



Chalfont Borough Lamplighter

40 North Main Street ♦ Phone: 215-822-7295 ♦ Fax: 215-822-5528 ♦ Winter 2016
Office Hours: 9:00am—4:00pm Monday-Friday ~ Closed Holidays and Weekends

website address: www.chalfontborough.com ~ email: info@chalfontborough.com



What's happening around town?

In early 2015, the Blighted Property Review Committee (BPRC) was formed. The BPRC consists of five members: Council Member Jeff Coddington, Revitalization Committee Member Sue Gelb, Planning Commission Member Martin Ghen, Borough Manager Sandra B. Zadell, and resident volunteer Meredith Buck. Meetings are held the third Monday of every odd numbered month (meetings falling on holidays will be rescheduled). Each BPRC member serves a two-year term.

The BPRC is responsible to identify blighted properties and properties of concern within the borough, assess the condition of the properties, and create plans of action.

Examples of Blighted Properties are: unoccupied, vacant or abandoned properties unfit for human habitation; fire hazards; environmentally hazardous conditions or contamination; unsafe conditions such as exposed basements, wells, or unsafe fencing; massive code violations.

Examples of Properties of Concern are: properties that are occupied but in need of mild repair such as paint, broken steps, or broken shutters.

Once a property has been identified as being a BPRC project, the BPRC's goal is to work with the property owner to bring the property into compliance with borough code. In the case of land development projects, the BPRC works with the developer to ensure public safety concerns are addressed, such as making sure the property is secure or encouraging demolition sooner rather than later to reduce vandalism and public safety issues.

Chalfont Borough's Code Enforcement Department, as well as the Chalfont Borough Police Department, have been instrumental in identifying issues and assisting with vacant properties.

2015 saw the BPRC identifying eight properties as projects. Five of these properties have completed everything required to come into code compliance and have now been removed from the project listing. The BPRC considers these projects success stories and thanks the property owners for all of their help.

In 2016, the BPRC will be meeting on the following dates: January 11, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, and November 21. All meetings will be held at 7:00pm, 40 North Main Street in Borough Hall. All are welcome.

Tax Notes

- ♦ **County and Borough Municipal Real Estate Tax** bills will be mailed at the end of February. If you do not receive 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, 2016**, the base amount is due by **June 30, 2016**. 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.

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. Zadell

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

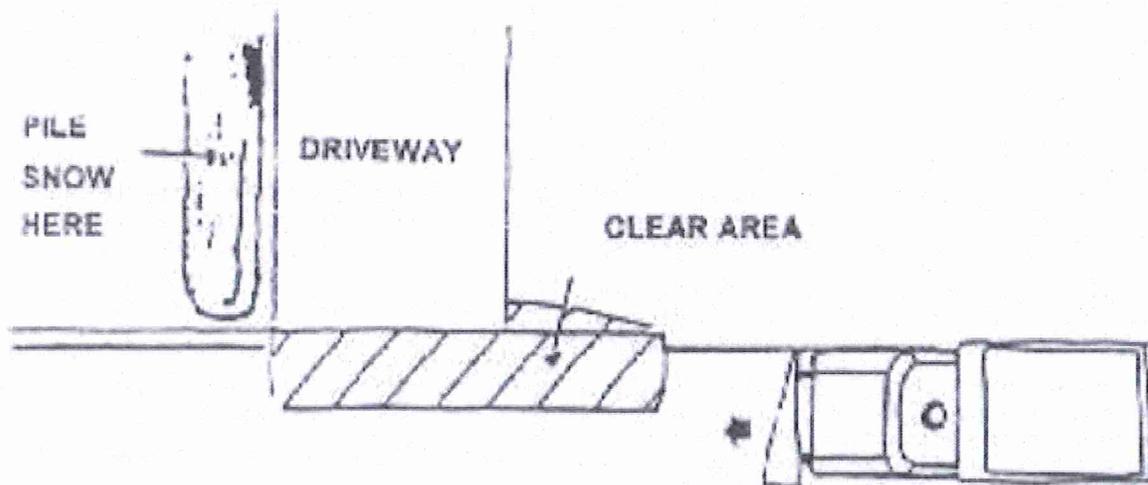
We want to hear from you!

The Chalfont Borough Streets Committee wants your opinion on Ordinance 308A section 402 regarding parking between the hours of 1:00am and 6:00am on borough streets. Parking is currently restricted on all borough streets during those times. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cbparking> to fill out the survey online. If you don't have access to the internet, please call the Borough or stop by and we can collect your answers for you. Participation in this survey will allow your voice to be heard. There are only 4 questions so it should take less than 1 minute of your time. Thank you for your input regarding this matter!

Winter Reminders...

Ice and snow are on the way. 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 must be treated with sand or an abrasive material substance for safe pedestrian travel. Do not throw or plow snow onto Borough Streets.
- ❄ Please shovel a path of at least 30 inches in width to allow for safe passage.
- ❄ Residents are advised to keep fire hydrants on or near their property clear and accessible at all times.
- ❄ Keep all portable basketball hoops and trash cans out of the street so that they do not interfere with snow plowing or street sweeping, which continues year 'round, weather permitting.
- ❄ Trim trees and shrubbery back behind curb lines and sidewalks, and be sure your mailbox and post are properly installed and set back behind the face of the curb.
- ❄ Please place warning markers where snow plows might damage your yard or curb.
- ❄ Do not allow children to build snow forts, especially in the street. The results could be tragic.
- ❄ Please remember to remove snow from vehicle rooftops.
- ❄ Call PennDOT at 215-345-6060 with any issues concerning state roads within the borough: Bristol Road, Butler Avenue, North Main Street, Park Avenue, South Limekiln, and Sunset Avenue.



Sketch shows the proper way to shovel snow out of your driveway.

Have you seen the new website?

www.chalfontborough.com

Chalfont Borough's website is a great source for information and it has been updated! You may sign up to receive email notifications on upcoming meetings and notices that Chalfont Borough posts on the website. Check it out!

From the Borough Office...

- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE:** Chalfont Challenge 5k Race and Fun Run will be held on Saturday, **June 4, 2016**. Chalfont Evening will be held at 7:00pm at Unami Middle School—join us for fireworks!
- ◆ Volunteers are needed for Chalfont Evening. 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
- ◆ Recyclables are: aluminum, steel, and tin cans; clear, green, or brown glass; plastic containers (#1-7); newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books, junk mail, and paper egg cartons. Please flatten and/or rinse any necessary items.
- ◆ Get the latest news by subscribing to news on the Borough website: www.chalfontborough.com or like us on: [facebook.com/Chalfont Borough](https://www.facebook.com/ChalfontBorough), or follow us on Twitter @chalfontboro.
- ◆ Spring Leaf Collection will be Saturday, April 30, 2016



Gail Palovchak would like to establish a Chalfont Farmers Market and is looking for people interested in being on a committee to assist with organizing and running the market throughout the summer months.

Anyone interested in volunteering for a committee to run the Chalfont Farmers Market should contact Gail at gailpalovchak@verizon.net or by phone at 215-272-2200.



FIRE HOUSE COMFORT STATION

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.



Believe it or not...one of the biggest threats to our water quality is plain old dirt washing into our streams from lawns, roads, driveways and construction sites. Top soil is an important resource for your yard. However, when the soil is lost through erosion, it becomes a pollutant called "sediment." Water flowing from your yard

What's wrong with Sediment?

Sediment clouds water and reduces sunlight for stream plants that provide habitat and oxygen for fish. Sediments fill in the spaces between rocks in the stream and take away fish

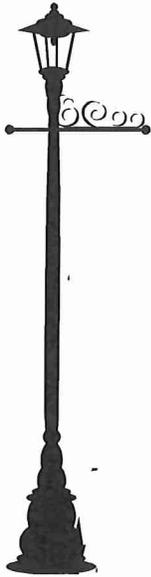


WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT EROSION?

1. Seed or mulch any bare soil on your land. Plant roots guard soil from rain and prevent erosion.
2. Choose perennials, shrubs, and trees that thrive in your soil or climate.
3. Direct downspouts onto grass or gardens.

Borough of Chalfont
40 North Main Street
Chalfont, PA 18914

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What is a HARB? - Brian Wallace

In 1993, I bought a very large and very old Victorian home in the center of Chalfont. It required a great deal of restoration and I planned on taking my time as my money and my life would allow me to work on it.

The property was located in the Historic District and I got word the Borough was going to re-write the Zoning for the District. I was concerned how that was going to impact me, so I went to the meeting and somehow ended up becoming Chairman of the committee to re-write the Historic Zoning Code! My motives were purely selfish. I wanted to make sure that the laws did not get out of hand and that the people who did not put any money, time, or effort into my property would be the ones able to tell me what to do with my building.

The first order of business was to write the enabling legislation. The legislation lays out the parameters for appearing in front of the Historic Committee, the boundaries of the Historic District, and creates the committee set up to review applications, otherwise known as the Historic and Architectural Review Board (HARB). The committee followed other municipalities' examples and decided that a HARB application was only required if you were in the Historic District, required a building permit, and the work requested was visible from the road. The boundaries can be found on the Borough website, but basically consists of the center of town where the majority of historic structures stand. The HARB follows standards for renovations (also found on the website) that are designed to maintain or complement the architecture of the Victorian structures in the Borough.

I quickly learned that my fears were unnecessary. For instance, the HARB does not tell you what color you can paint your house; they do not have rules against modern types of siding; they allow you to replace old leaky windows with new replacement windows, and a home built in the 70's does not necessarily have to follow Victorian Architecture guidelines. The HARB is also a resource for those people renovating an old structure.

The HARB's real goal is to help maintain a continuity of style in the Historic District and keep old structures from falling into disrepair due to neglect. These goals help all residents of Chalfont Borough to maintain and increase their property values.