101: WHAT IS ZONING? WHY DO WE HAVE IT?

What is Zoning?

To put it simply, zoning is the division of a municipality into districts or zones in which certain activities are permitted and others are prohibited. The governing bodies (which is the Board of Supervisors in New Britain Township) of municipalities in Pennsylvania are given the authority to enact, amend and repeal zoning ordinances through state legislation called the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (or MPC).

All municipalities are bound to this legislation when enacting, amending, repealing and enforcing zoning ordinances.

What exactly does the MPC allow the municipality to regulate through Zoning?

The *USE* of the land, the *SIZE, HEIGHT, and LOCATION* of structures, *DENSITY and INTENSITY* of uses, and *NATURAL, HISTORIC, and AGRICULTURAL* uses and activities.

Why do we create Zoning ordinances?

Part of the foundation for the creation of zoning ordinances is so municipalities can regulate the

minimum standards, or rather the municipality's authority to protect and promote public health, safety, morals, and general welfare.

Who enforces Zoning and what are their responsibilities?

The MPC requires the appointment of a Zoning Officer to interpret, administer and enforce the zoning ordinances in its literal terms. Duties of the Zoning Officer include, but are not limited to; processing, reviewing and approving or denying zoning permits, maintaining records, plan reviews, discovering and/or investigation of potential zoning violations, gaining compliance by way of persuasion and/or formal enforcement proceedings, prosecuting violations through civil complaints at the District Magistrate, and reviewing and accepting appeals and/or applications for variances/special exceptions to the Zoning Hearing Board. Official determinations made by the Zoning Officer can only be appealed to the Zoning Hearing Board. To learn more, the Summer Issue of the New Britain Township Newsletter will cover the functions and duties of the Township's Zoning Hearing Board.

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

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 action. 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.

Tax Fraud Scam Calls

If someone contacts you to use pre-paid gift cards to pay a fee or bill, it is a fraud! Tax time is upon us; be aware of IRS scams. The IRS does not use the phone to contact you. They never use local police to arrest tax delinquents or tell you to use gift cards. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it is. **Never give out your social security number!**

Investigating Crime

Video surveillance cameras including doorbell cameras and other outside cameras are legal and are often a proven crime-fighting tool. If you have a camera at your home or business, we would appreciate access when investigating a crime. Contact Detective Cpl. Cummins of the NBT Police Department if you are able to assist with any investigation at 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.

Courteous & Safe Driving

Slow Down!

Citizen reports of speeding vehicles are one of the most common complaints. Please slow down on all roads. Be mindful at crosswalks, construction zones and school buses. It is our duty as motorists to be courteous and safe when driving.

Do Not Text and Drive

It is NEVER acceptable to send text messages when operating a motor vehicle. It is also against the law.

NBTPD Web Portal

Sign up for alerts or submit a tip by going to: <https://bucks.crimewatchpa.com/newbritaintwppd>

IMPORTANT POLICE 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

NEW DART WEST NEWS



Announcing the new Dart West local public bus transportation service for New Britain Township residents that travels from Delaware Valley University to New Britain Village Square Shopping Center, and is ADA Accessible.

The Dart West weekday local bus service takes New Britain Township residents along Business Route 202 on Butler Avenue through New Britain Borough, Chalfont Borough and New Britain Township.

Dart West will allow riders to access the bus route into the Doylestown area. The fare is \$1.00 each way, with no transfer charge between the Dart West and the Doylestown Dart. Seniors 65 years or older ride for free. Bus tokens are available onboard the bus at \$10.00 for 12 tokens.

To find out more and review the full Dart West schedule, go to: <http://www.newbritaintownship.org/dartwest.html>

CHALFONT FIRE COMPANY 2020 EVENTS

All events are held at the Chalfont Fire House at:

301 North Main Street
Chalfont, PA 18914

For additional information or to reserve the Fire House for a Banquet or Meeting, call 215-822-9685 or visit:

www.chalfontfirecompany.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26
Buffet Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
or until sold out

May 9
Turkey Hoagies
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
or until sold out

June 7
Chicken Bar-B-Que
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Take-Out Only

June 27
Flea Market
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

September 5
Turkey Hoagies
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
or until sold out

September 27
Buffet Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
or until sold out

October 8
Fire Prevention Open House
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

October 24
Craft Show
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.




BE THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION


WHY IS STORMWATER AN ISSUE?


Stormwater washes pollutants into Waterways. Stormwater runoff can pick up and carry litter, nutrients, bacteria, chemicals, sediment (soil) and other pollutants through a storm drain system, untreated, to the nearest creek, stream or lake that we use for swimming, fishing and as a drinking water supply.


- Sediment clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to grow; it can destroy aquatic habitat.
- Nutrients applied in excess cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and pathogens washed into swimming areas can create health hazards.
- Litter, including plastic bags, cans, bottles and cigarette butts, washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Hazardous household products like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil can poison aquatic life.
- Polluted stormwater can affect drinking water sources.

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION

 *Never dump anything down storm drains or in ditches.* Many people wrongly think that storm drains are part of a sanitary sewer system that flows to a wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains are a direct link to local streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands.

 *Pick up after your pet.* Pet waste that is left on streets, sidewalks, yards or trails near streams can easily wash into area creeks and streams. Always pick up after your pets and dispose of their waste in a trash can or flush it down the toilet!

 *Check your car for leaking fluids and recycle your motor oil:* Improper disposal of used oil, which includes oil leaking from cars, contributes significantly to stormwater pollution. Improper disposal of used oil, which includes oil leaking from cars, contributes significantly to stormwater pollution. If you change your automotive fluids, recycle your used motor oil. Many places that sell motor oil also collect it for free.

 *Don't litter! Pick up trash you see on the ground (even if it's not yours) and participate in a creek or watershed cleanup!* Litter can wash into area creeks and streams through storm drains where water from our streets goes untreated. Litter can also be dangerous to wildlife that might mistake it for food or get tangled in the trash.



Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep driveways and sidewalks after application. Use fertilizers according to your lawn and plant needs and the labeled instructions. Sweep driveways and sidewalks after application. Fertilizers applied in excess or scattered onto driveways or sidewalks have the potential to be carried by rain runoff into creeks and streams, causing high levels of nutrients in our waters, which can lead to unnatural algae growth, creating green "slimy" or "hairy" water that depletes oxygen for aquatic ecosystems.



Compost yard waste and sweep grass clippings out of street gutters after mowing. Grass clippings and leaves can contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which can cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in the waterways. Mulch leaves by running the lawnmower over them and leaving the shredded leaves and grass on the lawn. This also adds needed nutrients back to your lawn, minimizing the need for added fertilizers. Consider a compost bin or pile. Be sure to sweep up leaves and grass from driveways and sidewalks so they don't end up down the storm drain.



Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces and slow water down. When rain falls on a roof, its momentum increases and gives it more power to wash pollutants into storm drains. Storm drains carry rainwater untreated to area creeks and streams. By diverting your gutter downspouts to grassy areas, runoff can be slowed and allowed to soak into the soil. Consider using rain barrels or installing a rain garden to capture the rain as it flows off roofs. The collected water can be used during dry spells to water lawns and gardens.



Wash your car at a commercial car wash that is plumbed to a treatment plant instead of washing your car on a driveway or street. When you wash your car on the driveway or street, dirt, grease, and soap can wash into storm drains and directly into creeks and streams. Concentrations of detergents in streams can kill fish and their eggs and disrupt their ability to reproduce. Detergents can also destroy the natural protections fish have against bacteria and parasites and can severely damage fish gills. The phosphates from the soap can also cause excess algae to grow in our waterways. Take your car to the car wash where the rinse water goes to a wastewater treatment plant instead of storm drains. If you do wash your car at home, do it on grassy or gravel areas that absorb the water without washing it into the street.



Use integrated pest management practices for controlling pests around your home. Use pesticides cautiously and only use recommended amounts. Excess pesticides applied to lawns and surrounding areas wash off and pollute streams. These include bug killers, weed killers and fungus treatments. The most effective and important practice to minimize lawn and garden pests is to observe what is going on in the yard. Many serious diseases or insect problems can be stopped or slowed down early by timely intervention.

Vegetate bare spots in your yard and terrace slopes to minimize erosion. Cover bare spots in your yard with mulch or vegetation. If your yard is sloped, think about terracing the land into steps to help slow down the water as it moves across your property.

Information for this article was taken from the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Research & Extension: Northwest Arkansas Stormwater Program.

MAINTAIN DRAINAGE SWALES

A grass drainage swale is an open channel that collects water from hard surfaces and allows it to percolate into the ground. Swales can help to increase water filtration, decrease water flow velocity, prevent erosion, and direct runoff during storms into other stormwater facilities or the storm drain system. **The following is a list of ways to maintain your swale:**

Monthly: Inspect your swale after all storms. Check that water has drained and that there is no erosion. Remove sediment and debris from in and around the swale.

Seasonally: Mow bluegrasses and fescues no shorter than 2.5 to 3 inches. Remove tall clippings. Manually remove weeds or invasive plants. Remove leaves in the fall as they may smother grass and block the flow of water. Adjust the mower height to avoid scalping the edges of the side slopes.

As Needed: Re-seed any bare areas. Contact DEP if you continue to have problems.

Never: Never use fertilizers or pesticides in the swale. Never over-mow, or mow shorter than 2.5 to 3 inches. Never mow immediately after rain events.

IMPACT OF INVASIVE PLANTS

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources defines invasive plants as those species that are not native to the state, grow aggressively, and spread and displace native vegetation. They often emerge earlier in the spring and push natives out through fast reproduction. This limits habitat available for native wildlife and disrupts the food chain. For a list and ranking of Invasive Plants, go to: newbritaintownship.org/trees.html

For more information and additional resources, go to: dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants

REPORT POTHOLE CONCERNS

PennDOT encourages motorists to report potholes by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD or by submitting concerns by going to:

<https://customercare.penndot.gov/>

PennDOT
Pothole Hotline
1-800-349-7623

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP EVENTS

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

WHEN: Saturday, March 28, 2020 (Rain Date: April 4)
WHERE: North Branch Park at 207 Park Ave., Chalfont
TIME: Egg Hunt Event will start at 10:00am sharp.

*Come early and have your picture taken with our special guest, The Easter Bunny!
 Find the special egg and win a prize!*

Children race to gather eggs filled with chocolate, candy, and much more! Prizes are awarded to each age group from pre-school through sixth grade!

This event is FREE to all children of all ages and their families. Don't forget to bring non-perishable goods to be collected and donated to the New Britain Food Larder.



WHEN: Thursday, March 26, 2020, 2:00PM to 7:00PM
WHERE: Meeting Room at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont
 Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org and type in sponsor code: **new britain**

SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION

For NBT residents, a walk-in 40-yard drop-off container for Spring Yard Waste will be located next to the Municipal Building at 207 Park Avenue from May 5 - May 9, Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please deposit plant materials only. Loose, in 40-gallon biodegradable or recyclable paper bags only! Do not mix trash or other debris with leaves and plant materials.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY SHREDDING & E-RECYCLING EVENT

The annual community shredding and e-cycling event is limited to **Township Residents Only**. No Businesses. The event will be held at the New Britain Township Administration Building, located at 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont on Saturday, May 2, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PAR Recycling Works will be onsite to help handle the event. For more details, go to: newbritaintownship.org/trash.html.



Join The New Britain Township Veterans Committee for a His & Hers Bingo Event on Friday, April 17, 2020! Gather your friends for a fun evening of Bingo and support a great cause! Opportunities for a chance to win fabulous prizes to benefits Veterans Park!

Beat the rush! Purchase tickets or reserve a table for ten (10) in advance! Stop by the New Britain Township Office at 207 Park Ave. in Chalfont to purchase tickets (Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). You can also call Michael at 215-822-1391 or email him at: mwalsh@newbritaintownship.org

WHEN: April 17, 2019

WHERE: Shrine of Czestochowa
 654 Ferry Road, Doylestown

**Doors Open 6:00pm
 Games Begin 7:00pm**

TICKETS:

\$25 per person in advance
 \$30 per person at the door

THANK YOU

The New Britain Township Veterans Committee would like to thank all that participated in the

10th Annual Fall Festival

to benefit Veterans Park located at the corner of New Galena Road and Walters Road

Fall Festival, Craft Fair, Special Performances,
 Car Show and Community Yard Sale were enjoyed by all.

A Special THANK YOU to our CORPORATE SPONSORS

Allstate
 Bi-County Fuels, Inc.
 Byers' Choice Ltd.
 Doli Construction
 DunlapSLK CPAs
 Envoy Mortgage

Firsttrust Bank
 Little Farm Estates
 Merck Sharp & Dohme FCU
 New Britain Tri-Municipal
 Republican Club

North Wales Water Authority
 Pabby's Pet Resort
 Phase 4 Contracting LLC
 Quad Graphics
 Spatola's Pizza
 Target World Inc.



New Britain Township

Please remember this event and please participate in the
11th Annual Fall Festival • September 2020
 The New Britain Township Veterans Committee

Get ready to vote! Curious about what you'll be seeing at the polls?



Get to know Bucks County's New Voting System by going to the Bucks County Board of Elections:
buckscounty.org/government/CommunityServices/BoardofElections
 To review the New Britain Township Polling Locations please see the back of this newsletter.

NOTES FROM THE REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR

The 2020 County/Township Real Estate Tax Bills are being mailed out on March 1, 2020. The Township has increased the millage rate by one (1) mill from 12.0625 to 13.0625 to help fund various park and recreation projects. The County will also be increasing its millage rate by one (1) mill from 24.45 to 25.45.

If you do not receive your bill by the 2nd week in March, feel free to send me an email; or call me and I will be happy to mail or email a copy, or you can pick up a copy from my office.

If you would like to receive a 2% discount, your payment must be postmarked by April 30th. There will be additional office hours outside of the normal tax hours to come and pay at the end of April. Please check your bill for those dates and times.

As always, you can make payments by credit card or by E-Check online at newbritain-tax.webs.com under the "Making Payments" tab.

If you have any questions, please email me at newbritaintax@gmail.com or call me at 215-822-2930.

TAX COLLECTOR MAILING ADDRESS

Nicole Percetti
PO Box 565
Chalfont, PA 18914

TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE
Nicole Percetti
207 Park Avenue, Chalfont

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Tri-Municipal July 4th Parade is right around the corner! Everyone is welcome to participate. The Township is looking for groups or neighborhoods that feel creative & would like to enter a float. Great prizes awarded! Call Jo Ann at 215-822-1391. For more information: newbritaintownship.org/events.html

The NBT Parks & Rec Board Gives Special Thanks To Our 2019 Santa House Sponsors!

- Aweber
- Datacap Systems Inc
- Doli Construction
- Dunlap SLK CPAs
- Grim, Biehn & Thatcher
- Jillamy, Inc.
- Little Farm Estates
- Nappen & Associates
- Roll Former Corporation
- Spatola's Pizza
- Trijay Systems

TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted (please confirm prior to attending)

Board of Supervisors

First and Third Monday of each Month

Planning Commission

Second and Fourth Tuesday of each Month

Park & Recreation Board

Third Tuesday of each Month

Zoning Hearing Board

Third Thursday of each Month

Veterans Committee

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

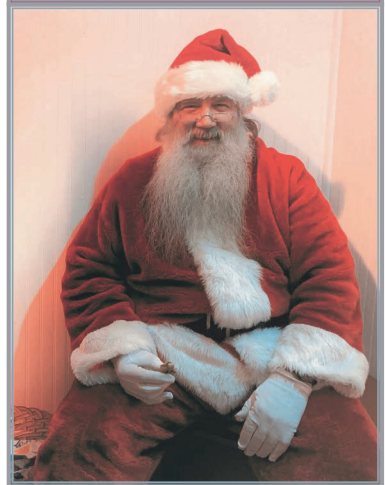


Agenda for Meetings are made available on the Township Website several days prior to the Meeting.

Residents can call the Township Building 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



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

GOVERNMENT

- Township Administration Bldg. 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
LVRC Sports

<https://www.lenapevalleyrc.org>

Follow Us On Social Media!

New Britain Township has Facebook and Twitter Pages. These pages are used to update residents about road closings, power outages and various Township Events.



"Like" us on Facebook by going to our page and click on the "Like" button:

facebook.com/NewBritainTownship



"Follow" us on Twitter by going to:

twitter.com/NewBritainTwp1

Correspondence/Comments concerning this Newsletter should be mailed to:



New Britain Township
207 Park Avenue
Chalfont, PA 18914
Telephone: 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*

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PAID
Lansdale, PA
Permit No 15

Township Administration Hours

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

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

