



NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP NEWS

Your Hometown Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- 2 From The Chairman
- 3 Stormwater Info
- 3 Spotted Lanternfly
- 4 Police News
- 4 Township Events
- 5 Ordinance Corner
- 5 Tax Collector Note
- 6 Annual Santa House

10th Annual Fall Festival

Mark your calendars and be sure to attend the 10th Annual Fall Festival, hosted by the Veterans Committee of New Britain Township!

Join us for a fun-filled day at North Branch Park, 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2019.

This year's festival will include crafters,

vendors, bounce houses, free face painting, a Touch-A-Truck area, live performances, food, a community-wide yard sale, the 6th annual Car Show, Kiss A Pig event and many more!

The festival will help raise funds to further develop Veterans Park at the corner of New Galena and Walters Road. If you are proud of your car, enter it

in the 6th Annual Car Show and show it off to help support a great cause! Awards will be available!

For sponsors, vendors and those interested in yard sale spaces, fill out a registration form and send it in. The form can be found online. Go to: newbritaintownship.org/vetevents.html



Buyer Beware: Tips From The Zoning Officer

Preparing to buy a new property can be a fun and exciting experience. Whether you are looking to purchase a new home to raise your family in, a storefront for your clothing boutique, or a vacant property to build a storage warehouse, you should know as much information as possible before making a huge financial investment.

All too often properties are being sold and purchased without the owners fully understanding what limitations their new properties may have and what is or is not permitted under the existing regulations. You don't want to be disappointed if the plans you may have had for a property you have just purchased are not permitted under the Township's Zoning Ordinance.

It is important to make sure that you and your realtor have done as much research on the property as possible before you sign on the dotted line.

Some important things to consider:

- 1. Be prepared to make a phone call to the Township:** Make sure you know the property's full address and Tax Map Parcel (TMP) number (New Britain Township will always begin with "26"). It's difficult for us to help you if we're not able to identify the property in question.
- 2. Be sure to verify the Zoning District for the property:** Once you have verified the Zoning District, you can research online with the Township Code to see exactly what is permitted on the property. Chapter 27 of the New Britain Township Code is the chapter on Zoning.
- 3. Search all public records:**

• Bucks County's Board of Assessment has an easy to use website to search for public information on properties. Start at buckscountyboa.org using the address or TMP number. You will find history of ownership, what the

current owners paid in property taxes, even the dimensions of the existing dwelling.

- Do an internet search online using the address to see what you can find.
- 4. Go to the Township and submit a Right-to-Know request to view the property files:**
- Look for any building/zoning permits that are associated with the property. Make sure that any work done on the property was done legally and with the proper permits. Once you own the property, YOU are now responsible for those permits and any fees that go along with them.
- Look for any significant issues that might be associated with the property. Were there property maintenance issues that you should be aware of? Are there complaints of excessive stormwater issues? Is there anything unusual in the files?

5. Go to the property multiple times before you decide to buy:

- Try to see the property in person during the day, evening and on the weekend, or right after a rainfall. Drive through the neighborhood at different times throughout the day to see if it's a place you could see yourself living. Pay attention to the traffic patterns in the area.

Please make sure to utilize your online resources during your property research. Our website not only contains the official online version of the Township Code, but also has descriptions of permit requirements, downloadable copies of permit applications, maps of the Township, and recent news alerts for the area.

Feel free to call the Township office at 215-822-1391 for more information or questions regarding specific properties you may be interested in purchasing, or visit www.newbritaintownship.org.

From the Chairman's Desk...

By A. James Scanzillo

One of this year's highlights was being a part of the Annual Tri-Municipal Fourth of July Parade, hosted by New Britain Township and the Boroughs of New Britain and Chalfont. There was a wonderful turnout this year, from the many participants, thoughtful floats and the excited crowd cheering on as the parade went by.



Young ones enjoyed the candy, tractors, fire trucks and their sirens. I saw many

familiar faces, families who attend each year, grandparents who may not have been present for a while but are now back to introduce their grandchildren, creating new family traditions once more!



We are honored to always have a great group of veterans join the parade. It's a chance for us to let them know how proud we are of their efforts and for being our local heroes. It gives us an opportunity to celebrate their

service. One veteran in particular, Captain Ned K. Kulp, a retired U.S. Coast Guard Reservist who is 92 years young participated in the parade, his assistant Cameron pushed Captain Ned in his wheelchair the entire parade route (that's two miles in the hot sun)! Cameron's father Bill

helped coordinate their presence at this year's parade.



Pictured far left: Retired Captain Ned K. Kulp, U.S. Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Reserve with his assistant Cameron Denbleyker. Pictured left: The Thompson Family. Pictured right: The Calvitti Family and their Christmas in July Float.

Please enjoy some highlights pictured here. I hope to see you at future events such as the Fall Festival and Car Show hosted by the Veterans Committee, and the Santa House sponsored by the New Britain Township Park and Recreation Advisory Board. These are the annual traditions that make New Britain Township an amazing place to live, work and play! Stop by and say hello!

Chalfont Fire Company

Thank You To Our Sponsors

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: chalfontfirecompany.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7

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

September 22

Buffet Breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
or until sold out

October 10

Fire Prevention
Open House
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

October 26

Craft Show
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

December 1

Community Christmas Sing
4:00 p.m.
(Santa Arrives By Fire Truck)
Last Day To Order
Holiday Cookies
216-392-2141

December 8

Holiday Cookie Sale Pick Up
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Annual Tri-Municipal Fourth of July Parade

We offer a Special Thank You to our Sponsors who made the 2019 Annual Tri-Municipal Fourth of July Parade such a great success!

- Apex Dental Care
- Clemens Food Group
- Datacap Systems
- Doli Construction
- DunlapSLK CPA's
- Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
- Grim, Biehn & Thatcher
- Gutter Guys
- Jillamy, Inc.
- Little Farm Estates
- Merck Credit Union
- New Britain Mortgage
- Penn Community Bank
- Primos Hoagies
- Roll Former
- Schmidt Bakery
- Spatola's
- Trijay Systems
- Windmill Day School & Camp

New Britain Township Veterans Committee Bingo

Thank you to our Bingo Sponsors! A special thanks to the following Country Clubs for your generosity: Talamore, Northampton Valley, and Doylestown.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

- Gilmore & Associates, Inc.

GOLD SPONSORS

- Grim, Biehn & Thatcher
- Firsttrust Bank
- Windmill Day School & Camp
- North Wales Water Authority
- The Gutter Guys

SILVER SPONSORS

- Babylon School of Dance
- Jillamy, Inc.

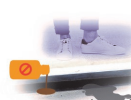
Be The Solution To Stormwater Pollution


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 stormdrain 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.

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION

 *Never dump anything down stormdrains or in ditches.* Many people wrongly think that stormdrains are part of a sanitary sewer system that flows to a wastewater treatment plant. Actually, stormdrains 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 stormdrains 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 of 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 stormdrains. Stormdrains 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 stormdrains 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.

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

Spotted Lanternfly Management

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Destroy egg masses				
Use sticky bands to capture spotted lanternfly				
Registered insecticides can be effective ¹				
Avoid moving gravid (fertilized) females ²				
Avoid moving viable egg masses ²				
Treat most tree-of-heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>) trees with herbicide ^{1,3}				
Treat tree-of-heaven "trap" trees with systemic insecticides ^{1,4}				



For references, go to: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-ijm-management-calendar>

Information from Penn State Extension prepared by Emelie Swackhamer, horticulture educator; David Jackson, forest resources educator; and Art Gover, wildland weed management specialist.

New Britain Township Police Department News

PA Game Commission Hunting and Trapping Resources

To download the mobile calendar of Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Seasons, go to:

<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/HuntTrap/Pages/Mobile-Seasons-Calendar.aspx>

FOLLOW US

DON'T MISS NEWS

 [Facebook.com/NewBritainTownship](https://www.facebook.com/NewBritainTownship)
 [Twitter.com/NewBritainTwp1](https://twitter.com/NewBritainTwp1)

Screen Your Contractor!

1. Selling door-to-door: Reputable asphalt contractors will sometimes offer their services if they are doing a legitimate job in the immediate area.

2. Claiming they have leftover material from another job: Professional contractors will know, with great accuracy, how much material is needed to complete a project. Rarely will they have leftover material. Some of the reasons a contractor might have leftover material are due to weather, equipment problems or cancellations.

3. Pushing you to make a quick decision: Reputable contractors will provide a written estimate that will be valid for weeks or months. If the great deal they are offering you today is not available tomorrow or next week, it may be a scam.

4. No contract offered: Insist upon a written contract specifying in detail, the work to be performed and the agreed upon price.

5. Cash only sales: Most reputable contractors take checks or credit cards and don't require cash-only terms.

6. Deals that seem too good to be true: If the quoted price seems very low, chances are the quality of the work will also be quite low.

7. Unmarked truck: Often the trucks contractors travel in are unmarked or they have an out of town address or phone number. A little research will reveal if have no permanent address or if the phone number is just an answering machine. Licensed contractors must display their business names and contractor license numbers on every one of their commercially-registered vehicles.

Upcoming New Britain Township Events

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

Recycling is extremely important, helps the environment and keeps New Britain Township clean! We are offering our residents a drop-off container for Fall Yard Waste: a 40-yard container will be located next to the Municipal Building on **November 19 through 23: 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 loose plant materials only or use 40-gallon biodegradable paper bags only! Do not mix trash or other debris with leaves and plant materials.

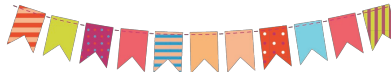


TRASH HAULER LEAF COLLECTION

For specific dates for your fall curbside leaf collection, contact your individual trash hauler directly. All leaves must be in biodegradable bags and placed at the curb the night before. Please limit yard waste to a maximum of 15 bags.

FIELD AND PAVILION RENTALS

Celebrating a birthday or having a picnic?



Now is the time to get your application in to use any of our Fields or Pavilions for your event 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)

For additional information on our facilities, contact Jo Ann Lapp at the Township Office at 215-822-1391.

Ticket Sales!

Discount tickets are still available at the Township Administration Building. Check online for pricing and availability:

[newbritaintownship.org/stickets.html](https://www.newbritaintownship.org/stickets.html)



Winter ski tickets will soon be available from mid-December through mid-March at the Township Administration Building, also at discounted prices:

[newbritaintownship.org/wtickets.html](https://www.newbritaintownship.org/wtickets.html)

Annual Township Events

- September:** Fall Festival (September 21)
- November:** Veterans Day Ceremony (November 11)
- December:** Santa House (December 6 & 7)
- March:** Easter Egg Hunt (March 28), Community Blood Drive (TBD)
- April:** Designer Bag Bingo (April 17)
- May:** Community Shredding & E-Recycling (TBD)
- July:** 4th of July Parade (July 4)



Check our website for more information and dates:

[newbritaintownship.org](https://www.newbritaintownship.org)

300 Committee Volunteers Needed

New Britain Township is quickly approaching it's 300th Anniversary in 2024. The Township is looking for Volunteers and ideas that will aid in the planning of our Year-Long Celebration! New Britain Township is seeking creative individuals who would like to join the **300 Committee**.

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

mclancy@newbritaintownship.org

ORDINANCE CORNER
Did You Know?

As a resident of New Britain Township, it is the homeowners' responsibility to maintain and repair all curbing, sidewalks, bike paths, and pedestrian walkways on private property. As part of multiple ongoing programs, New Britain Township will be inspecting sidewalks and curbs in various neighborhoods each year to determine if repairs are necessary.

Residents with faulty areas will be given three to six months to repair any identified sections of sidewalk or curb. Should the property owner fail to fulfill their responsibility, the Township will hire a contractor to complete the repairs **at the homeowners' expense.**

Per Township Ordinance No. 2015-11-08, Chapter 21, Part 4:

- *Section § 21-402 (4) states: Owners shall maintain all curbs, sidewalks, bike paths, and pedestrian walkways, within their property or within any right-of-way adjacent to their property, without breaks, irregular surfaces, or missing parts and shall promptly repair or replace curbs, sidewalks, bike paths, and pedestrian walkways when such breaks, irregular surfaces or missing parts occur.*
- *Section § 21-405 (1) states: The Township may require owners of property abutting any street or alley, including state highways, to construct, pave, repave, and repair sidewalks. Prior to conducting such work, an owner shall apply for and receive a permit from the Township for work.*



PennDOT encourages motorists to report potholes by calling the PennDOT Pothole Hotline or submit a new concern by going to:

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

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 6:00 pm*)

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

Residents can call the Township Building from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 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

GOVERNMENTAL

Township Administration Building	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

LENAPE VALLEY RECREATIONAL COUNCIL

Basketball	215-230-7588
Baseball	215-997-2599

Notes From The Real Estate Tax Collector

The 2019-20 School Tax Bills were mailed on July 1. If you have not received your bill, please contact me and I will be happy to email you a copy, or you may pick one up at the office. In order to receive the 2% discount, full payment must be post - marked by August 31. If you would like to opt into the installment plan, you must pay the first installment by August 31. Also, once you pay the first installment, you may not opt out of the installment program. Please pay the first, second, and third installments in chronological order using the correct vouchers. There are additional public hours at the end of August, September, and October. Please check your bill for those dates.

I want to make residents aware of a new scam targeting those who partake in the PA Rent & Rebate program. The scammers are calling recipients and stating that their application has been approved and they can direct deposit their refund into their bank account if they give their bank account and routing number over the phone. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue **does not** make calls requesting banking information. If you

received one of these scam calls and provided your banking information, call your bank to report this potential fraud immediately.

As always, you can make payments by going online to the website: newbritain-tax.webs.com under the "Making Payments" tab. You can pay by credit card or E-Check. If you have any questions, call me at 215-822-2930 or send me an email at: newbritaintax@gmail.com

Nicole Percetti
PO Box 565
Chalfont, PA 18914

TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE
Nicole Percetti
207 Park Avenue, Chalfont
Phone: 215-822-2930

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

A. James Scanzillo, *Chair*
Helen B. Haun, *Vice Chair*
William B. Jones, III, *Member*
Gregory T. Hood, *Member*
Cynthia M. Jones, *Member*

Pre Sort Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lansdale, PA
Permit No 15

Township Administration Hours

8:00am to 4:00pm
Monday through Friday

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

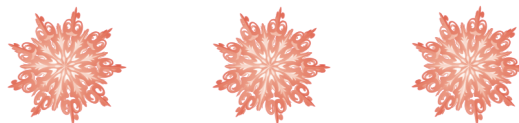


Come out and join New Britain Township for the Annual Santa House. Join Santa and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Don't forget to bring canned goods to be collected and donated to the New Britain Food Larder.

Date & Time: Friday, December 6, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Santa will arrive by Fire Truck both nights at the Giant Shopping Center on Route 202 and County Line Road.

Sponsored By: New Britain Township Park and Recreation Advisory Board



Annual Santa House