

## 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

Email: info@chalfontborough.com



Chalfont Borough



@chalfontboro

Winter 2017

#### **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.



#### **2017 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 <a href="www.KeystoneCollects.com">www.KeystoneCollects.com</a>. 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.

#### **2017 School Taxes**

School Taxes will be mailed to property owners on July 1st. If you do not receive them or have questions, please contact Nancy Jones 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.

#### **Bucks County Recycling Program**

Bucks County Planning has a 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 and look for Recycling Resource Information.

#### What's happening around town?

2017 is an exciting year for Chalfont Borough!

- Taft Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue will be milled and paved as part of our 2017 Roads Improvement Project.
- Additional road improvement projects will coincide with AQUA waterline replacements planned for: Meadowbrook Lane, Oak Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Chestnut Street, Valley View Road, Marion Circle/Road, Peace Valley Road, and Pleasant Avenue. Residents will be notified when AQUA confirms their plans with the borough.
- Spring is just around the corner, Did you know you can be fined for blowing your grass clippings into the street? Please do us all a favor and keep your clippings on your property.
- Curious about all the development around town? Call or make an appointment with our Borough Manager! She will be happy to explain any development sites that are in the approval process and ones that are already approved. Call 215-822-7295 to make an appointment today.
- Chalfont Borough will be purchasing two new vehicles this year. The first clears trails and sidewalks of snow so you can use our parks year round. The second vehicle is a replacement for our 1995 main plowing truck.
- What's happening with 101 N. Main St. aka "the old Fire-house"? The Borough has plans to convert this property into a 50+ spot parking lot, as well as utilize the historic section for a commercial use. Stay tuned!
- Come out to our meetings and get involved. The Borough welcomes participation in our government process. See our meeting calendar on our website for more information.

#### **Chalfont Borough's Newest Addition**

Chalfont Borough is excited to announce our trails will be clear this winter. Expect trails to be cleared only after roadways.

This piece of equipment will increase mowing efficiency by 16 man hours this summer. That means our three man crew will be able to get more done in less time.



#### **Chalfont Fire Company Events**

301 North Main Street www.ChalfontFireCompany.com

#### Chalfont Fire Hall will serve as a Comfort Station in times of emergency power outages.

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.

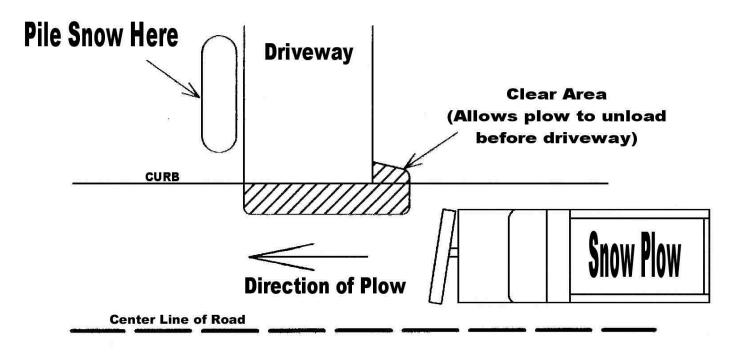
Residents with disabilities and senior citizens needing assistance in an emergency are urged to register with the police department. Please call 215-345-4143 during business hours to put your contact information on their list so an officer can check in on you in an emergency.

### 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

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LEHIGH VALLEY PA PERMIT NO. 550



#### From the Borough Office ...

- Save the date—Chalfont Challenge 5K Race and Fun Run will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017! 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
- Volunteers are needed for Chalfont Evening. If you are interested in sharing your hobby, running a children's event, face painting, etc. Please contact Barb Klingerman at 215-822-7295 x200.
- Trash and recyclables should be placed curbside on Thursday evening for pickup on Friday morning. Trucks may come as early as 6:00am. If you have a bulk item to dispose of, call Advanced Disposal for pick up at 866-342-5497.
- The Borough Office will be closed the following dates in 2017: 1/2/2017; 1/16/2017; 2/20/2017; 4/14/2017; 5/29/2017; 7/3/2017; 7/4/2017; 9/4/2017; 11/10/2017; 11/23/2017; 11/24/2017; and 12/25/2017.
- Get the latest news by subscribing to email updates on the Borough website: www.chalfontborough.com or like us on: facebook.com/Chalfont Borough, or follow us on Twitter @chalfontboro.

#### Public Works ...

- Please move vehicles off of the street during borough plowing.
- Remember to remove snow from vehicle rooftops.

#### **Chalfont Borough Monthly Meetings**

Council—2nd Tuesday

Planning—1st Monday

Blighted Property—3rd Monday

HARB—4th Monday

All meetings are held @ 7:00pm in Chalfont Borough Hall

#### **Chalfont Borough Officials**

Mayor Marilyn J. Becker

John R. Engel, Council President

John Abbott, Vice President

Tracey Bowen

Jeffrey Coddington

Michael Horvat

Michael Kelly

Marilyn H. Jacobson

Sandra B. Zadell, Borough Manager