

The Newton News



VOLUME 27, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2014

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DATES OF INTEREST:

- Municipal Election
May 13th
- Memorial Day
Town Hall Closed
May 26th
- Primary Election Day
June 3th
- Miss Newton,
Little Mr. & Miss Newton
June 13th 5:30pm
@ Project Self Sufficiency
- Firehouse 5k Run
June 14th
- Newton Day
June 14th
- Pool Opens
June 21st
- Council Reorganization Mtg.
July 1st, 6:00pm
- Independence Day
Town Hall Closed
July 4th

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The warmer spring and summer months usher in a busy time of year for all municipal departments as we wrap up winter activities and prepare for the variety of summer projects we have scheduled. Newton continues to be a small, vibrant and dynamic community of 8,000 residents with a proud history and brighter future.



This year we celebrate our 150th Anniversary of incorporation, which occurred on April 11, 1864. There will be a plethora of celebrations occurring on Newton Day - Saturday, June 14, 2014. During the day, great events will occur on Spring Street and around the Newton Square; in the evening, please join us for the best family-friendly fireworks display in our town's history. We hope to see you there!

Additionally, this summer looks to be another busy one with many important capital projects and acquisitions on the slate including: road improvements (Diller Avenue, Stuart Street, Townsend Street, Spring Street), lighting for alleyways and crosswalk upgrades, new DPW loader; replacement of E-803, courtroom improvements, pool filter replacement, and Memory Park lighting improvements, just to name a few.

In the Water/Sewer Utility, we will be looking to replace building roofs at the Sewer Treatment Plant, repairs/improvements to the Fox Hollow watermain, pump station improvements, and Water Filtration Plant filter replacement.

As you can see, a lot of thought goes into the planning of the wide variety of critical projects so we may preserve and protect the existing character of the community while enhancing areas that benefit the current and future quality of life for our residents.

Our Newton Town Council, staff, professionals and volunteers take great pride in their efforts to make Newton the special place that it is and are to be commended. **Together we will continue to make a difference.** Thank you once again for reading our publication and please accept my best wishes to you and yours for good health and happiness during the beautiful spring and summer months.

Yours for a Better Newton,

Thomas S. Russo, Jr.

Thomas S. Russo, Jr.
Town Manager

SUMMER HOURS

May 27th through August 29th
 Monday - Wednesday 8:30am to 4:30pm
 Thursday 8:30am to 6:30pm
 Friday 8:30am to 1:30pm

PS - I would like to personally recognize the years of service of Mayor Joseph A. Ricciardo. Mayor Ricciardo is not running for an additional term of office this year, and on behalf of all staff, residents, and business owners, I want to wish him well in his future personal and professional endeavors.

STAFF DIRECTORY

The staff of the Town of Newton is here to assist the public whenever possible. Please use the following list of extensions when dialing 973-383-3521 to contact a municipal staff member or department.

224 Manager's Office	
225 Tax Assessor	Public Works Garage 973-383-4160
226 Dep. Town Mgr./Q.P.A.	Recycling Center 973-383-1521
227 Planning/Zoning	Memory Park Pool 973-383-2810
228 Comm. Dev./Recreation	Sewer
231 Construction Department	Treatment Plant 973-383-2090
232 Municipal Clerk/Registrar	Police Department (Non-emergency) 973-383-2525
233 Treasurer	
236 Deputy Court Administrator	
239 Tax Collector	
240 Water/Sewer Collector	
241 Finance Officer/CFO	
242 Court Administrator	
244 Recreation Supervisor	
254 Human Resources	
256 Property Maintenance/ Code Enforcement	

OTHER NUMBERS

THE 2013-2014 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Joseph A. Ricciardo, Mayor
E. Kevin Elvidge, Deputy Mayor
Kristen S. Becker, Councilwoman
Daniel G. Flynn, Councilman
Sandra Lee Diglio, Councilwoman
Reorganization to be held July 1st

Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Manager
Lorraine A. Read, Clerk

RECYCLING NEWS...

The Town of Newton conducts monthly curbside collection of commingled recycling and newspaper. As a reminder containers placed curbside can be no larger than 35 gallons and must be at the curb no later than 7:30am on your designated pick up day.

Twice a year, in June and December the Town sends the "Newton Recycling News" to all its residents outlining recycling guidelines and the curbside collection schedule. This publication is also available on the Town's website at www.newtontownhall.com.

The Recycling Center hours are Thursday 8:00am to 4:00pm and Saturdays 8:00am to 1:00pm. Brush leaves and grass clippings are no longer accepted at the Recycling Center.

BEGINNING MAY 1ST, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT WILL NOW BE ACCEPTED AT THE RECYCLING CENTER

This includes but is not limited to Computers, Laptops, Monitors, Televisions, Desktop printers and printer/fax/copier/scanner combinations, Fax machines, DVD players, VCRs, and other video players (i.e. DVRs).

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S NEWS...

ELECTION NEWS

May 13th is the date for the Town's **Municipal Election**. Polls are open 6:00am to 8:00pm. As you may know, three Town Council seats are at stake in this election. The successful candidates in the May Municipal Election will be sworn into office at the annual Reorganization meeting of the Town Council to be held on July 1st in accordance with our non-partisan Council-Manager form of government. If you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Clerk at 973-383-3521 extension 232.

The **Primary Election** will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014.

The **General Election** will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

In New Jersey, any voter can vote by mail in any Election. Don't feel like going to the polls? Simply vote by mail. Now there is "no excuse" not to vote! A voter may vote by mail by completing the Application for Vote by Mail Ballot, and returning the application to the Sussex County Clerk, 83 Spring Street, Suite 304, Newton. The mail-in application is available online at www.sussexcountyclerk.com or call (973) 579-0900. To receive your ballot by mail, the application must be received by the County Clerk 7 days prior to the election. A voter may also apply in person to the County Clerk until 3:00 p.m. the day before the election.

FISHING PERMITS

Morris Lake will open for fishing on **Saturday, April 12th** weather permitting.

TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE

Newton's 2014 Town Wide Garage Sale will be held on **August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd**. Applications will be available at the Municipal Clerk's Office, 39 Trinity Street. To be placed on the map, the deadline for applications is Friday, July 25th. Maps will be available at the Clerk's Office and in the lobby of the Police Station.

2014 BUDGET ANALYSIS

"On April 14, 2014, the Town Council approved the 2014 Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program, which totals \$12,075,900. With State Aid and grant funding continuing to fluctuate, coupled with the reality of a tax base that is over 35% exempt, it is an ever increasing challenge to maintain appropriate service levels and sound fiscal policies while mitigating any significant municipal tax increases. Furthermore, with the hybrid reassessment of all properties being recently concluded, the new Net Taxable Valuation (NVT) for the Town of Newton is \$603,870,714, a reduction of \$83,219,696. The new average residential property assessment has gone down from the 2013 level of \$221,256 to the new 2014 level of **\$188,765**. Therefore, factoring in these new calculations and the budget and tax levy as proposed, **the municipal taxes on an average assessed home in 2013 of \$2,548 will go up to \$2,560 – an increase of \$1 a month or about 3 ½ cents a day.**

The Town maintains independent financial records for the Water and Sewer fund. Both functions are supported by customer billings and do not require property tax revenues to meet financial obligations.

The Water and Sewer budget is proposed at \$4,033,100 for the 2014 year. The Water and Sewer budget provides service to 2,633 accounts. The current rate structure continues to allow the Town to reserve funds for future capital upgrades and the retirement of existing debt. Most importantly, it allows the Town to intelligently use a fiscally conservative approach to budgeting as it relates to necessary infrastructure improvements.

Now that we have concluded the 2014 budget process, I want to thank all department heads and staff for their invaluable assistance in putting together these important documents. In closing, it is my belief that the budget appropriations and revenue projections, as contained in the 2014 budget for Newton, will enable the Town to meet the public's demand and need for critical services. Furthermore, the budget is structured as a fiscally responsible document to ensure that the financial well-being of our municipal government is preserved." - Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager



COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT

The Town of Newton will be hosting its fourth annual town-wide Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Service Clean-Up event on **Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 8:30am to Noon**, commencing at the Town of Newton Municipal Building located at 39 Trinity Street, Newton, NJ. One of the goals of the day is for residents, businesses, and groups to join the community as volunteers to help clean up the parks, schools, streets, and parking lots of litter and recyclables. Volunteers will also go to the homes of senior citizens, veterans, or disabled residents, to assist with various property maintenance and clean-up issues including, but not limited to, grass mowing and clipping, planting, weeding, recycling, painting, garbage pickup and removal.



The day starts at the Municipal Building at 8:30am with an appreciation continental breakfast (bagels, juice, coffee) and free t-shirt distribution for the first 100 participants, followed by assignments and instructions. Assignments are given according to age and safety. Garbage bags, rakes, and gloves will be provided. The Town will also be providing, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Recycling Center on South Park Drive, a Mobile Paper Shredding Unit from IntelliShred of Frenchtown, NJ, so residents can bring unwanted documents (no business documents) to be properly shredded and destroyed.

Following the conclusion of volunteer activities at Noon, there will be a social event with pizza and refreshments at Memory Park in Newton. Groups and organizations that have confirmed their participation thus far are: The Town of Newton, Christ Community Church of Newton, and The Lutheran Redeemer Church. New groups are welcomed to join this important effort.

If you are a group or individual interested in volunteering for the May 3rd event, or if you are a resident who needs assistance (senior citizen, disabled resident, or veteran), please contact the Town Manager's Office at 973-383-3521 x224 or via email at manager@newtontownhall.com. Requests for home assistance will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the final determination as to the appropriateness and feasibility of same shall remain with the Town Manager or his designee.

The Newton News is printed and distributed twice a year to keep all residents informed of the many programs and services offered by the Town. Please take a few moments to update your calendars on upcoming events and keep this edition of our newsletter handy for convenient reference in the future. For more timely updates, please visit our Town website at www.newtontownhall.com.

Editors ~ Terri Oswin & Thomas S. Russo, Jr.



CONSTRUCTION REMINDERS

As the weather is heading towards warmer temperatures and thoughts of outside activities, please be advised that any pool with the ability to hold 24 inches of water or greater requires zoning and construction permits, even **blow-up pools and temporary pools**. Pools require both a building and an electrical permit. The electrical installation to a pool is unique in the electrical code and a whole chapter is dedicated to the wiring. Pools also require a barrier, which is a minimum of 48 inches in height, with access to the pool through a self-closing/self-latching gate. Everything associated with the barrier around a pool is regulated.

Please check with the construction department before purchase of your pool if you have any questions. Any resident with an open pool permit must have final inspections from the Town before using the pool. Pools that are in use without final inspection will be subject to violations and penalties. Any questions, please call the Hardyston Township Construction Department at 973-823-7020 ext. 9001.



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

The Town of Newton takes pride in its community and to ensure that all property owners are entitled the highest quality of life standards. A reminder from Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement:

- Remove any exterior yard debris that may have accumulated over the winter, such as tree branches, leaves and brush;
- Repair damaged exterior home fixtures, such as, siding, gutters, down spouts, shutters, railings and fences;
- Prepare for continual lawn maintenance and weed removal;
- Address exterior painted surfaces that are peeling, faded or unpainted.

Contact the Code Enforcement Officer, Nanette Crift, at ncrift@newtontownhall.com, with any questions or concerns or call 973-383-3521, ext. 256.

ZONING REMINDERS

The Planning/Zoning Office provides professional assistance to the various Town departments, Planning Board, as well as technical support for Town property owners and developers. Areas of responsibility include:

- Zoning information such as permitted uses, setback requirements, sign, fence, swimming pools, garage and shed regulations. The building permits for these improvements must be obtained from the Construction Department.
- Any applications before the Planning Board are available for review in the Planning and Zoning Office.
- Information can be obtained on how to file an application with the Planning Board.
- Site plan and subdivision information and applications are available.
- Check on the status of an existing Planning Board application.

The Zoning Officer, Katherine Citterbart would like to reminder residents that zoning permits are required for the following:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Fences | • Retaining Walls | • Signs |
| • Sheds | • Additions | • Temporary Storage Containers |
| • Pools (including blue temporary) | • Alterations | • Changes of Use |
| • Decks | • Conversions | • Changes of Commercial Tenant |

***** The parking of vehicles on areas other than driveways is prohibited in front yards of single family detached and duplex residential dwellings. *****

Ms. Citterbart can be reached at 973-383-3521 ext. 227 or at kcitterbart@newtontownhall.com.

POLICE DESK

In our continuing effort to empower citizens to act in partnership with the police in matters of public safety, we're sharing important information with residents to help draw attention to a pervasive problem facing all of New Jersey. The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (www.gcada.nj.gov) has recently described that, "The skyrocketing use of heroin and other opiates has become the number one health care crisis confronting New Jersey. Drug overdose deaths now surpass the number of deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents." The report further states that, "In recent years, NJ has experienced a dramatic surge in heroin and opiate abuse, particularly among persons aged 18-25." Substance abuse, including prescription medication misuse, often leads to criminal activity and too often also leads to death through fatal overdoses, drugged driving and suicide.

This problem does not exclude the Town of Newton or Sussex County. In fact, Newton Police Detectives are continually engaged in ongoing investigations into drug distribution often working together with the County Guns, Gangs & Narcotics Task Force. In the last three years in Newton there were 76 narcotics-related arrests made in cooperation with the Task Force. Our uniformed officers routinely encounter calls for service involving narcotics; such as on traffic stops, disputes, prescription fraud cases and medical calls. The unfortunate trend is that drug activity is increasing each year and so is the associated criminal activity and related deaths.



While we remain steadfast in our investigative and enforcement efforts, we also strongly support public awareness, youth programs like D.A.R.E. and working together with professionals from our schools, prevention/treatment centers and local pharmacies to help address this problem in our community. We encourage

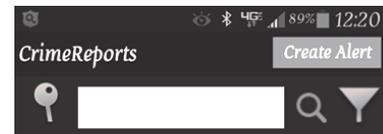
residents to visit websites such as www.centerforprevention.org/ and www.drugfreenj.org/ to learn to recognize telltale signs of opiate abuse and who to turn to for help.

Project Medicine Drop, located at Police Headquarters, is another way to help prevent abuse or diversion of prescription pills. Dispose of your unwanted, expired medications safely, conveniently and anonymously. We arrange for their destruction which is done at no cost to residents through an agreement with the Covanta Energy Corporation.

Please check out the Newton Police Department website for information about Project Medicine Drop as well as the latest activities, initiatives and services provided by the Police Department. You can sign up to receive our press releases related to arrests, investigations, road closures and other

public safety information. You can also choose to "follow" us on Twitter and "Like" us on the Department Facebook page.

We encourage you to stay alert and call the Police Department if you see anything suspicious or have any questions or concerns. Citizens can also report suspicious activity or provide information about a crime via text message, a link on our website and Facebook page as well as through mobile apps. *However, in an emergency or to report a crime in progress, always call 9-1-1.*



Check out police activity in your neighborhood as it is published on a daily basis to the Department's website, complete with a map of the Town. Residents can sign up to receive alerts when something happens near where they live or work.

Finally, please exercise caution as you drive through Town. Pedestrian safety is paramount. Motorists who observe a pedestrian within a crosswalk must stop and **stay** stopped until the pedestrian has finished crossing the roadway. Pedestrian safety will continue to receive heightened enforcement by our Officers. Pedestrians should also be mindful of the crosswalk laws and just like distracted drivers; pedestrians should give proper attention while walking for their own safety.

We're here to help keep the Town of Newton safe and we are most successful with your assistance. So please call or stop in at the Newton Police Department if we can be of any assistance to you and to report any possible suspicious activity. We also hope to see you at one of our upcoming "Coffee With a Cop" events; it's a great opportunity to get to know your hometown Officers in a relaxed setting.

EMERGENCY: DIAL 9-1-1

Telephone (973) 383-2525

39 Trinity Street

Newton, NJ 07860

www.NewtonPolice.org

RECREATION

ONGOING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

Zumba Gold:

Newton Recreation, in collaboration with the Sussex County YMCA, is hosting a senior exercise program at Firehouse #1 on Mill Street. The program is open to all Sussex County senior citizens and runs on Tuesdays from 9:15am to 10:00am and Fridays from 10:45am-11:30am. Contact Suzie Givone at 973-383-3521 ext. 228 for more information.

Miss Newton, Little Miss Newton and Little Mr. Newton:

Applications will be available beginning April 21st at Town Hall, through Merriam Avenue School and at Newton High School. The event will be held June 13th at Project Self Sufficiency beginning at 5:30pm. Little Miss and Little Mr. contestants must be ages 5-7 by Oct. 1, 2013. Miss Newton contestants must be between the ages of 17-21.

Newton Pool Registration:

We have extended our hours for 2014 to help you make the most of your summer. We will be open June 21st through September 1st. We will now be open from 10:00am-7:00pm (with the exception of swim meet nights). ***New for 2014!!! All family memberships will receive one free session of swim lessons!*** Swim lessons will be held in the mornings and the evenings to accommodate your busy schedules. **All registration will take place at Town Hall. Registration will no longer be available at the pool.** Visit us on Facebook at "Town of Newton Recreation" for more information.

Paint the Town RED, WHITE AND BLUE:

In celebration of our 150th year of incorporation, The Town of Newton Recreation Department and the Greater Newton Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a house decorating contest. Decorations should be in place prior to May 26th (Memorial Day) and remain in place through July 4th. Newton senior citizens will get a tour of the Town and choose the most patriotic display on June 13th. The winner of our \$75 Chamber of Commerce gift certificate will be announced during Newton Day on June 14th. (Need not be present to win.)

Traditional Korean Hapkido:

Give your child the tools for success: **Focus, Self-Confidence, Discipline and Respect.** The Town of Newton has partnered with the Iron Temple School of Mixed Martial Arts to bring Traditional Hapkido to Halsted School. The program is open to students in grades K-8. The next 8 week session runs from April 29th-June 17th from 3:00pm-4:00pm in the Halsted School gym. \$59 per child. All participants will receive a 10% discount at the Iron Temple should they choose to continue training. Uniforms are available for purchase for \$25. Pre-register by calling Suzie Givone at 973-383-3521 ext. 228.

TAX COLLECTION

TAX BILLS

Tax bills for the Final 2014/Preliminary 2015 will be mailed in late July 2014. Bills are mailed to all homeowners at this time each year. This bill will include payment stubs for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2014 (August and November) as well as the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2015 (February and May). The annual mailing of bills follows the certification of the tax rate by the Sussex County Board of Taxation.

Any homeowner who has had a change to their mailing address should notify the tax office, in writing, prior to July 1, 2014 to ensure your bill is mailed to you in a timely fashion. Any questions regarding the tax bill mailing or to change your mailing address may be directed to 973-383-3521 extension 239.

NEW JERSEY PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT (PTR)

SENIOR FREEZE PROGRAM

The 2013 Form PTR New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement ("Senior Freeze") applications were mailed in late February 2014. You must file your application no later than June 2, 2014 to be considered for this reimbursement from the State of New Jersey. For information regarding this program please call 1-800-882-6597 Monday through Friday (except holidays) between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:30PM.

If you are a first time filer, there are a limited number of applications available from the Tax Office (ground floor) of the Municipal Building or you may call the State at 1-800-882-6597.

NEWTON FIRST AID SQUAD

The Newton First Aid Squad (NFAS) would like to thank the residents for their continued support and we would also like to say thank you to the volunteers who give so much of their time serving the community. Anyone interested in becoming a NFAS volunteer, please contact the Squad at 973-383-3377. Our Fund Drive has been mailed and we ask that you please consider a monetary contribution. We are also scheduling our coin tosses so please look for them.

Our Cadet Program has recently been re-organized and high school age students who have an interest in the medical field are invited to join. Being a part of the Cadet Program gives you the opportunity to be trained in emergency medical situations. It is a great way to learn about the many opportunities available to you upon graduation and can help you decide upon a career. If interested, please call Sandy, Cadet Advisor, at 973-383-4796.

BRUSH PICK-UP

****PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE 2014 SCHEDULE FOR PICKUP****

Pickup will follow the Recycling pickup schedule. **Zone 1** will be picked up the week of May 5th, **Zone 2** will be picked up the week of May 12th, **Zone 3** will be picked up the week of May 19th, and **Zone 4** will be picked up the week of May 27th. Please cooperate by making sure brush is placed at the curb **by 7:00 am**. There will be no exceptions.

Tree limbs must be smaller than 4 inches in diameter. The cleanup is intended for residents to clear away naturally occurring fallen winter brush and light pruning. Property owners are responsible for felled trees. Non-chippable items including **leaves**, vines, stumps, and building material **will not** be collected during the spring. All yard waste can be taken to the Sussex County Municipal Authority in Lafayette for disposal (973-579-6998 or www.scmua.org).

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

Work will commence this summer on the installation of a new 20" HDPE watermain in Fox Hollow Lake, Sparta Township. This watermain will replace the 100+ year old cast iron pipe that was installed back in the late 1800's. The Town of Newton is working with USDA Rural Development for a low interest loan and grant funding for this project. It is anticipated this project will be completed by the fall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The following roads are tentatively scheduled for resurfacing in 2014: Diller Avenue, Spring Street, Stuart Street, and Townsend Street. Madison Street between Spring Street and Halsted Street received a grant through Safe Routes to School for new sidewalks and resurfacing.

The new senior shuttle bus will be arriving this summer!

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

The Newton Fire Department would like to remind everyone of some important **safety tips** when grilling during this barbeque season:

- Designate the grilling area a "No Play Zone", keeping kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Before using, position your grill at least 3 feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes. Grills should not be used under covered porches or decks.
- Only use starter fluid made for barbecue grills when starting a fire in a charcoal grill.
- Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line to be sure it is working properly and not leaking.

- Never use a match to check for leaks. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.
- Never bring a barbecue grill indoors, or into any unventilated space! This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

This program is open to all residents 14-17 years of age. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity to gain insight into the profession of firefighting and other public safety careers. This program will provide personal growth and self-confidence through education and training. For more information please contact Jeff Diener at 973-383-4746. Please leave your name and contact information.

Town of Newton
39 Trinity Street
Newton, NJ 07860

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NEWTON

City Style. Country Cool.

www.newtontownhall.com