

The Newton News



VOLUME 28, ISSUE 2

FALL 2015

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DATES OF INTEREST

- Halloween Parade
Oct. 31
- Fall Leaf & Brush Pickup
Nov. 2 thru Dec. 4
- Election Day
Nov. 3
- Veterans' Day
Town Hall Closed
Nov. 11
- NMC Festival of Lights
Nov. 14
- Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed
Nov. 26 & 27
- GNCC Holiday Parade
Nov. 28
- Senior Holiday Dinner
Dec. 6
- Municipal Tree Lighting
Dec. 14
- Christmas Holiday
Town Hall Closed
Dec. 24 & 25

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

I have recently concluded my seventh 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 successful completion of the one-way portion of Spring Street from the Theatre to the Green has been met with positive feedback. Please patronize the businesses on Spring Street and use the additional 1-hour free parking spaces or other available parking options.

As of the writing of this publication, Trinity Street is being prepped for milling/paving and the installation of new traffic signals at Moran/Trinity and Union/Trinity intersections. Lighting improvements in the downtown corridor are slated to be completed this fall as well.

The Town established a new relationship with AzulCore, a local social technology firm, to coordinate our gonewtonnj.com website along with corresponding Facebook and Twitter pages. Additionally, a new marketing logo with the City Style, Country Cool slogan and imagery of the recently renovated Fire Museum was created by the KKPR agency. For the most up-to-date information on business and event happenings, please use these social media outlets.

The Town placed numerous banners around town touting Newton as a 'College Town', further cementing the important relationship between SCCC and its host community. We also look forward to the launch of our new community shuttle bus, which will bring individuals from SCCC to area businesses during the week. The bus will make two stops at the SCCC campus as well as at Thorlabs and other area businesses.

We had one of the most successful years at the Newton Pool to date, and hope that you will explore joining the pool for next season when even more activities and improvements are planned.

The Town has been working on additional staffing for the Code Enforcement Department as well as the hiring of two new police officers to replace individuals who have left the organization. The PBA/SOA contracts were successfully renegotiated and we have commenced preparations for the next round of negotiations with blue-collar union and dispatchers.

In economic news, the Town approved modifications to Camp Iliff, which include a new retail store and buffet restaurant open to the public. A new Dunkin' Donuts will be going in across from Thorlabs on Sparta Avenue. And Thorlabs itself is looking at massive expansion in the area as well.

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, especially in the downtown. Remember: The key to managing property taxes 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 many 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.
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 2015-2016
NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

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

GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2015

The November General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

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 Thursday, October 29, 2015, 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, 2014.



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, 2015. Payments must be received by 4:30 PM on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. 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 9, 2016 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 2/1/16.

NOTE: The State of New Jersey mandates that the current rabies vaccination cannot expire before November 1st of the current year (2016). 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 28, 2015 through January 15, 2016. All trees must be free of bases, lights and ornaments.

FALL LEAF & BRUSH PICKUP

The Town of Newton will once again 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 2, 2015 and will continue until December 4, 2015. 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 RESTRICTIONS

The Town of Newton's reservoir at Morris Lake, Sparta, New Jersey is currently more than 31 inches below the top of the spillway. As a precaution, effective September 17, 2015, the Newton Town Council enacted water restrictions. Residents, Businesses and Property Owners should take note §228-22. Prohibited water use of the Code of the Town of Newton prohibits the following:

1. Water customers are prohibited from watering their lawns or gardens; and
2. Washing cars, trucks, boats, or any recreational vehicles; and
3. Washing public or private driveways, walkways, or sidewalks; and
4. Filling swimming pools and ornamental reflecting pools or fountains.



These restrictions will remain in place until lifted by a resolution of the Town Council.

RECREATION HAPPENINGS

Radio City Music "Christmas Spectacular" Bus Trip: Join us for a day in NYC and leave the driving to us!! Sunday, November 29, 2015. Arrive at the Park and Ride (behind ShopRite) in Newton at 8:45 AM. The chartered bus will leave at 9:00 AM. We will be seeing a 2:00 PM show. This will give you lots of time to shop and have lunch. Bus will depart at 4:00 PM from Radio City Music Hall. Arrive back at Park and Ride at 5:30 PM. Please call 973-383-3521 ext. 228 to reserve your seats. Tickets are \$90.00/pp. First come, first serve basis.



Senior Exercise Program: Join us for Zumba Gold. Get active with great people at the dance party workout that moves at your pace. Every Tuesday from 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM & Friday morning from 10:30 AM to 11:15 AM at Newton Firehouse #1, 22 Mill St. Only \$5 per class. No pre-registration necessary. Call 973-383-3521 ext. 228 with questions.

Senior Dinner: Sunday, December 6, 2015 from Noon to 2:00 PM at Newton High School. Join us for a delicious turkey dinner, and a short holiday concert by the Newton High School Honor Choir.

Holiday Tree Lighting: Monday December 14, 2015 6:00 PM. Join us for a sing-along at Town Hall before Santa arrives at 6:20 PM at 39 Trinity Street, Newton.

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 7:00 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.



Co-mingled recyclables include glass jars, bottles, aluminum cans and tin-plated steel cans, plastic clear and green soda bottles, milk, water or cider containers, shampoo and hair conditioner bottles, liquid laundry soap bottles, fabric softener and bleach bottles, and plastics with a recycling symbol on the bottom. Newspapers to be recycled must be *dry* and tied in bundles. On curbside collection dates when it is wet or rainy, *newspapers will not be picked up*.

Newspapers, corrugated cardboard, office paper, magazines, aluminum and foil pie plates, as well as co-mingled recyclables defined above, may be brought to the Recycling Center on South Park Drive by Newton residents on Thursdays between 8:00am and 4:00 pm, or Saturdays from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Any questions can be directed to our office at 973-383-4160. Brush leaves and grass clippings are no longer accepted at the Recycling Center.

Recycling is mandated by New Jersey State Law. However, the law does not require local governments to provide a curbside collection program. The Town of Newton offers the service, at no cost to taxpayers, for the convenience of its citizens, through the assistance of the Public Works Department.

The Recycling Center is currently accepting electronics, items included are: Computers, Laptops, Monitors, Televisions, Desktop printers and printer/fax/copier/scanner combinations, Fax Machines and DVD players, VCRs, and other video players.

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 Director at 973-383-3521 ext. 256.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT

The Community Development Department oversaw the Spring Street one-way project this summer, which included new brick crosswalks, a brick paver area in front of the Fire Museum and bump-outs at the intersection of Spring & Madison Street and Main & Spring Street. Traffic lights are in the process of being installed on Trinity Street at the intersection of Moran and Trinity Street and Union Place and Trinity Street. Lights should be operational by November 1st.

Reminder to Seniors who are partaking in the snow shoveling program this is a service that is provided to the Town by the Sheriff's Department for those seniors that are 62 years of age or older, have a diagnosed handicap or possess a handicap placard, no member of the household is physically able to do shoveling, and member(s) of the household must be on a fixed income. There is a limit on the numbers of seniors who can be placed on the list. For more information you can contact the Community Development Department at (973) 383-3521, ext. 228.

RECENT ORDINANCES

The Newton Town Council recently adopted several ordinances of interest:

Ordinance 2014-26 consolidated the Water and Sewer Department and Public Works Department into one department known as the Department of Public Works.

Ordinance 2014-27 designated Spring Street as a one-way street from Union Place to Main Street.

Ordinance 2014-28 requires creditors to maintain the exterior of properties in foreclosure and have been abandoned or are vacant.

Ordinance 2015-3 establishes park hours from dusk to dawn in all Town parks.

Ordinance 2015-11 establishes regulations for the installation of generators through the Zoning office.

Ordinance 2015-23 prohibits individuals from dropping items onto any public street / sidewalk and requires any multi-unit residential dwelling that have exterior doors with a common hallway must be self-closing and self-locking with a door viewer.

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

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 could pick up the newspaper to see if there was anything reported.

The trouble is, few incidents make it into the newspaper and you can't rely on assumptions 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!"

The Newton Police Department has its own mobile 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. With the app, you can send anonymous tips (with photos), subscribe to updates and browse our social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook. With the app, you can quickly access our blog to see important news releases and then check out more in-depth information about our services with just a click to our website.

"Progressive, proactive and professional – Newton PD enhances the police-community partnership with its website and mobile apps to improve public safety."

- Chief Mike Richards



NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
39 Trinity Street Newton, NJ 07860 (973) 383-2525
www.NewtonPolice.org

TEXT-A-TIP

*See Something?
Do Something.*

TEXT **274637** KEYWORD **NEWTON**



CrimeReports™

FREE INFORMATION

Find Out What's Happening In Your Neighborhood

PROTECT—PREVENT

*Newton Police Activity Published to Crime Map and
Updated Daily—Sign up for Free Alerts*

Visit: www.NewtonPolice.org

The app is free and it couldn't be easier to download and start using right away and 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, the public can help the Police Department be more effective.

Please visit our website at www.newtonpolice.org to learn about all the work that members of the Police Department perform in Town – from conducting challenging investigations, to locating the missing, helping the injured or ill, and to apprehending burglars and drug dealers; their dedication to duty is clearly evident. Look for our next "Coffee With a Cop" event too, a great opportunity to meet with your hometown officers in a relaxed, informal setting to talk about community issues.

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
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PERMIT NO. 194
SPARTA, NJ 07871

THE TOWN OF 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, visit our Town website at www.newtontownhall.com and check out the *Manager's Blog* section.

OPERATION SANTA

The Newton Fire Department will be hosting the 10th Annual "Operation Santa" on Saturday, December 19th. With the help of the Newton Fire Department, Santa will visit residents of **NEWTON** the Saturday before Christmas beginning at 4:00 PM. Santa will drop by your Newton 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 Monday, December 14th or Wednesday, December 16th. Participants must live in the Town of Newton.



Registration forms can be picked up at Town Hall or at www.newtontownhall.com beginning October 12th and must be returned to the Newton Fire Department by Friday, December 11th. This year there will also be registration forms in local stores and businesses as well. For more information, please call Chief Jason Miller at 973-383-4746. Please leave a message with your full name, address and phone number. ATTN: (Operation Santa 2015). Please remember to speak clearly and slowly and repeat your call back phone number at the end of the message to insure we get the correct information.

THANK YOU!

#newtonnj