

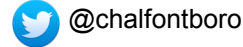


# Chalfont Borough Lamplighter

40 North Main Street, Chalfont, PA • phone: 215-822-7295 • fax: 215-822-5528

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00am—4:00pm • [www.chalfontborough.com](http://www.chalfontborough.com)

Email: [info@chalfontborough.com](mailto:info@chalfontborough.com)



Winter 2018

## **Parking in Chalfont has changed, here is everything you need to know:**

After nearly two years of studying the parking ordinance in Chalfont Borough, Borough Council passed Ordinance #441, amending parking regulations within the borough. Key changes include:

- Our Borough Rule of no parking between the hours of 1:00am-6:00am was upheld with the exception of Oxford Lane and Elm Circle.
- 1:00am-6:00am parking violators will be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$25.00 plus costs. This represents a \$20 increase to the fine amount which has never previously been increased.
- All Borough streets are designated as snow emergency routes. This means you must not park on Borough Streets during snow events. In order for us to plow effectively we need to plow curb to curb. During a single snow event, not plowing curb to curb isn't a big deal. But when we have cumulative winter effect, with no snow melting, you could see how roads could quickly narrow, becoming a safety issue. The fine for violating parking prohibitions in snow emergency routes has been raised to \$200.00.
- The fine for parking in a fire zone has been increased to \$75.00.
- Parking in borough parking lots adjacent to park and recreation facilities with the exception of the parking lot at 40 North Main Street, shall be prohibited between the hours of 1:00am-6:00am. We have a problem with residents parking vehicles overnight in Borough Parks, specifically Chestnut Street Park. Per this change overnight parking is not allowed there. Please be advised that any vehicles found in the lot overnight will be ticketed \$25. We need the lots clear and available for park users.

Thank you for observing our parking rules! If you have any questions feel free to contact the Borough Manager.

## **Chalfont Borough Budget Highlights**

There have been many infrastructure improvements and expansion of services in Chalfont over the past five years. Vehicles have been updated and now our plowing and maintenance fleet is new and very dependable. These improvements have allowed us to add trail clearing to our winter maintenance plans and increase our mowing efficiency in the summer.

In 2017/2018 we will have paved 14 Borough Roads, while our normal street paving schedule is one to two roads every two years. This increased paving endeavor is a response to Aqua Water Line replacements. Aqua does fund half of these resurfacing projects as required by ordinance.

While some of our revenue lines have had healthy growth the past few years, we had a serious loss in revenue in 2017 of one of our cell tower leases. This lost income accounts for close to \$40,000 in revenue reduction. We also continue to see reductions in revenue each year on our Water Fund Interest Earnings, because as interest rates remain low, earnings remain low. In 2010 we earned \$201,013 in interest, and in 2018 we expect only \$124,000 in interest earnings.

In Chalfont Borough we collect approximately \$48,000 in tax revenue per 1 mill. Despite cuts to our proposed 2018 budget, we still needed a tax increase (from 15.25 mills to 16.5 mills) this year to balance our budget. For the average resident the tax increase will amount to \$39.23 over last year's taxes or a total tax bill of \$517.86 to Chalfont Borough.

It should be noted that our decision to move to a regional police department has resulted in expected savings of \$118,236 for Chalfont Borough in 2018, all the while providing exceptional police services to our residents.

For more detailed information you can view our full budget on our website at [www.chalfontborough.com](http://www.chalfontborough.com).

## Chalfont Fire Company

301 North Main Street [www.ChalfontFireCompany.com](http://www.ChalfontFireCompany.com)

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 215-345-4143 during business hours to put your contact information on their list so an officer can check in on you in an emergency.

### Home reminders from the Fire Company:

The National Fire Prevention Association theme for this year is for all families to have "two ways out". We can work together to do this. Check all smoke detectors to be sure that: 1) they are under 10 years old and 2) they have a new battery or the ten-year lithium type that you can't remove. The ten-year rule includes those detectors that run on house current (115-120v AC) which have a battery backup. Look inside your detectors for a date of manufacture. If they are more than ten years old, replace them and make the year of expiration with a sharpie on the outside so you are reminded of the date.

Now that we have fixed our detectors, we need a meeting place outside the home so when we arrive, we can account for your family at one place. Lots of the kids we see know this rule, but parents must practice with them to make it stick and give it purpose. We want every life to be a safe life. Check it and practice today! Go onto our website for more info: [www.ChalfontFireCompany.org](http://www.ChalfontFireCompany.org)

### What's happening around town?

*2018 is an exciting year for Chalfont Borough!*

- ◆ Taft Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue will be milled and paved as part of our 2018 Roads Improvement Project.
- ◆ Full mill and paving due to AQUA waterline replacements planned for: Marion Road, W. Peace Valley Road, Pleasant Avenue, Hellberg Avenue, E. Hamilton Street and Swartz Ave.
- ◆ Trash and recyclables should be placed curbside on Thursday evening for pickup on Friday morning. Trucks may come as early as 7:00am. If you have a bulk item to dispose of, call Advanced Disposal at 610-440-3700 for pick up.
- ◆ Save the date—Chalfont Challenge 5K Race and Fun Run will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018! This year's race will help fund the upgrade of the Lenape Landing Trail, a part of the Neshaminy Greenway Trail. Online pre-registration: [www.bucks5kseries.com](http://www.bucks5kseries.com)

## 2018 Tax Information

County and Borough Municipal Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed 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, the base amount is due by June 30. 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.

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](http://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.

## 2018 School Taxes

School Taxes will be mailed to property owners on July 1st. If you do not receive them or have questions, please contact the school tax collector at 215-822-2930.

Please make checks payable to: Central Bucks School District or CBSD

Mail payment to 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914

To take advantage of the discount, payments must be postmarked by August 31. Otherwise the base amount is due October 31.

- ◆ The Borough Office will be closed the following dates in 2018: 1/1; 1/15; 2/19; 3/30; 5/28; 7/4; 9/3; 11/12; 11/22; 11/23; and 12/25.

## Bucks County Recycling Program

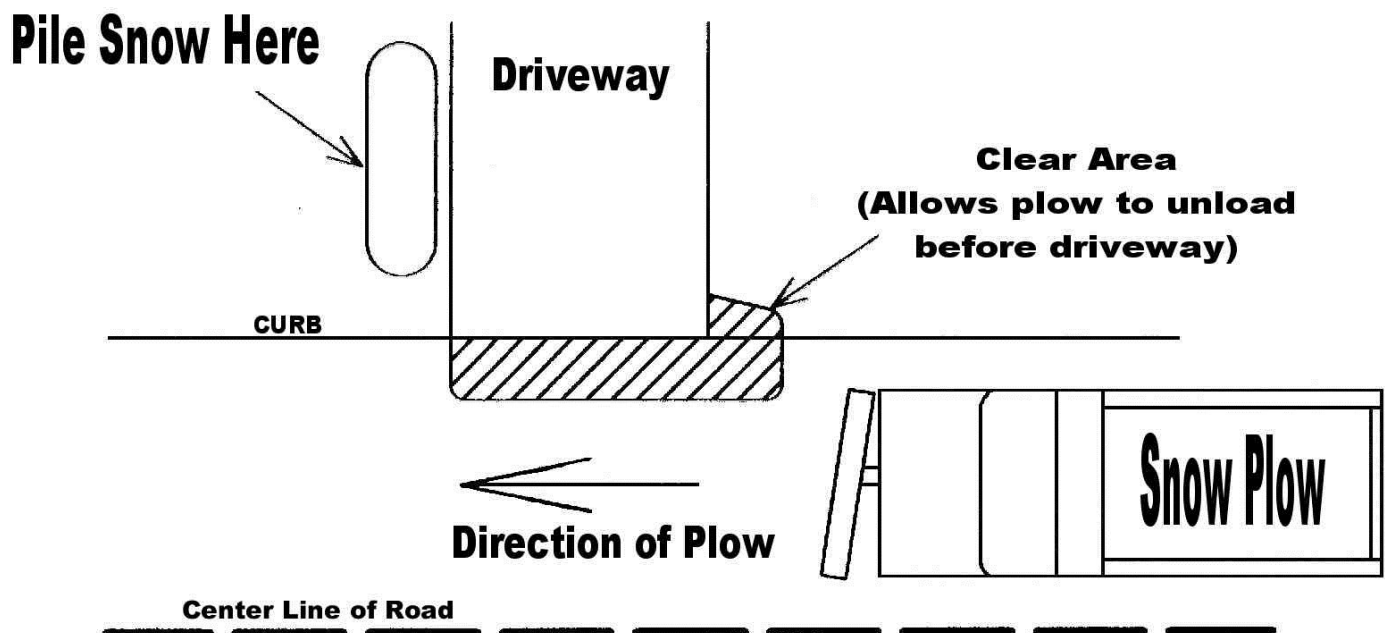
Bucks County Planning Commission runs the Hazardous Waste Recycling program. More information is on their website: <http://www.buckscounty.org/government/CommunityServices/PlanningCommission/Recycling>. Or go to [www.chalfontborough.com/trash](http://www.chalfontborough.com/trash) and look for Recycling Resource Information.

# 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 and remember to remove snow from vehicle rooftops.
- ❄ 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.
- ❄ 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.
- ❄ 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.
- ❄ We know that residents hate the “windrows” (those long piles of snow on each side of the road) that plows leave behind, and that often bury freshly shoveled sidewalks and driveway aprons. Every year we receive calls from angry folks that the plow has “pushed the snow back in their driveway”. Unfortunately, the reality is that these “windrows” are an unavoidable part of plowing. You can reduce the amount of snow that ends up in a windrow in front of your drive or on you sidewalk by clearing snow as shown in the diagram below.
- ❄ Please be patient and courteous to crews. They are working long hours doing a difficult job with the goal of getting you out and about as soon as practical.

## Driveway Plowing Policies



Borough of Chalfont  
40 North Main Street  
Chalfont, PA 18914

PRESORTED STD.  
US POSTAGE

PAID

LEHIGH VALLEY PA  
PERMIT NO. 550



### Water Quality Tips for Winter

Below are some tips to help the Borough improve the water quality in our streams, lakes and rivers:

- **Shovel early.** The more snow and ice you remove, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be.
- **More salt does not mean more melting.** Apply appropriately, salt takes time to work.
- **Fifteen degrees Fahrenheit is too cold for salt.** Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use a traction agent as needed, but remember they do not melt ice.
- **Sweep up excess.** Salt or sand on dry pavement is no longer doing any work, sweep it up before it is washed away.
- **Try an alternative for traction.** Sand and kitty litter are effective but can clog sewers and degrade stream habitat when washed away. Cracked corn can be an alternative to try that is more environmentally friendly.
- **Understand what's in it.** All de-icers will melt the ice but some have less of an impact on the environment. Instead of sodium chloride or calcium chloride use products containing an acetate, potassium chloride, or magnesium chloride.

To report an illicit discharge to the storm water collection system or to a stream, creek or river, call Chalfont Borough at 215-822-7295.

