

# The Newton News



VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2015

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Staff Directory .....	2
Municipal Clerk.....	2
Community Development .....	2
Water & Sewer Utility Update	2
<hr/>	
2015 Budget Analysis.....	3
Analysis.....	3
Police Desk.....	3
<hr/>	
Brush Pickup .....	4
Fire Chief's Corner .....	4
Tax Collection .....	4
<hr/>	
Alarm Registration .....	5 & 6
<hr/>	
Construction Reminders.....	7
Property Maintenance .....	7
Planning & Zoning.....	7
<hr/>	
Recreation .....	8

## DATES OF INTEREST:

- Memorial Day  
Town Hall Closed  
May 25th
- Primary Election Day  
June 2nd
- Miss Newton,  
Little Mr. & Miss Newton  
June 5th 5:30pm  
@ Project Self Sufficiency
- Firehouse 5k Run  
June 13th
- Newton Day  
June 13th
- Pool Opens  
June 20th
- Council Reorganization Mtg.  
July 1st, 6:00pm
- Independence Day  
Observed  
Town Hall Closed  
July 3rd

## 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.

Some of the capital projects that will be underway shortly include but are not limited to:

- ◇ Paving Spring Street and making it one-way (From the Theatre to the Green)
- ◇ Paving Trinity Street and adding two new traffic lights (Moran and Union)
- ◇ Lighting improvements throughout the downtown and surrounding areas
- ◇ Finalizing the purchase of the replacement for Fire Department Apparatus E-803
- ◇ Purchasing a new ambulance for the First Aid Squad
- ◇ Repairing the Fox Hollow watermain and Sparta Glen
- ◇ Pursuing increased water allocation from NJDEP for Morris Lake

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.  
Town Manager

## SUMMER HOURS

May 26th through September 4th  
Monday - Wednesday 8:30am to 4:30pm  
Thursday 8:30am to 6:30pm  
Friday 8:30am to 1:30pm



**NEWTON**  
*City Style. Country Cool.*

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](http://www.newtontownhall.com). Editors ~ Terri Oswin & Thomas S. Russo, Jr.

# 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 Dep. Town Mgr./Q.P.A.
- 227 Planning/Zoning
- 228 Comm. Dev./Recreation
- 231 Construction Department
- 232 Municipal Clerk/Registrar
- 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

- Public Works Garage 973-383-4160
- Recycling Center 973-383-1521
- Memory Park Pool 973-383-2810
- Sewer
- 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 Levante, Councilman

*Reorganization to be held July 1st*

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

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The two big resurfacing projects for 2015 are Spring Street and Trinity Street. Work is proposed to occur this summer. Spring Street will become one-way from the intersection of Union Place, Madison St & Spring Street to Main Street. As part of this project there will be an additional 24 parking spaces placed on Spring Street as well as brick paver crosswalks. Trinity Street project involves the placement of two new traffic signals, one at the intersection of Trinity and Moran Street and one at Union Place and Trinity Street.

## MUNICIPAL CLERK'

The **Primary Election** will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

The **General Election** will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

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. Obtain the mail-in application online at [www.sussexcountyclerk.com](http://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 11<sup>th</sup>**, (ice on the lake must be completely melted). **Fees: \$20.00 for residents; \$15.00 for residents over 62 yrs. of age.**

### TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE

This year, the Town will hold their annual **Town-Wide Garage Sale** on **August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>**. Permits are required at a cost of **\$15.00** (for all three days). Applications will be available at the Town Clerk's Office, 39 Trinity Street. In order to be placed on the map, the deadline for applications is Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Maps will be available at the Town Clerk's Office and in the lobby of the Police Station.



## WATER AND SEWER UTILITY UPDATE

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 has received funding through USDA in the form of a low interest loan and grant funding for this project. It is anticipated to have this project completed by late fall.

The water restrictions for the Town of Newton were lifted on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

## 2015 BUDGET ANALYSIS

*"On April 13, 2015, the Town Council approved the 2015 Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program, which totals \$12,045,000. With State Aid stagnant 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 \$604,669,025, an increase of \$798,311. The new average residential property assessment has gone down from the 2014 level of **\$188,765** to the new 2015 level of **\$188,205**. Therefore, factoring in these new calculations and the budget and tax levy as proposed, **the municipal taxes on an average assessed home in 2014 of \$2,560 will go up to \$2,625 in 2015 - an increase of about \$5 a month.***

*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 \$4,028,000 for the 2015 year. The Water and Sewer budget provides service to 2,638 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 2015 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 2015 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*



## THE POLICE DESK

Following the model of any successful organization, our leadership continues to seek to improve; we evaluate our practices, increase efficiencies and expand our use of technological force-multipliers while maintaining proven traditions and procedures. Please check out the Newton Police Department website for full information about our latest activities, initiatives and services. 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. Download our app and/or visit our website which is optimized for mobile devices. We publish our activity 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. Community engagement will always be a top priority.

Help us to help you - please 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 or links on social media or our website. *However, in an emergency or to report a crime in progress, always call 9-1-1.*

Pedestrian safety remains a paramount concern in Newton and this area will continue to receive our focused enforcement attention. Motorists who observe a pedestrian within a crosswalk must stop and **stay** stopped until the pedestrian has finished crossing the roadway. 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.

This year we have begun implementation of the alarm registration ordinance. The department appreciates the efforts made by residents and business owners to assist in crime and fire prevention by utilizing alarm systems. We will always respond to alarm activations, however the instance of repeated false alarm activations reduces our efficiency and our availability to the entire community. As such, all fire and burglar alarm systems within the Town of Newton are required to be registered with the Police Department. Maintaining registration annually will also ensure that we have current emergency contact information for your home or business. Further information, a link to the full ordinance and associated fees are listed on our website under Alarm Registration. Please complete the form included in this newsletter or download it from the website. All commercial and residential alarms must be registered by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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. 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, informal setting.

[www.NewtonPolice.org](http://www.NewtonPolice.org)

[www.newtontownhall.com](http://www.newtontownhall.com)

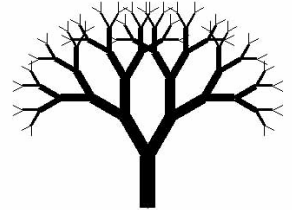
## BRUSH PICKUP

The DPW crew will pick up brush ONLY during the month of May.

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

Pickup will follow the Recycling pickup schedule. **Zone 1** will be picked up the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>, **Zone 2** will be picked up the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>, **Zone 3** will be picked up the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>, and **Zone 4** will be picked up the week of May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please cooperate by making sure brush is placed at the curb **by 7:00 a.m.** 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 <http://www.scmua.org>.



## FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

The Newton Fire Department would like to remind everyone of some important **safety tips** when grilling during this barbecue 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.

## TAX COLLECTION

### TAX BILLS

Tax bills for the Final 2015/Preliminary 2016 will be mailed in late July 2015. Bills are mailed to all homeowners at this time each year. This bill will include payment stubs for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2015 (August and November) as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2016 (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, 2015 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 the Tax Collector, Linda A. Roth at (973) 383-3521 extension 239.

### NEW JERSEY PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT (PTR) SENIOR FREEZE PROGRAM

The 2014 Form PTR New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement ("Senior Freeze") applications were mailed in late February 2015. You must file your application no later than June 1, 2015 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.





KEY HOLDER/CONTACT INFORMATION

Provide contact information of at least 2 individuals who have agreed and are able to:

- Receive notification of alarm activation at any time.
- Respond to the alarm site within 20 minutes at any time.
- Upon request can grant access to the alarm site or deactivate the system if necessary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

ON-SITE HAZARDS

Are there any dangerous or special conditions at the site? Y  N

(if yes, explain)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dog on site? Y  N  If yes: Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUIRED FEES

1. Residential Fee \$50.00 per year. Register between January 1st and June 30th.
2. Commercial Fee \$75.00 per year. Register between January 1st and June 30th.
3. Residential Fee \$25.00 remainder of year. Register between July 1st and December 31st.
4. Commercial Fee \$40.00 remainder of year. Register between July 1st and December 31st.

The information provided above is true, accurate and complete. I agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth in the Town of Newton Alarm Ordinance #45.

REGISTRATION PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

## 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 maintaining quality neighborhoods and a sound community environment. With warmer spring and summer months ahead consider the following:

- ◆ Sidewalks – Repair/replace elevated or damaged sidewalks
- ◆ Sidewalks – Clear away winter grit
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Address exterior painted surfaces that are peeling, faded or unpainted
- ◆ Prepare for continual lawn maintenance and weed removal

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

## PLANNING & ZONING REMINDERS

The Planning/Zoning Office provides 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 & 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 remind residents that:

Off-street parking on areas other than driveways is prohibited in the front yard of single-family detached and duplex residential dwellings (*Section 320-23.E(2)*).

Permits are required for the following:

Pools (including blue temporary pools)	Fences	Sheds	Decks
Retaining walls	Additions	Alterations	Changes of use
Temporary storage containers (POD, dumpsters, etc.)			

Ms. Citterbart can be reached at (973) 383-3521 ext. 227 or at [kcitterbart@newtontownhall.com](mailto:kcitterbart@newtontownhall.com).

Town of Newton  
39 Trinity Street  
Newton, NJ 07860

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

PERMIT NO. 194  
SPARTA, NJ 07871

## RECREATION

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

Applications will be available beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> at Town Hall, through Merriam Avenue School, St. Joseph's School, Camp Auxilium, Camp Iliff and at Newton High School. Deadline for submissions is Friday, May 22nd at 4:30pm. The event will be held June 5th at Project Self Sufficiency beginning at 5:30pm. Little Miss and Little Mr. contestants must be ages 5-7 by Oct. 1, 2014. Miss Newton contestants must be between the ages of 17-21.

### **Newton Pool Registration:**

The Newton Pool will be open June 20<sup>th</sup>. through September 7<sup>th</sup>. Hours of operation will be 10:00am-7:00pm Monday–Thursday and 10:00am to 8:00pm Friday–Sunday (with the exception of swim meet nights). Pool hours for August 24th through September 7th will be Noon–5:00pm.

*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.

Some of the many activities this year at the pool include:

**Wacky Wednesdays**—Games, activities and crafts for the kids at the pool throughout the day.

**Thirsty Thursdays**—Satisfy your thirst for knowledge! Why do some things float and others sink? What materials are best insulator for keeping ice cold on a hot day? How do you make a swimming pool boing with heat? Find out the answers to these questions and more...Thursdays: 11:30am.

**Fun Fridays**– Games, activities and crafts for kids at the pool throughout the day.

**Adventure Camps**– 10:00am to 1:00pm Monday through Wednesday for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Member fee \$75 per week, per child, priority registration for Members begins June 1<sup>st</sup>. Non-member fee \$89 per week, per child, registration begins June 15<sup>th</sup>. Themes change each week and include Crime Scene Investigation, Ecosystem Investigation and Build and Destroy.

There are many other activities planned for the pool season. Check out the Town of Newton website for more information on *Flick and Float, July 4th Salute to Heroes, Luau, Guard Start and Splashdown Parties.*

For more information, please contact the Recreation Supervisor, Kerry Deckert at recreation@newtontownhall.com or call 973-383-3521 ext. 244.

[www.newtontownhall.com](http://www.newtontownhall.com)