

The Newton News



VOLUME 27, ISSUE 2

FALL 2014

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DATES OF INTEREST

- Halloween Parade
Oct. 31
- Fall Leaf & Brush Pickup
Nov. 3 thru Dec. 5
- Election Day
Nov. 4
- Veterans' Day
Town Hall Closed
Nov. 11
- NMC Festival of Lights
Nov. 15
- Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed
Nov. 27 & 28
- GNCC Holiday Parade
Nov. 29
- Senior Holiday Dinner
Dec. 7
- Municipal Tree Lighting
Dec. 8
- Christmas Holiday
Town Hall Closed
Dec. 24 & 25

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

I have just concluded my sixth year as your Town Manager and I must say I continue to be blessed to lead such a fine community. We have many exciting updates to talk about so let's get down to business.

The Town unveiled a new marketing campaign: City Style, Country Cool. This branding will be included in all current and future marketing endeavors. The Town also proudly celebrated its 150th Anniversary during the Newton Day festival in June. As part of the 150th, volunteers created a fantastic archway for downtown Spring Street. The archway will stay up throughout the remainder of the calendar year.

In shared services, the Town investigated a regionalization opportunity for Public Works with our friends in Andover Boro and Andover Township. As of this writing the report is still being compiled. We also signed an agreement with our colleagues in Byram Township to share our expert certified tax collector. Newton will continue to explore all shared service avenues in order to provide value to our current and future customers.

In staffing news, a new department of code enforcement was established with two part-time employees charged with handling the ever-increasing amount of property maintenance issues. Several employee retirements are scheduled for later this year in other departments, causing us to reallocate resources as necessary.

In economic news, the Town is continuing to investigate the feasibility of a special improvement district (SID). After an unsuccessful attempt this spring, I am going to be presenting a PowerPoint presentation this winter with a different option for Council consideration. Please check the town website for more details. The town went through a refunding of various debt obligations, saving Newton taxpayers over \$250,000. Permanent free parking was implemented on Saturdays in the five municipal parking lots, encouraging patrons to shop, dine and relax at our various boutiques and eateries. All approvals were finally obtained for the Grande Villaggio townhome development behind the Quick Chek property on Sparta Avenue, and the Hicks Avenue redevelopment plan was amended to allow upscale townhomes and retail on Sparta Avenue and Hicks Avenue. Finally, a letter went out to tax-exempt properties throughout Newton, asking them to voluntarily contribute towards the cost of existing municipal services such as police, fire and EMS.

Please remember to support our local small businesses – they are the engine which drives the economy. We encourage those with a passion for retail to consider opening up shop in Newton. Remember: The key to keeping residential taxes from escalating at an unreasonable pace is the pursuit of quality commercial ratables, and our staff is committed to being business and customer-friendly so individuals and companies are comfortable investing their capital in Newton's commercial areas.

Our 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 this beautiful fall season and during the upcoming holidays.

Yours for a Better Newton,

 Thomas S. Russo, Jr.
 Town Manager

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

226 Deputy Town Manager

227 Planning/Zoning

228 Comm. Dev./Recreation

232 Municipal Clerk

233 Treasurer

236 Deputy Court Administrator

239 Tax Collector

240 Water/Sewer Collector

241 Finance Officer/CFO

242 Court Administrator

243 Fire Prevention Secretary

254 Human Resources

256 Code Enforcement

OTHER NUMBERS

Public Works Garage 973-383-4160

Recycling Center 973-383-1521

Memory Park Pool 973-383-2810

Wastewater

Treatment Plant 973-383-2090

Police Department

(Non-emergency) 973-383-2525

THE 2014-2015 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

E. Kevin Elvidge, Mayor
Daniel G. Flynn, Deputy Mayor
Kristen S. Becker, Councilwoman
Sandra Lee Diglio, Councilwoman
Wayne F. Levante, Councilman

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

GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 2014

The November General Election is Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

Polls are open 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Polling Places in Newton:

- #1 & #2 Newton Fire House
22 Mill St.
- #3 & #5 Hose & Chem. Co.
56 Woodside Ave.
- #4 NFAS Building
8 Sussex St.
- #6 First United Methodist Church
111 Ryerson Ave.



TAX SALE

The Town of Newton's annual tax sale will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 10:30 AM at the Municipal Building, 39 Trinity Street. The sale will be real estate taxes, water and sewer charges and other municipal charges against properties existing on December 31, 2013.



Said sale will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey State Statute R.S. 54:5-19 to 120 and R.S. 40:24A-21 and Chapter 91 Law 1974.

For more information please contact Linda Ann Roth, Certified Tax Collector at 973-383-3521 ext. 239 or lroth@newtontownhall.com.

FINANCE NEWS

Year End Penalty for Delinquent Taxes

Pursuant to R.S. 54:4-67 the Town of Newton imposes a 6% year-end penalty on all accounts in which the delinquencies exceed \$10,000. At the end of the year the 6% penalty is added to the total delinquency and carried forward into the next year. Interest is then charged according to Statute.

Reminders

The 4th quarter property taxes are due on November 1, 2014. Payments must be received by 4:30 PM on Monday, November 10, 2014. If taxes are not paid by November 10th, they will be considered delinquent and interest will be charged back to November 1st. in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-67.



ONLINE PAYMENTS



Residents may pay their tax and utility bills online. Go to www.newtontownhall.com, click the "Online Payments" link on the right side of the homepage and follow the prompts.

A fee of \$2.00 is applied for ACH (e-check) users per transaction and for Credit Card payments a 3% fee does apply.

FREE RABIES CLINIC

The Town of Newton is once again sponsoring a free rabies clinic on January 3, 2015 at the Newton Municipal Garage, 117 Moran Street from 9:00 AM to Noon.

Dog and Cat license fees are:

Dogs: \$15.00 Spayed/Neutered Cats: \$12.00
\$18.00 Non-Spayed/Non-Neutered

Late fee is \$5.00 each month per dog beginning 2/1/15.

NOTE: The State of New Jersey mandates that the current rabies vaccination cannot expire before November 1st of the current year (2015). Dogs can safely be vaccinated every two years.

License application forms may be downloaded at www.newtontownhall.com/licenses.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

The Public Works crew will be picking up Christmas trees beginning December 29, 2014 through January 9, 2015. All trees must be free of bases, lights and ornaments.

FALL LEAF & BRUSH PICKUP

The Town of Newton announces that it will combine a brush pick-up with the annual leaf collection program in November. The Public Works crew will begin the Collection Program on Monday, November 3, 2014 and will continue until December 5, 2014. The leaf and brush pickup will follow the Recycling Zone schedule for the entire week.

Please put the bags and brush out at the curb line and not in the street. This will avoid interference with traffic and possible breakage of the bags. Tree limbs must be smaller than 4 inches in diameter (no exceptions). The clean-up is intended for residents to clear away naturally occurring fallen brush and light pruning. Property owners are responsible for felled trees.

The leaves and brush will be taken to the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) facility for disposal. SCMUA will only accept leaves in biodegradable bags. The bags can be purchased at local home improvement stores. Residents may take leaves/brush to SCMUA for disposal themselves, but a small fee may be charged by the County facility.



WATER AND SEWER TIPS



Did you know that a running toilet uses a gallon and a half of water a minute? A toilet that continuously runs after being flushed is the most common reason for elevated usage on a water bill and should be the first thing to consider if you bill is high.

Did you know you can have a water leak and not actually see or hear water leaking? Sometimes leaks go unnoticed between meter readings. If your usage seems unusually high when you receive your bill, take a look at the actual meter inside the premises. If no water is running, the red dial on the meter should be still. If it is moving, even slightly, it could indicate a leak and you should call a plumber.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSING:

Chapter 133., Article V of the Code of the Town of Newton requires that any establishment in the Town of Newton selling any food or drink, including prepackaged goods must obtain a Food Establishment Permit from the Office of the Municipal Clerk. Permits shall expire on January 31st of each year, Renewal forms are mailed in November and are due into the Municipal Clerk's office by December 31, 2014. Any late submissions are subject to a \$75 a month late fee beginning February 1st.

Contact the Municipal Clerk, Lorraine A. Read, at clerk@newtontownhall.com with any questions or concerns or call 973-383-3521 ext. 232.

RECREATION HAPPENINGS

Music and More: Sing, dance and learn about rhythm and rhyme while exploring musical instruments. Parents stay for the class and enjoy helping their child grow through the magic of music. Fridays from 9:00 AM–9:45 AM at the Newton Firehouse #1 on Mill Street. Pre-registration is required by contacting the Sussex County YMCA at 973-209-9622. Stop in and try your first class for FREE! Session 1 is underway, \$53 per 8 week session.

Hapkido: "The way of coordinated inner power" Hapkido is the perfect discipline for those who want to learn a versatile and effective martial art. With dynamic throws, joint manipulations and high impact striking, Hapkido is an effective and practical self-defense system. Ages: Kindergarten-3rd Grade
Session I: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:15 PM to 4:00 PM October 21st–December 18th, Newton Firehouse #1 on Mill Street (No class Nov. 4th and Nov. 27th). The fee is \$139.

Radio City Music "Christmas Spectacular" Bus Trip: Join us for a day in NYC. Sunday, November 30, 2014. Arrive at the Park and Ride (behind Shoprite) in Newton at 9:45 AM. The bus will leave at 10:00 AM. 4:00 PM show. This will give you lots of time to shop and have lunch. Bus will depart at 5:30 PM from Radio City Music Hall. Arrive back at Park and Ride at 7:00 PM. Please call 973-383-3521 ext. 228 to reserve your seats. Tickets are \$80.00. First come, first serve basis.

Senior Exercise Program: Tuesdays at 9:15 AM to 10:00 AM and Fridays 10:45 AM to 11:30 AM at the Newton Firehouse #1 on Mill Street. Tuesday's and Friday's classes are Zumba Gold. It's a dance-fitness class that feels friendly, and most of all, fun. Presented by Newton Recreation Department and the Sussex County YMCA. Pre-register by calling the Newton Recreation Department at 973-383-3521 ext. 228.

Weekly Senior Social: Volunteers from the Recreation Commission will host seniors at Summit Pond for a weekly social. Volunteers will have cards and games like checkers and chess. The Senior Shuttle will provide transportation. Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to Noon at Summit Pond Pavilion (weather permitting). Contact Suzie at 973-383-3521 ext. 228 to sign up.

Senior Dinner: Sunday, December 7th, Noon to 2:00 PM at Newton High School. Join us for a delicious turkey dinner, a short holiday concert by the Newton High School Madrigals and a sing-along with Cub Scout Pack 85.

Holiday Tree Lighting: Monday December 8th, 6:00 PM. Join us for a sing-along at Town Hall before Santa arrives at 6:20 PM.

Newton Junior Athletic League: The NJAL works to provide excellent youth athletic programs staffed entirely by committed volunteers. Please consider assisting the NJAL with their mission either by volunteering or assisting with their fundraising efforts. The NJAL meetings are held at Newton High School room B1. Upcoming meetings are December 5th and February 6th at 8:00 PM.

Parents Who Host, Lose the Most: The Action Alliance, The Center for Prevention and Counseling and Newton High School are partnering to bring this informative program to the community. Legal experts explore the repercussions of hosting underage drinking. Compliments of the Action Alliance, the NHS Prom Committee will receive a donation for every parent who attends this program. January 14, 2015 7:00 PM at Newton High School Auditorium. Snow Date: January 21, 2015.

OPERATION SANTA

The Newton Fire Department will be hosting the 9th Annual "Operation Santa" on Saturday, December 20th. With the help of the Newton Fire Department, Santa will visit residents the Saturday before Christmas beginning at 3:00 PM. Santa will drop by your home to see your child(ren) for a donation of \$10.00 for the first child and \$5.00 for each additional child. Santa will arrive on the FIRE TRUCK and deliver YOUR GIFT from Santa. (You must drop off your present for your child(ren) at the #2 Fire House, located at the corner of Woodside and Lawnwood Avenues between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM on December 16th or 18th). Registration forms can be picked up at Town Hall or at www.newtontownhall.com beginning November 1st. Participants must live in the Town of Newton. For more information, please call Jason Miller at 973-383-4746. Please leave a message: "ATTN: Chief Jason Miller, Operation Santa" with your full name and phone number.

RECENT ORDINANCES

The Newton Town Council recently adopted several ordinances of interest:

Ordinance 2013-27 established if any individual or business has a check or written instrument to the town returned two (2) times, any future payments must be tendered by cash, certified or cashier's check.

Ordinance 2013-28 made the traffic flow of Art Alley one-way, from Spring St. to Trinity St.

Ordinance 2013-29 required background checks on all recreational volunteers.

Ordinance 2014-14 established free parking on Saturdays in all municipal parking lots.

To review Town ordinances that have recently been adopted visit our website at www.newtontownhall.com/ordinances.

ZONING CORNER

ZONING REMINDERS

The Town of Newton Zoning Officer, Katherine Citterbart would like to remind you:

- ◆ Off-street parking on areas other than driveways is prohibited in the front yard of single-family detached and duplex residential dwellings.
- ◆ No planting (shrubs/hedges/tall flowers), fence, sign, structure or other obstruction to vision higher than three feet shall be erected or maintained within a site triangle at street corners.
- ◆ A zoning permit is required before using or allowing the use of any structure, building, or land and before changing the use of any building property or allowing a change of use of any building or property, or part thereof.
- ◆ When renovating or rehabilitation calls for a dumpster or temporary storage container / P.O.D. a zoning permit is required.

Contact the Zoning Officer at 973-383-3521 ext. 227 or email kcitterbart@newtontownhall.com with any questions or concerns.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

The Town of Newton is committed to maintaining quality neighborhoods and a sound community environment. Please be reminded:

- ◆ Continue lawn maintenance, weed and leaf removal;
- ◆ Remove dead or dying trees
- ◆ Repair damaged exterior home fixtures, such as gutters and down spouts
- ◆ Repair entryway steps and railings

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT

The Community Development Department has been involved with several projects being considered by the Newton Town Council. The Town Engineer along with the Deputy Town Manager have been working on a drainage study from Fairview Avenue to Liberty Street. Meetings were held with various property owners to discuss their issues. The surveyor from the engineer's office has been on site recently and the drainage study map will be put together for a presentation in the winter to the residents within this area.

The Redevelopment Plan for the McGuire's site is ongoing and should be ready shortly for review by both the Town Council and Planning Board.

Next Spring/Summer Spring Street and Trinity Street will be milled and paved. The Town Council has requested the Town Engineer design the Spring Street portion of the project from the Theater to the square as one-way to provide additional parking on Spring Street for the various businesses. Traffic will be addressed on Trinity Street with traffic signals being placed at the intersections of Moran and Trinity Street and Union Place and Trinity Street. The Town is still awaiting NJDOT approval for this plan since it will affect the traffic flow of State Highway Route 206 and State Highway Route 94 around the square.

RECYCLING NEWS

The Town of Newton conducts monthly curbside collection of co-mingled 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 7:30 AM on your designated pick up day. **Recyclables must be rinsed** before placing at curbside, failure to do so will result in your recyclables not being picked up.

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.

Recycling center hours are Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Saturdays 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Brush leaves and grass clippings are no longer accepted at the Recycling Center.



FROM THE POLICE DESK...

How many times have you noticed some police activity in Town and wondered what was happening?

Did someone get hurt? Was there a break-in? Should you be concerned? Perhaps, you'll pick up the newspaper to see if there has been anything reported.

The trouble is, very few incidents make it into the newspaper and residents are left to decipher assumptions that are spread by word of mouth. If only there was a way for everyone to get accurate and timely information about police activity.

We have an app for that!



report non-emergent issues to the Police.

The app is free and it couldn't be easier to download and start using right away. Scan the QR code at the bottom of this page with your smartphone to bring you to our mobile website and see links to download to your Apple or Android device.

If you don't have a smartphone, all of these services are also available on our website.



Knowledge and information is empowering. This app will help residents, schools and business owners to stay safe and prevent criminal activity. And by doing so, it helps the Police Department be more effective.

The Newton Police Department is always looking to improve our services utilizing modern methods and recognized best practices. Our members regularly receive quality training to maintain the highest skills and professionalism.

Please visit our website to learn about all the work that members of the Police Department perform in Town – from conducting challenging investigations, to locating missing children and the elderly, helping the injured or ill, and to apprehending burglars caught in the act; their dedication is evident. Look for our next “Coffee With a Cop” event too, a great opportunity to meet with Officers in a relaxed, informal setting to talk about community issues.



The Newton Police Department recently began promoting its new app for smartphones. Called CityConnect, the app allows users to see local crime data, police activity and registered sex offenders who are on the NJ State Internet Registry. You can send anonymous tips (with photos), sign up for automatic crime updates and browse our social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, where we publish valuable information. Quickly access our news blog to see important news releases and check out more in-depth information about our services with an easy link to our website. There is also a handy feature that enables users to “Report a Problem” to

“Proactive, progressive and professional – Newton PD enhances the police-community partnership with its CityConnect app to improve public safety.”

Please visit our website www.NewtonPolice.org for additional information about the Police Department, our programs and our activities. Make sure to check out our Facebook page, Twitter and sign up for our news releases. Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Our aim is to be ever increasingly effective at making Newton a safe and great place to raise your family or operate a business.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: you name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cleanup costs.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

As a resident, business, or other member of the Newton community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water:

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- ◆ Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- ◆ Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- ◆ Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- ◆ Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- ◆ If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.

- ◆ Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local bodies of water and the water is not treated.
- ◆ If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- ◆ Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.

Keep pollution out of storm drains

- ◆ Recycle used motor oil.
- ◆ Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local bodies of water.
- ◆ Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.
- ◆ Clean and plentiful water is important to our families, our environment, our economy and our quality of life. Did you know that animal waste from pets can pollute our waters? When left on the ground, pet waste is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into storm drains that carry it to our rivers, lakes, bays, the ocean and drinking water. Animal waste contains a high concentration of nutrients as well as bacteria and disease-causing microorganisms that can cause problems.

Clean up after your pet

- ◆ Follow the Town of Newton pet-waste rules.
- ◆ Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or people's property.
- ◆ Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.
- ◆ Dispose of the unwrapped pet waste in a toilet.
- ◆ Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

Don't litter

- ◆ Place litter in trash receptacles.
- ◆ Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- ◆ Participate in community cleanups.

Dispose of yard waste properly

- ◆ Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- ◆ Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- ◆ Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.



Town of Newton
39 Trinity Street
Newton, NJ 07860

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

PERMIT NO. 194
SPARTA, NJ 07871

THE NEWTON FIRE MUSEUM

The Newton Fire Museum is located in the historic Spring Street Firehouse at 150 Spring Street. For 35 years, the museum has showcased many treasures from our community's history.

Recently, deteriorating masonry and other structural issues have given rise to serious safety concerns which forced our museum to close its doors.

The Newton Town Council has committed financial resources to improve the exterior condition of the building and roof. However, donations are needed to make the necessary interior improvements.

How you can help: By making a donation. The Newton Fire Museum, Inc., is a registered 501©(3) nonprofit organization and your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law. Donations made payable to the Newton Fire Museum may be sent to:

Newton Fire Museum, 150 Spring Street, Newton, NJ 07860-2009.



THANK YOU!

ACTION ALLIANCE

The Action Alliance is a group made up of educators, police officers, professionals, clergy and concerned citizens. Together we are working to reduce the accessibility of drugs and alcohol in our community and promote healthy lifestyles. We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 8:30 AM at Newton Town Hall in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. Light refreshments will be provided. For details contact Kerry at kdeckert@newtontownhall.com.