

The Newton News



VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2016

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DATES OF INTEREST:

- Municipal Election
May 10th
- Memorial Day
Town Hall Closed
May 30th
- Primary Election Day
June 7th
- Miss Newton,
Little Mr. & Miss Newton
June 10th 5:30pm
@ Project Self Sufficiency
- Firehouse 5k Run
June 11th
- Newton Day
June 11th
- Pool Opens
June 24th
- 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.

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

- Liberty Street Road improvements
- Firehouse 2 Renovations (multi-year project)
- Fire Department Airpack replacements
- Automatic Lift for the new Town ambulance
- HVAC at the WWTP Gravity Thickner Building
- WTP Heater and Cameras
- Reservoir Fence (NJDEP)
- 4WD Vehicle w/ Lift Gate for W&S
- Delivery of our new E-803 Fire Department Pumper

As you can see, a lot of thought goes into the planning of the wide variety of critical projects and purchases 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 31st through September 2nd
 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 Councilwoman Kristen Becker. Ms. Becker 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 her well in her future personal and professional endeavors. Please remember the day to elect two members of the Governing Body is Tuesday, May 10th. Please see the back cover of this publication for more information and to check your polling place.

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 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 2015 - 2016 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

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

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



Mayor Daniel G. Flynn
 dflynn@newtontownhall.com



Deputy Mayor Sandra Diglio
 sdiglio@newtontownhall.com



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.

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.

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S NEWS...

FISHING PERMITS

Fishing at Morris Lake began on Saturday, April 9, 2016. Please note that there is a "No Fishing Zone" area, as required by NJDEP, to protect the bald eagles nesting. Fishing permits are available and maps providing the "No Fishing Zone" may be viewed at the Municipal Clerk's Office located on the first floor of the municipal building Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm. **Fishing permits are only available to Newton residents.**

TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE

Newton's 2014 Town Wide Garage Sale will be held on **August 5th, 6th and 7th**. 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 28th. Maps will be available online, at the Clerk's Office and in the lobby of the Police Station.

2016 BUDGET ANALYSIS

"On April 25, 2016, the Town Council will adopt the 2016 Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program, which totals \$12,414,438. With State Aid stagnant and grant funding continuing to fluctuate, coupled with the reality of a tax base that is 1/3 exempt, it is an ever increasing challenge to maintain appropriate service levels and sound fiscal policies while mitigating any significant municipal tax increases.

Furthermore, the Net Valuation Taxable (NVT) for the Town decreased by \$1,099,566, a far cry from the level of increased economic activity needed in our community and region.

The new average residential property assessment has gone down from the 2015 level of \$188,205 to the new 2016 level of \$187,639. Therefore, factoring in these new calculations and the budget and tax levy as proposed, the municipal taxes on an average assessed home in 2015 of \$2,625 will go up to \$2,678 in 2016 - an increase of about \$1 a week.

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 \$3,973,600 for the 2016 year, a decrease of \$54,400 compared to 2015. 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 2016 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 2016 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*



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Town of Newton is committed to and takes pride in quality neighborhoods, which encourages a sound and safe community for everyone to work and live in. As the warmer weather draws near, please consider the following as reminders for the spring and summer months ahead:

- ◆ Clear away all yard debris, like tree branches, leaves and brush that may have accumulated over the winter months;
- ◆ Remember all homes and buildings must have a premises identification number, which further enables your police and fire departments to respond to calls to your home or place of business;
- ◆ Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Examine your sidewalks and prepare to repair or replace anything that could be considered a trip hazard. Check with the Newton DPW prior to starting any type of concrete work, as a permit may be required through the DPW;
- ◆ Please know that no inoperative, dismantled or unregistered/uninsured vehicles can be parked or stored on any property, unless you have a permitted use to do so;
- ◆ Make sure any railings on your home are secure and that all paintable surfaces are not peeling, chipping, faded or just in need of a good power-washing; and, lastly,
- ◆ Please prepare for lawn maintenance and weed control.



Thank you in advance for your cooperation in maintaining a beautiful environment for everyone to enjoy. If you have any questions or concerns, call Debra A. Doudoukjian, Code Enforcement Director, at 973-383-3521, Ext. 256.

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.



WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

Morris Lake is still in drought state so drought restrictions still remain in effect.

The Town will be going out for bids this spring with construction of the Fox Hollow watermain soon after bids are received. The main will be operational by the late summer/early fall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This year's milling and paving project will occur on Liberty Street.

As a reminder the Town now has a shuttle to provide service around the Town during lunch time for anyone interested.

Please check the bus schedule online at :
www.newtontownhall.com/townshuttle

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
- Sheds
- Pools (including blue temporary)
- Decks
- Retaining Walls
- Additions
- Alterations
- Signs
- Temporary Storage Containers
- Changes of Use

**** 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



Law Enforcement Officers are always most effective when they partner with the public they serve. To build and maintain this partnership, the Newton Police Department is dedicated to information sharing and community outreach.

Please visit our website and our social media sites for frequently updated information about our latest activities, initiatives and services. Download our app for free. We publish our activity on a daily basis to our website, mapped by location within Town. Sign up to receive alerts when something happens near where you live or work. Community engagement is a key element of successful public safety.

Information sharing should also go both directions. We ask everyone to please help us help you. Always lock your doors, remain vigilant and call the Police Department if you see anything suspicious or have any concerns. You can also anonymously provide information about criminal activity via text message (Text tips to CRIMES (274-637) keyword NEWTON) or via links on social media or our website. *However, in an emergency or to report a crime in progress, always call 9-1-1.*

In the spirit of community collaboration, we're excited to announce our participation with the formation of the **Sussex County C.L.E.A.R.** program - **Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery**. The mission of the Sussex County C.L.E.A.R. program is to form a collaborative network of professionals in our community who will facilitate medical intervention, improved access to treatment and recovery support for those struggling with drug addiction who seek assistance, without fear of arrest or prosecution, in order to make a positive difference in the quality of life for individuals, families and our entire community.

In 2015, Newton Police Officers administered Narcan 10 times. In just the first 2 ½ months of 2016, we've already used it 6 times. Heroin and opiate addiction is a serious problem here and for communities across the country and it requires a community solution. We believe this collaborative approach shows the most promise. Please check out the website <http://clearprogram.org/> for further information and see how you can help.



Pedestrian safety in Newton will continue to receive our focused enforcement attention. Remember that motorists who observe a pedestrian within a crosswalk must stop and **stay** stopped until the pedestrian has finished crossing the

roadway. Pedestrians must also be mindful of the crosswalk laws and just like distracted drivers; pedestrians should give proper attention while walking for their own safety.



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

Once again, 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.

EMERGENCY: DIAL 9-1-1

Telephone (973) 383-2525

39 Trinity Street

Newton, NJ 07860

www.NewtonPolice.org



Police New Hires

Edward Sperling and Russell Post stand with Chief Richards at their swearing-in on December 28, 2015.

RECREATION

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

Applications will be available beginning May 1st at Town Hall, through Merriam Avenue School, St. Joseph's School, Camp Auxilium, Camp Iliff and at Newton High School. Deadline for submissions at the Recreation Department at Town Hall is Friday May 27, 2016 at 4:30pm. The event will be held June 10th at Project Self Sufficiency beginning at 5:30pm. Little Miss and Little Mr. contestants must be ages 5-7 by Oct. 1, 2015. Miss Newton contestants must be between the ages of 17-21.

Newton Pool Registration:

The Newton Pool will be open June 24th through August 28th. 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 and swim lessons). 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. Registration information will be posted on the town website and also on our Facebook page. 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 insulators for keeping ice cold on a hot day? 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.

There are many other activities planned for the pool season. Check out the Town of Newton website for more information on: July 4th Salute to Heroes, Christmas in July, Flick and Float, Luau, Splashdown Parties and Father's Day Appreciation, Mother's Day Appreciation to be held during August.

For more information, please contact the Recreation Department at recreation@newtontownhall.com or call 973-383-3521 ext. 228.

TAX COLLECTION

TAX BILLS

Tax bills for the Final 2016/Preliminary 2017 will be mailed in late July 2016. Bills are mailed to all homeowners at this time each year. This bill will include payment stubs for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2016 (August and November) as well as the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2017 (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, 2016 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 2015 Form PTR New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement ("Senior Freeze") applications were mailed in late February 2016. You must file your application no later than June 1, 2016 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 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

If you are a first time filer, you may call the State at 1-800-882-6597 to request an application be mailed to you.

2016 HOMESTEAD CREDIT

If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Credit the State will be applying the credit to your 2nd quarter 2016 taxes. Please look for your updated tax statement in the mail. If you have questions regarding this credit please contact the State at 888-238-1233 Monday through Friday (except holidays) between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

BRUSH PICK-UP

****PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE 2016 SCHEDULE FOR PICKUP****

Pickup will follow the Recycling pickup schedule. **Zone 1** will be picked up the week of May 2nd, **Zone 2** will be picked up the week of May 9th, **Zone 3** will be picked up the week of May 16th, and **Zone 4** will be picked up the week of May 23rd. 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).

NEWTON FIRST AID SQUAD



On March 14, 2016 Mayor Daniel Flynn swore in the 2016 Officers for the Newton First Aid Squad.

A note of concern. Please use the services of the Newton First Aid Squad for emergency services purposes only. Examples include sudden illness, heart issues, serious injuries, choking etc. Please remember a non-emergency call can delay service to someone who is in need of medical assistance.



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.

Upcoming events:

April 30, 2016—Fire Department Annual Steak Bust at Firehouse #2, 56 Woodside Avenue, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Adults \$20, kids 12 and under \$10. All you can eat steak, baked potato, corn and salad. See any Newton Fire Department member for tickets.

June 11, 2016—Newton Firehouse 5k



On January 11, 2016, Mayor Flynn swore in the 2016 Officers for the Newton Fire Department.

Town of Newton
39 Trinity Street
Newton, NJ 07860

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

PERMIT NO. 194
SPARTA, NJ 07871

ELECTION NEWS — NEW POLLING PLACES

May 10th is the date for the Town's **Municipal Election**. Polls are open 6:00am to 8:00pm. As you may know, two 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.

Polling Places in Newton:

#1 & #2	Newton Fire House	22 Mill St.
#3 & #5	Newton Municipal Building (NEW LOCATION!!!)	39 Trinity St.
#4	NFAS Building	8 Sussex St.
#6	First United Methodist Church	111 Ryerson Ave.

The **Primary Election** will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

The **General Election** will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

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.

www.newtontownhall.com