

The Busy Bee

MAY 2020



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NEW BRITAIN CITY HALL NEWSLETTER

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Dear City of New Britain Employees,

Thank you all for your patience as we continue to navigate our new reality surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. I know it has not been easy, but everyone has stepped up to continue providing the services that residents and businesses need in order to keep operating. This will all soon be over and we will be stronger than ever. Remember to think beyond yourself.

Sincerely,

Mayor Erin Stewart

Please note that City Hall reopens to the public for first floor access on Tuesday May 12. City Hall will be open for just the first floor until further notice.



A shout out to Ed Malik from our Building Department who recently teamed up with Vincent Placeres, the owner of Mofongo, and helped prepare 40 rice bowls for workers at the Hospital of Central Connecticut and Police Department. Also helping out to prepare meals was Fire Chief Raul Ortiz.

A huge thank you also to Margaret Malinowski (DMD) for helping to organize and donating space at Staropolska for a team of sewers to sew more than 2,000 masks, which have been donated to area medical responders. Bravo!

Department Highlights



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Erin Stewart has appointed a longtime member of the New Britain Police Department, Benjamin Murphy, to the position of interim Deputy Chief.

Murphy joined the New Britain Police Department in February 2002, starting out as a patrol officer. Murphy has held many positions within the department, including Team Commander of the SWAT team, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. He has worked with the Neighborhood Revitalization Zone for the Oak and North Street area, oversaw the New Britain Police Academy, the Criminal Investigations Division, and other areas. To further his training, he most recently attended and graduated from the FBI National Academy.

Deputy Chief Murphy has been active in the community, working with students through avenues like the Criminal Justice Club at New Britain High School and has helped to actively recruit officers by attending schools and universities to speak with interested students. He has also worked with the school system to undertake active shooter training drills and has participated in the Read Across America event. Additionally, he is a corporator for the New Britain Boys and Girls Club and the chair of the City's Youth and Family

Commission.

Murphy's interim appointment was made effective March 29. He replaces former Deputy Chief Jeanette Portalatin, who retired in March.

"Interim Deputy Chief Murphy brings more than 18 years of experience to this leadership position," said Mayor Stewart. "I thank him for stepping forward for the challenge. I know he will do an exceptional job and have full faith in his leadership abilities."

"Deputy Chief Murphy is one of the most dedicated New Britain Police officers I have ever met. He pours his heart and soul into everything he does. Ben has proven himself to be a valuable leader in our department," said Chief Christopher Chute.

April Recap

TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Each year, during the second week of April, Telecommunication Personnel (911 Dispatchers) are honored. During this time, we celebrate and thank those who are truly the “first responders” who send the Police, Fire or EMS upon receiving calls from the public during an emergency situation. Dispatch staff are on duty 24/7, on holidays, during blizzards and state shut-downs and at all other critical times. As a matter of fact, they actually step up their work and efforts during the most critical

of times to serve the public and to ensure the safe and proper dispatch of emergency personnel.

Across the nation, an estimated 240 million calls are made to 911 yearly, with 80% or more now made from wireless devices. Dispatch personnel must speak with callers who are at a stressful level reporting an accident, fire, medical emergency or criminal activity. Callers may sometime be frantic and it is the job of the Dispatcher to calm the person and to get as much critical information as possible.

In the City of New Britain, we celebrate the diversity of our population. But at the same time, the number of languages spoken other than English increases the time to take a call and to ensure the accuracy of information. The New Britain Dispatch team is fortunate to have telecommunicators who speak a variety of languages to assist our citizens.

National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week was first conceived in 1981 in California and then embraced across the country by the 1990's. During the month of April, lunch and food breaks have been sponsored by other emergency responder departments as a thank you to our 911 Dispatch staff. In an effort to keep the Dispatch Center as sterile as possible during the Corona Virus outbreak, visitors to the center have been strictly reduced. Last year, Mayor Erin Stewart visited the center and presented the Dispatch Staff with a proclamation to acknowledge their important and tireless work.

-Text submitted by Paul Salina

Mayor's Wellness Initiative

Congratulations to the Caribbean Island Hop Walker-Tracker Challenge winning team: **TEAM 8** (David Huck, Jerrell Hargraves, Mike Thompson, Nathan Amos, Rani Dora, and Trish Haddad). The winners generously donated their prize of a catered lunch from a local restaurant to our own Public Health Department, which was very much appreciated.



Plant Giveaway was a huge success! Thank you to the Wellness Committee and ROOTS for brightening up our offices just a bit. Check out ROOTS plant sale going on now at the Senior Center.



Mayor's Wellness Initiative

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNING OFFICE: TAX COLLECTOR!

Enjoy these goodies from the
Mayor's Wellness Initiative Committee



**Keep up
the good
work!**



The Wellness Committee sponsored our first SPIRIT WEEK April 6-9 and your participation was fantastic! The Tax Collector's office was our big winner and was awarded with a basket of wellness swag including lanyards, hand sanitizers, wipes, lunch bags and snacks! Thank you to everyone who participated, we hope this brought a little



Our current Walker-Tracker Challenge GRAND CANYON TOUR kicked off April 26 and will conclude May 8. Has your team signed up yet?

From the Human Resources Department

Open Enrollment provides an opportunity to re-familiarize yourself with the benefits offered to you. It is also your once-a-year opportunity to enroll in or make changes to your core benefit plans as well as participate in other benefits available to you. It is important to remind you that decisions made during Open Enrollment are generally binding for the entire plan year and cannot be changed until next year's Open Enrollment unless you experience a qualifying event that allows for benefit changes during the year. If this happens, you **MUST** notify Human Resources of such a change immediately. Representatives from the City's Health insurance providers, as well as MassMutual, AIG and others will be available to provide information about their benefits and to answer any questions. This will be your opportunity to find out more about your current benefits, or to investigate alternate benefits.

Hope everyone is staying safe and coping with our new norm of "social distancing". With that said, the **BENEFITS FAIR will look different this year.**

This has been a very challenging and uncertain time for each of us. We've all had to get use to a new reality as difficult as it is we are doing it. These unprecedented circumstances require some creative, out-of-the-box thinking. There will be a communication campaign beginning on May 1st which is the start of the Open Enrollment Period that will provide you with the platform needed to ask your questions and get answers. The HR Department will be scheduling phone appointments offering guidance consultations as well as webinars offering benefit presentations that employees can tune into and ask the representatives any questions or concerns that they may have about their benefits.

Given the current environment, there is a more of a receptive audience through electronic communication as people have more time to absorb what is being communicated. If there is a representative that you need access to, please reach out to the Human Resources Department and they will be able to coordinate a virtual conference using a webinar platform or via conference call to accommodate your needs and requests.

The City's **annual open enrollment period**, which allows employees to change their current health insurance plan, takes place **May through June 15, 2020. The effective date for changes made during this period will be July 1, 2020.** To enroll in the benefit or make changes to your benefit plans for July 1st, you must submit an enrollment or change form **no later than June 15, 2020.**

Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

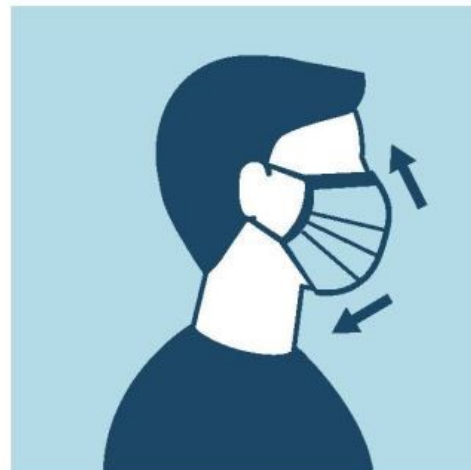
Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.



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cdc.gov/coronavirus

From the Human Resources Department

Your mental health is important to us.
The City's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can
help you cope with Covid-19 stress, anxiety, and
change.

HOW WE CAN HELP:

EAP is an employer sponsored benefit that is
offered to you at no cost. The program includes
a confidential counseling program that offers
employees and their family members with
assessment, brief solution-focused counseling
and referral services.

For free and confidential counseling and referral,
call Solutions EAP at 1-800-526-3485
www.solutionseap.com

In support of social distancing during these challenging
times, telephone counseling can be arranged.



Other Tidbits



This year's CT Breast Health Initiative's Race in the Park has been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 epidemic. See you next year!



Bike to Work Day, which was scheduled to be held on May 15, has been postponed until September 22.



Wishing all of our mother's a very Happy Mother's Day!

Other Tidbits



May 4 was International Firefighters Day. Thank you to all of the men and women who are keeping our community safe during emergencies!

ANNOUNCING THE
Memorial Day
MOTORCADE

**Join Mayor Stewart & Parks Director Barbieri
As They Honor Our Fallen**

**Saturday
May 30th, 2020
2:00 PM**

**Watch Live Online Or From A Safe Social
Distance Along The Motorcade Route**



From the Human Resources Department

Happy Birthday To...

- May 1: Richardson Masson (Fire); Christopher Messina (Fire); Thomas Silva (Water Dept.)
- May 2: Lawrence Smith (Police)
- May 4: Mayor Erin Stewart
- May 3: Donna Boga (Building); Patton Jarrell (Police)
- May 5: John Hackett (Water Dept.); Jacek Liberda (Public Works)
- May 6: Mariusz Ogniewski (Public Works); Danielle Rosado (City Planning)
- May 8: Matthew Abdifar (Fire); Darrius Conaway (Police); John Coughlin (Senior Center); James Richardson (Water Dept.)
- May 10: Timothy Digan (Building)
- May 11: John Aniolowski (Fire)
- May 12: Hector Garcia (Fire)
- Claudia Havelevitch (Finance)
- May 14: Izabela Najdzien (Tax); Cheryl Regan (Facilities)
- May 17: Frances Rolka (Facilities)
- May 19: Matthew Currao (Fire)
- May 21: Baron Dyer (Police)
- May 22: Miguel Serrano (Facilities)
- May 23: Kevin Devaux (Golf)
- May 24: Mark Bernacki (Town Clerk); Andrew Czerepuszko (Fire); Marie Haze (Town Clerks); Kimberly Jehning (Public Works)
- May 25: Nicholas Tetro (Public Works)
- May 26: Brandon Hall (Police); Paul Owczarczyk (Dispatch); Laura Rosado (Parks and Rec)
- May 27: Erik Barbieri (Parks and Rec); Michael Thompson (Public Works); Joseph Torrente (Police)
- May 28: Sean Crawford (Fire)
- May 29: Jessica Gerratana (Common Council); Mark Legeyt (Fire)
- May 30: Ruben Rodriguez (Public Works)
- May 31: Julie Swan (Senior Center)



- ♦ A belated Congratulations to Anthony Bianca, who celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Pam, on January 31. They celebrated with a trip to New Orleans.
- ♦ Congratulations to Danielle Rosado (Dept. of Economic Development) on her one year (4/29) at City Hall

REMINDER: City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2020 in observance of Memorial Day.

