



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 exciting projects this summer include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Banking RFP
- ◆ Purchase of a new Skid Steer for DPW
- ◆ Continued enhancements to our social media and marketing outreach endeavors
- ◆ Armory cleanup and remediation
- ◆ Milling and paving of Plainfield Avenue
- ◆ Roof repairs at Town Hall and Police Department
- ◆ Revisions to the ordinances related to animals and soil removal, respectively
- ◆ Review and updates to our Master Plan
- ◆ Ongoing discussions with SCCC for the McGuire's Redevelopment Area
- ◆ Contract Negotiations with UPSEU and CWA
- ◆ Finalizing the construction of our new Firehouse No. 2
- ◆ Analysis of the drainage issues at the Babe Ruth Field at Memory Park
- ◆ An in-depth review of the plaster and other related issues at the Newton Town Pool
- ◆ Rail Trail Boardwalk and clearing
- ◆ Sparta Avenue Pump Station bid specifications
- ◆ Various improvements at our Water Treatment Facility in Sparta, NJ
- ◆ Various improvements at our Sewer Treatment Plant in Newton, NJ

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 of our residents. The projects are diverse and span a cross-section of disciplines and departments.

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 sincere 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., MPA, CPM
Town Manager

SUMMER HOURS

May 20th through August 30th

Monday - Wednesday 8:30am to 4:30pm

Thursday 8:30am to 6:30pm

Friday 8:30am to 1:30pm

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Dates of Interest:

- Brush Pickup
May 6-31
- Summer Hours Begin
May 20
- Memorial Day
Town Hall Closed
May 27
- Primary Election Day
June 4
- Miss Newton, Little Mr. &
Miss Newton
June 8 10:00am
- Newton Day
June 8
- Independence Day
Town Hall Closed
July 4
- Town-Wide Garage Sale
August 2, 3, & 4

MUNICIPAL CLERK’S NEWS

Tuesday, June 4 is the date for the **Primary Election**. Polls are open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Clerk at 973-383-3521 ext. 232.

Polling Places in Newton:

#1 & #2	Newton Fire House	22 Mill Street
#3 & #5	Newton Municipal Building	39 Trinity Street
#4	Newton First Aid Squad Building	68 Sussex Street
#6	First United Methodist Church	111 Ryerson Avenue

The **General Election** will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

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 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 is open for fishing! **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 2, 3, and 4**. 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 26. Maps will be available at the Town Clerk’s Office and Police lobby.

COURT NEWS

The Newton–Green Shared Municipal Court welcomes a new addition to their staff, Nancy Kurzweil. Nancy has assumed the position of deputy court administrator, with approximately 20 years experience in the municipal courts. The name may sound familiar, as she previously worked for Green Township Court before Green joined Newton. She will be replacing Sarah Grub, who left Newton to further her municipal court career. Check us out at newtontownhall.com/Court.

THE 2019 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL



Helen R. Le Frois, Mayor
hlefrois@newtontownhall.com



Daniel G. Flynn, Deputy Mayor
dfflynn@newtontownhall.com

- Sandra Lee Diglio, Councilwoman
- Jason J. Schlaffer, Councilman
- Matthew Dickson, Councilman

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

2019 BUDGET ANALYSIS

"On April 8, 2019, the Town Council adopted the 2019 Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program, which totals \$13,130,000. With the uncertainty of State Aid payments and the fluctuating prospects of grant funding, coupled with the reality of a tax base that has more than 1/3 exempt properties, 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 Taxable Valuation (NVT) for the Town **decreased by \$782,517**, a far cry from the necessary level of economic activity needed in our community and region. Additionally, the new average residential property assessment has gone down slightly from the 2018 level of \$185,611 to the new 2019 level of \$184,841. Therefore, factoring in the budget and tax levy as proposed, **the municipal taxes on an average residential property are estimated to go from \$2,731.08 in 2018 to \$2,731.21 in 2019 – an increase of only .13 a year or about a penny 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 \$4,525,000 for the 2019 year (same as last year). The Water and Sewer budget provides service to 2,671 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 the most fiscally conservative approach available to budgeting as it relates to necessary infrastructure improvements.

Now that we have concluded the 2019 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 2019 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., MPA, CPM
Town Manager

TAX COLLECTION

2019 HOMESTEAD BENEFIT

If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Benefit the State will be applying the credit to your 2nd quarter (May) 2019 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.

TAX BILLS

Tax bills for the Final 2019/Preliminary 2020 will be mailed in late July 2019. Bills are mailed to all property owners at this time each year. This bill will include payment stubs for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2019 (August and November) as well as the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2020 (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, 2019 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 ext. 239.

NEW JERSEY PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT (PTR) SENIOR FREEZE PROGRAM

The 2018 Form PTR New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement ("Senior Freeze") applications were mailed in late February 2019. You must file your application no later than October 31, 2019 to be considered for this reimbursement from the State of New Jersey. For information regarding this program please contact the State at 800-882-6597. 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. Online information: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/index.shtml.

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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.

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

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 your bill is high.

Did you know that 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.

ZONING REMINDERS

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

Fences & replacement fences	Retaining Walls
Sheds	Additions
Pools (including blue temporary)	Alterations
Decks	Temporary Storage Container (P.O.D.)

Did you know?



SURVEY SAYS... a property survey must be submitted along with most Zoning Permit applications.

PARKING: The parking of vehicles on areas other than driveways (i.e. front yard) is prohibited in single family detached and duplex residential dwellings.



MAKE AN APPT: For the most efficient use of your time and ours, please call first to make an appointment. 973-383-3521 ext. 228

For more information on zoning compliance and links to our forms, visit our website at www.newtontownhall.com/zoning.

The Town of Newton Zoning Officer, Mrs. Citterbart, can be reached at 973-383-3521 ext. 227 or kcitterbart@newtownhall.com.

POLICE DESK

We continually look for innovative ways to improve our operation and ensure public safety for all. As such, we are excited to announce some new initiatives this Spring; an **online firearms application process** and **Smart911**.

In 2018 we processed over 75 firearms related applications. Beginning this year, we are now accepting firearms applications for Firearms Purchaser Identification Cards and Pistol Purchase Permits electronically. We encourage applicants to visit our website at <http://newtonpolice.org/firearms/> to learn how this process can be easier, more convenient and time-saving.

Additionally, we have implemented an improved system for handling emergency 9-1-1 calls with Smart911. Please visit <http://newtonpolice.org/safetylink/> to create a safety profile. Residents and business owners can create a profile for their family members and any facilities to provide responders with key lifesaving information during an emergency. The Smart911 system also provides improved technology with highly accurate caller location data and the ability to initiate communications via text message with mobile callers.

The Smart911 software allows anyone to create a safety profile for free that includes information such as allergies or pre-existing medical conditions for all members of the household. Precise location data can also be stored to help ensure that responders are sent to the right location with the right information. Schools, medical facilities, apartment complexes and other facilities in Newton can also create a facility profile to provide responders with information that could be important in an emergency. Floorplans, hazardous material information, landline phone locations, AED locations and other vital information can be readily available and used to respond to emergencies more effectively.

The department continues to work with the **C.I.E.A.R.** – **Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery Program** [www.CLEARprogram.org] and is helping make a positive difference in the quality of life for individuals, families and our entire community. Most recently, we've participated in **Operation Helping Hand**, an outreach effort where we pair peer recovery coaches with Detectives and proactively outreach to those struggling with a substance use disorder in an attempt to provide information, resources and to help them into recovery.



The advertisement features a large grey location pin icon on the left, containing a white padlock with an 'i' and various emergency icons like a family, wheelchair, heart, and home. To the right, the text reads 'Provide 9-1-1 Key Info in an Emergency' and 'Download the Smart911* App Today.' Below this are 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play' buttons. The background is a stylized map of Newton. In the bottom right corner is the Newton Police Department badge and the URL 'WWW.NEWTONPOLICE.ORG/SAFETYLINK'.

FIRE NEWS

The Newton Fire Department is looking forward to the completion of the new Firehouse on Woodside Avenue this summer.

Also, please be reminded to check the batteries on their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure your fire extinguisher is easily accessible and operational.

RECREATION

Miss Newton, Little Miss Newton and Little Mr. Newton: This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, June 8 at 10:00am at The Newton Theatre Arts Academy in Newton. Applications will be available beginning May 1 on the Town website. Applications must be received at Town Hall no later than May 31 at noon. Little Miss and Little Mr. contestants must be at least age 5 as of October 1, 2018 and no older than age 7 by the date of the pageant. Miss Newton contestants must be at least age 17 by August 4, 2019 (date of the Queen of the Fair Pageant) but no older than 21 by August 4, 2019.

Bus Trips: Start your Independence Day with a BANG and join us on July 3 at Citi Field as the rivalry continues between the Yankees and the Mets. Tickets are \$120/person and includes transportation and game ticket in the Big Apple Reserved Seating. In the works...Jersey Boys on Broadway? Kalahari Waterpark? Or both!! Stay tuned...

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 morning from 9:30am to 10:15am and Friday morning from 10:30am to 11:15am at Newton Firehouse #1, 22 Mill St. Only \$5 per class. No pre-registration necessary. Call 973-383-3521 ext. 228 with questions.

Prime Time Seniors: A social group for the residents of the Town, ages 55 and up meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Newton #1 Firehouse, 22 Mill Street. Refreshments are served at 12:30pm; meeting promptly begins at 1:00pm. For information call Joyce Franklin at 973-945-6375.

For the latest information on Recreation Happenings, LIKE and follow us on Facebook: NEWTON RECREATION, on Twitter: @NewtonRecNJ, or via the Town website: www.newtontownhall.com. To reach the Recreation office, call 973-383-3521 ext. 228 or email us at recreation@newtontownhall.com.

NEWTON FIRST AID SQUAD

Established in 1957, the Newton Volunteer First Aid and Rescue Squad (NFAS) is a 100% volunteer agency that answers the 911 medical emergencies in the Town of Newton and surrounding communities. We are proud to serve you as Sussex County's busiest, fastest, and most progressive volunteer First Aid Squad!

Requested to 1,977 emergency calls with an average 96.2% / 5.2 minute response rate, the Newton Volunteer First Aid and Rescue Squad saw its busiest year ever in 2018!

Over the year, we provided assistance at 61 community events, taught CPR to over 300 people, performed nearly 31,000 volunteer hours, and continued to implement the latest techniques for progressive EMS operations. To culminate our efforts, NFAS was named as The 2018 NJ Outstanding EMS Agency at the National Conference on EMS - a first-time selection for any Sussex County squad!

As we look forward to an even busier 2019, we continue to search for new members to add to our team! We have positions for community members of all backgrounds - both on and off the ambulance! If you are interested in helping NFAS continue to be Sussex County's busiest, fastest, and most progressive EMS agency, visit us at <http://newtonfirstaidsquad.org> or call us at 973-383-3377 to learn more.

POOL NEWS

The Newton Pool will be closed for the entirety of the 2019 summer season. The Town has hired professional engineers to review the current facility and its need for renovations including a geotechnical survey of the area.

Our staff and professional engineers will work diligently to collect real data and facts so we may all work collaboratively to find an affordable solution that works best for the Town of Newton and its taxpayers.



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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:

Trash and bulk waste disposal - The Town provides curbside recycling. Garbage Disposal is the responsibility of the property owner(s)/tenants. When disposing of large items, such as old furniture or appliances, property owner(s)/tenants are reminded to exercise proper waste disposal practices. As described in the Newton Town Ordinances Section 250 and the International Property Maintenance Code Section 308. Residents are reminded porches are not to be used to store garbage, old mattresses, recycling bins or boxes.

Property Maintenance - Repair/ replace elevated or damaged sidewalks that are creating a trip or other hazard. Also, clear away winter grit. Address exterior painted surfaces that are peeling, faded or unpainted.

Repair damaged exterior home fixtures, such as siding, gutters, down spouts, shutters, stairs, railings and fences. Remove any exterior yard debris that may have accumulated over the winter, such as, tree branches, leaves and brush.

Prepare for continual lawn maintenance and weed removal.

Address exterior painted surfaces that are peeling, faded or unpainted.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in maintaining a beautiful environment for everyone to enjoy. If you have any questions or concerns, call **Bernard Hattersley**, Code Enforcement Director, at 973-383-3521 ext. 231.

BRUSH PICKUP

BRUSH PICKUP: The DPW crews will pick-up brush ONLY during the month of May. Pick-up will follow the Recycling pick-up schedule.

Zone 1 will be picked up the week of **May 6**

Zone 2 will be picked up the week of **May 13**

Zone 3 will be picked up the week of **May 20**

Zone 4 will be picked up the week of **May 27**

Please cooperate by making sure brush is placed at the curb **by 7:00am**. 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 Utilities Authority in Lafayette for disposal.

RECYCLING

RECYCLING JUST GOT EASIER! For residents looking to reduce their household waste and become better recyclers, look no further than the **Recycle Coach** platform – now available in NEWTON. Not sure how to dispose of certain items? Want to know your collection schedule personalized just for you? Download the FREE **Recycle Coach** app today! Available on the App Store and Google Play.

BULK WASTE COLLECTION

BULK WASTE COLLECTION: Bulk Waste Curbside Collection will occur on May 11, 2019. Residents will be allowed to place up to 500lbs of bulky items for the collection curbside. NO electronics, household garbage, recyclable material, clothing, building materials, brush/leaves/grass, hazardous materials or tires will be collected. Permits for the 2019 Bulk Waste Collection will be available for pick up starting on April 1 at the Municipal Building, 39 Trinity Street on the 2nd floor. Additional details will be provided with the permit. Contact Town Hall at 973-383-3521 ext. 228 with any questions.

**Town of Newton
39 Trinity Street
Newton, NJ 07860**

**PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**

**PERMIT NO. 194
SPARTA, NJ 07871**

TOWN OF NEWTON 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.

OTHER NUMBERS

224 Manager's Office
225 Tax Assessor
227 Planning/Zoning
228 Recreation
231 Code Enforcement
232 Municipal Clerk/Registrar
233 Treasurer
234 Community Development
236 Deputy Court Administrator
239 Tax Collector
240 Water/Sewer Collector
241 Finance Officer/CFO
242 Court Administrator
254 Human Resources
255 Deputy Registrar
256 Code Enforcement

Construction
(Hardyston Township) 973-823-7020
Fire Marshal
(Sussex County) 973-579-0380
Public Works 973-383-4160
Recycling Center 973-383-1521
Sewer
Treatment Plant 973-383-2090
Police Department
(Non-emergency) 973-383-2525



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