

photo by Stephen Harris

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER | WINTER ISSUE 2020



A MESSAGE FROM CONNIE GERING, YOUR BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A Time for Recovery and Renewal

You may recall that our Spring 2020 newsletter looked forward to a vigorous spring season, with Borough Hall preparing to assist homeowners with their home improvement projects and help our merchants thrive.

Then, just a few weeks later, the coronavirus pandemic forced state and county health officials to lock everything down, and our plans had to be shelved as we responded to the hardships in store for our residents, our merchants and their employees, and to the very spirit of the New Hope community.

Borough Council and our Administration switched gears to focus our attention and resources on helping New Hope navigate this crisis. During the shutdown, we sought to balance our merchant's needs and the need to protect the safety of our residents. We knew that not everyone was going to be happy, but we were determined to make sure that our actions would make each day a little better for our community.

We also knew that New Hope would pull together, as we always have, and we did.

Meanwhile, just as the shutdown was coming into effect, we were welcoming our new Borough Manager, Peter Gray. This would have been a challenging situation for anyone, but Peter's experience and dedication has demonstrated that he's an invaluable professional and an asset to our community. He is perfectly suited to the task of maintaining the Borough's financial stability and improving the quality and efficient delivery of services to our residents and business community.

Peter, along with Council members, quickly reached out to surrounding communities to exchange ideas and best practices for addressing the pandemic and shutdown. Roundtable discussions with New Hope merchants and restaurateurs were held to better understand their needs and hear their thoughts on how the Borough could help them work through the crisis.

Using this input, Council passed several measures that helped support expanded outdoor dining, re-allocate parking and traffic, and help merchants remain viable while at the same time enforcing social distancing requirements.

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New Hope Borough would like to thank the businesses and organizations that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. It is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.

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 New Hope Eagle
 Fire Department..... 215-862-2692
 Lambertville-New Hope
 Ambulance & Rescue Squad 609-397-0945
 The Free Library of
 New Hope and Solebury 215-862-2330
 Greater New Hope Chamber 267-756-3443

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Continued

Your Borough Council and Borough government is continuing to listen, adapt and adopt measures to operate as safely as possible through the fall and winter (I ask everyone to sign up on the Borough website, www.newhopeborough.org, to get the latest news and updates).

As of the time of this writing, we're still operating at reduced capacity... and this was not in our merchant's business plans heading into the busy holiday season. We ask that everyone do what they can to "Shop Local" now and going forward, by visiting New Hope merchants and restaurants wherever possible, while doing your part to remain vigilant by "masking-up" and following social distancing rules.

The past several months certainly have been trying, but the spirit of New Hope is strong, caring and optimistic. Please join me as we look forward with optimism as we all work together to make the coming months a Season of Renewal for our aptly-named "New Hope" Borough!

Sincerely,

Connie Gering

Connie Gering,
 New Hope Borough Council President

INTRODUCING PETER GRAY, BOROUGH MANAGER



New Hope Borough Council recently hired Peter Gray as the Borough Manager.

Mr. Gray started in his new role for the Borough on April 1, 2020.

Prior to working at New Hope Borough, he worked for over 20 years at Falls Township, including 13 years as the Township Manager and he served 7 years as the Township's Finance Director. He has worked in local government since 1997.

Primary duties will be to oversee the day to day operations for the Borough.

Mr. Gray is looking forward to the opportunity to serve the residents of New Hope Borough.

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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 Street. 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 Pro Tem



Ken Maisel



Laurie McHugh



Peter Meyer



Louise Feder

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:

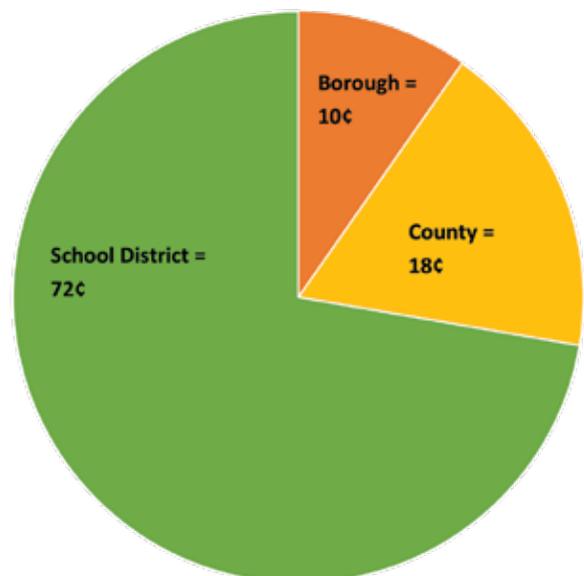


Elizabeth N. Miles, Ed.D
P. O. Box 475
New Hope, PA 18938
Phone: 215-778-4848

WHERE DOES YOUR 2020 REAL ESTATE TAX DOLLAR GO?

For New Hope property owners, the Borough's real estate tax millage is just under 10 percent of the average property tax bill. Bucks County accounts for nearly 18 percent and the New Hope-Solebury School District, at over 100 mills, is responsible for a little over 72 percent of the total real estate tax burden.

- New Hope Borough - 13.77 mills
- County - 25.45 mills
- School District - 102.3418 mills



NEW HOPE BOROUGH 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET UPDATE

I hope this finds you and your families doing as well as possible during these challenging times.

I want to let you know our plans for the 2021 Borough Budget. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected tourism and employment wages, which are important sources of income to the Borough. We have also had to spend money in unexpected ways.

We recognize that our constituent taxpayers are struggling financially, as well as in many other ways. The Borough's portion of your real estate tax is only about 10% of your total real estate tax bill (the School and County taxes take up the remainder). Council and I feel we need to help our residents and business owners get through this as painlessly as possible, while also keeping fiduciary responsibility for the Borough.

It is with this in mind that we are proposing a 2021 Budget that holds the line on the Borough's taxes. There will be no increase in real estate taxes in our budget.

We can do this due to our careful attention to spending and the hard work of Borough staff to seek out cost savings. This will be the sixth year of no increases to your New Hope Borough taxes.

In closing, I want to extend to you and your families Council's warmest wishes for a safe and healthy Holiday Season. We are confident that once this pandemic is over, 2021 will be a better year for all of us and our surrounding communities.

Take care and stay safe,

Connie Gering, Borough Council President

MILESTONES

The infographic features a series of five red, ribbon-like banners arranged in a descending staircase pattern from left to right. Each banner contains a milestone number (25, 20, 15, 10, 5) and the word 'YEARS'. Below each banner, the names and titles of employees who have reached that milestone are listed. A text box on the left contains a message of appreciation for long-term employees.

Milestone	Employee Name	Department	Years of Service
OVER 25 YEARS	Tom Carroll	Public Works Director	27 years
OVER 20 YEARS	Steve Burroughs	Public Works	23 years
OVER 15 YEARS	JoAnn Connell	Borough Administration	19 years
	Ken Kozuhowski	New Hope PD	19 years
	Denise Fell	New Hope PD	19 years
	Richard Joyner	New Hope PD	17 years
	Dawn Haas	New Hope PD	16 years
OVER 10 YEARS	David Sempowski	New Hope PD	14 years
	Steve Gruber	New Hope PD	14 years
	Matt Decker	Public Works	14 years
	Mike Cummings	Chief of Police	11 years
	Alan Clark	Public Works	10 years
OVER 5 YEARS	Robert Hayes	Public Works	9 years
	Candice Tremblay	New Hope PD	8 years
	Justin Hagan	New Hope PD	6 years
	Vic Wiczorek	New Hope PD	5 years

Not only is New Hope Borough a great place to live, it's a great place to work!

Many Borough employees have made a long-term commitment to serving New Hope residents. They are the familiar faces with many years of experience helping you with your permits, maintaining our streets and sidewalks, and keeping all of us safe on the roads and in our homes.

We thank them for their service, and wish them many more years helping to keep New Hope running smoothly.

FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT



According to Chapter 109 Article II Bamboo of the New Hope Ordinance, sections §109-20,21,22,23,24 address Restrictions, Enforcement and Penalties.

Any and all property owner(s) or resident(s) of a property on which bamboo has been planted, grows, or is found, whether above ground or below the surface. "Owner" shall include any person who has planted and/or grows bamboo on the property; who has bamboo on the property, even if the existence of such bamboo predates his or her ownership and/or occupancy; or who permits bamboo to grow or remain on his or her property even if the bamboo has spread from an adjoining property.

§ 233-1 Snow and ice to be removed from sidewalks and pedestrian walkways.

The property owner of the land abutting the sidewalk or other paved pedestrian walkway is responsible for the removal of snow and/or ice from said sidewalk or pedestrian walkway within 24 hours after the end of said precipitation. The prescribed areas must be substantially free of snow and/or ice so as to allow safe and convenient pedestrian passage.



Steve Olkowski, Code Enforcement, New Hope Borough
Phone: 215-862 3347 Ext 154 • email: codeenforcement@newhopeborough.org

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE BOROUGH WEBSITE

Looking for a meeting time or committee agenda? Ready to get the permits together for that new deck or addition? Want to stay current with Borough news without hitting refresh every half hour? We've got you covered.

Our official website, www.newhopeborough.org, brings all of our documents and resources to your desktop screen or mobile phone. And, if you sign up for alerts, we'll also deliver updates to your email or text messaging inbox.

Right on the home page you'll find the latest news from Borough Hall, a calendar for upcoming public meetings and community events, and links to take you deeper into our online information database.

Interested in an upcoming meeting? Just click on the calendar item, and you'll find a link to the agenda. Tracking an issue? Browse all the agendas and approved minutes, sorted by committee, in the Agenda Center.

All of the Borough's committees, boards and commissions, along with Council and administrative departments, are listed under the "Government" tab. If you're hunting for a permit application, for example, just click on the appropriate department to see all the available information.

Most residents' concerns are addressed under the "Community" tab. Information about recycling, parking, stormwater management... it's all there. The "Services" tab has links to local, county and state information, and the "How Do I..." tab provides quick access to contact information and answers to frequently asked questions.

To get the most out of the website, you may want to sign up for alerts. From the home page, click on "Alert Sign-Up" on the bottom banner. On the sign-up page, you can select which alerts you'd like to receive. Clicking the envelope icon will subscribe you to an email alert (you'll be prompted for an email address if you haven't already entered one). Clicking on the phone icon will open a prompt for your mobile phone number for text messages. You can come back and add or remove yourself from lists whenever you like.

Our website uses responsive design to adjust its layout to best fit whatever screen you're using, whether it's a small phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. And we're constantly updating the site to make it as easy as possible for you to have all things New Hope right at your fingertips.

Hometown Press, the publisher of your Hometown Newsletter, would like to send out a heartfelt, *Stay Safe and Healthy* message to all the residents, businesses, and municipal staff during this pivotal time in history.

"And the World Came Together as the People Stayed Apart"



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NEW HOPE POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

New Hope Borough Police Department begins Phase Two of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Accreditation Program.

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced a police accreditation program in 2001. Since that time 126 Police Agencies in Pennsylvania currently have attained accreditation status. Of those 126 agencies, only 16 Boroughs have attained accredited status. The New Hope Borough Police Department is working to become the 17th Borough in the State of Pennsylvania to reach this goal. Borough Council approved the expenditure to hire a consultant to assist the police department in completing this task in a timely fashion. The lion's share of this cost is being provided by resident Joan Shandelmier, who upon her death left \$20,000 to the police department. The accreditation of the police department seemed to be an appropriate lasting tribute to this generous New Hope Borough resident. New Hope Borough has enlisted the services of Law Enforcement Accreditation Services from Southampton, PA to guide Chief Cummings and his staff in the writing of over 139 standards and operating procedures that will make us a professional police department recognized by the accreditation program.

The Benefits?

- ✓ Establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures
- ✓ Reduces agency risk and exposure to lawsuits
- ✓ Decreases some liability insurance expenditures
- ✓ Improves law enforcement – community relations
- ✓ Increases employee input, interaction and confidence in the agency

- ✓ Enlarges the outlook and viewpoints of supervisors, officers and employees
- ✓ Identifies and highlights the capabilities and competency of the agency
- ✓ Furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress
- ✓ Provides reliable methods to improve essential management procedures
- ✓ Extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials
- ✓ Enhances planning and innovative activities by all agency personnel
- ✓ Develops improved methods for providing services to the community
- ✓ Encourages problem solving activities within the agency



Chief Michael Cummings

Phase One – Application and enrollment

Phase Two – Self Assessment

- A comparison of existing Policies and how they compare to the Program's 139 standards.
- The training of all officers on the new policies and testing to ensure they understand and know them.

The overall length of the accreditation process is around 18 months. At the conclusion of the accreditation process, an outside assessment takes place. Specially trained assessors will spend three days in the department checking paperwork and processes to validate the department's compliance. A ceremony will take place in Harrisburg upon successful completion of the accreditation process.

PUBLIC WORKS

Winter weather will be upon us very shortly, bringing the potential for ice and snow. With that in mind, please help our Public Works department as they prepare to remove snow and ice.

- Move your cars out of the roadway and into your driveway to provide a clear path for our trucks to plow.
- Shovel your sidewalk within 24 hours of the last snowfall.
- Refrain from shoveling snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the roadway.

Our dedicated staff will work as quickly as possible to plow the roadways and make them as safe as possible.





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WINTER SAFETY CHECKLIST

New Hope Borough Fire Marshal, Jim Becker, has some seasonal reminders to keep our Community safe!

Have Your Furnace Checked

Although this is something that many people believe they can do themselves, it is often safer to invest in hiring a professional to come and inspect your furnace annually. It's always better to know when something is not working properly than to have it abruptly break down in those cold winter months when you need heat the most.

Check Your Chimneys and Vents

Fireplaces can produce creosote which has the capability of igniting. If your family lights the fireplace often, you most likely need an annual chimney inspection to make sure that there are no hazards capable of starting a fire. It's important to always remember that when burning wood, use dry, seasoned wood which produces more flame with less smoke.

Test Your Smoke Alarms

You always want to double check that your batteries are fresh and will last you through the winter. Always place smoke alarms in the kitchen, bedrooms, and the laundry room.

Always Cover Your Fireplace with a Screen

Either a metal screen or tempered glass will suffice to protect any sparks from leaving the fireplace. Still, you always want to make sure to keep kids and pets at least three feet away from a burning fireplace.

Beware of Lit Candles

Although candles can set the mood for a relaxing and calming evening, they can be easily knocked over by kids or pets. Only light candles when you are alert and able to watch them, blowing them out whenever you intend to leave the room.

Beware of Space Heaters

These devices require a good amount of space to be used without any fire hazards. Just like fireplaces, children and pets should not sit closer than three feet in front of a space heater. Avoid placing heaters near curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Always make sure your space heater has an automatic shut off switch, which forces the heater to shut-off as soon as it reaches a dangerously high heat level.



More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.



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Put a

FREEZE

on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 7** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away** from your home as possible.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

CREMATION SHOULD NOT BE OUTSOURCED



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WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS!

Understanding storm water and how it can affect your health and the environment



What is Storm Water?

Storm water is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call the storm sewer system. Storm sewer inlets are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called storm water runoff.

Why is Storm Water "Good Rain Gone Wrong"?

Storm water becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of roadside ditches and stream banks. Storm water travels through a system of roadside ditches and pipes that make up storm sewer systems. It eventually flows directly into a river or wetland and makes its way to coastal waters. All of the pollutants storm water carries along the way empty into those same rivers, wetlands, and waters, too, because storm water does not get treated!

Restoring Rain's Reputation: The Borough's Role

New Hope Borough has a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that regulates the Borough's storm sewer system and requires the Borough to implement a storm water management program. This includes six program elements called "Minimum Control Measures" which, when implemented together, are designed to result in reducing pollutants discharged from the storm sewer system. To find out more, please visit the Borough's Stormwater Management webpage at: <http://www.newhopeborough.org/1315/Stormwater-Management>

Restoring Rain's Reputation: What You Can Do To Help:

Rain by nature is important for replenishing drinking water supplies, recreation, and healthy wildlife habitats. It only becomes a problem when pollutants from our activities like car maintenance, lawn care, and dog walking are left on the ground for rain to wash away.

Here are some of the most important ways to prevent storm water pollution:

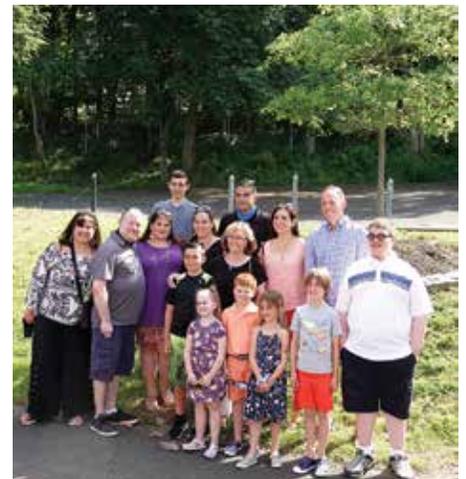
- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies and paint – NEVER pour them down any part of the storm sewer system, and report anyone who does!
- Use pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff.
- Look for signs of soil and other pollutants, such as debris and chemicals, leaving construction sites in storm water runoff or tracked into roads by construction vehicles. Report poorly managed construction sites that could impact storm water runoff to us.
- Report any discharges from storm water outfalls during times of dry weather – a sign that there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess – in a back yard or at the park – storm water runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system to the river.
- Store materials that could pollute storm water indoors and use containers for outdoor storage that do not rust or leak to eliminate exposure of materials to storm water.

Please contact us at info@newhopeborough.org to report any stormwater runoff or other pollution issues, whether from construction sites, businesses, or other locations throughout the Borough.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

The Shade Tree Commission (STC) worked with residents and business owners over the Spring and Summer to address health concerns of trees that line the streets of the Borough. Several new trees were planted, along with continued use of permeable material in tree pits along the busy downtown streets. The Porous Pave material reduces tripping hazards and weed growth, as well as increases water flow to the roots of the tree.

A COVID-19 delayed Arbor Day was celebrated in June where a tree was planted in dedication to a former Shade Tree Commission Chair, Ronald Gering. Several members of the Gering family (pictured) were in attendance while STC members spoke in remembrance of Ron. The STC continues to work towards improving the health of trees along the Borough streets and sidewalks to benefit businesses, residents and visitors as we move into the Fall and Winter months."





UROLOGY CONDITIONS: DON'T "JUST LIVE WITH IT"

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New Hope Borough
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New Hope, PA 18938

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 Winter 2020



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