

Chalfont Borough Lamplighter



SPRING 2021

VOLUME 21 No. 1

CHALFONT BOROUGH CELEBRATING 120 YEARS!

Dawn Tremmel ❖ Borough Secretary/Assistant to the Manager

Chalfont Borough has certainly come along way from its humble beginnings. As early as the 1300's, the Leni-Lenape Indians arrived here in Bucks County. They sought refuge along the peaceful and plentiful shores of the Delaware River as they were pushed out from the valley of the Mississippi. The Lenape Indians were a quiet and friendly group led by Chief Tamanend, who was responsible for granting the treaty with William Penn, granting Penn all the lands "lying between Pennapecká and Nessaninechs Creek and all along Nessaninechs Creek" for as much wampum (strung beads used as money) and goods as William Penn might agree to give him. William Penn also gave a grant to the "Free Society of Traders" in 1682 covering 20,000 acres. Land was sold from the tract in 1706, and four years later, Simon Butler and Simon Mathews, brothers-in-law, came from Wales and settled in Delaware County. In 1720, Simon Butler purchased 454 acres which included the present Borough of Chalfont and acreage running south toward the boundary with Warrington Township. Simon Butler established a road, which was called at times, Butler Road, and other times, Whitehall Pike.

Simon Mathews purchased 283 acres, 127 of which joined Butler's land. The two men built a grist mill, which was repeatedly rebuilt after a series of fires. After Simon Butler died, his land was divided into smaller lots and sold. The small village, formerly known as Butler's Mill, went through a series of name changes through the years, rooted in each of the land owners' names. In the 1800's, a post office was approved in the name of Whitehallville for this area, so the village went by that name for a while. In 1869, the railroad changed the name from Whitehall to Chalfont. The tie to William Penn remains as Chalfont St. Giles, England, was where Penn met his wife, Gulielma.

In 1855, Forest Park, an amusement park, opened in the area. Originally known as "Eckhart's Grove," the park drew patrons from all over the Philadelphia area. It was highly popular and operated until 1968. The grounds are currently occupied by the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant.

In 1901, the Borough was incorporated after filing a formal petition to incorporate. Census figures in 1930 showed 55 residents in the Borough. Today, Chalfont has 14 road miles, approximately 4,000 residents, eight parks, and a volunteer fire department. The old Chalfont Bank, an A. Oscar Martin designed building, houses the present day municipal office at 40 N. Main St.

Chalfont has been through many changes over the years, and reminders of our rich history are important for shaping our future. 🌀



Main Street, Chalfont in the early 1900's

Cited sources and image credits: History of Chalfont Borough Bucks County, Pennsylvania and Historic Chalfont Pennsylvania, Celebrating A Century 1901-2001

CHALFONT BOROUGH

Administration office located at:
40 N. Main Street
Chalfont, PA 18914

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Phone: 215-822-7295
Fax: 215-822-5528

Email:
info@chalfontborough.com

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mayor: Brian D. Wallace

Council President: John R. Engel

Council Vice President: Jeff Coddington

Tracey Bowen

Mark Glidden

Marilyn H. Jacobson

Michael Kelly

Mitchell Meyerson

Borough Manager/Treasurer:
Shawn Curran

Asst. to Manager/Borough Secretary/ORO:
Dawn Tremmel

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Council meets the 2nd Monday of
each month at 7:00 PM.

Planning Commission meets the 4th Monday
of each month at 7:00 PM (as needed.)

HARB meets the 1st Monday of each
month at 7:00 PM (as needed).

Meetings usually take place at Borough Hall,
40 N. Main Street, but have been subject to
change due to pandemic restrictions
and have been held remotely.

For up-to-date meeting information check out
www.chalfontborough.com.

**If you'd like to send in a comment for the
meeting, or participate live at a meeting, you
will need to contact the Borough office at
215-822-7295 or email
dtremmel@chalfontborough.com
any time on or before 12:00 PM
the day of the meeting.**

TAX INFORMATION

COUNTY & BOROUGH MUNICIPAL TAX

County and Borough Municipal Real Estate Tax bills have been mailed. If you have not received your bill, or you have recently moved, please contact Chalfont Borough's office at 215-822-7295 to update your mailing address. If your property taxes are escrowed, forward one portion of your bill to your mortgage company, and keep a portion for your own records. The discount period ends April 30th. The base amount is due by June 30th.

County and Borough tax payments can be sent by mail or dropped off in person to Chalfont Borough Hall, 40 North Main Street in Chalfont. The office is open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday (closed on holidays). Masks are required upon entering the building, and please use the parking lot side entrance. If you pay your bill by mail and would like a receipt, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope with your payment. Please make checks payable to "Chalfont Borough."

Your Earned Income Tax return is due by April 15th. You can e-file on Keystone Collections Group's secure website by going to: www.KeystoneCollects.com. Taxpayer support is also available on this site, or call Keystone's Taxpayer Helpline at: 1-866-539-1100 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent.

SCHOOL TAX INFORMATION

School Taxes are mailed to property owners on July 1st. If you do not receive them or have questions, please contact the School Tax Collector, Nicole Percetti, by phone at 215-822-2930, or by email at newbritaintax@gmail.com. Nicole accepts school property tax payments in three ways:

1. By mail. Send to: Nicole Percetti, Tax Collector
P.O. Box 476
Chalfont, PA 18914
2. Online through Nicole's website:
www.newbritaintax.webs.com
3. Or you can drop off your payment off in person at the 24-hour lock-box outside of Nicole's main office located at 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont (New Britain Township's administration office adjacent to North Branch Park). If you'd like a stamped receipt, include a SASE and the full copy of your bill. Please make school tax checks payable to: "Central Bucks School District," or just simply "CBSD."

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

GETTING TO KNOW COUNCIL

MICHAEL KELLY ❖ COUNCIL MEMBER



Mark Kelly

Q: How long have you been a resident of Chalfont Borough?

A: My family and I have lived in Chalfont for about 15 years.

Q: Do you have a family and/or any pets?

A: I am married and we have two wonderful children and one not-so-wonderful dog.



Q: What is your chosen profession?

A: I am an architect.

Q: Why did you decide to run for Borough Council?

A: I enjoyed my time on Chalfont Borough's Planning Commission and wanted to become more involved with the ongoing improvements in our community.

Q: What Borough project are you most passionate about?

A: The transformation of many of our Borough parks and trails has been incredible. It is great to see so many people running and walking through our beautiful parks.

Q: What long-range goals do you envision for Chalfont Borough?

A: To enhance our historic Main Street by creating more public parking, and by linking more sidewalks to our businesses and parks.

Q: Do you volunteer with any other organizations in addition to your Borough Council duties?

A: I am a proud baseball coach of my son's Lenape Valley Baseball Team (Go Tomahawks!!!).

Q: What is your favorite thing about living in Chalfont Borough?

A: It is a great walkable community with terrific restaurants, coffee shops, and especially ice cream and water ice shops!

Q: What would you want residents to know about Chalfont Borough that they might not currently know?

A: The Borough's parks and trails link up to many parks and trails in other neighboring communities. The new pedestrian walk that goes across Bristol Road and Forrest Drive provides a safe link from Chalfont Borough to the 202 Parkway Trail.

Q: What would you like to change or preserve about Chalfont?

A: I'd like to see the Bristol Road Extension constructed. I believe this would further reduce traffic congestion along Butler Avenue and on Main Street.

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

A: I love hanging out with my family and traveling. We enjoy the outdoors and being active.

Q: If you could have dinner with anyone of notoriety, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

A: I would have dinner with James Madison. I would ask him if how he and the other framers of the constitution envisioned our federal government operating is reflective in how our elected officials act today.



James Madison
Image Credit: Library of Congress

Q: Can you name one positive thing in your life that has been a "silver lining" result of the pandemic restrictions?

A: Watching the Mandalorian on Disney Plus was great. Everything else about the pandemic has been terrible.

Q: What do you miss about your pre-pandemic life that you are looking forward to resuming?

A: I miss going to watch Eagles games. I've been a season ticket holder for 20 years. The tailgating experience is always a great time, and the game, when the Eagles win, is a lot of fun too. ∞



July 4th Tri-Municipal Parade

Will be held on Saturday, July 3, 2021 at 9:30 AM, all are welcome. The parade starts at Town Center in New Britain Borough and ends at North Branch Park. Please check out www.chalfontborough.com for more details and for registration forms if your organization would like to enter a float, or participate in the parade.

AN A. OSCAR MARTIN BUILDING

Marilyn Becker ❖ *HARB Vice Chair*

Chalfont Borough is home to five buildings designed by famed architect, A. Oscar Martin. One of these buildings is Chalfont's own Borough Hall located at 40 North Main Street.



Borough Hall, 40 N. Main St.

After the Borough became incorporated in 1901, the first election was held on June 27, 1901, in the private home of John Weikman. The first council meeting was held at Hartzel's Hall where many items necessary for a new borough establishment were considered. In July 1905, A.E. Griffiths volunteered to provide a chamber for council at 101 North Main Street, which Chalfont Borough would rent. This provided a home for Chalfont Borough council meetings for a number of years. Unfortunately, attending a meeting at this location required climbing steep steps to the second floor chamber room, and the need for accessibility for disabled persons to attend meetings required council to start looking for a more suitable meeting place. Under the leadership of Bea Barr in 1984, the old bank building at 40 North Main Street was selected.

A little eventful history about the bank, it was formed in 1925 with assets of \$50,000. On March 14, 1931, the bank was robbed. Three bandits entered the bank, while the fourth stayed in the get-away car. The four bandits managed to escape in the car with \$2,000. Cashier Hiram Bruner was the only employee in the bank with a customer. Miss Annie Lovett, age 70, entered the bank at the time of the robbery and she was ordered to go to the office of President Russell Hartzel and remain there. When she walked in, according to her account, everything looked normal.



Kenneth Lane, who owned a garage near the bank, managed to note the license number of the car. The rear window of the car was smashed out as it passed Mr. Lane's garage. The bandits did that so they could shoot at the police. They headed down Route 152 south and were eventually captured and sent to prison. If they had arrived at the bank any sooner that day, they would have gotten away with even more money because the employees of the Hosiery Mill in Chalfont came in to cash their checks that morning, depleting the bank's funds.

The bank remained at 40 N. Main Street until it moved to a different location on Butler Avenue. After the bank moved out, the building housed various other ventures including a library, an insurance agency, a police department, and a book store that once held a book signing attended by James Michener. There is an early picture of the bank building hanging in Borough Hall, along with the bank's charter. The vault door at 40 North Main is still in its original position in the Borough meeting room.



Vault door at 40 N. Main St.

As noted, Chalfont Borough Hall was designed by A. Oscar Martin. The Spruance Library in Doylestown holds the original plans and Chalfont Borough archives also contain a copy of those plans. The surrounding area, especially Doylestown, contains many buildings designed by Martin. Chalfont is fortunate to have five of them within its borders. A. Oscar Martin graduated from Doylestown High School and attended Drexel Institute. He designed residences, churches, office buildings and over 100 bridges. He was a registered engineer and was appointed director of construction and materials for Bucks County, staying in that position for 25 years. Despite his diversity in style, his buildings are almost always identified by their block shape, symmetry of detail, and use of masonry. Oscar's career lasted from 1873 until his death on February 4, 1942. His son, Fred F. Martin, pursued architecture and took over his father's firm in 1942. Fred designed an addition to the Lutheran Church in Chalfont.

Oscar left his mark on Bucks County by his contributions to local architecture. It is considered a plus if you own one of his uniquely designed buildings. The building at 40 North Main Street is one of many buildings in Chalfont's National Historic District. ❖

Cited sources: <https://www.livingplaces.com/people/adam-oscar-martin.html> and <https://bucksco.michenerartmuseum.org/artists/a-oscar-martin>

LENAPE VALLEY BASEBALL CLOTHING DRIVE

Sponsored by
The 2021 Lenape Valley Travel Baseball Cooperstown Team



With warmer weather ahead, spring cleaning is just around the corner! Please come join your community on April 10, 2021 from 12:00 - 4:00 PM at the Swartley-Winkelmann Field, 522 N. Main St. in Chalfont, for a clothing drive. Proceeds will help support our local Lenape Valley Baseball Organization and the 12U team as they fund-raise their way to the Cooperstown Dreams Tournament.

If you bring these items, we will unload them!

The items we will be accepting are:

- Clothing for men, women and children.
- Shoes – please pack shoes in a bag of their own.
- Clothing accessories: belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves, etc.
- Soft household items like towels, blankets, bed sheets, pillows, quilts, comforters and curtains.
- We'll take small toys (2 ft. or less).
- Stuffed animals, bikes and scooters.
- Car seats (only together with base) and strollers.

We look forward to seeing you there, so save the date and clean out those closets for a good cause! ♪

CHALFONT'S 2021 YARD CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Spring Yard Clean-Up

A 30-yard dumpster will be available to residents for yard waste disposal ONLY. Acceptable materials include biodegradable-bagged grass clippings, brush, and limbs not exceeding 4-feet in length.

The dumpster will be located in the parking lot behind Borough Hall, 40 North Main St., on 5/13/21 until filled (~week).

Dumpster Rules

PLEASE NOTE:

- No plastic bags allowed in dumpsters.
- Do not fill over top of dumpster.
- Do not leave anything around the dumpster.
- No items other than yard waste allowed in dumpster.
- If your amount of yard waste does not fit, you must take it with you.

Leaf Collection Dates 2021

May 1, 2021
October 30, 2021
November 13, 2021
December 11, 2021



Leaves for recycling should be placed in biodegradable leaf bags and placed curbside the night before pickup. No twigs, tied or placed in bag with leaves. This pick-up is for leaves only. No plastic bags!



Advanced Spine and Sports Chiropractic Bucks 5K Series

This year there are several options to choose from; in person, virtual, or a combination of either of these types of races.



www.bucks5kseries.com

Runners should bring their own supply of food and water due to COVID restrictions that are or may be in place.

The four live races will count towards the series awards.

2021 Chalfont Challenge 5K Virtual Race

Sunday, May 30th - Sunday, June 6, 2021

Chalfont Challenge 5K is going virtual for 2021

The first Chalfont Challenge 5K took place in June of 1992 celebrating Chalfont's June birthday. In 1996, the Chalfont Challenge joined with four other races to form the Bucks 5K Series. Following the 2001 Centennial celebration, the Chalfont Challenge 5K profits were used to develop Chalfont's parks and trails system. They have helped to construct trails, and to purchase Twin Streams Park. The most recent project was the work done to Chestnut Street Park. Funds from this year's Chalfont Challenge will go towards the construction of the northern Neshaminy Greenway Trail, which will connect Chestnut Street Park and Patriot Place's Open Space to the Lindenfield pedestrian bridge.

The 2021 Chalfont Challenge 5K is a virtual race. Registered runners may run a 5K course of their own anywhere or the new Chalfont 5K Trails Course. Chalfont is in the process of measuring and marking a 5K Trails Course in Twin Streams, Strong Family, and Michael Bishop Parks. This Course will be ready on or before May 1st. Registration for the virtual Chalfont Challenge 5K is only available on-line at www.bucks5kseries.com

Bucks 5K Series

The Chalfont Challenge 5K is one of six races in the Bucks 5K Series. All of the races will have a virtual option and four of the six races will have a live run option. Full list of rules can be found at the 5K Series website.

Registration is now open on-line at www.bucks5kseries.com

We look forward to next year's 2022 Chalfont 5K Challenge, where we hope to run down Main Street again!





Full Bucks 5K Series List of Races

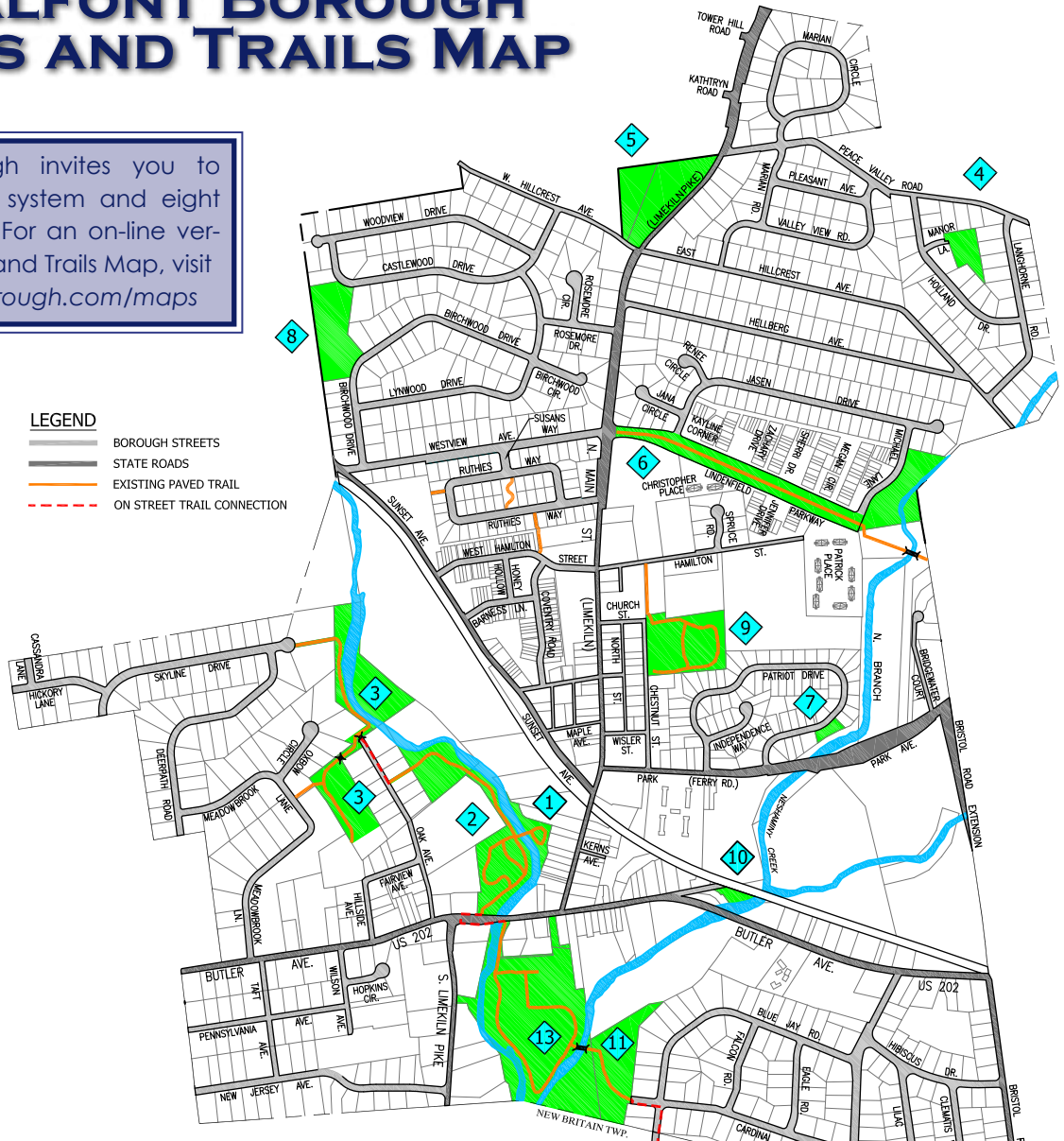
- 3/27/2021 Blaze of Glory (in-person and virtual option)
- 4/24/2021 Bookin' for Lookin' (in-person and virtual option)
- 5/16/2021 YMCA Bucks County Strong 5K (virtual only)
- 5/29/2021 Doylestown 5k (in-person and virtual option)
- 6/5/2021 Chalfont Challenge 5K (virtual only)
- 6/20/2021 Break-Fast 5K/10K (in-person and virtual option)

CHALFONT BOROUGH PARKS AND TRAILS MAP

Chalfont Borough invites you to explore our trail system and eight beautiful parks. For an on-line version of the Parks and Trails Map, visit www.chalfontborough.com/maps

LEGEND

-  BOROUGH STREETS
-  STATE ROADS
-  EXISTING PAVED TRAIL
-  ON STREET TRAIL CONNECTION



CHALFONT BOROUGH
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SCALE = 1" : 800'

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 KRUPP PARK
CORDELL GAZEBO, VETERANS MEMORIAL, TRAILS, FOOTBRIDGE TO KELLY PARK AND PARKING | 7 PATRIOT OPEN SPACE
FIELD |
| 2 KELLY PARK
TRAILS, FISHING, PICNIC AREA, PLAY AREA AND PARKING | 8 BIRCHWOOD OPEN SPACE
NATURAL AREA |
| 3 J. CLYDE AND JOAN DERSTINE MEMORIAL PARK
TRAILS, FISHING & PICNIC AREA | 9 CHESTNUT STREET PARK
TRAILS, GAZEBO, PLAYGROUND, SPORTS FIELDS AND PARKING |
| 4 HOLLAND OPEN SPACE
FIELD | 10 BRIDGEVIEW PARK
PICNIC AREA AND FISHING |
| 5 SWARTLEY-WINKELMANN FIELD
SPORTS FIELDS LEASED BY LENAPE VALLEY RECREATION COUNCIL AND PARKING | 11 STRONG FAMILY PARK
TRAILS, PLAYGROUND, BASKETBALL COURT AND PARKING |
| 6 LINDENFIELD PARKWAY
TRAILS WITH FOOTBRIDGE TO NORTH BRANCH PARK | 12 J. MICHAEL BISHOP MEMORIAL PARK
TRAILS AND NATURAL AREA ALONG NESHAMINY CREEK |
| | 13 TWIN STREAMS PARK
TRAILS, FISHING, NATURAL AREA AND PARKING |



CHALFONT BOROUGH
40 N. MAIN ST.
CHALFONT, PA 18914

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Doylestown PA
Permit No. #640

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- **Advanced Disposal:** 484-679-4825
- **AQUA PA:** 877-987-2782
- **Borough Tax Collector:** Barbara Klingerman, 215-822-7295
- **School Tax Collector (CBSD):** Nicole Percetti, 215-822-2930
- **Central Bucks Regional Police Dept. (CBRPD) Office:** 215-345-4143
- **CBRPD Dispatch:** 215-328-8511, dispatch number can be called to report non-emergency situations occurring after-hours.
- **Central Bucks School District:** 267-893-2000
- **Chal-Brit Emergency Medical Services:** 215-822-1308
- **Chalfont Fire Company:** 215-822-9685
- **Chalfont New Britain Joint Sewer Authority:** 215-345-1225
- **Chalfont Post Office:** 215-822-0659
- **Keystone Collections Group:** 724-978-0300
- **PECO Emergency:** 800-841-4141
- **PennDOT Highway Maintenance (Bucks):** 215-345-6060
- **Pothole Reporting w/PennDOT for State owned roads:** 800-349-7623, Bristol Road, Butler Avenue, Limekiln Pike South, Main Street North, Park Avenue, Sunset Avenue (The Borough has no control over maintenance of these roads.)



SHREDDING EVENT
Annual E-recycling Waste & Paper Shred
Event (residents only, no businesses).
Saturday, May 1st from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
at the New Britain Township Administration
Building 207 Park Avenue in Chalfont.

Bucks County Recycling Program: www.buckscounty.org/government/communityservices/planningcommission/recycling
or go to www.chalfontborough.com/forms and look for the Hazardous Waste Schedule



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