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NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

Located in beautiful Bucks County

2024 NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 4





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SHAWN & MICHELLE WIELAND



Message from the Chair, Cynthia Jones

Falling leaves and cooler temperatures are the calling card of AUTUMN! That signals that 2024 is coming to a close, but what a great year it has been for New Britain Township.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming care and support shown by our community during the recent collection for those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Your generosity is a true reflection of the spirit of the community we are so proud to serve.

We have had many great community events since our last newsletter. A visit from the Easter Bunny was accompanied by those March showers. The excitement of the children and parents was not dampened one bit. The communities of Chalfont and New Britain Boroughs joined us to celebrate at our Annual July 4th Parade. Seeing all the waving of flags along the parade route was wonderful. Most recently, the beautiful autumn weather and activities were enjoyed at our well-attended Fall Fest. Lastly, I wish to send a BIG thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and sponsors for making these fantastic community events a HUGE success.

Reflecting on the message from our first newsletter this year... Communication. In April, the Township welcomed Dan Fox as our new Township Manager, and now each Board of Supervisors member has a dedicated phone number for residents to leave messages. This enhances accessibility to the Board. Additionally, the Board voted to develop a new Township website to streamline communication and information for residents—stay tuned for its launch!

Congratulations to our New Britain Township Police Department for achieving "PA Law Enforcement Accreditation," a milestone reflecting their dedication over several years to attain certification. Throughout the year, the police have been holding community outreach functions...neighborhood Rita's events, Coffee with a Cop, and Trunk-or-Treat, to name a few.

The Board has focused on updating our Code of Ordinances in the past year. With a fully funded grant, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) collaborated with the PA Environmental Council to develop recommendations for our community. By integrating these insights with feedback from our professional staff and residents, we aim to promote sustainable SMART development. We hear you and are committed to being good stewards of our community.

We also engaged the Bucks County Planning Commission to update our Open Space Plan, including a survey sent to selected households. If you returned one, thank you for your participation.

Lastly, we celebrated the completion of the Neshaminy Greenway Trail near Upper State Road, with the new EAC contributing to plantings along the trail. A recent Ribbon Cutting marked this achievement.

In closing, I wish everyone a joyful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Dan Fox Message from Township Manager

I am thrilled to introduce myself as your new Township Manager. It is an honor to join such a vibrant and welcoming community, and I am genuinely excited to begin this journey with you.

My commitment is to work collaboratively with residents, local businesses, and community organizations to enhance the quality of life in New Britain Township. I believe that by fostering open communication and building strong relationships, we can tackle challenges and celebrate our successes together.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and hearing your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Together, we can make New Britain Township an even better place to live, work, and play.

Thank you for the warm welcome. Here's to a bright future together!

- Dan Fox



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

JOIN US and register as an EVENT VOLUNTEER!

We have the ability to make a difference in our community and are dedicated to serving our township - ***But we can't do it alone!***

There are many opportunities throughout the year where volunteers are needed - *Events, Programs, Projects and much, much more.*

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.NEWBRITAIN TOWNSHIP.ORG



NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

207 Park Avenue | Chalfont, PA 18914

215-822-1391

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

newbritaintownship.org

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 <https://newbritaintownship.org>.

Board of Supervisors First and Third Monday of each Month

Planning Commission Fourth Tuesday of each Month

Zoning Hearing Board Third Thursday of each Month

Parks & Recreation Commission Third Tuesday of each Month

Veterans Committee Third Wednesday of each Month at 6:00pm

Environmental Advisory Council First Wednesday of each Month

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

CONTACTS OF INTEREST

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	1-866-539-1100
Voters' Registration Office	215-348-6154
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

The Board of Supervisors

Cynthia M. Jones, Chair

MaryBeth McCabe, Vice Chair

William B. Jones, III, Member

Stephanie Shortall, Member

Bridget Kunakorn, Member

Township Administration Hours:

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

DO YOU FOLLOW US?



Facebook.com/newbritaintownship



Twitter.com/newbritaintownship

North Branch Park Facilities Update

We are excited to announce that New Britain Township has purchased 6 new basketball systems to replace the existing systems at North Branch Park. The court area is completed, the playing area has been resurfaced, and there is split-rail fencing to separate the courts from vehicle traffic along the driveway and parking areas.

Additionally, the 1.25-mile walking trail at North Branch Park is in the process of being repaired and prepped for resurfacing. After completion, mile markers will be placed along the trail.

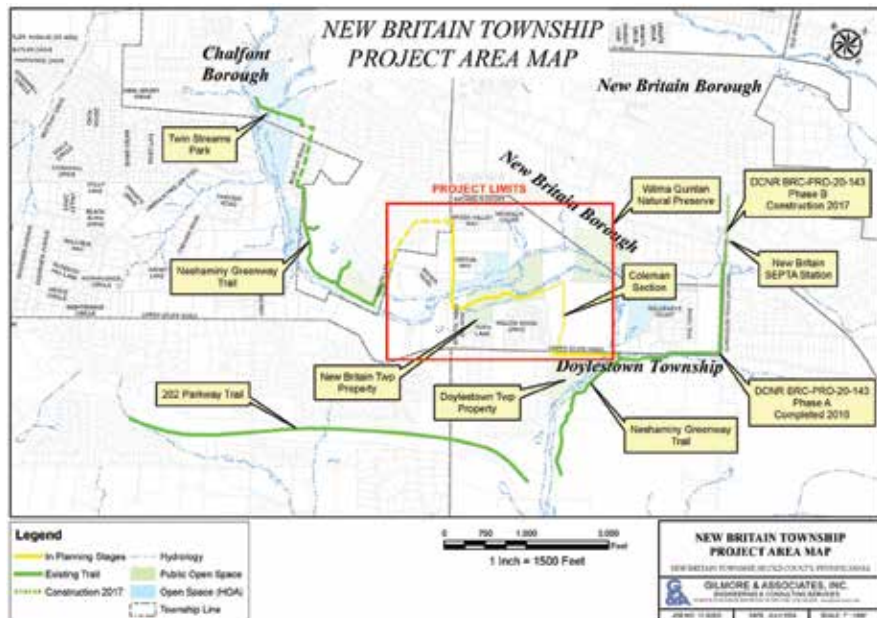
Plans to replace the upper playground are also on the capital plan list! New Britain Township has received a design that will combine a new Tot-Lot and Swing Set, to be installed at the site of the existing Tot-Lot. This area will be surveyed and engineered to incorporate an updated pavilion for a better ADA-compliant system and to relieve all drainage issues. The current Swing Set and Spring Rocker will be removed, and that area regraded.

We can't wait to see our community enjoying the improved facilities upon completion of these projects!



Completion of the “Neshaminy Creek Greenway Trail”

New Britain Township recently closed a gap in the Neshaminy Creek Greenway Trail, a regionally significant trail in Bucks County. Here, people can not only connect to nature and the Neshaminy Creek but follow the trail to other open space areas, local schools, employment areas, town centers, municipal and county parks, and public transportation hubs. Trailhead parking has been provided at 1606 Upper State Road, Doylestown, for 21 vehicles and bicycles to access the walking and bike trail that meanders through a 39-acre parcel of mature woodlands acquired by the Township through Open Space funding. The Township sees the trail as the first step to creating a future community park on this parcel along the picturesque Neshaminy Creek. New Britain Township, Chalfont Borough, Doylestown Township, with County support, have jointly planned and obtained grants for the implementation of major portions of the Neshaminy Creek Greenway. This section of the trail was partially funded through a DCNR Grant through the Keystone Recreation Park and Conservation Fund and a DVRPC Regional Trails grant.



2024/2025 New Britain Township Events Calendar*

Santa House

Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th - 5:00PM to 7:00PM

New Britain Township Giant Shopping Center - 4275 County Line Road

Join Santa as he visits with children of all ages.

Santa's Helpers will be collecting non-perishable food for the New Britain Food Pantry.

Enjoy holiday cookies, hot cocoa, & sing carols.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 10:00AM

Photos with the Easter Bunny, 9:30AM

Easter Egg Hunt at North Branch Park,

207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914

Community E-Recycle

Saturday, May 3, 2025 9:00AM to 1:00PM

New Britain Township

207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914

Spring Yard Waste Collection

Tuesday to Friday May 6-9, 2025 7:30AM to 2:30PM

Saturday, May 10, 2025 8:00AM to 12:00PM

New Britain Township

207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914

Tri-Municipal 4th of July Parade

Friday, July 4, 2025 at 9:30AM

The parade begins at Town Center in New Britain Borough and concludes at

North Branch Park, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914

Fall Festival

Saturday, September 20, 2025 10:00AM-3:00PM

North Branch Park, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914

* All dates are tentative and subject to change



Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

Fall Festival

Byers Choice
Chalfont New Britain Democrats
Doli Construction
Dunlap SLK CPA 's
Flager & Associates, PC
Gilmore & Associates
Handpainted by Lulu
Keller Williams Real Estate
McCaffrey's Food Market
New Britain Chalfont Republican Club
New Season's Senior Living
Mathnasium
Pabby's Pet Resort
ProLift Garage Doors
Rotary Club of Montgo-New Britain
State Representative Brian Munroe
Toro Guacamole



***Thank you to all Sponsors who participated in 2023 and 2024!**



THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES

New Britain Township would like to thank the businesses and organizations that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. It is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.

New Britain Food Pantry



The New Britain Food Pantry is located in Grace Church of Doylestown, providing food for both individuals and families in need of assistance in the Central Bucks and New Hope School Districts. The Food Pantry is a designated food distribution site of the Opportunity Council of Bucks County. Support comes from government allocated funds, area churches and synagogues, the United States Postal Service, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, Keller Williams Realtors, local businesses and organizations, local schools, and individual donors. Food, supply, and financial donations directly benefit those who need the help of the Pantry.

The Food Pantry is entirely operated and staffed by community volunteers. All food donations that come to the pantry are checked for expiration dates.

Families in need are welcome to our pantry. For more information, please call: 215.345.9170.

Chalfont New Britain Business Alliance

CNBBA'S goal is to preserve the history and hometown integrity of Chalfont, New Britain and surrounding areas. As dedicated members of the business community, and in cooperation with our fellow residents, we hope to preserve the sense of vitality and small-town atmosphere we have grown to appreciate while promoting business growth. For more information: <http://www.cnbba.org/>.

AARK Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center

AARK is a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation and education center whose mission is to rehabilitate and release orphaned and injured native wildlife and promote harmony between humans and their wild neighbors through quality environmental education. They divide their programs into three major areas – rehabilitation, education, and training. For more information: <https://www.aark.org/>.

Lightning Safety

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike!

Indoor Safety

Turn off computers. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You **can use** a cell or cordless phone.

Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.

Outdoor Safety

- » If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.
- » Do not go under trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- » Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- » Stay away from windows and doors. Stay off porches.
- » There is no safe place outside. Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used.
- » If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1. Get medical help right away.

FAST FACTS

Lightning may strike as far as 10 miles from any rain.

Safety Tips

Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269



Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Portable generators are a temporary solution to power appliances. It's important to know that portable generators emit carbon monoxide (CO), a poisonous, deadly gas. Use these tips to avoid CO exposure:

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least 20 feet (7 metres) from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 20-foot (7 metre) distance from the generator to the building.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.



- Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

FACT

- ! Portable generator exhaust is toxic and deadly. Do not stand or sit downwind of generator exhaust. If you can smell exhaust, you are inhaling it.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

[nfpa.org/education](https://www.nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2022

Fire Marshal News

Visible street address numbers are critical to life and safety when Emergency Responders are called to a location. Valuable minutes can be lost in trying to locate an address that does not have visible numbers. New Britain Township requires property owners to make their address easily seen from the street.

Township Ordinance No. § 5-202.1.P requires property owners to have property identification numbers placed where it is easily visible from the street, with a minimum height of 6 inches and a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch. Structures that are set back more than 50 feet from the right-of-way should have the address numbers 4 inches on a post or mailbox, on both sides, at the end of the driveway.

No street numbers can be painted on any public curbs, streets, signs, posts, or sidewalks without prior written approval of the Township and the Fire Marshall's office.



Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Test your smoke alarms once a month.

A smoke alarm can save your life in a fire. Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working.

U.S. Fire Administration | FEMA | Fire is Everyone's Right

Replace your alarms after 10 years.

Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.

News from Nicole Percetti, the Tax Collector

The 2024 School tax bills were mailed on July 1st, if you did not receive your bill please contact me. Always remember to notify my office of any mailing address changes. Unfortunately, the failure of not receiving a tax bill does not exempt you from paying that tax bill.

The State of Pennsylvania extended the deadline to apply for the PA Rent/Rebate program to December 31, 2024. The income limits for this program increased this year to \$45,000 annually for both homeowners and renters (excluding 50% of Social Security), so if you were earning too much to qualify before, you may be eligible now. For more information, please visit the PA Department of Revenues website. <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/revenue.html>

If you need applications for the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion, Property Tax/Rent Rebate, Board of Assessment Appeals, and more, you can find those on my website, newbritaintax.com under the "Links" tab. I can also provide copies of forms in my office at your request.

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

New Britain Township Police Department

NBTPD is now an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

Over the past two years the New Britain Township Police Department has been working to become an accredited law enforcement agency through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. With the assistance of Aspirant Consulting Group and grant funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the department developed new policies and procedures to meet over 125 accreditation standards.

The department had its on-site assessment for accreditation in late May of 2024 where a team of independent professionals verified that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented and determined NBTPD to be worthy of accreditation. In July of 2024 the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission approved the New Britain Township Police Department to join 171 other accredited Pennsylvania law enforcement agencies. Accredited agencies must continue to show proof of meeting all accreditation standards each year and have an assessment validating the standards are being met every three years.



Accreditation establishes a credible framework for evaluating the department's practices and procedures. Other benefits include improving law enforcement – community relations, extending accountability to the public and elected officials, operating with best practices, and developing improved methods for providing services to the community.

James Adams, PA Chiefs of Police Association Accreditation Program Coordinator, presented NBTPD with their Certificate of Law Enforcement Accreditation at the September 9th Board of Supervisors Meeting.



In Car Cameras provide new law enforcement tool.

Did you forget to renew your registration? NBTPD now has Axon Fleet 3 In Car Camera systems that include ALPR (Automatic License Plate Recognition) technology. This technology provides our officers instantaneous limited information on license plates that are in view of the forward-facing camera system. Officers receive an alert for vehicles that may have been involved in and wanted for criminal activity or if the registration is expired, suspended, or stolen. They must then verify the information through law enforcement databases before taking any action. In most cases of expired registration our officers will give you a warning to have your registration renewed. Each patrol vehicle is equipped with an in-car camera system that was obtained with PCCD grant funding.

Safety Tip

With winter and colder weather nearly upon us it is tempting to warm up our vehicles or leave them running and unlocked when stopping at a convenience store for a hot cup of coffee. We want to help you from becoming a victim. Please refer to the following tips:

- Do not leave your vehicle running without supervision.
- Always lock your car.
- Do not leave anything valuable in plain sight, such as loose change, cash, electronics, purse, wallet, etc..

Decorate your yard and show your support for NBTPD with a Yard Sign

New Britain Township Police Department has "We Support Our Police" yard signs. Donations for these signs are accepted, but not required. Stop by and pick up your sign today! We are open Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.



Follow NBTPD on Facebook @newbritaintownshippolicedepartment or on X newbritaintwppd.

You can be more involved with the community and stay up to date with the latest information from NBTPD on our social media sites to include CrimeWatch and Neighbors by Ring sites. We will do our best to post up to date information such as last-minute road closures, criminal activity where you may be able to help us solve local crimes, and community events. It is quick and easy to set up alerts to your email or the CrimeWatch and Neighbors apps. Go to NBTPD.org or scan the barcode in the images below.

Take advantage of accessing these crime prevention and community policing initiatives through CrimeWatch.

- Alarm Registry Form
- Camera Registry Form
- Compliment an Officer Form
- Do Not Solicit
- File Complaint Against Officer Form
- Fingerprinting
- Request for Extra Patrols
- Special Needs Registry
- Traffic Complaint Form
- Vacation Home Check



Even if you don't have a Ring camera you can share videos with the police department through the Neighbors App. By working together, we can all make New Britain Township a safer community.

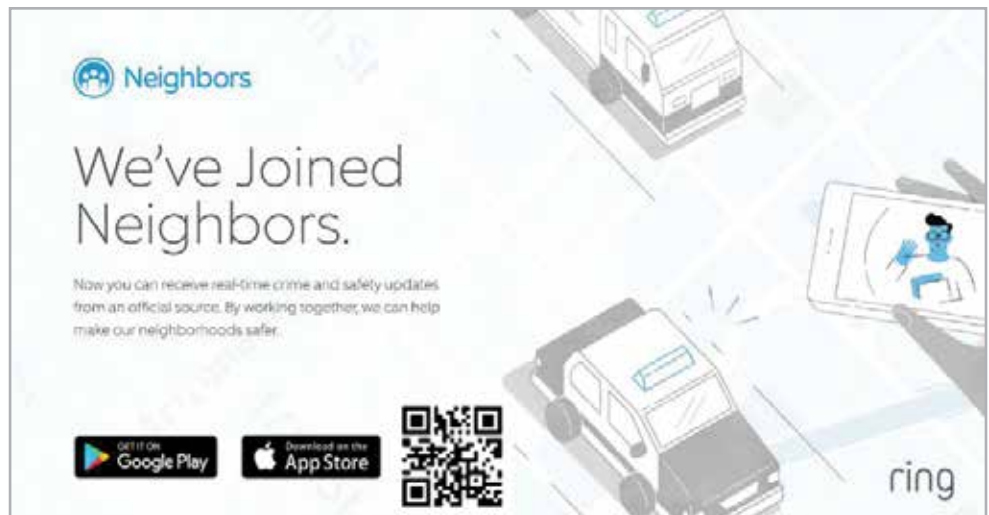
Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for details on NBTPD's Making Spirits Bright this holiday season.

If you witness a crime in progress call 911. If you have witnessed suspicious activity, call or email and let us help you.

Important Police Phone Numbers

- Emergency – 911
- NBTPD Non- Emergency - 215-822-1910
- Email: police@nbtpa.us
- Bucks County Emergency Communications – 215-328-8508



Tips from your **Environmental Advisory Council**

Interested in Pollinator Gardens? We can help!

There's a lot you can do to increase habitat for our native pollinators. They are looking for native plants that have co-evolved with them over thousands of years. You can start with a few of these plants tucked into corners of your yard or patio. Every plant helps! If you already plant a flower garden, consider using some beautiful natives that sustain the butterflies and other pollinators. They all need specific plants to complete their life cycles. Once planted, be sure to protect your garden from pesticides.

There's a wealth of information available. Here are some useful websites for learning more: The Center for Pollinator Research: <https://pollinators.psu.edu/>; Xerces Society: <https://www.xerces.org/>; Snetsinger Butterfly Garden: <https://snetsingerbutterflygarden.org/>. If you're interested in a deep dive for plants in our eco region, try Pollinator Partnership: www.pollinator.org.



A pollinator garden in New Britain Township



For a list of native plant nurseries and native plant sales in spring, contact the EAC in April or May at eac@nbtpa.us. The EAC can also provide plant lists for the conditions of your site. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Township Building. The public is encouraged to attend. Or send your question to: eac@nbtpa.us.

Did you know that Outdoor Lights can be Safe and be Environmentally Friendly?

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting

DarkSky Illuminating

Responsible outdoor lighting is	1 Useful	Use light only if it is needed All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.	
	2 Targeted	Direct light so it falls only where it is needed Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.	
	3 Low Level	Light should be no brighter than necessary Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.	
	4 Controlled	Use light only when it is needed Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.	
	5 Warm-colored	Use warmer color lights where possible Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.	

Rain Barrel Workshop

Be on the lookout for the announcement of a rain barrel workshop sponsored by the EAC in early May. Learn about how you can acquire and use rain barrels to improve your property and benefit our watershed.



From the Office of **Planning & Zoning**

Any resident interested in installing a fence on their property must apply for a Zoning Permit with the Township. If a replacement fence is being proposed, and it is in the same exact location and likeness of the previous fence, a Zoning Permit is not required. The following fence regulations must be adhered to:

- Any fence located in the front yard shall have a minimum ratio of 4:1 of opaque to non-opaque areas and shall not exceed four feet in height. Wire mesh may be attached to the inside of split rail fences if desired.
- Fences may be located on the side or rear lot line, except along a public street.
- A fence located anywhere except the front yard may have a height of up to six feet and may be non-opaque. Solid wooden or split rail fences are permitted.
- A fence of up to eight feet high may be allowed in a rear yard for the sole purpose of enclosing a court for tennis or similar sports. Such fence shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet from the side and rear lot lines.
- A fence shall not be required to comply with accessory structure setbacks.

Applications forms can be obtained at the Township building or on the Township website. Any questions, please call 215-822-1391.

The 12 Days of Christmas Safety

- Keep lit candles away from real trees, wreaths, boughs and garlands
- Keep poisonous sweets and chocolates away from your pets
- Keep your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources
- Make sure your tree has a stable platform so it doesn't tip over
- Choose an artificial tree that is labelled flame resistant
- If you have a real tree, make sure you water it regularly
- Check your lights for fraying, bare spots and kinks in the wire
- Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use
- Use an appropriate ladder or stepladder when putting up decorations
- No matter how tempting it may be NEVER drink and drive!
- When preparing the food, make sure you avoid cross contamination and clean your surfaces and utensils
- Make sure you reheat your leftovers to at least 74 degrees to avoid food poisoning

Merry Christmas

3B Training

Fall Festival 2024



THANK YOU FOR COMING TO OUR FALL FESTIVAL



MS4 Update

New Britain Township has an MS4, a Township-owned storm sewer collection system including swales, pipes, inlets, and drains associated with the Township's roads, parks, and municipal facilities. This storm sewer system is regulated via an Individual Permit (MS4 Permit) from the PA Department of Environmental Protection in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law. The Permit, which became effective on September 1, 2024 and will expire on August 31, 2029, allows the Township to discharge stormwater into the local creeks and tributaries.



The MS4 Permit is designed to help reduce the discharge of pollutants from the regulated small MS4 and to protect water quality. This is accomplished through the development and implementation of a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) which features 6 minimum control measures to meet certain measurable goals.

1. Public education and outreach
2. Public participation and involvement
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination
4. Construction Site runoff control
5. Post-construction runoff control
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping

The Township is in the process of completing an application for renewal of this permit which will continue to propose a reduction in sediment and total phosphorus (TP) in accordance with the Township's TMDL PRP (Total Maximum Daily Loading and Pollution Reduction) Plan. The Plan can be found at the Township website <https://newbritaintownship.org/information/stormwater-managemenU>. Some projects that have taken place within the Neshaminy Creek watershed in the past include naturalizing stormwater basins, installing water quality inlet inserts, and tree plantings by local volunteers and watershed associations. Some of the tree planting locations are West Branch Park, the Coleman Property along the Neshaminy Greenway Trail, and the Forest Park open space along the Pine Run Trail. The Township has completed the streambank stabilization project at Brittany Farms Open Space. The Plan lists conceptual Best Management Practices that could potentially be implemented within the next 5 years including retrofitting the Walden Way stormwater basin, improvements to the Sycamore Circle Open Space or detention basin, and more. For information on how you can help, please see the Township's Website.



Figure 1: A polluted waterway (Source: wwf.panda.org)

In addition to the Townships endeavors, the Township requests inspection reports annually from HOA's and private stormwater facility owners. As set forth in the Township's municipal storm sewer system (MS4) permit issued by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, inspection reports and maintenance activities for private stormwater facilities which drain to the Township's storm sewer system are required to be included with the Township's annual report.

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 and increase the cost of treatment.

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 contributes significantly to stormwater pollution. If you change your own 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. If you are out for a

stroll or walking your pet, bring an empty grocery bag to collect any litter you might encounter.

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 to 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 carwash 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 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 around surfaces like driveways and sidewalks 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 observation and 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.



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 infiltration, decrease water flow velocity, prevent erosion, and direct runoff during storms into other stormwater facilities or the storm drain system.

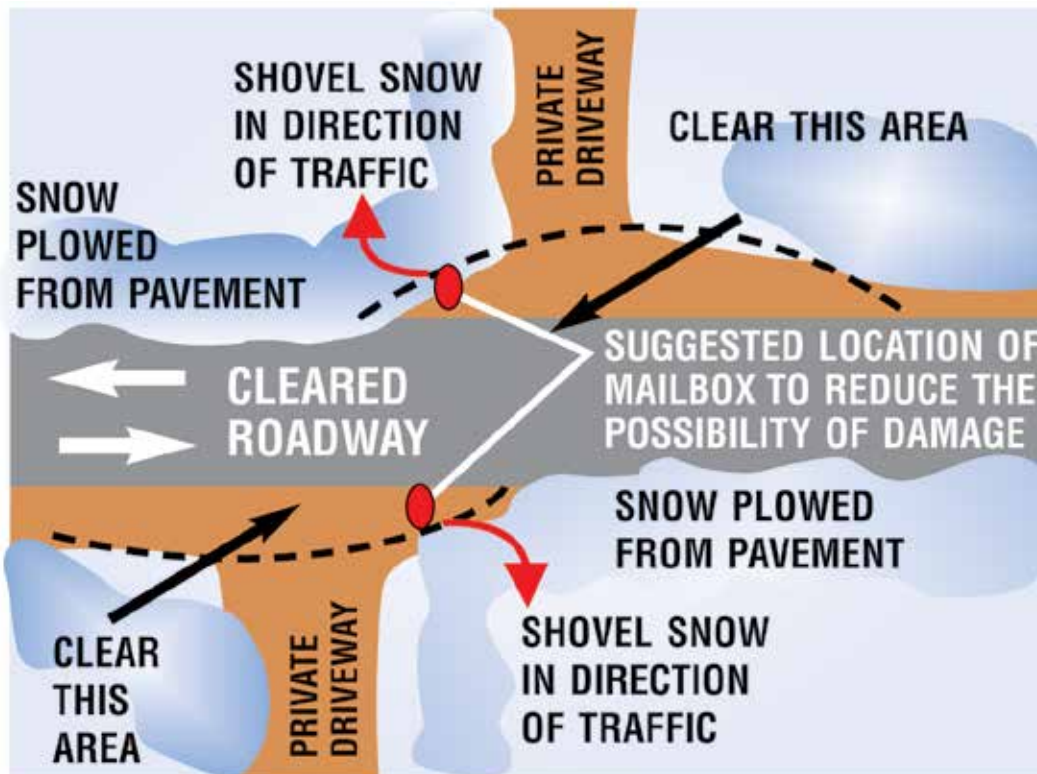
The following is a list of ways to maintain your swale:

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. Do not over-mow or mow shorter than 2.5 to 3 inches. Never mow immediately after rain events.



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



Safe Winter Driving

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help motorists deal with an emergency. This sheet provides safety information to your residents to help prevent motor vehicle injuries due to winter storms.

THE THREE P'S OF SAFE WINTER DRIVING:

PREPARE for the trip;
PROTECT yourself;
and **PREVENT** crashes on the road.

PREPARE

- **Maintain Your Car:** Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.
- **Have On Hand:** flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.
- **Stopped or Stalled?** Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.
- **Plan Your Route:** Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/ directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

Practice Cold Weather Driving!

- During the daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.
- Steer into a skid.
- Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes.
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered snow and ice.
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

PROTECT YOURSELF

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag.
- Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.

PREVENT CRASHES

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.
- Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.
- If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.



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