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Board of **Supervisors**



Celebrating 37 Years of Service: Robert Skelton Retires After a Remarkable Career

On **June 20, 1988**, Bob joined the Township as a Public Works laborer — the start of what would become an outstanding **37-year career** of dedication, service, and community spirit. We say farewell and congratulations to Bob as he begins a well-earned retirement.

Bob's career began in the trenches — quite literally. From plowing roads and clearing storm debris to repairing equipment and responding to emergencies, he became a reliable presence in Public Works. One moment that stands out is the winter of **1994**, when a series of severe storms hit over a five-week period. Bob and the team pulled **multiple 20-hour shifts** in freezing temperatures, extracting vehicles from snowbanks, welding on the spot, and sleeping in trucks and on floors when they could. His effort during that time earned him a letter of thanks from the Board of Supervisors — a small recognition of a truly massive contribution.

As his career evolved, Bob transitioned into **Administration**, where he served as both a **building maintenance technician and a Building Code Inspector**. In those roles, he brought the same dedication and calm professionalism, helping ensure safety and functionality in Township buildings and guiding residents through the permitting and code process with care and patience.

Bob's impact reached well beyond day-to-day responsibilities. In **1995**, he suited up as **"Officer McGruff"** alongside Officer Mikalaitis to teach local children about safety and making good choices. The event drew over 35 kids and their families, and McGruff — Bob — quickly became a fan favorite, offering hugs, laughs, and lessons that stuck.

He also stepped up during crises, including **Tropical Storm Floyd (1999)** and **Hurricane Allison (2001)**, where his efforts again earned praise from the Board. And when two of his colleagues faced extended sick leave in 2003, Bob quietly donated his own sick time to help — once to a fellow Public Works employee, and once to someone in the Police Department. It was a reflection of the kind of teammate he's always been — generous, dependable, and quietly compassionate.

Over the years, Bob has been an essential part of countless **Township events** — from **Easter Egg Hunts** and **Fourth of July celebrations** to everything in between. But perhaps his most memorable role in recent years has been as **Santa Claus at the Township Santa House.** His portrayal brought joy to children and families year after year, and many will remember those moments with smiles for a long time to come.

Bob also remained committed to learning and professional growth, maintaining certifications in **hazmat response, emergency management, CPR, construction code enforcement**, and more throughout his career. Whether on the road, in the field, or behind a desk, Bob always made sure he was ready.

Now, as Bob begins his next chapter, we reflect on the legacy he leaves behind — one of **quiet leadership, hands-on service,** and **deep community connection.** His presence will be greatly missed, but his contributions won't be forgotten.



Please join us in congratulating Bob on his retirement and thanking him for 37 incredible years. We wish him all the best in this well-deserved next chapter — may it be filled with peace, relaxation, and maybe a snowstorm or two… that someone else has to deal with this time.

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Message from Township Manager Dan Fox

Challenges Facing Local Government—And How We Can Overcome Them

Local governments serve as the foundation of public life. From fixing potholes and maintaining parks to ensuring public safety, and responding to emergencies, we are the first line of support for residents. However, in recent years, local governments across the country have been stretched by a growing set of challenges that require bold thinking and community partnership to solve.

Financial Pressures and Budget Constraints

Local governments often struggle with tight budgets and unpredictable funding. This limits their ability to maintain services and invest in future development.

- **What can help:** Governments are adopting multi-year financial planning, improving transparency, and seeking outside funding through federal and state grants. Some are exploring shared services with neighboring communities to reduce duplication and cut costs without sacrificing quality.

Workforce Shortages Across Departments

Staffing shortages have hit many local governments hard. Without a stable, well-trained workforce, service quality declines. This is added pressure on existing employees and can delay projects or reduce public access to services.

- **What can help:** Investing in employee development, offering competitive compensation and benefits, and creating internship/apprenticeship programs are helping to attract and retain the next generation of public servants.

Aging Infrastructure and Deferred Maintenance

Much of the local infrastructure—roads, water systems, public buildings—is outdated and in need of costly repairs.

- **What can help:** Prioritizing infrastructure investment, adopting long-term maintenance plans, and using smart technology can extend asset life and reduce costs over time. Active pursuit of infrastructure grants is giving local governments more tools to modernize essential systems.



Housing Affordability and Community Growth

Rising housing costs are pushing many residents out of their communities, creating inequality and social strain.

- **What can help:** Local governments can update zoning laws, support affordable housing developments, and collaborate with private developers to increase supply.

Climate Change and Environmental Resilience

Environmental challenges, such as extreme weather, flooding, and heat are directly impact public health, infrastructure, and local economies.

- **What can help:** Local governments are investing in green infrastructure (like tree planting, green roofs, and rain gardens) and modernizing stormwater systems. Community education, emergency preparedness, and sustainable land-use planning are all part of building long-term resilience.

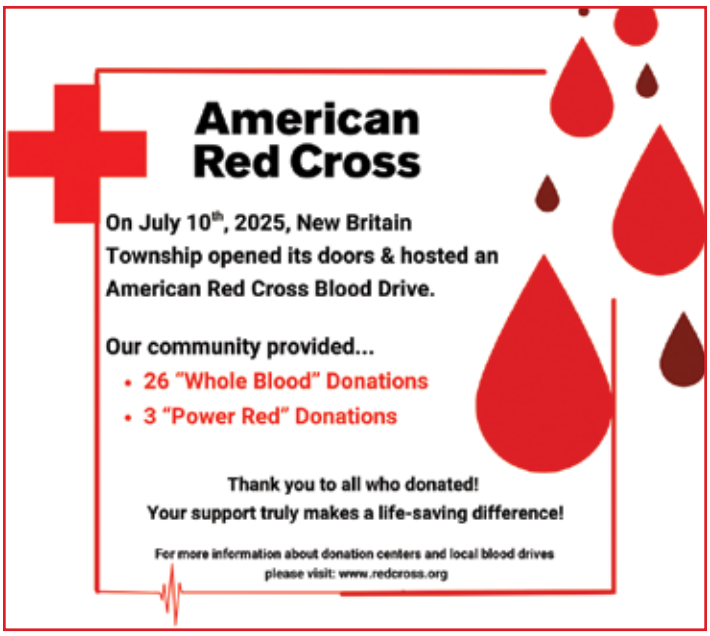
How We Move Forward—Together

Though challenges are significant, local governments have powerful tools to respond. With smart planning, strong leadership, and community collaboration, they can build more resilient and livable communities for the future.

Success depends on continued public engagement—through surveys, public meetings, volunteering, and voting in local elections. Residents who stay informed and get involved are essential to shaping the future of our communities.

Want to get involved?

Visit our website, attend Township meetings, or join a board or commission. Your voice matters—because strong communities are built from the ground up.





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 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Fourth Tuesday of each Month at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board Third Thursday of each Month at 7:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission Third Tuesday of each Month at 7:00 p.m.

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

Environmental Advisory Council First Wednesday of each Month at 7:00 p.m.

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

LOCAL YOUTH SPORTS

Lenape Valley Recreational Council - **lenapevalleyrc.org**

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

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

Welcome Officer Marc Weilandics



NBTPD has a new member on the team. On June 16, 2025, the New Britain Township Police Department swore in Officer Marc Weilandics as the newest member of the department. Since then, Officer Weilandics has completed the required field training program and is proud to be serving our community.

Marc is a native of Long Island, NY. He comes to us with 7 years of policing experience from the NYPD where he spent time patrolling the neighborhoods of Harlem and Astoria. He looks forward to serving the New Britain Township Community and its visitors. In his free time Marc enjoys woodworking, cooking, hiking and spending time with his wife and children.



Safety Tip

Do not fall for fake requests from something that may look real. If you owe fines or government related fees, you will receive official notification in the mail. Do not respond to emails or text messages that indicate you owe some type of fine. This includes **EZPass**. If you are not sure about the message look up the contact information for the requesting agency and call them to verify.

National Drug Take Back is October 25th from 10 am to 2 pm.

On this date drive up collection of expired and unneeded medications can safely be disposed of at the Police Headquarters (also accepting sharps at this location only) and Giant in the New Britain Village Square. Collection boxes are accessible Monday thru Friday from 8am to 4pm in both the Township and police department lobbies.



Stay up to date on the latest crime and safety information and stay tuned for police department hosted events such as Trunk or Treat and Coffee with a Cop.

You can be more involved with the community and stay up to date with the latest information from NBTPD at our CrimeWatch site. 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. The site has links to tips and we post our monthly blotter of police activity in the township. It is quick and easy to set up alerts to your email or the CrimeWatch app. Go to NBTPD.org or scan the barcode in the image 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



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 **(Administrative)** - 215-822-1910 **(If you need to report a crime, call 911)**

Email: police@nbtpa.us

Bucks County Emergency Communications – 215-328-8508

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.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



The Township is seeking volunteers to support our events throughout the year—and we'd love to have YOU on board!

For more information, please visit **newbritaintownship.org**

Events include:
Easter Egg Hunt
Veterans Committee Bingo
Tri-Municipal 4th of July Parade
Fall Festival
Santa House
& many more!

Whether you can help for a few hours or on a regular basis, your time & energy makes a big difference.

Please contact our Event Coordinator, Susan Gelb, at sgelb@nbtpa.us or call 215-822-1391 ext. 110.

Public Works Department

No Detours, Just Details

Road Obstructions

When obstructions are placed on Township Roads, they can cause problems with traffic, drainage, snow removal, road paving, and maintenance of public streets.

Per Township Ordinance § 97-11-01, obstructions such as basketball nets, trash containers, and recycling bins CANNOT be erected over or placed in any portion of a Township Road. Those responsible will be ticketed by Police.

Leaf Waste Disposal

As a reminder, leaf waste and other yard waste must be bagged and disposed of properly, either by your trash hauler or at a designated facility. The Township holds two-yard waste collection events per year at the Township Building. The next Township yard waste collection will be held during the week of November 17th, 2025



Leaf waste and other yard waste is not permitted to be deposited on roadways or in roadside swales. Per §20-204.1 of the Township's Solid Waste Ordinance, leaf waste is considered a recyclable material and shall be placed at the curb, separated from solid waste, for collection or taken to a designated facility that accepts yard waste. For more information about yard waste pickups, please contact your trash hauler directly.

Tree Maintenance

Per Township Ordinance § 21-402 Care and Maintenance, owners shall maintain all vegetation and street trees, within their property or within any right-of-way adjacent to their property, to ensure that they are free of damage and disease and shall not create a risk of harm to passersby. Owners trimming and/or maintaining street trees must take all proper precautions to protect the public from these activities. Where street tree maintenance will possibly affect the safe use of a public street, sidewalk, bike path, and/or pedestrian walkway, the area affected shall be cordoned off and the Township's approval of such work and street closure shall be obtained.

Snow Removal Reminders

The Public Works Department is responsible for salting and plowing all Township-owned roadways and facilities.

- Salting begins soon after snow starts to fall. Plowing commences after an accumulation of at least 2 inches of snow.
- It takes an average of 6 to 8 hours for the Public Works Department to plow all Township roads after the snowfall has ended. Please be patient!
- DO NOT put trash can containers or recycling bins in the street, as they will get hit by the plow.
- The Township Snow Ordinance requires you to remove your vehicle from the roadway after one (1) hour of continuous snowfall. Do not place it back in the street until the road has been completely cleared.
- Have on hand a 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, water, medication, and phone.
- If you have any concerns with plowing of the Township Roads, you can place a Request for Service: **newbritaintownship.org** or call the Township line at **215-822-3698.**



Winter Driving Tips

- Buckle up & use child safety seats properly.
- Never place a rear facing infant seat in front of an airbag.
- Always use headlights during inclement weather.
- Allow extra time to get where you are going.
- Always keep your gas tank full.
- Clear snow & ice completely from your vehicle before driving.
- Maintain a safe distance of at least six car lengths behind a snowplow.
- Do not pass a snowplow. Plow blades are wider than the truck itself.
- Be safe by always remaining alert.

North Branch Park Update

New Britain Township's beloved Santa House is making a festive move—this December, it will call North Branch Park its new home! Nestled behind the municipal building on Park Avenue, the park spans acres of active and passive recreation, featuring playgrounds, trails, sports fields, pavilions, and plenty of open space. The Santa House event will take place on **December 12th and 13th**, bringing holiday cheer to the heart of our community. Families can enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, and visits with Santa, along with the opportunity for children to write and drop off their letters for Santa in a special mailbox. The new location offers easy access for residents, ample parking, and the natural charm of a community park, making it the perfect destination for festive memories and Township cheer this holiday season.



2025 New Britain Township Events Calendar*

Fall Festival
Saturday, September 20, 2025 10am-3pm
North Branch Park, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA

Veterans Day Ceremony
November 11th, 2025 at 11am
North Branch Park, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA

Fall Yard Waste Collection
November 18th through November 22nd, 2025
Tuesday-Friday 7:30am-2:30pm, Saturday 8am-12pm
New Britain Township Building, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA

Santa House
Friday, December 12th & Saturday, December 13th, 2025 5pm to 7pm
North Branch Park, 207 Park Ave, Chalfont, PA

All dates are tentative and subject to change

Building Community, One Event at a Time - Susan Gelb

New Britain Township residents had plenty of reasons to smile this spring and summer as the Township and its various Committees hosted a series of well-attended and cherished community events. The Township's calendar was packed with opportunities for residents of all ages to come together, celebrate, and connect.

His & Hers Bingo Brings the Fun and the Funds

The Township's annual *His & Hers Bingo* night, held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, was a resounding success. With tickets selling fast and the hall filled with excited players, the event raised funds to support our Veterans Committee and their initiatives while offering an evening of high-energy entertainment. Attendees enjoyed 15 rounds of Bingo with a variety of prizes tailored to both men and women, along with raffle opportunities. The Veterans Committee, which organized the event, was thrilled with the turnout and community support.

Easter Joy at the Township Building

Spring got off to a joyful start with the Township's annual *Easter Egg Hunt and Photos with the Bunny.* Held at New Britain Townships' Building, the event drew dozens of local families. Children quickly gathered brightly colored eggs while parents captured precious moments with the Easter Bunny. The laughter and smiles said it all—this free community event was a hit once again. Organizers noted the strong turnout helped make the day even more memorable.

Spring Yard Waste Collection Encourages Eco-Friendly Habits

In the spirit of spring cleaning, New Britain Township once again offered its *Spring Yard Waste Drop-Off Week.* Residents took full advantage of the opportunity to dispose of yard debris responsibly. The Township collected hundreds of bags of plant material, helping to beautify neighborhoods while encouraging sustainable waste practices. Township staff reported smooth operations and appreciated the community's cooperation in following the guidelines.

First Rain Barrel Workshop to Promote Sustainable Water Use

The New Britain Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), in collaboration with the Bucks County Master Watershed Stewards, held its first-ever *Rain Barrel Workshop* at North Branch Park. This hands-on event welcomed residents to learn about sustainable water conservation while building their own functional rain barrels! The event was limited to 14 participants, and registration was $60. The registration fee covered all materials, making this an accessible and educational opportunity for those interested in reducing stormwater runoff, conserving water, and supporting local ecosystems. The EAC plans to offer similar workshops in the future.

E-Recycling and Shredding Event Supports Clean Living

Another highlight of the season was the *Tri-Municipal E-Recycling and Paper Shredding Event*, which drew a steady flow of residents eager to dispose of old electronics and sensitive documents in a secure and environmentally responsible way. The Township worked with certified disposal partners to ensure all materials were properly recycled or destroyed, helping protect residents' privacy and reduce landfill waste.

Fourth of July Parade Showcases Tri-Municipal Pride

Capping off the summer festivities was the *Tri-Municipal 4th of July Parade*, a collaborative event with New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough. Thousands of residents lined the streets to enjoy a colorful and patriotic display featuring floats, fire trucks, live music, classic cars, civic groups, local leaders and veterans. The event served as a powerful reminder of the strength and unity among the three municipalities.

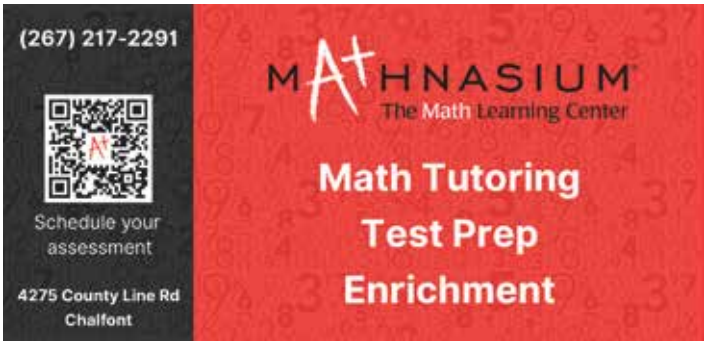
Looking Ahead

With such strong community engagement and positive feedback, New Britain Township is already looking forward to future events, including the upcoming Fall Festival in September. Officials thank volunteers, sponsors, and residents for their continued support in making these events successful year after year.

Get Involved and Stay in the Loop!

These events are a great way to connect with neighbors, support local businesses, and celebrate all that makes New Britain Township a great place to live. We encourage residents of all ages to participate—not only by attending but also by volunteering. Whether you're interested in helping with event setup, or handing out programs, we'd love to have you on our team. For questions, please contact Susan Gelb at sgelb@nbtpa.us or 215-822-1391 ext. 110.

Be sure to follow us on social media and subscribe to the Township website for updates and volunteer opportunities.




NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP
Annual
FALL
Festival
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
FREE ADMISSION
NORTH BRANCH PARK
207 PARK AVE, CHALFONT, PA 18914
10:00AM - 3:00PM
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
Live Entertainment
Touch-A-Truck
Family-Friendly Games
Arts & Crafts
Activities For Kids
Food Trucks
Local Vendors
Raffle Prizes
For more information or interest in sponsorship,
call us: 215-822-1391 or visit
newbritaintownship.org

PSATS Conference Hershey, PA

Each year, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) hosts an Educational Conference and Exhibit Show where hundreds of township staff and elected officials have an opportunity to gather in Hershey, PA to learn and network with others in local government. This year the 5 elected supervisors along with several staff members had the opportunity to attend.



We learned many new things about storm water management, enduring challenging meetings, best practices in budgeting and legal updates on zoning and other important topics affecting townships. But we also had the opportunity to talk to, commiserate with and share ideas with supervisors from across the state. During a panel discussion on final day of the Conference, we heard from our colleagues about the challenges facing EMS service and how different communities are working to solve them. We look forward to bringing what we learned at the Conference back to our community, learning from what others have done, and implementing new ideas to help move New Britain Township forward.

Cynthia Jones, NBT Board of Supervisors Chairwoman, served as a Power of One volunteer as a session moderator and helping during the general sessions. Stephanie Shortall, NBT Supervisor, was re-elected to a second term as PSATS Executive Board Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.




NEW BRITAIN
TOWNSHIP
1723
VETERANS DAY
CEREMONY
NOVEMBER 11TH
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
CEREMONY TO BEGIN AT 11:00 AM
Veterans Memorial at North Branch Park
207 Park Ave, Chalfont, PA 18914





News from Nicole Percetti, the Tax Collector

School tax bills for the 2025/26 year were mailed on July 1st. A **2% discount** is available if payment is made by **August 31**. If you haven't received your bill, please contact me and I'll be happy to provide you with a copy. You may pay your bill in person during the weekly collection hours, through the 24/7 drop box at the township building, by mail, or online at newbritaintax.com

New Tax Rebate Program for Seniors, Individuals with Disabilities, and Low-Income Residents

Central Bucks School District is now offering a tax rebate program. This initiative is modeled after Pennsylvania's existing rebate program and provides a rebate from the district equal to **50% of the state rebate** up to **$750**. To qualify, you must have been approved for the state rebate and provide the required documents listed on the application. Applications will be accepted July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. To apply or learn more, visit: **cbsd.org/Page/68169**

Keep Your Mailing Address Updated

Please notify me of any changes to your mailing address to ensure you receive all future tax bills. *Note: Under Pennsylvania tax collection law, failure to receive a property tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility to pay taxes and any associated penalties.*

Questions?

If you have questions about the homestead exclusion, property tax/rent rebate, interim bills, regular bills, etc. please feel free to contact me: 215-822-2930 • newbritaintax@gmail.com



New Britain Township



FALL YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Please deposit plant materials only!

New Britain Township is offering our residents a drop-off container for fall yard waste.
Please use 40-gallon biodegradable or recyclable paper bags only.

November 18th - 22nd

Tuesday - Friday
7:30am - 2:30 pm
Saturday
8am - 12pm



New Britain Township Municipal Building
207 Park Ave, Chalfont, PA 18914

Call Number:
215-822-1391

newbritaintownship.org

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**

Originally established in October 2002 as the Chalfont Business Alliance, the organization was created with a clear mission: to share ideas, strengthen local businesses, foster economic prosperity, and provide opportunities for networking and collaboration among business leaders.

Today, the Alliance remains dedicated to achieving these objectives. As a member-driven organization, they support the growth and development of local businesses while preserving the history, character, and small-town integrity of Chalfont, New Britain, and surrounding communities.

Working with residents and community partners, the Alliance strives to maintain the vitality and welcoming atmosphere that defines our hometown. Through the Alliance's fundraising events, they regularly give back by supporting local charities, non-profit organizations and providing scholarships through their Scholarship Fund. www.cbbba.org

AARK Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center

AARK Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, located in Chalfont, Pennsylvania, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned native wildlife and to promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife through environmental education. Established in 1979, AARK has been serving the community for over 40 years.

Aark
Wildlife Rehabilitation
and Education Center

Mission and Services:

- **Rehabilitation:** AARK provides medical care, including setting broken bones and treating illnesses, to birds and mammals that are injured or orphaned. The goal is to release these animals back into their natural habitats once they are healthy and capable of surviving independently. Annually, over 5,500 animals receive care at AARK, making it one of the busiest wildlife centers in Pennsylvania.
- **Education:** The center offers programs such as summer camps, winter education classes, and both on-site and off-site educational activities. These initiatives aim to inform the public about proper wildlife handling techniques and to foster an appreciation for wildlife, emphasizing that wild animals are best appreciated from a safe distance in their natural environments.
- **Training:** AARK provides internship opportunities accredited by regional colleges and universities. These programs offer individuals hands-on experience in wildlife rehabilitation under the guidance of experienced professionals, contributing to the development of future wildlife care experts.

Operating Hours:

The center operates daily, with staffed hours from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM during spring and summer, and from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM in fall and winter. Assistance is available by phone during these times, and the facility is open 24 hours a day for animal drop-offs.

Contact Information:

Address: 1531 Upper Stump Rd, Chalfont, PA 18914 • **Website:** www.aark.org
Facebook: AArk Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center • **Instagram:** @aarkwildlife

Santa House

Meet & Greet



Crafts | Treats | Photos With Santa

Friday | December 12 2025 | 5 PM - 7 PM

Saturday | December 13 2025 | 5 PM - 7 PM

North Branch Park
207 Park Ave, Chalfont, PA 18914

Tips from your Environmental Advisory Council

Fall is for Planting Trees and Shrubs!



Why plant trees?

Trees give us so much more than beauty and cooling shade. In reality, without trees we could not survive. Trees produce the oxygen we breathe; remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; absorb and clean water; provide food and medicines; offer welcoming outdoors and places to gather in the shade. They also benefit our society economically. Some examples:

- Medical research shows that an environment with trees boosts the immune system and benefits heart health; children in neighborhoods with trees have lower asthma rates. Why? 100 trees remove 32 tons of CO2 and 430 pounds of pollutants annually.
- Trees reduce flooding, clean our water, and are essential to stormwater control. 100 mature trees intercept 538,700 gallons of water annually. Through the process of "transpiration" water is absorbed by tree roots, moves up through the tree, and is released as water vapor through the leaves. Tree leaves, branches, and bark also channel rainwater to the base of a tree where roots infiltrate it, clean it, and direct it to the aquifer (the underground spaces that store and transmit our groundwater) In Pennsylvania, approximately half of the population relies on groundwater, primarily from aquifers, for their drinking water. (See Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.) Every residence in New Britain Township is part of the Neshaminy Creek Watershed, so every action we take affects our aquifer, the Creek, and the Delaware River.
- Trees benefit our mental and physical health. Scientific studies show that looking at trees helps patients recover faster from illness and helps students in classrooms concentrate better.
- Trees save on heating and air conditioning costs and add to property value. Both the shade from trees and the process of transpiration (which cools the air) keep a house cooler in summer, saving on air conditioning costs. In winter, trees — especially evergreen trees on the north side — can provide windbreak, thus helping with heating costs.
- Trees lead to more sociability and safer environments. People tend to be outdoors and gather where trees provide shade and beauty. More "eyes on the street" leads to a reduction in crime.
- For data and further information see the Penn State webinar "Why Care About Trees" https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Pennsylvania+Forest+SeminarA++Why+Care+About+Trees/1_4fxcl44p



Plant native trees!

Did you know the bird population across the world is rapidly declining? Birds need trees to survive, but their habitat is disappearing as development expands, land is clear-cut, and wetlands destroyed. Native trees are especially important to birds and many other essential species because of the co-evolved relationship between native trees and food sources. Birds and native plants go together thanks to thousands of years of coevolution. Native plants produce fruits and flowers on which birds feed, and, in return, birds spread the plant's seeds and pollen far and wide, supporting an entire ecosystem that gives food and shelter to local wildlife.

Right tree right place

Some trees thrive in dry conditions and some prefer wet soil. Some are appropriate near sidewalks and wires; others are not. Choose the right tree for your situation. For a list of native trees and appropriate planting conditions, see the "Native Tree List" on the EAC's webpage: https://newbritaintownship.org/government/boards-commissions/environmental-advisory-council/

Where to find native trees

If possible, purchase your native tree from a local plant nursery. For locations of native plant nurseries and tree sales, contact the EAC at eac@nbtpa.us.

Also, The Philadelphia Horticultural Society (PHS) New Britain Township Tree Tenders will have subsidized trees available in the fall. For information contact Jerry Coleman: colemanj1118@gmail.com.

How to plant your tree

Proper planting is crucial to your tree's survival. Dig a hole at least twice as wide as the tree's container but no deeper. It's important to keep the root flare above ground. For detailed planting instructions, including protection from deer, see PHS's tree planting guide (although you will probably not need to stake your tree): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YF-9PNFxj3c

Tips from your Environmental Advisory Council *continued*

How to mulch your tree



Mulching your trees is important for their health. Mulch retains moisture, improves soil quality, and protects trees from soil compaction and damage caused by mowers. Organic mulch is best. However, it is important to mulch properly because improper mulching can damage or even kill your tree.

- Avoid "mulch volcanoes" (pictured at left in the illustration). Piling up mulch against the trunk can foster disease-causing plant pathogens, provide a home for stem-feeding rodents, and cause root rot. Instead, follow this "rule of three": place the mulch 3" from the base of the trunk, 3" deep, and 3' around (as pictured at right in the illustration). It is important that the root flare at the base of the trunk be exposed. Your tree will thank you.
- For more information see: https://extension.psu.edu/mulch-volcanoes-are-erupting-everywhere.

Proper pruning

Winter is the time to prune your trees, although dead, damaged, or diseased branches can be removed at any time. Follow proper pruning techniques, being especially careful not to injure the "branch collar." An excellent resource with pictures is NC State Extension "General Pruning Techniques": https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/general-pruning-techniques. Another good resource: Purdue University Extension, "Tree Pruning Essentials": https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-506-W.pdf

Watch for the EAC's **Tree Planting Workshop** in the fall!

COME PLANT WITH US! The EAC will have several large planting events in the fall. We'd love to have you come help — no experience necessary. We will train! Watch the township's website and facebook page for announcements.

MS4 Update

New Britain Township has an MS4 which is a Township-owned storm sewer collection system including swales, pipes, inlets, and drains associated with the Township's roads, parks, and municipal facilities. The 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 Clean Streams Law. The current permit became effective on September 1, 2024 and will expire on August 31, 2029 with the goal to reduce the discharge of pollutants and to protect water quality.

Before pictures:





After pictures:





One of the projects that the Township is completing involves bio-engineered stabilization of stream banks along a tributary of the Neshaminy Creek in the Brittany Farms subdivision located on Hampshire Drive in Chalfont. The stabilization work included the installation of stone toe protection and rock vanes, the grading of embankments with erosion control fabric and coir logs, and live stakes. Live stakes are dormant stem cuttings of woody shrubs or trees that are planted directly into the ground, typically in wet or moist soils. These cuttings will root and grow into new plants, helping to stabilize the streambanks, reduce erosion, and improve habitat.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

New Britain Township is seeking dedicated individuals to serve on various boards and commissions. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to contribute your skills, share your ideas, and help shape the future of our community!

Applications Available For:

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION
VETERANS COMMITTEE
ZONING HEARING BOARD

www.newbritaintownship.org
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Greener, Cleaner, Safer The Runoff Rundown

What Is Stormwater Pollution?

Stormwater pollution happens when rainwater flows off rooftops, driveways, and lawns—picking up oil, chemicals, pet waste, and debris—and carries them straight into storm drains. From there, the water flows untreated into our local rivers, lakes, and streams, harming the environment and potentially affecting our health.

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.

Easy Ways to Prevent Pollution

You can help protect local waterways with a few simple changes around your home:

Lawn & Garden

- Use fertilizer sparingly—and never before it rains.
- Plant native plants that require less watering and resist erosion.
- Mulch bare soil areas to prevent washout.

Rain Management

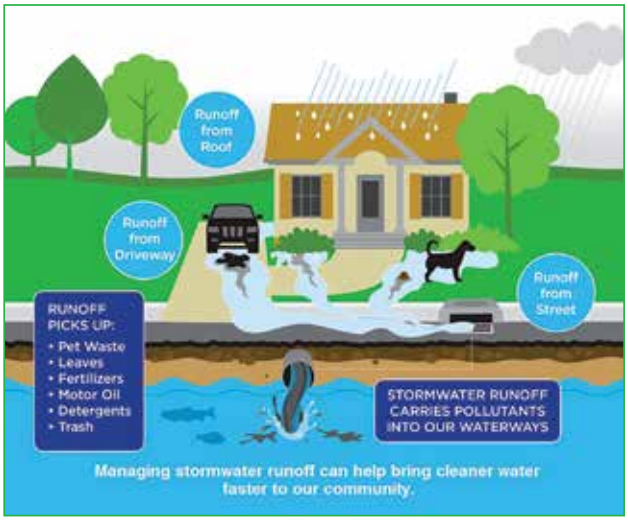
- Install **rain barrels** to capture water for garden use.
- Build a **rain garden** to soak up runoff naturally.
- Consider **permeable paving** instead of solid concrete.

Driveway & Vehicle Care

- Repair oil leaks promptly.
- Wash your car on the lawn—or better yet, at a commercial car wash.
- Never pour chemicals down storm drains.

Pet Waste

- Always clean up after pets.
- Dispose of waste in the trash—never in drains or compost piles.



Take Action This Week!

Start with one simple step—like picking up pet waste or switching to organic fertilizer—and you'll already be making a difference.

Let's work together to keep our neighborhood beautiful and our waterways clean!

Bucks County's Finest Luxury Townhome Rentals





Heritage Orchard Hill - Clubhouse
1 Applewood Drive, Perkasie, PA 18944



Heritage Summer Hill
4000 Lily Drive, Doylestown, PA 18902



Heritage Greene
807 Ridgeview Court, Sellersville, PA 18960



Heritage Pointe
Village Way, Chalfont, PA 18914

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