Chalfont Borough Lamplighter

40 North Main Street ~ Phone: 215-822-7295 ~ Fax: 215-822-5528 **April 2014**

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday ~ CLOSED HOLIDAYS & WEEKENDS

website address: www.chalfontborough.com email: Info@chalfontborough.com

CHALFONT DAY

Chalfont Day activities will be held at Unami Middle School on June 7. There will be a Mango Men concert at 7 p.m., a Moon Bounce for the children, and fireworks at dusk. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bring your lawn chairs and appetites for a fun evening for the entire family. Plenty of parking is available. Rain date for fireworks will be Sunday, June 8.

CHALFONT CHALLENGE

When: **Saturday, June 7, 2014**

Where: **Chalfont Borough Hall, 40 N. Main St**

Race: **8:30 am**

One Mile Fun Run: **8:00 am**

Registration: **7:00 - 8:25 am**

Celebrating its twenty-second year, the Chalfont Challenge is the seventh and final race in the 2014 Bucks 5K Series (www.bucks5Kseries.com). Series Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the race in Krupp Park located behind Borough Hall.

We are still seeking community volunteers to help on race day, and local businesses to help sponsor this year's Chalfont Challenge. All proceeds benefit Chalfont's Park & Trail Development Program

PLEASE NOTE: Streets on the race route will be closed from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on the day of the race. Streets effected are: North Main Street, Park Avenue, Chestnut Street, Church Street, Lindenfield Parkway, Jasen Drive, Rosemore Drive, Birchwood Drive, Lynwood Drive, Westview Avenue, and Sunset Avenue.

(See the map on page 2 or go to the borough website: www.chalfontborough.com to view a larger map of the race route listed under INFORMATION, Chalfont Challenge 5K, then click on the link to Chalfont Race Route 2012—2022.

CHARTER REFERENDUM

We need your vote! On May 20, 2014, at the primary election, there will be a question on the ballot for Chalfont voters, asking for the Chalfont Borough Charter to be amended. We want you to vote YES! This amendment is important so that the Chalfont Borough Charter reflects the changes in the recently updated Borough Code. The Borough has also made some administrative amendments included with this update. The following is the question that you will see in the ballot box:

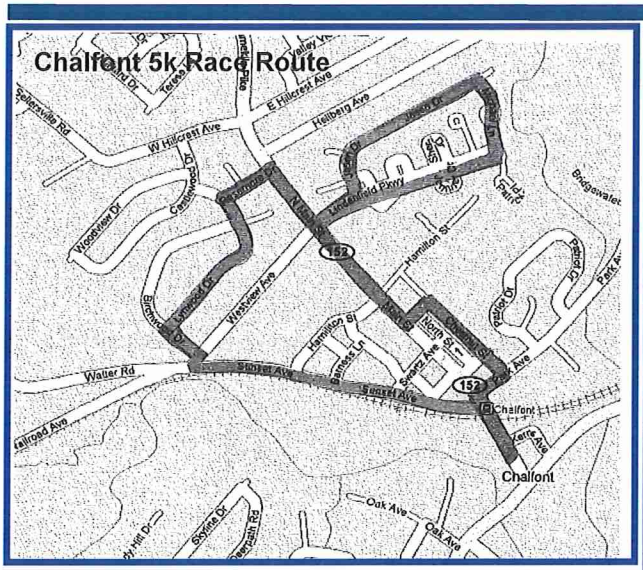
> "Shall the Chalfont Borough Charter be amended to comply with Act 43 of 2012, the most recent update to the Pennsylvania Borough Code, which includes 1) the removal of elected officials and filling of vacancies; 2) a telecommunication policy; 3) contract procedures; and 4) repeal of recall elections; as well as administrative amendments to 1) prohibit elected officials from sitting on the Planning Commission and/or HARB while in office, 2) make the ordinance penalties refer to the Chalfont Borough Fee Schedule; and 3) make the effective dates of ordinances immediate. YES or NO?"

Chalfont Borough is one of only 70 towns in Pennsylvania that is a "Home Rule Municipality." This means Chalfont Borough has its own Charter, or set of rules, above and beyond what is outlined in the Borough Code. Having a Home Rule Charter allows the voters of the Borough to have greater input in how our town is organized and governed.

The history of our Charter began on November 5, 1974, when Chalfont Borough residents took to the polls and voted on a referendum to become a Home Rule Municipality. This new Charter went into effect on January 5, 1976. There have been a few modifications to the Charter since that date, allowing for changes to administrative responsibilities and the investment policies of the Borough, but there has never been a comprehensive review and update in the past 30+ years.

After the Pennsylvania Legislature passed the Borough

See ***Charter Referendum*** *on page 3...*



FIRE HOUSE COMFORT STATION

During the power outages experienced due to severe ice and snow storms, the Chalfont Fire Company opened their doors as a Comfort Station for residents without electricity. Manned by the Mayor and fire company volunteers, the fire house supplied a warm place to shelter and recharge residents' electronic devices. The Fire Company, located at 301 North Main Street, will continue to provide this service during weather emergencies. Food, beverages, and overnight lodging *cannot* be provided; however, microwaves, stoves, refrigerators, and coffee makers are available for use.

Residents with disabilities and senior citizens needing assistance in an emergency, are urged to register with the police department. Please call Amy Keller at 215-822-2606 during business hours to put your contact information on their list so an officer can check in on you in an emergency.

Chalfont Borough Monthly Meetings
Council - 2nd Tuesday
Planning - 1st Monday
HARB - 4th Monday
All Meetings are held @ 7:00 p.m.

Chalfont Borough Mayor and Council
Mayor -Marilyn J. Becker
Borough Council

John R. Engel, President	John Abbott, Vice President
Tracey Bowen	Michael Kelly
Marilyn H. Jacobson	Randy Faulkner
Eric Raffle	Nicholas Mason, Junior Member

Borough Manager– Sandra B. Zadell

From the Borough Office…

- Chalfont welcomes a new Manager, Sandra Zadell, and a new Chief of Police, Karl Knott.
- We're pleased to offer NEW spring & summer recreation programs from Young Rembrandts and Soccer Starters. Information will be posted on our web site, www.chalfontborough.com/departments-services/parks-recreation.aspx , as it becomes available.

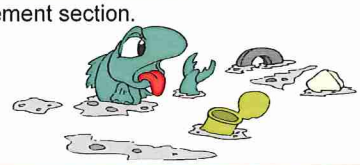
and Public Works...

- If you have utility wires running behind your property, please trim trees and vegetation around the wires. Many power outages during our recent ice storm were caused by downed limbs on properties where regular trimming by utility companies does not take place.
- Remember to trim trees back behind the curb line, remove portable basketball stands and trash cans from the street, and make sure your mail box does not extend over the curb for proper street sweeping operation.

and the Police Department...

- Easily finding your address in an emergency is important for all concerned. **Be sure your house number is at least three inches high and clearly visible from the street.**
- Look for our new Bike Patrol taking to the road on June 7, Chalfont Day!

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.



PARDON OUR DUST

We appreciate your patience as you navigate the roadways in Chalfont Borough and surrounding communities.

Bridge construction continues on Butler Avenue and is slated to be finished this October.

North Wales Water Authority is making their way down Schoolhouse Road in New Britain Township with the new water main and will be repaving Sunset and Railroad Avenues as soon as the project is complete.

Potholes have been cold-patched on borough streets and, in some cases, state highways, by our Public Works Department to alleviate some of the driving hazards caused by the extreme winter weather.

Drive cautiously and obey traffic signals! Everyone is doing their best to create a safe thoroughfare through the borough and beyond.

CHARTER REFERENDUM *(continued from page 1)*

Code Update last year, the Borough Council decided it would be a good time to follow suit and directed a committee to work with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs on updating our Charter to be in compliance with the new Code. During this review, the Committee also made recommendations for several other areas to be modified to fit the current standards and practices of the Borough.

A summary of the proposed changes are below:

§C2-6 Vacancies
The Charter used to state that council members could be removed from office upon "conviction of any felony or a crime relating to the office of Mayor or Council member." And that "forfeiture of office shall occur if a member of Council is absent from three consecutive regular meetings of the Council without having been excused by Council." The courts have ruled that the Pennsylvania Constitution provides the exclusive grounds for the removal of an elected official. Neither the Borough Council nor Borough Charter can dictate terms of the removal of an elected official.

§C2-7 Filing of Vacancies
We added language right from the Borough Code pertaining to the term of an appointee to Borough Council. It basically states that if there is more than 2 years left in the term they are appointed to, that the appointed person must run for their seat in the next election.

§C2-8 Prohibitions
Language added at the end of this section reads: No elected Borough official, while in office, shall hold any other Borough office, Borough employment, *or seat on the Borough Planning Commission or Historic Architectural Review Board.*

§C3-3 Powers and Duties
Language in this section previously stated that the Mayor could not receive more compensation then the Council President; however, the Council Members currently do not receive any compensation. Therefore, language was changed to reflect that in the Borough Code, which states that the rate of compensation should not exceed that set by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section C3-7 Meetings
A section from the updated Borough Code pertaining to telecommunication was added under this section. The language states that "Council may provide for the participation of council members in meetings of Council by means of telecommunication devices." There are stipulations regarding this section, including the provision that a quorum of Council must be present at the meeting, and that Council may only authorize telecommunication for reasons including but not limited to illness and travel.

§C3-14 Penalty
The current language states that "the penalty for the violation of any ordinance shall not exceed $500." This language is not consistent with our current practices. The proposed language change would read: "the penalty for the violation of any ordinance shall be in accordance with the Chalfont Borough fee schedule."

§C3-15 Publication and Effective Date of Ordinances

The current language states that the effective date of the ordinance shall be at the expiration of 5 days after the adoption." The proposed language recommends an immediate adoption of ordinances to avoid any delay.

§C5-5 Council Action on Budget
Pertaining to the Levy of Taxes; Tax ordinance. The current language states that "at the time of adopting the annual budget, the Council shall simultaneously enact an ordinance levying sufficient taxes." The proposed language comes directly from the Borough Code, and states that both the budget and the tax ordinance must be adopted prior to the end of the year. The reason behind this change is that often times the Council doesn't know what the tax increase is going to be until they vote to advertise the budget. A tax ordinance can't be prepared until after that, which makes it difficult to adopt both simultaneously.

§C5-10 Contracts
The current language states that "Council shall, by ordinance, establish a procedure for competitive bidding." Through this review process, we found that the Borough ordinances are actually absent a competitive bidding procedure. Since we had always been following the state bidding procedures, it made sense to incorporate those found in the Borough Code. This would also go for the current bidding thresholds, which now fluctuate annually.

Article VIII Initiative, Referendum, and Recall
§C8-2 Recall (Repealed)
This section is hereby repealed as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in a unanimous opinion ruled that recall is unconstitutional, violating Article VI, Section 7 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Please call Borough Hall at 215-822-7295 if you have any questions or concerns about this proposed amendment.

Remember to VOTE YES on May 20 for the Charter Amendment Referendum!

2014
Household Hazardous Waste & Old Electronics Collection Program

Household products and electronics containing toxic chemicals, like pesticides, lead, or mercury, oil based paints, solvents, cleaning products, weed killers and automotive batteries can be a threat to people and the environment if improperly discarded. Never throw these materials into the trash, or pour them into a sink or storm drain, as they can end up in the environment polluting the air, water, or soil.

Collection events are held 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *Rain or Shine* on the following dates and locations in Bucks County:

- May 10, 2014 - **HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY**
  Lower Makefield Corporate Center
  770 Township Line Road, Lower Makefield Twp.

- June 21, 2014 - **HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY**
  Upper Bucks Co. Area Vo-Tech School
  3115 Ridge Road, Bedminster Twp.
- June 28, 2014 - **ELECTRONICS ONLY**
  Palisades Middle School
  4710 Durham Road, Nockamixon Twp.
- July 19, 2014 - **HAZARDOUS WASTE ONLY**
  Central Bucks South High School
  1100 Folly Road, Warrington Twp.

- July 26, 2014 - **ELECTRONICS ONLY**
  Central Bucks South High School
  1100 Folly Road, Warrington Twp.
- August 16, 2014 - **HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS**
  Quakertown Community High School
  600 Park Ave. (Rear Lot), Quakertown Borough
- August 23, 2014 - **HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS**
  Bucks County Technical High School
  610 Wistar Road, Bristol Township

What can you bring?

All sizes and types of TVs, answering machines, old computers, peripherals, telephones, remote controls, small appliances, and up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous household products. Read the label! Hazardous products will have cautionary words on the label such as danger, warning or caution. Other words or phrases that can signal hazardous products include: poisonous, hazardous, combustible, flammable, corrosive, volatile, caustic, irritant, explosive, toxic, use with adequate ventilation, or avoid inhaling. If there are no words indicating it is a hazardous product, it likely isn't. A complete list of acceptable items is available on the web at www.buckscounty.org, or www.chalfontborough.com. For more information contact: Bucks County Planning Commission, 215-345-3400.

Borough of Chalfont
40 North Main Street
Chalfont, PA 18914

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