



# NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP NEWS

## Your Hometown Newsletter

### 2017 BUDGET REFLECTS NO TAX INCREASE

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On December 7, 2016, the Board of Supervisors of New Britain Township adopted a balanced 2017 Budget.

The Budget provides for NO INCREASE in Real Estate Tax millage rates and NO INCREASE in the 2016 Earned Income Tax. The 2017 Budget proposes a Real Estate tax millage at a total of 12.0625 mills and an Earned Income Tax at the total rate of 1.025% (1% shared 50/50 with CBSD and 0.025% dedicated to NBT Open Space).

The Real Estate Millage is assessed as follows for Fiscal Year 2017:

- \* 6.100 mills for General Public Services
- \* 1.250 mills for Fire Protection
- \* 0.500 mills for EMS
- \* 1.465 mills for Park and Recreation
- \* 1.000 mills for Capital Infrastructure and Debt Service

- \* 1.250 mills for Public Works Building Debt Service
- \* 0.500 mills for Highway Equipment Maintenance and Replacement.

**COST CONTAINMENT**

The Township continues to explore cost containment opportunities where possible. In recent years, the Township was able to significantly reduce medical costs by instituting a high-deductible insurance plan for all employees.

The Township currently has a contract with Constellation Energy through the Municipal Utility Alliance (MUA) for discounted electricity rates through the end of 2019. Street light utility charges have been added to the MUA accounts, reducing those electric bills. Upgrading interior and exterior lighting at 207 Park Avenue has been completed and will reduce utility and maintenance charges further,

and pay for itself by the end of 2019.

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

- \* \$1,800,000 loan for bridge repairs and replacement of the New Galena Road Bridge and several culverts throughout the Township.
- \* \$200,000 for a Traffic Signal System at New Britain Boulevard and County Line Road.
- \* Additional paving on Township-owned roadways.

**PARK & RECREATION**

- \* Phase One development of Veterans Park is underway, with additional purchases in 2017.
- \* Neshaminy Greenway Trail development and construction.

**The 2017 Final Budget is available for public inspection at the Township Building.**

### Try Your Luck at DESIGNER BAG BINGO for a Great Cause!

The New Britain Township Veterans Committee is hosting a Designer Bag Bingo Event



**GATHER YOUR FRIENDS AND JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF BINGO!**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Doors open at 6:00 p.m.**  
**SHRINE OF CZESTOCHOWA**  
 654 Ferry Road, Doylestown

**TICKETS**  
**\$25.00 in Advance**  
**\$30.00 at the door**  
**Benefits Veterans Park**



**20 ROUNDS OF BINGO**  
**WIN A DESIGNER BAG!**  
**COACH, KATE SPADE, VERA BRADLEY AND MORE!**

*For additional info or to purchase tickets in advance, contact this office at 215-822-1391*

**NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The New Britain Township Police Department is looking for volunteers for the Youth Aid Panel. If you are interested, please contact Chief Robert Scafidi at 215-822-1910.

**Stray Dogs**

The Police Department cautions residents not to restrain stray dogs. There is an element of danger when handling a stray. The Police Department may not always be instantly available to pick up a dog. The person who detains the stray assumes some responsibility until the Police respond. Stray dogs are transported to the ASPCA. The owner, when identified, will be issued a citation.

**Motor Vehicle Transfers**

When selling a vehicle including a motorcycle, do not complete the transaction until the title is transferred at a notary. Do not let the license plate leave with the vehicle. This will create problems for you.

**IMPORTANT POLICE NUMBERS**

**Bucks County District Attorney's Office**  
**215-348-6344**  
**Network of Victim Assistance**  
**1-800-675-6900**  
**A Women's Place**  
**1-800-220-8116**  
**Crimes Against Older Adults**  
**1-800-490-8505**  
**Bucks County Office of**

**CHANGES IN USE AND OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS**

On November 3, 2016, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed into law Act 133 of 2016, regulating the issuance of Use and Occupancy Certificates and timelines for correcting code violations.

On January 23, 2017, New Britain Township Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance No. 2017-01-04, regulating the occupancy of buildings and structures, setting the requirements for the issuance of occupancy permits and providing penalties for violations to ensure New Britain Township would be in compliance with the new Pennsylvania law.

Here are a few of the highlights of the new Ordinance:

- A Use and Occupancy Certificate is required before any new occupants may occupy or re-occupy any structure.

- All structures shall be subject to inspection by authorized Township officials for compliance with the Township's Building Codes, Property Maintenance Code, Fire Code and all nuisance provisions prior to issuance of a Use and Occupancy Certificate. If the inspection reveals no violations, a Use and Occupancy Certificate shall be issued .

- If the inspection reveals at least one minor violation and no substantial violations, a Temporary Use and Occupancy shall be issued.
- If the inspection reveals at least one substantial violation, a Temporary Access Certificate shall be issued.

**Temporary Use and Occupancy Certificate:**

The purpose of the Temporary Use and Occupancy Certificate is to authorize the purchaser to fully utilize or reside in the property while correcting minor violations.

Within 12 months of the date of purchase, the purchaser of a property which an inspection found to contain a violation shall bring the property into compliance with the Township's ordinances or demolish the building or structure.

**Temporary Access Certificate:**

The purpose of the Temporary Access Certificate is to authorize the purchaser to access the property for the sole purpose of correcting substantial violations. No person may occupy a property during the term of a Temporary Access Certificate.

Within 12 months

of the date of purchase, the purchaser of a property which an inspection found to contain a violation shall bring the property into compliance with the Township's ordinances or demolish the building or structure.

The structure may not be occupied during any time prior to inspection to ensure that all substantial violations have been corrected and a Temporary Use and Occupancy Certificate is issued. At that time, any minor violations must be corrected under the prescribed timetable.

These new regulations may impact who holds responsibility for potentially expensive repairs to code violations. If you have any questions regarding the new Ordinance, and its effects on buying and selling a home, please call 215-822-1391 for further information.

## KEEPING UP WITH STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Did you know that 60% of streams in southeastern PA are impaired? New Britain Township wants to improve the health of our watershed. The Township must meet requirements for reducing sediment and pathogens by 10% over the next five years. Streams will be reassessed every 5 to 8 years, with additional reductions required until the streams are no longer classified as impaired.

The Township must: develop, implement, and enforce a stormwater management program to satisfy the water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act. The program must include Public Education, Public Involvement, Illicit Discharge Detection/Elimination, Stormwater Control during Construction and Post-Construction, and Good Housekeeping/Pollution Prevention for Municipal Operations.

Here is some more information and some ways to help the township reach its goals.

### What Is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.

### Why Stormwater Runoff Is A Problem

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it travels and flows into a storm sewer system, or flows directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for

swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

### Effects of Pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on animals, plants, people, and fish.

**Sediment** can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment can also destroy aquatic habitats.

**Excess nutrients** can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom 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 other pathogens** can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

**Debris** such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts that are washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

**Household hazardous wastes** like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick from eating diseased fish and shellfish or from ingesting polluted water.

Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs to astronomical levels.

### Stormwater Awareness

Being aware of what causes stormwater runoff and what

you can do to help prevent runoff is important.

### Stormwater Pollution Solutions

**Residential** - Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains or gutters.

**Lawn Care** - Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams, rivers and lakes.

In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to waterbodies as well.

- ◆ Avoid overwatering your lawn and gardens. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a traditional sprinkler.
- ◆ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, if necessary. Do so in the manufacturer's recommended amounts.
- ◆ Compost or mulch yard waste for later use. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- ◆ Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects to avoid runoff of the materials.

**Septic Systems** - Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterbodies. Pathogens can cause public

health problems and environmental concerns.

**Auto Care** - Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.

- ◆ Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your lawn so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- ◆ Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids properly.

**Pet Waste** - Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

- ◆ Remember to pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- ◆ Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

*Information for this article was taken from the EPA's article "After the Storm". For the full informative article, visit <http://water.epa.gov>. "After the Storm". Additional stormwater information is available by visiting [www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps).*



## **SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION**

New Britain Township is pleased to once again offer our residents a drop-off container for Spring Yard Waste. The walk-in 40-yard container will be located directly behind the Municipal Building at 207 Park Avenue, within the fenced area.

**May 2nd - May 6th**  
**Tuesday - Friday**  
**7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday**  
**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Please deposit plant materials only, loose or in 40-gallon biodegradable, recyclable paper bags only! Paper bags are available at local hardware and grocery stores. Do not mix trash or other debris with leaves and plant materials.

Remember that recycling is extremely important. It helps the environment and keeps our Township clean and may also save you money!

For more information, call 215-822-1391.



### **The Tri-Municipal**

**July 4th Parade is right around the corner! Everyone is welcome to participate. The Township is looking for groups or neighborhoods that feel creative & would like to enter a float. There are great prizes awarded!**

**We are also looking for owners of convertibles that would like to drive Veterans in the Parade. For more information call Jo Ann at 215-822-1391.**

## **COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT**

New this year! New Britain Township is proud to announce the addition of the Electronic Recycling Event to our Community Shredding Event. The event is limited to Township Residents Only, No Businesses. The event will be held at the New Britain Township Administration Building, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, Pa. 18914

**Saturday**  
**May 6, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**PAR-Recycle Works will except personal computers, printers, VCR/DVD/Cd Players, Game Systems (Xbox, Nintendo, PlayStation, etc.) and much more.**

**COST: \$30/ per Tube Television and/or Tube Monitor NO Cost for all other items**

**Residents will need to provide a Valid Driver's License indicating you are a Township resident upon arrival**

**If you have any questions about the electronic recycling event, call 215-822-1391.**

### **PERMITTED RESIDENTIAL TRASH HAULERS**

Allied Waste Services  
800-234-2583

Advanced Disposal  
610-584-5450

George Leck & Sons, Inc.  
215-675-8000

J.P. Mascaro & Sons  
800-444-6272

Waste Management  
800-869-5566

## **COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT**

New Britain Township is pleased to announce their Third Annual Community Shredding Event! The event is limited to Township Residents Only, No Businesses. The event will be held at the New Britain Township Administration Building, located at 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914.

**Saturday**  
**May 6, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Shred One Security Corporation will be onsite to perform the shredding, with a mobile shredding unit that will provide shredding service that is the safest and most secure way to dispose of your important personal documents. If you plan to attend the event, here are a few things to remember:

- ◆ Limit 5 bags per Household
- ◆ Residents will need to provide a valid Driver's License
- ◆ indicating you are a Township resident upon arrival
- ◆ Paper Items Only! No Metal, Binder Clips, or Binders

*If you have any questions about the shredding event, call 215-822-1391.*

### **FOOD NEEDED**

The New Britain Food Larder is currently in need of contributions. Non-perishable Food donations can be dropped off in the Township Building's lobby or at any Township Event. If you need information on how to volunteer at the Larder, please call 215-345-9170.

## NOTES FROM THE REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR

*Written by Nancy Jones*

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to my assistant, Helena., as she and her husband are moving to Arizona to be near family. I will miss my dear friend immensely, but Nicole Percetti, whom many of you met before, is now working with me. She is well qualified and is truly an asset in helping me when we are busy.

Real Estate Tax Bills will go out the first week of March for County and Township real estate tax. School Tax Bills go out the last week of

June. If you do not receive a bill, please contact my office as soon as possible.

This is a reminder that the only credit card company I deal with is **Municipay**. Go online to [bctaxes.org](http://bctaxes.org) and go to "New Britain Township". From there, go to "Pay by Credit Card", and you will be given the information needed to pay your tax bill by credit card. Please make sure you select the correct account (real estate tax, school tax, real estate interim, school interim, etc.). Otherwise, it will put you into the incorrect account, and your

payment may not be correctly credited.

As always, if a receipt is requested, please send in BOTH copies of the bill with a self-addressed stamped envelope and I will be happy to send you a receipt.

**TAX COLLECTOR**

**Nancy Jones  
207 Park Avenue  
Chalfont, PA 18914  
Phone # 215-822-2930**

**FALL FESTIVAL**

Mark your calendars!  
New Britain Township  
**Veterans Committee's  
9th Annual Fall Festival**  
Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017  
8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Crafters, Vendors, Community Yard Sale, Kids Activities, food, live performances and much more. Join us for a fun-filled day.

For additional information or to reserve a space call  
215-822-1391

## TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

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

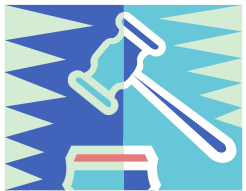
**Board of Supervisors**  
First and Third Monday of each Month

**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 p.m.*)



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

Residents can call the Township Building in regard to questions about any Agenda item at 215-822-1391.

If a meeting is cancelled, a notice will be posted on the Township website at [www.newbritaintownship.org](http://www.newbritaintownship.org)

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

New Britain Township is now on Facebook, Twitter, and Google Groups.

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NewBritainTownship](http://www.facebook.com/NewBritainTownship)

To follow us on twitter go to [www.twitter/NewBritainTwp1](http://www.twitter/NewBritainTwp1)

To join our Google Group, email your "join request" to [nbt@newbritaintownship.org](mailto:nbt@newbritaintownship.org)

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**GOVERNMENT**

Township Administration Bldg.  
215-822-1391

Police Non-Emergency  
215-822-1910

Public Works Department  
215-822-3698

Tax Collector - Nancy Jones  
215-822-2930

Keystone Collections Group  
1-888-328-0557

Voters' Registration Office  
215-348-6163

Bucks County Courthouse  
215-348-6000

**SCHOOLS**

Central Bucks South H.S.  
267-893-3000

Central Bucks West H.S.  
267-893-2500

Tohickon Middle School  
267-893-3300

Unami Middle School  
267-893-3400

Pine Run Elementary  
267-893-4450

Butler Elementary  
267-893-4250

St. Jude's Catholic School  
215-822-9225

Plumstead Christian School  
215-822-0187

North Penn School District  
215-368-0400

**LOCAL YOUTH SPORTS**

LVRC Sports  
[www.lvrcsports.com](http://www.lvrcsports.com)

Lenape Valley Baseball  
[www.lvbaseball.org](http://www.lvbaseball.org)

Lenape Valley Softball  
[www.lvsoftball.org](http://www.lvsoftball.org)

Lenape Valley Soccer  
[www.parushsoccer.com](http://www.parushsoccer.com)

LV Football & Cheerleading  
[www.lvindians.com](http://www.lvindians.com)



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*  
John A. Bodden, Sr., *Vice-Chair*  
Helen B. Haun, *Member*  
Gregory T. Hood, *Member*  
William B. Jones III, *Member*

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

**Township Administration Hours:**  
**8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Monday through Friday**

Township Meeting Information is posted at the Administration Building and can also be found on our website at [www.newbritaintownship.org](http://www.newbritaintownship.org)

**CHALFONT FIRE COMPANY**  
**2017 EVENTS**  
**March 18**  
Soup, Used Book & Rummage Sale  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**April 8**  
Mommy Market  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**April 23**  
Buffet Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
or until sold out  
**May 6**  
Turkey Hoagies  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
or until sold out  
All events are held at the Chalfont Fire House located at:  
301 North Main Street, Chalfont  
For additional information or to reserve the Fire House for a Banquet or Meeting, call #215-822-9685 or visit [www.chalfontfirecompany.com](http://www.chalfontfirecompany.com)



**MEET OUR SPECIAL GUEST - THE EASTER BUNNY!  
FIND THE SPECIAL EGG AND WIN A PRIZE!  
PRIZES AWARDED TO EACH AGE GROUP:  
PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 6th GRADERS**

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 1, 2017  
STARTS PROMPTLY AT 10:00 A.M.  
RAINDATE - APRIL 8, 2017  
AT NORTH  
BRANCH PARK  
207 PARK AVENUE, CHALFONT**



**The New Britain Township Park & Recreation Board is hosting their Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**