



Chalfont Borough Lamp Lighter



40 North Main Street ♦ Phone: 215-822-7295 ♦ Fax: 215-822-5528 February 2013
OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday ~ CLOSED HOLIDAYS & WEEKENDS
website address: www.chalfontborough.com email: info@chalfontborough.com



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

When Hurricane Sandy hit our area in October of 2012, the Borough's emergency services were put to the test. No one was able to escape the impact of the storm, although some residents were hit harder than others, having to clean up downed trees and live for days without electricity. Under the direction of Mayor Becker, the Borough held a meeting a week after the storm to identify what went well during the storm response and what we need to improve upon if and when the Borough is faced with another emergency. We determined that we need to work more closely with Bucks County and the Red Cross to have a shelter closer to our area. It wasn't until a few days after the storm that we were able to identify the new Firehouse as a potential "Comfort Station" for residents to charge their electronic devices and warm up food during the day. Fortunately by the time the weather took a turn for the worse, the power was restored to all of the Borough residents. But in a situation that may occur during the winter or summer, more overnight shelters would be needed.

We also identified the need to improve our information outreach to the community during emergencies. The Borough uses ReadyNotifyPA for emergency alerts, similar to a Reverse 911 System. These alerts can go to your cell phone or email address. Make sure you sign up for ReadyNotifyPA and enter in your county and municipality to receive these alerts. Also, the Borough will make sure to post more updates on our website at www.chalfontborough.com and on our Facebook page (Official Chalfont Borough Youth Committee).

But no amount of technology can replace feet on the ground and face to face communication during an emergency. Ideally, the police department and staff would be going door to door, informing our residents of any news and updates during an emergency. But of course, with the size of our Borough and the number of our personnel, this isn't a feasible activity. That is why the Borough Council would like to implement an **Emergency Management Citizen Committee**, made up of volunteers from the various developments and sections of the Borough, to help spread news and updates to their

neighbors, specifically during times when the power is out. These volunteers would be contacted by the Borough Staff directly during an emergency and asked to relay information to their neighbors. **If you are interested in being a representative for your neighborhood or street during an emergency**, please contact Borough Manager Melissa Shafer at mshafer@chalfontborough.com.

Additionally, if you are a senior citizen or are disabled (or you know of someone in need), and wish to be checked on during an emergency, please contact the Borough Police Department at 215-822-2606. The police officers can check up on you or your loved ones during extended power outages or major weather events.

We are also compiling a list of residents or businesses that may have snowmobiles that would like to volunteer during a major snow emergency. Please contact the Borough at 215-822-7295 if you are interested in being an emergency snowmobile volunteer.

Lastly, we have a few reminders. The Police Department would like to remind everyone that when the power is down and the traffic signals are out, those intersections should be treated as four-way (or *all-way*) stops. Fortunately in Chalfont Borough, we have generators to keep our signals running, but it does take some time to get them hooked up after the power goes out.

And a reminder from the Public Works Department about downed trees: if a tree falls in the roadway, the Public Works Department will cut it up and place the pieces behind the curb on the property from which it fell. It is then the owner's responsibility to dispose of the debris.

If you have any other suggestions on how the Borough can improve our emergency management, please contact the Borough at info@chalfontborough.com or leave a comment through the borough website at www.chalfontborough.com.

WINTER REMINDERS . . .

We have already experienced ice and snow this season. Please take a moment to review the following information:

- ❄ Be sure to remove cars from the street during a snow event to allow for plowing.
- ❄ Property owners are required to clear their sidewalks within 12 hours of an ice or snow event. Excessive ice should be treated with sand or an abrasive for safe pedestrian travel.
- ❄ Residents are advised to keep fire hydrants on or near their property clear and accessible at all times.
- ❄ Discharge of a sump pump or storm water onto any street in the borough is prohibited by law. Doing so can lead to dangerous icy conditions during winter weather and fines can be assessed.
- ❄ Please place warning markers where snow plows might damage your yard or curb.
- ❄ Winterize your mailbox! Plowing operations can push snow against or in front of mailboxes causing damage to supports. Be sure your mailbox is placed behind the curb line and rests on a firm support that is able to withstand the force of snow from the plowing operation. Mailbox damage is the responsibility of the property owner. Homeowners who have followed these tips in the past and have still experienced mailbox damage may wish to consider installing a cantilevered mailbox support that will swing a mailbox out of harm's way.



Chalfont Borough Monthly Meetings

Council - 2nd Tuesday

Planning - 1st Monday

HARB - 4th Monday

All Meetings are held @ 7:00 p.m.

Chalfont Borough Hall

Chalfont Borough Mayor and Council

Mayor - Marilyn J. Becker

Borough Council

John Engel, President

John Abbott, Vice President

Tracey Bowen

Marilyn H. Jacobson

Michael Kelly

Eric Raffle

Borough Manager - Melissa A. Shafer

CHALFONT BOROUGH REDEVELOPMENT

2013 is shaping up to be a big year for redevelopment in the Borough's downtown.

The proposed development on the corner of Bristol Road and Butler Avenue is back in the land development review phase after a five year hiatus due to Rite Aid's bankruptcy and a poor economy. Currently, redesigned plans call for the same layout as previously approved, with offsite improvements such as sidewalk, lighting, street trees, buffering for the residential properties, and access out to Moyer Road.

Proposed changes to the development include a Giant-To-Go convenience store and gas station for the corner of the property, a new building for the Uninvest Bank (which will be relocating from across the street), an 8,000 square foot pad site in the center, and garden apartments in the rear. Negotiations with the developer are ongoing regarding the design, size, and massing of the buildings. Since resident input and feedback is important, the developer will be presenting their proposed plan at a **special public meeting to be held at Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 26 at 7 pm.**

In other development news, this spring will bring the replacement of the bridge on Butler Avenue in front of the Chalfont Family Restaurant, along with a new right turn lane at the Manhattan Bagel and a longer right turn lane on Limekiln Pike. A temporary pedestrian bridge will be brought in during construction, and both lanes of travel will be kept open at all times, with the exception of a few hours when flaggers will be in place to help with the delivery of large materials and equipment. This project is slated to be completed by the end of 2013.

Council is accepting applications for vacant positions on Borough Council and the Historic Architectural Review Board. Volunteer application forms are available on the Borough website:

www.chalfontborough.com or at Borough Hall. Please submit your application to Chalfont Borough, 40 N. Main Street, Chalfont, PA 18914.



CHALFONT LIONS'

- Annual *Easter Egg Hunt*, Saturday, March 23, 2013, 10 a.m. at Krupp Park (rain date March 30.)
- *Health Fair*: Wed, April 17, 2013, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Pine Run Community, 777 Ferry Road. Vendors Needed. Call Lion Evelyn Barr at 215-997-2480.

From the Borough Office...

- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE:** Chalfont Day and the Chalfont Challenge 5k Race and Fun Run will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2013.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed for Chalfont Day. If you are interested in sharing your hobby, running a children's event, face painting, etc., please contact Barbara Klingerman at 215-822-7295.
- ◆ Trash and recyclables should be placed curbside on Thursday evening for pickup on Friday morning. Trucks may come as early as 6 a.m.
- ◆ If you have a bulk item to dispose of, call Advanced Disposal for pick-up at 866-342-5497
- ◆ Computer and electronic waste can no longer be discarded with your trash according to Pennsylvania law. Many local stores will accept drop offs for no charge. You can find a listing at www.earth911.com. Go to "Find a Recycling Center" and search "electronic recycling" near Chalfont, PA. Examples include Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, Target, and Staples. The type of materials accepted varies by store, so make sure you double check the site or call before you go.

New Trash and Recycling Contract for Chalfont



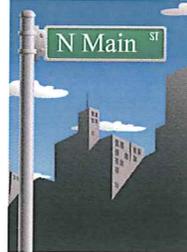
The borough has awarded a new three year trash contract to the lowest bidder, Interstate Waste Services now doing business as **Advanced Disposal**. The new contract begins on June 1 with a **standard rate of \$238.20** per year and a **senior rate of \$214.38** per year. This is a substantial savings over the current contract of \$350 per year. Under this contract, you will continue to have once per week trash and recycling collection, but the RecycleBank component has been discontinued due to program costs and low resident participation. Single stream recycling will continue with your existing toter.

Recyclebank members have one year after the end of a contract to use up any existing points they have accumulated. You can also continue earning and using points as a "digital member" by going to www.Recyclebank.com web site and participating in the "Rewards for Green Action / Education" learn and earn educational programs.

NOTE: If you desire a different size recycling toter, please call the Borough, 215-822-7195, prior to March 15. Available sizes are: 96 gallon, 64 gallon, and 32 gallon.

At the recommendation of the Streets Committee, Chalfont Borough Public Works has installed these bicycle stencils in the neighborhood of Moyer and Cardinal roads to provide a visual link between Blue Jay Park and the Lenape Landing Trail. This came on the heels of a free PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) review of several areas in the Borough where pedestrian and bicycle safety could be improved upon. A big thank you to Doylestown Borough for the use of their stencil.

Storm water pollution is a serious problem in every community. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that clean water is a resource our planet cannot live without. For all life on Earth, let's do our part in keeping our groundwater clean and pollution free. Information is available on the borough website: www.chalfontborough.com in the Information/Stormwater Management section.



Downtown Revitalization

Several years ago, Chalfont Borough Council made Revitalization of the Downtown one of their top priorities. To this end, the Council has formed a Revitalization Committee of residents and business owners.

They also contracted out services, through a grant, for a team of consultants to create a Revitalization and Transit-Oriented Development Plan for the Borough's Downtown, which consists of Butler Avenue and North Main Street.

The next meeting for public participation and feedback for this plan is scheduled for March 7, 2013 at Unami Middle School at 6:30 PM. This would be a great opportunity for interested residents provide input on the future development of the Borough's downtown.



Improved Traffic Flow

The Borough has been working with PennDOT engineers to improve the timing of the lights on Butler Avenue. These lights have been fitted with Adaptive Signal Control Technology (ASCT) which should improve traffic flow in the Borough once the technology "learns" the traffic patterns along the corridor. If you have any concerns about the timing of the lights on Butler Avenue, please email mshafer@chalfontborough.com with the date and time you are experiencing a delay.



Update on Borough Grants

The Safe Routes to School Project is in the engineering phase, and, barring any setbacks, construction on the Butler Avenue sidewalk project is slated to begin later this year. This sidewalk project will connect Pine Run Elementary School all the way up to the Chalfont Borough/New Britain Township line at Meadowbrook Lane.

Also in the engineering phase is the proposed pedestrian crossing of the railroad tracks at Bristol and Butler Avenue. Through an Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant, we were able to get the majority of the engineering and design work completed. The Borough is waiting for additional funding through the next ARLE round to complete the construction.

The Borough was recently awarded two grants for traffic improvements and park improvements in the Borough. We received \$230,400 through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) 2012 Competitive Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, which will fund improvements to the three traffic signals on North Main Street (Route 152). The project scope includes the installation of Adaptive Signal Control Technology (ASCT) at the intersections of North Main/Sunset and North Main/Park, as well as



installation of "Wavetronix" radar detection system at North Main/Lindenfield/Westview, and pedestrian countdown signals at all three. This technology will allow the lights to adjust to actual conditions and allow cars to flow more naturally, thereby improving traffic flow and decreasing the idling time and amount of emissions released into the air. According to the Federal Highway Administration, on average ASCT improves travel time by more than 10 percent. In areas with particularly outdated signal timing, improvements can be 50 percent or more.

The Borough was also awarded \$173,700 through the DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2). This grant will fund improvements at Kelly Park located behind Borough Hall on the opposite side of the Neshaminy Creek. The project scope includes the rehabilitation and expansion of the existing trail system, reforestation, meadow plantings, and riparian buffer restoration. The scope also focuses on accessibility and way-finding with the inclusion of two information kiosks, educational signage, and trail markers. Lastly, we will be increasing the park's amenities with new picnic tables, benches, and litter receptacles. The Borough is applying to the Bucks County Open Space Board for the 50% match for the project.

Borough of Chalfont
40 North Main Street
Chalfont, PA 18914

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