



The Newton News

Volume 24, Issue 1

Spring 2011

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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. We are very fortunate to have many accomplishments to detail from the 2nd half of 2010 and the beginning of 2011.

The Town witnessed the beginnings of economic revitalization with the transformation of the property at 56 Sparta Avenue into the world headquarters of Thorlabs. This one project alone will generate new customers for existing stores throughout the community, as well as create the need and interest for new businesses. We are very pleased and most fortunate to have them in our town. As the epicenter for economic activity in the county, staff members share my commitment to expand the tax base with new quality ratables in 2011 and beyond.

We had two employee retirements this past winter, as Peter Kays retired from the DPW and Chief John Tomasula retired from the Newton Police Department. I appointed Michael Richards as the 10th police chief in the 100-year history of our department. I am confident Mike will continue to oversee a department that is the most professional and progressive in the region.

This summer we look to implement several key capital projects including but not limited to: a variety of road improvements throughout the Town, paving for Western Plaza and improvements to the Adams Street Parking Lot area, a new recycling truck and multi-purpose vehicle for the DPW, and new bleachers for the big baseball field. Our dedicated Water and Sewer and DPW personnel will also be undertaking an important watermain upgrade project for Merriam Avenue. This will be the first time we have done something of this magnitude in-house, so we are looking forward to their success and the cost savings that we will receive from same. As you can see, a lot of thought goes into the planning of the wide variety of critical projects so that 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

DATES OF INTEREST

- School Board Election Day
April 27th
- Spring Brush Cleanup
Zones 1 & 2
May 2nd through the 13th
Zones 3 & 4
May 16th through the 27th
- Memorial Day Parade
May 30th, 10:00am
- Primary Election Day
June 7th
- Miss Newton
Little Mr. & Miss Newton
June 10th, 5:30pm
@ Halsted School
- Newton Day
June 11th
- Pool Opens
June 23rd
- Council Reorganization Mtg.
July 1st, 6:00pm

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.

- 221** Deputy Municipal Clerk
- 224** Manager's Office
- 225** Tax Assessor
- 226** Deputy Town Manager
- 227** Planning/Zoning
- 228** Comm. Dev./Recreation
- 230** Fire Prevention Official
- 231** Construction Department
- 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
- 244** Recreation Supervisor

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 2010-2011 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Kristen Becker, Mayor
Helen Le Frois, Deputy Mayor
E. Kevin Elvidge, Councilman
Joseph Ricciardo, Councilman
Sandra Lee Diglio, Councilwoman
Reorganization to be held July 1st

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

IN THE COURTS...

The Municipal Court welcomes a new member, Lindsay Miller, as Deputy Court Administrator. Lindsay comes from Franklin Municipal Court and Frankford Municipal Court and is in the process of obtaining her certification.



The Town is in the process of increasing its parking ticket fines. Meter tickets will be \$20.00 and overnight parking will be \$25.00. This increase will take effect in the next couple of months.

The Newton Municipal Court offers payment of your tickets and time payments thru the Web. For online payment options please log on to www.njmcdirect.com. The Newton Court has noticed a big increase in payments received on the web. The Newton Court Code is 1915. Newton Court also accepts payments of fines by credit card. These payments need to be done in person. If you need any information from the Court please contact Ann Rosellen at 973-383-3521 ext. 242 or Lindsay Miller at 973-383-3521 ext. 236 or via email at court@newtontownhall.com.

BRUSH CLEANUP

The DPW crew will pick up brush and bagged vegetative yard debris during the month of May.

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

Pickup will follow the Recycling pickup schedule:

Zone 1 and 2 will be picked up the weeks of: May 2nd and May 9th

Zone 3 and 4 the weeks of: May 16th and May 23rd

Please cooperate by making sure debris is bagged correctly and is placed at the curb **by 7:00am on the Monday morning of your Zone's pickup week.**

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 winter brush and light pruning. Property owners are responsible for felled trees. Non-chippable items including leaves, vines, stumps and building material may not be set out for collection.

Vegetative yard clippings must be in bio-degradable bags for collection at the curb. All yard waste will be taken to the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority in Lafayette for disposal.

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.



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.

2011 BUDGET ANALYSIS

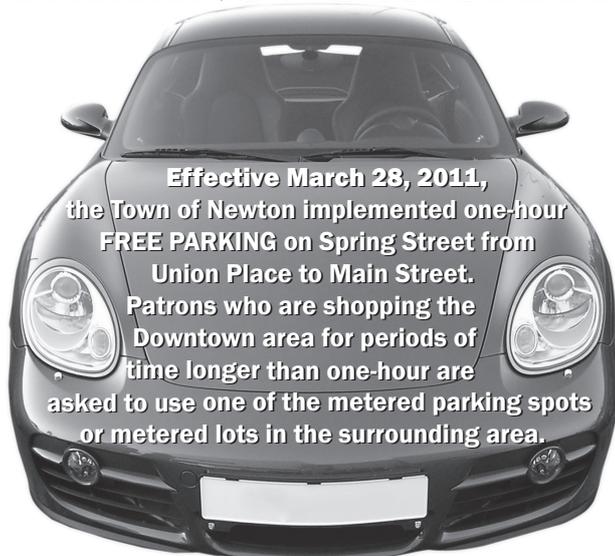
*“On March 28, 2011, the Town Council approved the adoption of the 2011 Amended Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program, which totals \$10,903,360. With State Aid and grant funding continuing to stay flat or even diminish, coupled with the reality that our tax base is 25% exempt, it is an ever increasing challenge to maintain appropriate service levels and sound fiscal policies while mitigating any significant municipal tax increases. With the reassessment of all properties being recently concluded, the new Net Taxable Valuation (NVT) for the Town of Newton is \$696,539,041, a reduction of \$121,145,339. The new average residential property assessment has gone down from the 2010 level of \$269,000 to the new 2011 level of \$222,309. Therefore, factoring in these new calculations and the budget and tax levy as adopted, the average municipal portion tax payment in 2010 of \$2,429 will go up to \$2,509 in 2011—an increase of \$80 a year, or only \$1.54 a week. **This is the lowest dollar increase since 2003.***

The Town maintains independent financial records for the Water and Sewer Utility. Both functions are supported by customer billings and do not require property tax revenues to meet obligations. The Water and Sewer budget was adopted at \$3,925,000 for the 2011 year. The Water and Sewer budget provides service to 2,643 accounts. The current rate structure continues to allow the Town to reserve funds for future critical capital improvements and the retirement of existing debt.

In closing, it is my belief that the budget appropriations and revenues projected, as contained in the amended and adopted 2011 budget, will enable the Town to meet the public's demand and need for critical services. Furthermore, the budget is structured as a fiscally conservative and responsible document to ensure that the long-term financial well-being of our municipality is preserved.”

— Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager

PARKING AUTHORITY



Effective March 28, 2011,
the Town of Newton implemented one-hour
FREE PARKING on Spring Street from
Union Place to Main Street.
Patrons who are shopping the
Downtown area for periods of
time longer than one-hour are
asked to use one of the metered parking spots
or metered lots in the surrounding area.

Community Service Event

The Town of Newton will be hosting its first town-wide Community Service Clean-Up event on **Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, commencing at the Municipal Building located at 39 Trinity Street. One of the goals of the day is for residents, businesses and groups to join the community as volunteers to help clean up the parks, schools, streets, and parking lots of litter and recyclables. Volunteers will also go to the homes of seniors citizens, veterans, or disabled residents to assist with various property maintenance and clean-up issues including but not limited to grass mowing and clipping, planting, weeding, recycling, painting, garbage pickup and removal.

The day starts at the Municipal Building at 8:30 a.m. with an appreciation continental breakfast (bagels, juice, coffee) and free t-shirt distribution for the first one hundred participants, followed by assignments and instructions. Assignments are given according to age and safety. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided. All recyclables/litter is returned and weighed. The Town will also be providing, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, a Mobile Paper Shredding Unit so that residents can bring unwanted documents (no business documents) to be properly shredded and destroyed.

Following the volunteer activities at 12:30 p.m. there will be a social event with pizza and refreshments at Memory Park in Newton. Groups that have confirmed their participation thus far are: The Town of Newton, Kiwanis Club of Newton, Newton Rotary, First Baptist Church of Newton, The First United Methodist Church of Newton, The First Presbyterian Church of Newton, Christ Community Church of Newton, and Living Waters Fellowship of Newton. New groups are welcomed to join this important effort. If you are interested in volunteering for the April 30th event, or if you are a resident who needs assistance, please contact the Town Manager's Office at 973-383-3521 x224 or via email at manager@newtontownhall.com. Requests for home assistance will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Paying Taxes Online

The Town of Newton is pleased to announce a partnership with Cit-e-net to offer customers the ability to pay municipal property taxes online! That's right! Go to www.newtontownhall.com and click on the "Pay Taxes Online \$" button on the left-hand side of our homepage. You can choose to pay directly from your checking account (no fee) or you can have the convenience of paying with a major credit card (2.5% applicable transaction fee). Go online and pay today! In the future you will be able to pay your utility bill online as well! Check the Newton website for periodic updates.

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

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



Finance...

The Town of Newton has been fiscally responsible over the years and continues that tradition with the 2011 Budget. The municipal budget meets all the state requirements i.e.: revenues = expenses, does not exceed the cap, does not anticipate revenues in a greater amount than received in the prior year, limits the amount to be raised by taxes to 2% (with very limited exceptions), and many other stringent guidelines. The Town Manager, Mayor and Council review all operating, utility, and capital budget requests. They then prioritize which community services are essential, which are desirable, and for cost cutting measures, which services can be eliminated.

The \$10,903,360 amended budget was approved on March 28, 2011. Other than health care and pension increases, most of the increase in 2011 is in a line item called Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (RUT). This line item, as required by the state, ensures that the Town will have sufficient funds to pay the school and the county if every taxpayer did not pay their bill.

The reassessment program completed in January 2011 again brings property valuations more in line with real world values. Whereas an average assessed home in 2010 was \$268,952, in 2011 that average value is \$222,309. The new assessments will be reflected on the final 2011 tax bills which will get mailed in July. That mailing date is contingent upon the state and county finalizing certifications.

The **Water & Sewer Utility** budget for 2011 is \$3,925,000, which is \$90,000 less than the 2010 utility budget. The utility has been fully funding capital improvements since 2010 when it paid off the last wastewater trust debt payment. The Town enforces an aggressive water shut-off policy. Delinquent accounts first receive a courtesy notice. If those accounts are not taken care of they then receive a shut off notice. Collection of all water rents is necessary to meet the costs to operate the utility without having to raise rates for the other users who are paying their bills in a timely manner.

The Town will continue to be fiscally prudent and responsible in spite of the ever-changing rules and regulations promulgated at the state level.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

This program is open to all residents 14-17 years of age. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity to gain insight into the profession of firefighting and other public safety careers. This program will provide personal growth and self-confidence through education and training. For more information please call 973-383-4746. Leave your name and contact information, and someone will get back to you.

****Any adult, 18 years of age or older, interested in joining the Newton Fire Department should call 973-383-4746, leave your name and contact information and someone will get back to you.****

TAX ASSESSMENT

The Reassessment of all properties in Newton was completed in January and implemented for the 2011 Tax Year. Anyone wishing to appeal their assessment must do so before May 1, 2011. Information about the potential impact of the Reassessment on your individual taxes can be obtained by referring to the Tax Impact Worksheet provided on the website of Appraisal Systems, Inc at www.asinj.com.

Property improvements requiring a building permit are reviewed by the Assessor's Office. Not all improvements are subject to a change in assessment. Please refer to the document entitled "The Assessment of New Construction" found on the Town's website at www.newtontownhall.com (Departments / Finance / Tax Assessor). Inspections for added assessments occur during the summer months on properties that have had recent qualifying new construction and/or renovations. Billing for added assessments are mailed by October 25th and payment is due by November 1st.

Anyone wishing to discuss or review their assessment relative to a potential change for the 2012 tax year may contact the Assessor between October 1 and December 15, 2011, or obtain an "Assessment Review Form" from the town website listed above.

POLICE DESK

Newton Police Officers have been very busy attending to their duties at the start of 2011. We understand that the success of our public safety endeavors is dependent on the degree of involvement, cooperation and help that we receive from the residents and business owners that we provide service to in the Town of Newton.



Please check out the Newton Police Department website at www.newtonpolice.org for information on the latest activities, initiatives and services provided by your Police Department. 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. Much of our activity from traffic stops to medical calls as well as thefts and other criminal activity is published on a daily basis to the Police Department's crime reports page that is complete with a map to show where the activity is occurring. Soon, information regarding alarm registrations and other commonly used forms will also be available on the police website. Check back often for updates!

With springtime here, it's important to be mindful of certain safety issues that also occur with warmer weather, such as an increase in motorcyclists and pedestrians. Look twice to be safe before entering a roadway since a motorcycle may be difficult to see and drivers can have difficulty estimating their speed. Watch out for pedestrians as you travel across Town. Pedestrian safety is paramount and drivers should remember that many of our pedestrians are also school children walking to and from school. Citizens are reminded that where traffic is

not controlled and directed either by a police officer or a traffic signal, pedestrians shall cross the roadway within a crosswalk, or in the absence of a crosswalk, and where not otherwise prohibited, at right angles to the roadway. , no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. Additionally, where sidewalks are provided it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

Pedestrians:

- **Always cross at corners, within marked crosswalks where available.**
- **If crossing in other locations, yield right of way to vehicles. Failure to obey the law carries a \$54 fine.**
- **Look left, right and left again before crossing for turning cars.**
- **Always walk facing traffic.**
- **Obey traffic signals, especially "Walk/Don't Walk".**
- **Remain alert! Don't assume that cars are going to stop.**
- **Wear reflective clothing when walking at night.**
- **Stay sober. Walking while impaired greatly increases your chances of being struck.**



See POLICE, Page 8

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Residents, now that Spring is here, please note the following items:

1. All sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas shall be kept in a proper state of repair, and maintained free from hazards.
2. It is the duty of the owner, tenant or person in possession of any lands in the Town:
 - a. To keep such lands free of brush, weeds, dead and dying trees, stumps, roots, obnoxious growths, filth, garbage, trash and debris, where the same are inimical to the preservation of public health, safety or general welfare of the Town, or which may constitute a fire hazard.
 - b. Where the lands abut or border upon any public street in the Town, to remove all grass, weeds, brush and other debris from that part of the street bordering on their respective lands.
3. The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare. Including but not limited to doors, door and window frames, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks and fences shall be maintained in good condition.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to maintain a cooperative spirit and pleasant atmosphere in which to live and work by.

THE POOL AT MEMORY PARK

The Pool Season will begin on Thursday, June 23, 2011 and continue through Saturday, August 27, 2011. The pool is open to all Sussex County residents, seven days per week from Noon to 7:00pm. The pre-season badges for the municipal pool will be available for purchase in the Finance Office located on the ground floor of the Municipal Building at 39 Trinity Street beginning Tuesday, May 31st. Badges may be purchased daily in the Finance Department between 8:30am and 4:30pm until the pool opens, at which time daily badges will be sold at the pool as **a cash transaction only**. The fees for passes for 2011 are as follows:



Newton Residents:	All Others: (Residing outside of town limits):	Senior Citizen:	Swim Team Participant:	Replacement Badge:
Family - \$200.00*	Family - \$300.00*	Couple - \$60.00**	\$30.00	\$5.00
Couple - \$150.00**	Couple - \$200.00**	Single - \$35.00		
Single - \$100.00	Single - \$125.00			

* Families shall include any adult, his or her spouse and their children 18 years of age or younger living together in one household up to five passes total.

** Couples are defined as two persons married, engaged or otherwise romantically paired, living together in one household. Daily rates are: Senior Citizen - \$2.00 / All Others - \$5.00 *Thursdays are free to Senior Citizens 55 years of age or older.



There will be three swim lesson sessions for children four years of age and older as follows:

Session I - June 27 to July 15

Session II - July 18 to Aug. 5

Session III - Aug. 8 to Aug. 26

Swimming Lessons Fees:

Season Pass Holder - \$30.00

All Others - \$75.00

Initially, each child will be permitted to participate in only one session during the season. Each session is 1/2 hr. each day Monday thru Friday, for 3 weeks. Sign-ups for swimming lessons will be on Thursday, June 23rd and Friday, June 24th from 10:00am until Noon at the pool and during regular pool hours. Parents are to remain outside the fenced-in area during swimming lessons.

NEWTON DAY

Plans are underway for **Newton Day** to take place on Saturday, June 11th with a rain date of June 18th. The event will take place on Spring Street from 11:00am to 4:30pm and then move to Memory Park. Evening entertainment is planned for Memory Park that includes music, refreshments, kids games and fireworks!

The annual "**Miss Newton**" contest is planned for Friday, June 10th. The contest will be held at the Halsted Middle School. The event will begin at 5:30pm, and will be open to all single Newton young women between 17 and 21 years of age. The "**Little Miss and Mr. Newton**" contest will be held on the same day. Applications for the above contests are available in the Recreation Office on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building or on the Town's website at www.newtontownhall.com.

The Newton News

Editors: Terri Oswin & Thomas S. Russo, Jr.

ELECTION NEWS

The 2011 School Board election that was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 has been changed to Wednesday, **April 27, 2011**. This change was because the original date coincides with the first day of Passover.

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Clerk at 973-383-3521 extension 232.

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 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.

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

The Morris Lake Reservoir, Newton's water source, located in Sparta, NJ, is currently at spillway which will place the Town in a good position as we enter the Spring and Summer months.

Unaccounted for Water and Leak Detection

The Town has been working diligently over the past two years trying to locate unaccounted for water and by doing leak detection on the entire water system every month at night. NJDEP requires a water system to have a maximum of 15% unaccounted for water. In 2007, Newton had 35%. In 2008 we began, under the direction of the Town Council, an aggressive program and saw the number drop to 30%. In 2009, the number was reduced to 20%. By the end of 2010, the amount of unaccounted for water stood at only 18%.



Fishing...

Fishing at Morris Lake began on Saturday, April 9, 2011. 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.**



ZONING FAST FACTS

When do I need a zoning permit?

Zoning and Building permits are required for new construction plus most home improvement projects, including additions, decks, shed, fences, garages and PODS.

What information is need to obtain a zoning permit?

You need to provide a current survey of your property with the proposed work to be done drawn to scale. You also need to provide the setback of the property, height of construction and dimensions of additions, decks, sheds, fences, etc.

What if my home is located in the Historic District?

Structures that are located in the Historic District require review for any exterior alterations by the Newton Historic Advisory Commission. Examples of alterations that must be reviewed are: windows, siding, doors, roofs and signage. For more information on the Historic District please see the Historic website at www.newtontownhall.com/historic.

Kathy Citterbart is Newton's Zoning Officer as well as at the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission's secretary. She would be happy to answer any questions you may have and can be reached at 973-383-3521 ext. 227, or at kcitterbart@newtontownhall.com.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Effective **March 1, 2011** the Senior Shuttle changed its schedule to run Monday through Friday. For more information please feel free to contact the Community Development Office at **973-383-3521 ext. 228**.

The following roads are tentatively scheduled for resurfacing in 2011: Shady Lane, Hillside Avenue, Overlook Road & Slate Hill Road.

Please note that this list is current as of April 1, 2011 and may be changed without notice.

ZONING PERMITS

Residents, are you thinking of adding a swimming pool to your property? Did you know you must first obtain a zoning permit?

Wanting to add a fence? A zoning permit is also required.

Permit applications are \$25.00 and are available in the Zoning Office on the second floor of the municipal building or can be downloaded from the Town's website at: www.newtontownhall.com/zoning.

Any questions should be directed to the Zoning Officer, Katherine Citterbart at 973-383-3521 ext. 227 or kcitterbart@newtontownhall.com.

NEWTON: ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

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

www.newtontownhall.com.

POLICE, Continued from Page 5

Conversely, motorists who observe a pedestrian within a crosswalk must stop and stay stopped. No operator of a vehicle shall fail to give the right-of-way to a pedestrian at a crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked, especially where the pedestrian having started to cross within the proper signal finds himself still within the intersection when the signal changes.

Motorists:

- Stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks. Failure to stop carries a \$230 fine, a 2 point license penalty, 15 days community service, and insurance surcharges.
- Watch for pedestrians when turning right on red.
- Obey speed limits.
- Do not block or park in crosswalks.
- Keep your windshield clean for maximum visibility.
- Be alert for pedestrians at all times.

With warmer weather, the Police Department expects that we'll begin receiving reports of black bear sightings. It is imperative that residents and businesses properly secure their trash and other refuse containers to help reduce the chances for any problems. Police Officers have received specialized training and equipment to deal with black bears.

Once again, visit the Police Department on the web at www.newtonpolice.org to see the services we offer, from conducting property checks while you're away on vacation to helping you to install a child safety seat. We're here to help keep the Town of Newton safe and we can only be successful with your assistance. ***So please call (973) 383-2525 or stop in at the Newton Police Department if we can be of any assistance to you.***

