



2026

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH



"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."

HAPPY NEW YEAR CHALFANT!! (That's me on the right!) I usually never make resolutions. I've been losing the same 50 pounds for 23 years. I think the best resolution we can all make is to follow the "Golden Rule". We have the good fortune to live in a community of "golden" people. I've lived here for nearly 26 years, and this is the place I am proud to call home. Thank You, Chalfant!!

There are some changes for 2026. We have a new Mayor, a new council member, and a new DPW. I will start with the contact list for the Borough Council.

*Owen Lilac, Mayor	412-443-7453	<a href="mailto:owenlilac@gmail.com">owenlilac@gmail.com</a>
*Chad Hoover, Council President	412-477-5618	<a href="mailto:cbccjh@gmail.com">cbccjh@gmail.com</a>
*Brandon Sauter, Vice President, Roads & Public Works	412-690-5818	<a href="mailto:cbcljs@gmail.com">cbcljs@gmail.com</a>
*Stephanie Schwoegl, Manager	412-823-6500	<a href="mailto:chalfantborough@gmail.com">chalfantborough@gmail.com</a>

*Joanne Bissell, Parks & Borough	Property	412-215-0657	<a href="mailto:joannebissell.cb@gmail.com">joannebissell.cb@gmail.com</a>
*Evelyn Fullwood, Treasurer, Finance	& Administration	412-443-8375	<a href="mailto:elfwood@outlook.com">elfwood@outlook.com</a>
*Diane Hillen, Permits & Ordinances	412-780-7684		<a href="mailto:dhillen310@gmail.com">dhillen310@gmail.com</a>
*Derrick Royster, Public Safety, WHEMS & Alcosan	412-478-8876		<a href="mailto:derrickroyster@verizon.net">derrickroyster@verizon.net</a>
*Lauren Sivak, Health and Community Engagement	412-526-2671		<a href="mailto:laurensivak10@gmail.com">laurensivak10@gmail.com</a>

## MORE #s of IMPORTANCE

*Carol A. Donahue, Tax Collector	412-824-3283	<a href="mailto:cadon4946@hotmail.com">cadon4946@hotmail.com</a>
*Nick Evashavik, Solicitor	412-261-2813	<a href="mailto:nick@evashaviklaw.com">nick@evashaviklaw.com</a>
*Hoffman Kennels, Animal Control	412-468-5505	

## CRIME WATCH

Happy New Year, Neighbor! Please stay tuned for future meeting announcements for 2026 via Savvy Citizen and/or The Official Chalfant Friends & Family page.

Being involved in a Crime Watch program is important, even if you don't attend the meetings, because safety is a shared responsibility and participation goes beyond sitting in a room. Here's why your involvement still matters:

1. Extra eyes and ears in the Borough - Simply staying alert and reporting suspicious activity helps prevent crime. Criminals are less likely to prey in neighborhoods where residents are watchful. If something seems "off," it probably is. Call 911 and state you have a non-emergency situation. You may remain anonymous as well.
2. Deterrence effect - When people know a Crime Watch program exists, it sends a message that the community is organized and attentive, even if participation happens informally. Criminals hate nebbly neighbors. Install more lighting and cameras for enhanced safety. Report suspicious video clips captured by your camera to our police immediately.
3. Protecting vulnerable neighbors - Some neighbors may be elderly, busy, or unable to notice issues. Your awareness helps protect everyone, not just yourself. We need to be their voice! You may be saving a life.
4. Community connection without meetings - You can still participate by sharing information, looking out for neighbors' property, and communicating concerns. No meetings required! Since not everyone can attend meetings, Crime Watch

can adapt to your availability. Staying informed, following safety tips, and reporting concerns are meaningful contributions.

5. Building a culture of responsibility - Whether you own your home or rent, we all want a nice, safe place to live. When residents take ownership of safety, it creates trust and cooperation, which strengthens the entire community.

In short, being involved in Crime Watch, no matter how, helps create a safer, stronger, and more connected community. For people that say “it’s none of my business” in reality it is everyone’s business! If you want to ensure we live in a safe neighborhood please speak up.

If you suspect wrong-doing always call 911 first. (You may remain anonymous.) Some other numbers available are:

Elder Abuse	412-350-6905
Child Abuse	412-473-2000
Animal Abuse	412-847-7066
Suspected Drug Dealing	1-833-255-8477 or 877-726-6378

Remember SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. You play an important role in our neighborhood. Thanks to all, be safe, and keep those tips coming!

Sincerely, Chalfant Crime Watch

## POST HOLIDAY RESOURCES

For some people, the holidays and post-holidays can be an especially trying time. Councilwoman Joanne Bissell has compiled a partial list of resources if you need help with a particular issue. Sometimes a sympathetic ear is all it takes to start you on the road to healing.

\*888-796-8226 ReSolve Crises counseling and support referrals.

Intervention Services for adults, teens, and loved ones in Allegheny County.

\*988 National Suicide Prevention Line.

\*877-550-4007 Mental Health Warmline (not a crisis, but if you need Mental Health Peer support to talk to).

\*800-799-7233 Domestic Violence Hotline.

\*[Nami.org](http://Nami.org) The National Alliance on Mental Illness. For support on mental health.

\*[Findhelp.org](http://Findhelp.org) For resources for food, transportation, housing & education.

## TAX INFORMATION FOR 2026

Happy New Year!!!! Wishing All a Very Happy, Healthy, and Safe 2026! Some tips to keep in mind for the upcoming tax season.

1. ACT 50 (otherwise known as the Homestead Act) is available to property owners with primary residence in Allegheny County. The benefit of this exclusion is a reduction on your assessment for the County and School Tax. Applications can be found on line or you can contact me (Carol Donahue—412-824-3283) and I will mail you a form. This form must be filed before March 31, 2026. It's my advice that if filing, get this in to the County as early as possible.

2. ACT 77 Senior Tax Relief.

Allegheny County residents who meet these requirements are eligible for this Tax Relief. At least 60 years old. Have an annual income of \$30,000.00 or less. Have lived in and owned their current Allegheny County residence for at least 10 years.

BENEFIT: A 30% reduction in their county tax bill.

Information regarding this Senior Tax Relief can be obtained at Eastern Area Adult Services Center in Turtle (412-824-6880) or at the office of Abigail Salisbury located in Braddock (412-273 3400.) You will need paid tax bills when you go to apply. Please contact my office at least 3 days prior to your appointment if you need copies of your paid tax bills.

3. All Homeowners who have paid off their mortgage, refinanced or changed mortgage companies MUST inform the following groups of any mailing address change to receive your tax bills. 1) Allegheny County, 2) the local tax collector, and 3) your homeowner's insurance. Neglecting to supply a valid mailing address for your taxes does NOT excuse you for late tax payments.

4. The 2026 Chalfant Borough Taxes will be mailed on March 1, 2026. There WILL NOT be a tax increase for the year 2026.

5. Allegheny County 2026 taxes are mailed end of February 2026 and/or 1st of March 2026.

I can be reached at 412-824-3283 (weekdays 9AM to 3PM). If I am not available, please leave a voice mail and your call will be returned within 24 hours or less. If you call on the weekend, please leave a detailed message and your call will be returned on the following Monday. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by phone or email ([cadon4946@hotmail.com](mailto:cadon4946@hotmail.com)). Carol Donahue

## CALENDAR

### January 2026

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

### February 2026

2 Groundhog Day

14 St. Valentine's Day

16 Presidents Day

18 Ash Wednesday (Fish Fries)

### March 2026

2 Purim

8 Daylight Savings Time

17 St. Patrick's Day

20 First Day of Spring

29 Palm Sunday

## LIGHT UP NIGHT

Light Up Night 2025 was held on December 20th. Santa and Mrs. Claus made their annual visit accompanied by Sugar Plum the Elf. Unfortunately so did the Grinch. But our brave Police Officers, Petri and Cooley, quickly apprehended the reprobate and hauled him off to jail. Something tells me he will be back! The 2025 winners were: the Swinney family on West St. for a Classic Christmas; the Haenel family on Elizabeth Ave. for the Animated category and the Nolf family on Greenfield for a Griswold Christmas. Thanks to everyone who decorated!! See you in December.



Swinney



Haenel



Nolf

## A LETTER FROM OUR NEW MAYOR, OWEN LILAC

Dear residents of Chalfant Borough, I want to wish all of you a happy and safe new year. I am honored to serve as your new Mayor! I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for putting your trust in me. I am committed to working tirelessly for our community, listening to your voices and using your input to make decisions that will benefit all of us.

Together we can make Chalfant an even better place to live, work, and thrive! The safety and welfare of all the residents of our community is my priority. I am looking forward to working with Crime Watch, our experienced council, and our police department, all of whom I have tremendous faith in. Let's watch out for each other, especially the elderly and disadvantaged in our community.

If you have ideas or concerns please feel free to contact me at 412-443-7453.

Warm Regards,  
Owen Lilac

## JIM PERRY, A LEGACY

In the fall of 2013 I wrote an article for the Borough Newsletter about Mayor Jim Perry and his commitment to public service. Most people do not live up to that challenge, let alone for 48 years!! Now, 12 years later, I was asked to pen another article honoring Jim as he retires. As I am writing this, the realization that for the first time since 1977, Jim's experience, knowledge and valued counsel will not be available as he will no longer be involved in local government.

Jim served on Council, and as President of Council for 16 years before becoming Mayor in 2008. He was also involved in PTA, taught CCD at St. Maurice, Scouts and the Churchill area Recreation Board. Jim founded the Chalfant Athletic Association and served as its president for 25 years. Jim also served with the Mayor's Association and multiple other boards and associations.

Jim's greatest passion is family, having 4 children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Sadly, Jim's wife of 48 years, Donna, passed recently. Another passion is baseball which he coached and spent many years involved in as lead event staff supervisor with the Pittsburgh Pirates. His last passion is Chalfant Borough. Jim has been a true guardian and representative of the residents, always willing to listen and serve.

A current council member made the comment that fits Jim, "The Legend Has Retired." Mr. Mayor, Jim Perry, THANK YOU! A high bar has been set.

Chad Hoover  
Chalfant Borough, Council President

