



Chalfont Borough Lamp Lighter

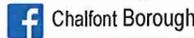


40 North Main Street ♦ Phone: 215-822-7295 ♦ Fax: 215-822-5528 **March 2015**

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

website address: www.chalfontborough.com

email: info@chalfontborough.com



2015 CHALFONT CHALLENGE



When: Saturday, June 6, 2015
~ Rain or Shine~

Where: Chalfont Borough Hall
40 N. Main Street

Race: 8:30 a.m.

One Mile Fun Run: 8:00 a.m.

Registration: 7:00 - 8:25 a.m.

Pre-Registration: begins May 11,
from 9-4 Monday through Friday,

at Chalfont Borough Hall, 40 N. Main St., Chalfont, or
any time at: www.Bucks5Kseries.com.

Celebrating its twenty-third year, the Chalfont Challenge is the final race in the 2015 Bucks 5K Series (www.bucks5Kseries.com). Series Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the race in picturesque Krupp Park located behind Borough Hall. The proceeds from the Chalfont Challenge will continue to help fund Chalfont's Park & Trail Development Program, including rehabilitation of existing trails and the construction of new trails to encourage the use of our parks system and create a pedestrian friendly community.

We are still seeking community volunteers to help on race day, and local businesses to help sponsor this year's Chalfont Challenge. Sponsorship information is available on the Borough website www.chalfontborough.com.

You may volunteer to help on race day at:
mhjacobson@verizon.net.

PLEASE NOTE: Streets on the race route will be closed from 7:30 a.m. until approximately 10 a.m. on the day of the race. (See map below.)

Meet Your Chalfont Police

Officer Profile: Clifford B. Horn III

Officer Horn is a lifetime resident of Bucks County where he graduated from William Tennant Senior High School and Middle Bucks Technical School.



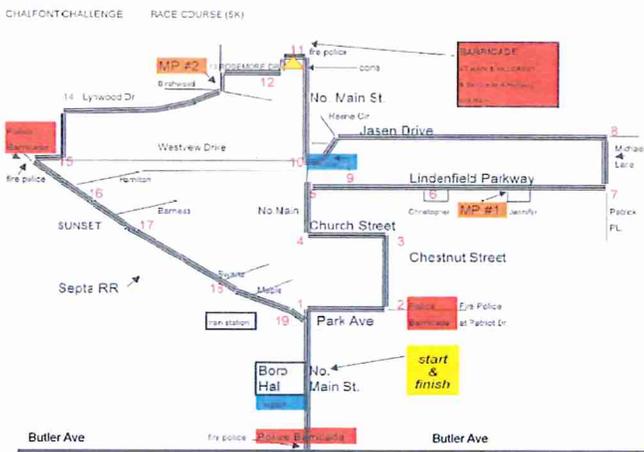
In 1990, Officer Horn attended the Police Academy at Montgomery County Community College. He was hired by the Chalfont Borough Police Department in 1992.

Since his employment, Officer Horn has been involved with Community Policing, and serves as the Borough's Juvenile Officer. He is also a Field Training Officer for the department. Officer Horn has been recognized by MADD three times for Exemplary Enforcement of DUIs. Recently, Officer Horn has received training regarding safe schools and he works closely with the staff of Unami Middle School.

When not working, Officer Horn enjoys the outdoors.

TAX NOTES

- ♦ **County and Borough Municipal Real Estate Tax** bills have been mailed. If you have not received your bill or have recently moved, please contact the tax office at 215-822-7295 to update your mailing address. If your taxes are escrowed, forward one portion of your bill to your mortgage company and keep a portion for your records. The **discount period ends April 30, 2015, the base amount is due by June 30, 2015.** Payments can be made by mail or in person at Borough Hall, 40 N. Main Street. If you pay your bill by mail and would like a receipt, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope with your payment. The Real Estate School Tax collector is Nancy Jones whose office is located at the New Britain Township Building on Park Avenue. Those bills will be mailed out by July 1st.
- ♦ **Your Earned Income Tax** return is due by April 15. You can e-file on Keystone Collections Group's secure website at www.KeystoneCollects.com. Taxpayer support is also available on this site, or call Keystone's **Taxpayer Helpline at 1-888-328-0565** to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent.



FILE Race Course

What's happening around town?

2015 is an exciting year for Chalfont Borough.

Here is what to expect:

- The Façade Grant Program is finishing up. You may have noticed several properties along Butler Avenue and North Main Street have been spruced up. Through a grant from Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) through the Keystone Communities Program, the Revitalization Committee and Borough Council were able to award close to \$50,000 worth of funds to local residents to help improve their facades. We are very happy with the progress and changes we have seen property owners make.
- The long awaited sidewalks on Butler Avenue will be constructed this summer! We are currently in the permits phase of the project, but should be going out to bid this spring. The sidewalks are funded through awarded a Federal Safe Routes to School Grant (FSRTS) of \$719,405 to install crosswalks, curbing, and sidewalks along Butler Avenue from the New Britain Township line (just past Meadowbrook Lane) to Pine Run Elementary School in New Britain Borough.
- Signal improvements will be occurring on North Main Street this summer funded through the CMAQ (Competitive Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program). The project scope includes three traffic signal improvements, including the installation of Adaptive Signal Control Technology (ASCT) and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) for two traffic signals, installation of "Wavetronix" radar detection system for one traffic signal, and pedestrian countdown signals at all three. This project will reduce congestion on North Main Street in Chalfont Borough, as it will improve both traffic flow and pedestrian mobility.
- Construction will also begin this summer on the trail connecting our Blue Jay Park to our existing trail at Lenape Lane. This trail will run through the Unami Middle School property and is an important section of our portion of the Neshaminy Greenway Trail. Engineering for a portion of this trail was funded through the 2012 PECO Green Region Grant program.
- Langhorne and Holland Road will be milled and paved as our 2015 Roads Improvement Project.

Chalfont Borough Monthly Meetings

Council - 2nd Tuesday
Planning - 1st Monday
Blighted Property Review Committee - 3rd 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 R. Engel, President	John Abbott, Vice President
Tracey Bowen	Michael Kelly
Jeffrey Coddington	Michael Horvat
Marilyn H. Jacobson	Nicholas Mason, Junior Member
Borough Manager - Sandra B. Zaddell	

Chalfont Fights Blight 2015

This year Chalfont Borough has a New Year's Resolution we are determined to keep: **clean up the blighted properties in the Borough.**

At the January Council meeting, Council Member Jeffrey Coddington rolled out the Chalfont Borough Steering Committee's newest initiative, **Chalfont Fights Blight 2015**. The goal of this program is to reduce the number of vacant properties in the Borough and get them occupied. Eliminating blight reduces crime, improves health, and increases property values for all residents, which in turn helps to increase tax revenues.

We often hear from concerned residents about blighted properties. The residents in Chalfont Borough have been heard, and the Borough is going to address this issue head on through collaboration with property owners and strict enforcement of the International Property Maintenance Code. We have utilized a new stratagem for municipalities published in July, 2014 by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, "From Blight to Bright: A comprehensive Toolkit for Pennsylvania". This guide helped to craft a strategy to address the abandoned properties in Chalfont Borough.

We want to be very clear with residents: this new strategy is for **severely blighted** properties. It is not meant to address minor code violations like long grass or shutters that need to be painted. We plan to target the three to five properties on a list that will be created by our new Blighted Property Review Committee. The five member Committee is chaired by the Borough Manager and includes a member each from Council, Planning Commission, Revitalization Committee, and one resident at large.

The purpose of the committee is to hold regular public meetings where blighted properties are identified, assessed, and prioritized. The committee will target areas and properties for action. Property owners will be invited to the Blighted Property Review Committee meeting, and be asked to bring their property into code compliance. We will be happy to work with property owners who work with us to clean up the town. Chalfont Borough will use every tool available to us to make sure the blighted properties get cleaned up, including code enforcement in the form of issuing citations. It may take some time; hopefully residents will see progress soon. We are very excited about the changes this program will bring to our community. We want to return this town to its former standard of a bucolic little town, a great place to live, work, and play.

Community members are invited to attend the meetings of the Blighted Property Review Committee. The committee will be meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Borough Manager at 215-822-7295.



CHALFONT LIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. at Krupp Park
- Health Fair: Tuesday, April 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., New Britain Baptist Church. Vendors Needed.
- Night at the Races, Friday, May 29—Save the date .

From the Borough Office...

- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE:** Chalfont Day and the Chalfont Challenge 5k Race and Fun Run will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2015.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Get the latest news by subscribing to news on the Borough website: www.chalfontborough.com or like us on: [facebook.com/ChalfontBorough](https://www.facebook.com/ChalfontBorough), or follow us on Twitter @chalfontboro.

Public Works...

- ◆ With spring around the corner, street sweeping will begin in the Borough. Please make sure your mailbox is back beyond the curb line, and trim trees and shrubs back, also.
- ◆ When mowing, do not throw or sweep grass clippings into the street.



Chalfont Day was a huge success last year and even more fun is planned for 2015. The Chalfont Day activities will be held at Unami Middle School on Saturday, June 6, beginning with a Mango Men concert at 7 p.m., inflatable attractions for the kids, refreshment vendors, including ice cream and water ice, all culminating with a great fireworks show at dusk. 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 7.



Do you know a homeowner who could use A Brush with Kindness? *Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County assists with home repairs.*

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County is well known for its role in helping lower-income workers purchase safe and affordable new homes. But did you know that the organization, through its *A Brush with Kindness Program*, also helps area homeowners in need rehabilitate the exteriors of their homes?

Homeowners whose annual incomes are no more than 60% of the median family income for Bucks County can apply for affordable assistance with work on siding, painting, handicap-accessible ramps, repairs to windows and doors, and other exterior improvements.

A Brush with Kindness also offers volunteers, sponsors and donors ways to give time and other resources to short projects that can be seen through from start to finish. The projects may be small, but the impact on local families and neighborhoods is immense. Since 2011, the program has repaired more than 22 homes in Bucks County.

For more information, contact Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County's Family Program Department at 215-822-2812, ext. 304 or email n.sommers@habitatbucks.org.

Habitat's ReStore, at 31 Oak Ave., Chalfont, now offers a 25% discount to patrons who are 60 and older on Wednesdays. Shop hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.



FIRE HOUSE COMFORT STATION

Chalfont Fire Hall will serve as a Comfort Station in times of emergency power outages.

The Chalfont Fire Station, located at 301 N Main Street, Chalfont, will open on a case to case basis as a comfort station for residents of New Britain Township, Chalfont Borough, New Britain Borough and Doylestown Township during emergencies.

Chalfont Borough will post on its website when the comfort station is activated and opened. This will usually occur when the power has been out or is expected to be out for over four hours. In the event that you need to visit a comfort station, please remember the following:

- Pets are not allowed (with the exception of service dogs)
- Remember to bring your own supplies (blankets, medication, food)
- Food, beverages, and overnight lodging *cannot* be provided; however, microwaves, stoves, refrigerators, and coffee makers are available for use.
- The comfort station is not a 24 hour shelter. It will not be open overnight. Hours of operation will typically be from 7 or 8 am to 5 or 6 pm.

Residents with disabilities and senior citizens needing assistance in an emergency are urged to register with the police department. Please call Paula Lewinski 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 Challenge 6-6-15

Spring Yard Care Tips

Improve your yard in a green way and help prevent stormwater pollution.



PLANT A LARGE STATURE TREE

Large trees are great stormwater control. At maturity, they intercept over 1,000 gallons of rainwater each year. Their foliage and bark reduce runoff by intercepting rainfall, and their broad-leaf canopies reduce the force of rain hitting the soil, reducing erosion. Where possible, plant a large broad-leaf tree such as an oak, maple or black gum. Avoid pruning their crowns to allow full canopies to develop.

CONSIDER PLANTING NATURAL, WARM SEASON GRASSES

Explore converting a corner of your property to native warm season grasses. Their extensive roots of 3 to 7 feet deep enrich the soil and absorb many times the amount of rainwater that turf grass does. It also helps to filter out harmful nutrients which degrade our streams. Cut down stalks of existing ornamental and native warm season grasses that have been left to winter over for bird habitat.



Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'

GET YOUR SOIL TESTED BEFORE FERTILIZING

Healthy soil grows healthy turf which can absorb more rainwater. Purchase a soil test kit from you local Penn State extension and submit soil samples from your lawn to determine the nutrients that may be lacking. Visit www.aasl.psu.edu for more information.

LEAVE GRASS CLIPPINGS LAY FOR A FREE FERTILIZER ALTERNATIVE

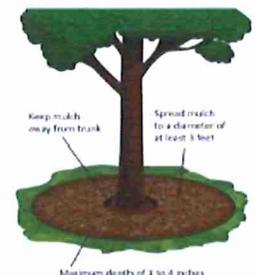
Cut grass at 2½ to 3 inches tall. Mow often enough so that clippings are not longer than one third of the grass blade so they can decompose easily into the soil. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus from lawn fertilization are frequent pollutants to streams, fostering the growth of algae which deplete oxygen levels, harming fish. Spare your stream by avoiding spring fertilization and leave your grass clippings on your lawn instead. Grass clippings supply between 25% and 50% of nitrogen and phosphorus needs.

MULCH AROUND TREES PROPERLY

Mulched beds trap and infiltrate more rainwater than lawn or bare soil. Spread out any excess mulch away from trees and shrubs, making sure the tree's "flare" is exposed and allowing it to decompose. Top off with a thin layer of fresh mulch, making sure the mulch is no deeper than 3" and does not touch the tree bark. Never spread fresh wood-chips around trees or shrubs as their decomposition may harm plants.



Volcano mulching suffocates surface roots of trees.



Proper mulching can help keep a tree healthy. (Sarah Cox, Purdue University)

To report an illicit discharge to the stormwater collection system, stream, creek, or river, please call 215-822-7295.