

WELCOME TO New Hope BOROUGH

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER | FALL ISSUE 2019



A NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

It's been a productive and exciting 2019 for the Borough, as a number of projects are coming to fruition. The Main Street pedestrian improvement project is almost complete, the Bridge Street pedestrian improvement project is on track for completion early next year, we expanded our contribution to the library and reached a long-term cooperation agreement for recreation programs – all while holding the line on the Borough budget with no increase in taxes for the second year running.

We are improving the way we oversee and administer the tasks and issues that come before the Council, to better and more quickly serve the needs of residents and local businesses. All the members of Council and Borough staff have been instrumental in this process.

Keeping a sharp eye on project costs has been a priority for us this year. Planning and oversight allow us to keep costs low, while still allowing for adjustments to meet community needs. The progress of the two grant funded construction projects: Main Street Pedestrian Improvement Project and the Bridge Street pedestrian improvement project, both funded through grants, are good examples, and you can read more about these projects in the newsletter.

This year also brought forth cooperative joint efforts with neighboring Solebury Township. The library appealed for

additional funding to respond to ever-increasing demand for its services, and confident in the commitments made by the library's trustees and friends coupled with new spirit of cooperation with Solebury's supervisors, we were happy to increase our library contribution by \$10,000, while we all work together to find the right balance to keep our library thriving. And shortly after our library discussions, we were able to reach agreement with Solebury Township for a new recreation agreement, to provide Borough residents with the same benefits as program participants who live in Solebury Township.

And finally, if you were part of the crowds last October that watched as the centuries-old Odette building was carefully rolled to its new home, you are have probably noticed the improvements that have been made to the historic building, which will stand as a welcoming south gateway to New Hope Borough. You can see the rendering of the final product on page 6.

I hope you find the contents of this newsletter to be helpful and informative. And I would like to remind you to be sure to sign up on the Borough website: www.newhopeborough.org to get the latest news and updates.

Sincerely,

Connie Gering

Connie Gering
New Hope Borough Council President

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NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

New Hope has an elected 7-member Borough Council which plays a central role in borough government. Council sets policy, enacts legislation, adopts budgets, controls expenditures, appoints advisory commissions and boards, and hires employees. Council members are elected to four year terms, with either 3 or 4 members up for election every two years.

Council elects a president, vice-president, and president pro tem from its ranks. The president, in cooperation with council, establishes standing committees and makes appointments thereto.

These standing committees generally consider all matters pertaining to a particular area of public policy, such as land use regulation, historic preservation, or recreation, and make recommendations to the full council.

Monthly public meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Community Meeting Room at 125 New St. Workshop meetings are held at 4 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the Community Room. Meeting dates and times are subject to change, so visit the Borough website for the latest information.



Connie Gering,
President



Dan Dougherty,
Vice President



Tina Rettig,
President ProTem



Alison Kingsley



Ken Maisel



Laurie McHugh



Peter Meyer

BOROUGH MAYOR



The New Hope Mayor, Laurence D. Keller, has several roles:

- The Mayor works with the Police Chief to set police policy and work rules and is responsible for emergency proclamations.
- The Mayor attends council meetings and generally votes when there is a tie.
- The Mayor also represents the Borough in local functions and events and may perform weddings.

NEW HOPE BOROUGH ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR

The elected tax collector bills and collects all real estate taxes for the Borough, County and School District. Each taxing district sets its own tax rate and informs the elected tax collector. The Borough's elected tax collector is:

Elizabeth N. Miles, Ed.D
P. O. Box 475
New Hope, PA 18938
Phone: 215-778-4848



Elizabeth N. Miles, Ed.D

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NEW HOPE PUBLIC PARKING FAQ — KNOW YOUR PLATE

What time is paid parking enforced in New Hope?

Paid parking is effective seven days a week from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM

What is the cost for parking?

25 cents per 20 minutes = 75 cents per hour

What methods of payment are accepted?

The Kiosks accept Quarters, paper currency and credit card payments. There is a \$3.00 minimum purchase for credit card transactions. As noted on the face of the Kiosk, the Kiosk does not give change.

How many Kiosks are there in the Borough?

There are 25 Public parking Kiosks throughout the Borough. 15 of the 25 Kiosks are located on Main Street.

Can I use a Parking App? ParkMobile paybyphone

ParkMobile and PayByPhone are accepted apps. Zones are posted on the kiosks and available through your mobile apps. There is a minimum \$3.00 credit card purchase when using the parking apps.

Is there a Fee for using a Parking App?

Service fees may apply in accordance with the Parking App's use agreement terms. These are not fees generated by New Hope Borough.

Do I need to display a receipt?

"Pay-By-Plate" does NOT require the display of a parking receipt. If a paper receipt is desired, initiate printing of the receipt after payment has been accepted at the kiosk.



Does it matter which Kiosk I use?

Pay-By-Plate can be initiated from any PUBLIC PARKING KIOSK in the Borough and additional time can be added at any kiosk location. But be sure to KNOW YOUR LICENSE PLATE NUMBER.

What do I need to know about Privately Owned parking lots?

There are privately-owned parking lots throughout the Borough. The private lots are NOT in the Borough Kiosk System and payments are not reciprocal.

Parking rates vary at each of the following lots.

What about Motorcycle Parking?

As Pay-By-Plate is not a "space designated" payment, fees for parking are the same for any motor vehicle.

Are there Handicap designated parking locations in New Hope?

Yes, there are handicap designated spots throughout public parking in New Hope Borough as noted on the parking map.

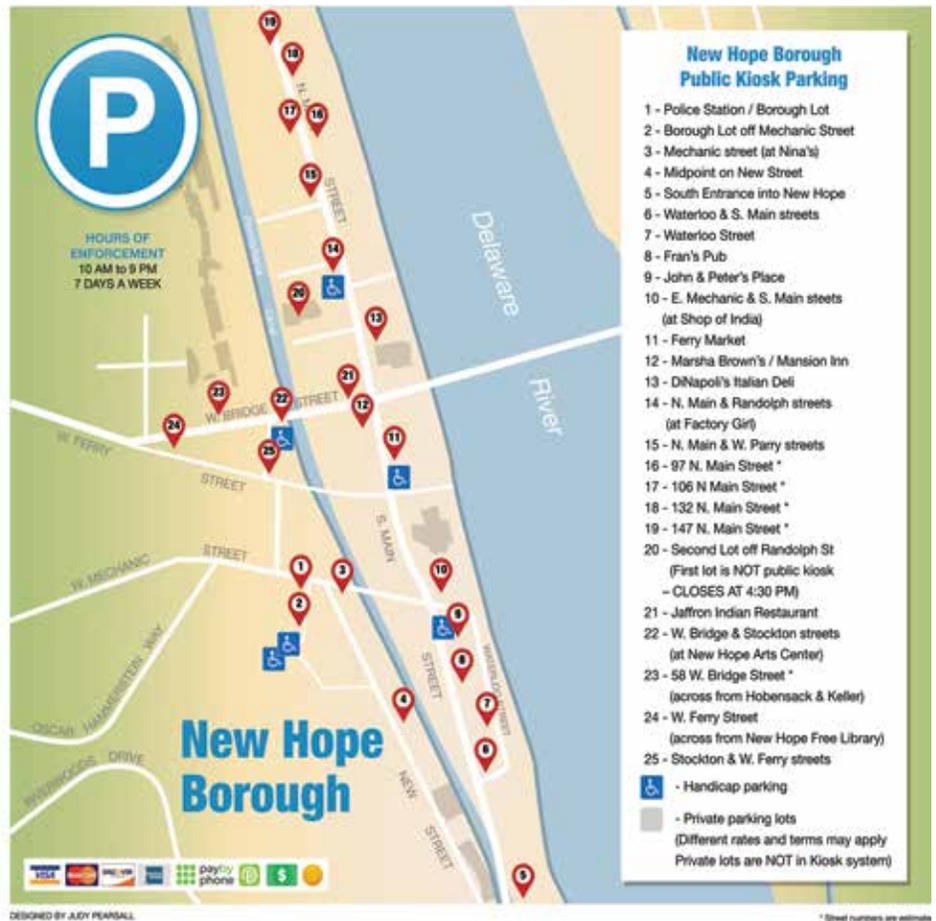
Is there a special fee concession for Handicap parking?

In accordance with PennDOT, when a vehicle is used by or for a person with a disability, a handicap placard or plate will allow vehicles to park for a period of 60 minutes in excess of the legal parking period permitted by local authorities.

What if I get a ticket?

Failure to pay within the time specified (postmarked within 10 days of issue) will result in the issuance of a late fee of \$20 payable within 20 days of the original ticket date. Failure to pay the ticket will result in citation, summons, escalated fine, court costs, and processing fees.

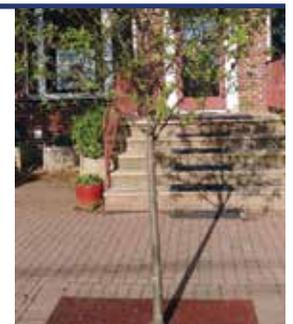
More information on parking violations can be found on the Borough website.



SHADE TREE COMMISSION

The Borough's Shade Tree Commission regulates the planting, removal, and maintenance of street trees located on public streets and highways of the Borough. The Commission reviews applications for the removal and maintenance of street trees to safeguard the continued value to the environment and social contributions gained when trees are well maintained.

In the Spring of 2019, the Borough Shade Tree Commission partnered with the property owner on Main St. to replace dead tree on site using porous paving to be used as demonstration for alternative method for urban tree planting. The tree planted with porous paving can be found outside of 39 N. Main St.



BOROUGH IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

New Hope Borough has several active projects ongoing to continuously help improve the Borough infrastructure for the betterment of the community. Most of the projects are funded by state and other agency grants to offset the costs associated with the project.

Active Borough projects include:

- Main St. Pedestrian Improvement Project
- Bridge St. Pedestrian Improvement Project
- Town/Canal Interface Project



MAIN STREET PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In 2015, the Borough was awarded a PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Grant in the amount of \$126,700 for Main Street pedestrian improvement projects. Since

the award of the grant, the Borough, with the Borough Engineer, have been working to finalize the plans for curb ramps and future crosswalks along Main Street to help make it more pedestrian friendly and safe.

The Main St. Pedestrian Improvement Project consists of:

- Construction of curb ramps and the relocation of a crosswalk from the southern leg to the northern leg at Main Street & W. Parry Street
- Construction of curb ramps and installation of crosswalks across Main Street & Ferry Street (crosswalks will be installed at all 4 legs to the current island, but the curb ramp at the island is not being replaced at this time due to the pending development at the Logan Inn)
- Construction of curb ramps and installation of a crosswalk at Main Street & Mechanic Street

This project is scheduled for completion at the end of the summer of 2019 following the paving of Main St. (from Windy Bush Road to the northern border of the Borough) by PennDOT.

BRIDGE STREET PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In 2017, the Borough was awarded a Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development grant in the amount of \$92,980.

The scope of the project calls for the installation of a 5-foot wide sidewalk with 4-foot fence to protect pedestrians from the grade difference between the sidewalk and the access to the storefronts that are below street level. The project also proposes a 1.5-foot vegetated area where possible to separate pedestrians from the through traffic on the roadway.

The project is scheduled for public bidding for the construction work in early 2020.

TOWN / CANAL INTERFACE PROJECT

This project was awarded \$240,728 from Bucks County and \$10,000 from PECO in grant funds for improvements in interconnectivity between the Towpath Trail and the Commercial Downtown.

The proposed improvements include improved accessibility and visibility through the implementation of site improvements, signage and pedestrian/bicyclist amenities.

The New Hope Town/Canal Interface Project will implement the following recommendations from the 2010 New Hope Borough Open Space Plan:

- Continue to enhance trailheads and establish new trailheads at appropriate locations such as Randolph Street and/or Parry Street with amenities such as benches, bike racks, improved signage and trail connections and landscaping.
- Designate bikeways and provide bike racks in strategic locations (i.e., trailheads) to reduce vehicular trips and encourage cyclists to patronize businesses.

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HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (HARB)

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

In 1961 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved The Historic District Act to provide municipalities with a tool to protect "...those historical areas within our great Commonwealth, which have a distinctive character recalling the rich architectural and historic heritage of Pennsylvania." The Act authorized the establishment of local Historic Districts and Historical Architectural Review Boards.

Historic Districts within the Borough and the New Hope Borough Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) were established in 1987 by Ordinance 183-A1. This ordinance demonstrated the commitment of the citizens of New Hope to preserve and protect buildings of architectural and historic significance and the cultural heritage of the community.

MEMBER INFORMATION

The New Hope Borough Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) consists of up to nine (9) members appointed by Borough Council to serve three-year overlapping terms. HARB provides counsel and recommendations to Borough Council on the advisability of issuing Certificates of Appropriateness, which are required in order to erect, reconstruct, alter, restore, demolish or raze any building or structure within a Historic District.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

In considering whether or not to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness, HARB and Council consider the general design, arrangement, texture, material, and color of the building or structures and the relation of such factors to similar features of buildings and structures in the Historic District. The issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness demonstrates that the property owner, HARB and Council have agreed that a proposed change to the exterior of a

building will be consistent with, and preserve the general historic and architectural features of the Historic District.

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of HARB and Council is limited to exterior architectural features of buildings and structures (including fences, signs, roofs, etc.) that can be seen from a public street or way. Modifications to the interior of a structure are exempt from HARB requirements, although construction permits may be required before such work can proceed.

WHEN TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Before a zoning or building permit can be issued for exterior work within the New Hope Borough Historic District, a "Certificate of Appropriateness" is required.

ACTIVITIES REQUIRING A CERTIFICATE

The following activities within the Historic District require a Certificate of Appropriateness reviewed by HARB and approved by Borough Council.

- Demolition of a building or structure
- Relocation of a building or structure
- Construction or re-construction that would involve additions, replacement, rehabilitation, restoration, or any other change, to the exterior facade of a building or structure
- Changes or additions to existing signage or exterior lighting
- Changes or additions to existing fencing or other architectural features
- Changes or additions to buildings or structures within the Historic District

RENDERING OF THE ODETTE'S BUILDING



The New Hope Borough Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) is seeking applicants to fill current vacancies, particular for the position of architect and licensed real estate broker. Interested applicants should complete a Volunteer Application found on the Borough website (www.newhopeborough.org) or pick up a paper application from the Borough Administration Office located at 123 New St. New Hope, PA.

The HARB meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm to review applications proposing changes and modifications to the exteriors of buildings and structures that are visible from a public street or way within the Borough's Historic District.



NEW HOPE BOROUGH JUNIOR COUNCIL SENIORS WERE HONORED BY THE BOARD OF STATE ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES

At the May 22, 2019 New Hope Borough Council meeting, the New Hope Borough Junior Council Seniors were honored by the Board of State Association of Boroughs with the Distinguished Junior Council Person Awards, as well as Certificates of Recognition by State Rep Wendi Thomas.

Bucks County's first ever Junior Council of New Hope Borough is a collection of students from New Hope-Solebury High School that work together to improve aspects of the local community. The Junior Council's efforts in the past year have been focusing on reduction of carbon footprint and creating a more sustainable community.

In photo from left to right: State Representative, Wendi Thomas, New Hope Borough Council Member Laurie McHugh, Junior Council Seniors Maryna Chuma, Ethan Gross, and Larissa Borys, New Hope Council President Connie Gering, and Edward Child, 2nd Vice President of the Board of Directors of the PA Association of Boroughs. Not pictured are Junior Council members Ben DuPont and Kayla Paul-Koch.



BUILDING, PERMITTING AND LICENSING

Prior to starting any new building project, residents are encouraged to make an appointment with the Borough to review the permitting process.

Any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation

of which is regulated by Code, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit.

Residents can reach the Borough Building/Permitting Department at 215-862-3347.

More information on the permitting process can be found on the Borough website.

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY COUNTRY BLAST

Saturday, November 2 from 2-5pm at Havana's 105 South Main Street, New Hope, PA. Help the Friends raise money to purchase new shelving for the Children's Department by coming to this family fun-raiser. Enjoy live music and dancing, food and drinks, raffles, a photo booth and more. Tickets are \$25 for Friends' members, \$30 for non-members and \$10 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets, please visit friendsfnhs.org. Thank you!

FREE LIBRARY EVENTS FOR FALL:

All library programs are free and open to the public. Registration is requested and may be made online at nhslibrary.org under the Event tab.

DOYLESTOWN HOSPITAL COMMUNITY FLU SHOTS AND HEALTH SCREENINGS, Thursday, October 24 from 11am-3pm. Please see our website closer to the date for more information.

WITCH HUNTING IN PENNSYLVANIA: THE TRIAL OF MARGARET MATTSON Thursday, October 24 at 6:30pm. Governor William Penn visits the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury to preside over the 1684 trial of Margaret Mattson, a Chester County woman

accused of witchcraft. You are the jury in this re-enactment of the only witchcraft trial in Pennsylvania. Presented by Pennsbury Manor. Suitable for all ages, Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Register.

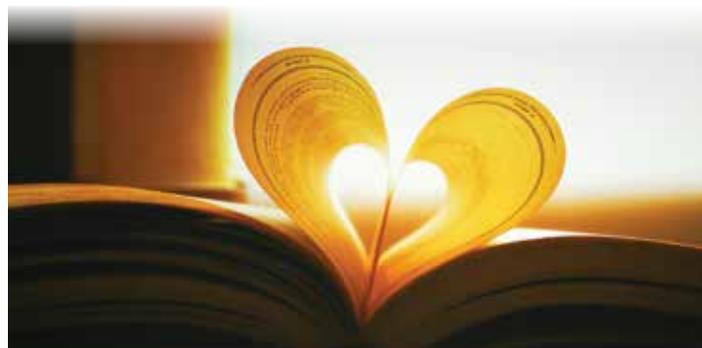
CHOOSING SUSTAINABILITY

Wednesday, November 13 at 7pm. Getting to a holistically sustainable way of life can be a lot to tackle on your own. Mindy Mutterperl, author of *Choosing Sustainability*, talks about the various roads that people can take to reduce waste, help the planet and work toward a sustainable lifestyle. Register.

AN EVENING WITH JACKIE KENNEDY, Tuesday, November 19 at 7pm. Karla Kay Shantz offers an intimate portrait of First Lady Jackie Kennedy in this historical interpretation. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Register.

BOOK CLUBS:

- o Let's Talk Books meets the first Monday of each month at 11:30am
- o Mystery Book Club meets the last Tuesday of each month at 1pm



PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

The New Hope Borough Parks and Recreation Board consists of resident volunteers, who work to beautify New Hope with seasonal flowers/decorations and to provide programs for the town. The holiday decorations are accomplished through annual fundraising efforts through the New Hope - Lambertville Winter Festival.

In spring of 2019, the Parks & Recreation Board hosted a Storytelling Event held on the Green Roof located adjacent to the Borough Community Room, which was well attended.

The Parks & Recreation Board is planning for other events for the public, so please visit the Borough website or like our Facebook page to get updates and information on upcoming events.





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NEW HOPE INCREASES CONTRIBUTION TO LIBRARY

The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury might be small in size, but the number of local residents checking out books, attending programs and using its many services grows larger every year. To help meet this ever-increasing demand, The Solebury Township Board of Supervisors and the New Hope Borough Council have each made an additional contribution to the library for 2019-- \$20,000 by Solebury and \$10,000 by New Hope.

“This is a significant addition to our 2018 contribution and represents our commitment to the library and the services it provides to our community,” said Solebury Board of Supervisors Chair Mark Baum Baicker. “Our contribution is a year-to-year decision. We work closely with the library’s trustees to keep them informed of the Township’s needs and so that they can keep us apprised of their progress in meeting the goals of their strategic plan. This is an important investment, and we’re determined to see a strong return for all of our residents.”

Solebury’s total contribution for 2019 is \$120,000, the largest individual source of funding for the library. With the additional \$10,000 grant, New Hope Borough increased its total contribution for 2019 to \$42,644, a 30 percent increase from last year. New Hope residents account for about 30 percent of the library’s registered users.

“Our library plays a central role in the quality of life in our town,” said New Hope Borough Council President Connie Gering. “Through its many educational programs, the 3D printer and online resources, the dedicated staff, and of course the books and periodicals, the library serves as a community center for all ages.

“Much of what we do in government is a balancing act. We work to meet the best interests of all our residents while maintaining fiscal responsibility. We strive to preserve the tranquility of our downtown and at the same time build a more vibrant economy. I’m confident that all of us working together – New Hope and Solebury, the library trustees and the friends – will find the right balance to keep our library thriving,” said Gering.



A check presentation to the library by New Hope Borough Council President, Connie Gering and Solebury Township Board of Supervisors Chair, Mark Baum Baicker was held back in March, 2019.

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