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Dates of Interest:

- Miss Newton, Little Mr., & Miss Newton
June 12, 6 pm via ZOOM
- Independence Day Observed
Town Hall Closed
July 3
- Primary Election Day
July 7
- Town-Wide Garage Sale
August 7, 8, & 9

FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Normally my spring 2020 Newsletter message talks about the warmer spring and summer months and exciting projects for the summer and fall. Under normal circumstances that would be the case. But as you all know, these have not been normal times. Not by a long shot.

Instead I choose today to thank and recognize the hard work and dedication of our staff, professionals, and volunteers here at the Newton municipal organization. A great group of people who have worked day in and day out – sometimes here at Town Hall, other times at home, or on the road, in a rig, or a patrol car, or ambulance, or fire truck – to provide the Newton taxpayers with the services they deserve. It has not been an easy time for any of us. But I am grateful for the spirit, drive, and determination that define who we are in Newton, in Sussex County, in New Jersey, and in America. We are rugged and resilient and will persevere through whatever additional challenges come our way because of this pandemic.

Finally, I ask you to support local Newton businesses now more than ever. Regardless of size or scope, they all need our support.

It is my hope and prayer that all of you stay safe this summer and that you and your families are blessed with good health and happiness and better days ahead.

Yours for a Better Newton,

Thomas S. Russo, Jr., MPA, CPM
Town Manager

PS – For the most timely and accurate information on events and happenings, schedules and meetings, please check out newtontownhall.com and social media.

THE 2020 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL



Sandra Lee Diglio, Mayor
sdiglio@newtontownhall.com

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



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

Jason J. Schlaffer, Councilman
Matthew Dickson, Councilman
Helen R. Le Frois, Councilwoman

TAX COLLECTION

***NEW* ESTIMATED TAX BILLS**

Estimated Tax bills will be mailed by June 30, 2020 for the 3rd quarter (August). This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the State moving their fiscal year end to September 30, 2020 which will result in the Town not receiving certification of the tax rate by the Sussex County Board of Taxation in a timely manner.

TAX BILLS

Final 2020/Preliminary 2021 Tax bills will be mailed in October 2020. This bill will include payment stubs for the 4th quarters of 2020 (November) as well as the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2021 (February and May). The annual mailing of bills follows the certification of the tax rate by the Sussex County Board of Taxation.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Any homeowner who has had a change to their mailing address should notify the tax office, in writing, prior to June 12, 2020 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 X 239.

NEW JERSEY PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT (PTR) SENIOR FREEZE PROGRAM

The 2019 Form PTR New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement ("Senior Freeze") applications were mailed in late February 2020. You must file your application no later than November 2, 2020 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 (8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays). 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.

COURT NEWS

As the summer season rapidly approaches, let's hope the craziness everyone has been enduring rapidly comes to an end. With that said, moving forward the Court has planned to add additional court sessions to maintain their caseload. We are urging defendants to utilize the "plea by mail" on payable traffic matters and payable Town ordinances. This form can be found on the State of New Jersey Judiciary website. In addition, court users may now pay their criminal fines online at njmcdirect.com.

Digital signage is arriving at the Court. As part of our continuing efforts to innovate, upgrade and modernize using technology, a digital monitor will be installed outside the court office. This monitor should help communicate more effectively in educating and updating the public. The Court can be reached at 973-383-3521 X 236 or by email at kquinn@newtontownhall.com or mestremere@newtontownhall.com.



2020 BUDGET ANALYSIS

On April 27, 2020, the Town Council adopted the amended 2020 Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program, which totals \$13,202,397.

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 \$3,296,372, which makes it even more challenging to manage the fiscal affairs of the municipal organization.

Furthermore, the new average residential property assessment has gone up slightly from the 2019 level of \$184,841 to the new 2020 level of \$185,150. 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 in 2019 to \$2,767 in 2020 – an increase of only \$3 a month. Considering the reality that we are at full staffing and operating expenses are being tightly monitored, the only way for Newton to succeed going forward is to see increased economic activity, driving up construction revenues and increasing the overall ratable base.

This exceptional budget is due to the leadership of the Governing Body and the hard work, dedication, and commitment of numerous department heads and staff members, who work tirelessly to monitor expenses and manage revenues appropriately. I thank everyone for their efforts as they are very much recognized and appreciated.

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 \$4,947,522 for the 2020 year. The Water and Sewer budget provides service to 2,687 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 2020 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 the budget appropriations and revenue projections, as contained in the 2020 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 the financial well-being of our municipal government is preserved.

Thomas S. Russo, Jr., MPA, CPM
Town Manager

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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 ~ Kat Walker & Thomas S. Russo, Jr.

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S NEWS

ELECTION NEWS

PRIMARY ELECTION DATE CHANGE: As per Executive Order No. 120, **Tuesday, July 7th** is the new date for the **Primary Election**. This will be a primarily **vote-by-mail** election. ALL registered Democratic and Republican voters will receive a postage paid vote-by-mail ballot. ALL unaffiliated and inactive voters will receive a postage-paid vote-by-mail ballot application. Your application must be received by **no later than June 30th** in order to be mailed a ballot. The deadline by which votes must be received by the County Board of Elections via mail to be counted as valid has been extended to **SEVEN DAYS** after polls close (July 14th – 8 pm). If you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Clerk at 973-383-3521 extension 232.



A limited number of in-person polling places will be open to ensure that everyone can exercise their right to vote. Polls are open 6 am to 8 pm.

Newton Fire House
Newton Municipal Building

22 Mill Street (tentative)
39 Trinity Street (tentative)

Attention Voters:

Please note the following procedures for the **upcoming Primary Election on July 7th:**

- ◆ After you vote your ballot you may either **mail it back in the pre-paid envelope**, or you may **drop it in a secure drop box** located at the Newton Municipal Building.
- ◆ **DO NOT BRING YOUR BALLOT TO A POLLING LOCATION ON ELECTION DAY.**
- ◆ Voting machines are available for visually impaired voters **ONLY**.
- ◆ If you show up at the polls on Election Day, you may **ONLY** vote a paper provisional ballot!

The **General Election** will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020.**

Important Note: **Municipal Election** will be held at the **General Election** this year!

FISHING PERMITS:

Morris Lake will open for fishing on **June 1st**. Fees: \$20.00 for residents; \$15.00 for residents over 62 yrs. of age. To make arrangements to purchase a permit please contact the Clerk's office at 973-383-3521 extension 232.

TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE:

This year, the Town will hold their annual **Town-Wide Garage Sale** on **August 7th, 8th, and 9th**. 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 31st.** Maps will be available at the Town Clerk's Office and in the lobby of the Police Station.



www.newtontownhall.com

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY



Did you know 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.

Did you know 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. The second most common reason for high usage is the outside hose bib.



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



NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PROUDLY SERVING THE TOWN OF NEWTON, NEW JERSEY SINCE 1910



It is with great sadness and a heavy heart, the Newton Police Department and the Sussex County Sheriff's Department regret to announce the passing of its 9th Chief of Police and Undersheriff, John D. Tomasula, after waging a COURAGEOUS battle with cancer for many years.

Chief Tomasula has been the most reliable friend, mentor and leader among law enforcement in Sussex County for nearly 40 years. He was instrumental in developing a culture at the Newton Police Department for over 25 years that was centered around Integrity, Character and Selflessness. From his days as an outstanding Detective and coordinating the Annual PBA Fishing Contest to his tenure as Chief of Police and Sussex County Undersheriff, John always placed his service above self, showing genuine care for those under his leadership. Chief Tomasula had also developed strong relationships with residents, business owners, community leaders and fellow law enforcement agencies alike. These interactions left them with an indelible impression that still exists today. A bond that

was always grounded in fairness, compassion and general overall decency.

Chief Tomasula was also instrumental in the expansion of our police department and the construction of our present police headquarters. Without his vision and guidance, we would not enjoy some of the advancements and benefits we experience today to assist us in doing our jobs. His many sacrifices and efforts on our behalf have contributed to our agency being the department it is today.

But most importantly, John was a great family man, friend and mentor to so many. He was an officer that led by example and one that many tried to emulate. As fine as an officer as he was, he was even a better human being and one whose friendship is irreplaceable. People like John come along once in a lifetime and for those of you that were fortunate enough to know him, and call him a friend, you would all agree that you are a better person because of his presence in your lives.

~ Rest Easy Our Friend. God Speed Brother~

POLICE DESK

Summer is just around the corner and the days are getting longer. During these challenging times, the Newton Police Department continues to maintain two goals: to protect the safety of the public and the safety of our officers. While we may not be able to always meet these goals through "social distancing" like many other occupations, we will continue to make every effort to fulfill our duties as safely, professionally and effectively as possible.

Positive interaction and communication with the community we serve is essential to providing a quality police service. To this end, the Town of Newton became the first in Sussex County to utilize the enhanced Smart911 system designed to speed the response to emergencies. Our PSAP also allows citizens to create a Safety Profile at Smart911 which gives our dispatchers the information they need and allows your household to be proactively provided with the details enabling dispatchers to send help in emergencies.



Newton Police has recently partnered with Ring in a new initiative to keep neighborhoods safer. Today, over 400 agencies use the Neighbors Portal, which is an extension of the Neighbors app that allow law enforcement to engage with their local community -- from posting important information about crime and safety events in their neighborhoods to viewing and commenting on public posts as a verified law enforcement officer to asking for help on active investigations by submitting requests for video recordings. Neighbors and local law enforcement have achieved significant results by working together through the Neighbors app. Every member of a community plays a vital role in making neighborhoods safer, and now users can decide how exactly they want to contribute to those conversations. To learn more how communication between law enforcement and communities has been enabled while protecting customer privacy. For more information please read <https://store.ring.com/neighbors>.



COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT ADDICTION RECOVERY



Hope begins here

1-844-SC-CLEAR

A significant issue affecting our community is the opiate epidemic. Heroin and other opioids are ravaging communities across America. The reality is one in three individuals are affected by the substance abuse disorder and addictions affects all people – no matter their occupation, income, race or status in the community. In an effort to combat the problem, Newton Police is leading the effort through involvement with the Sussex County C.L.E.A.R. program. This effort provides real therapy solutions while offering an understanding of what resources, recovery & treatment options are available.



Our agency is also proud to be a willing participant in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs program which is a collaborative effort by LEAD certified law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents, and the community to offer an educational program in the classroom to prevent or reduce drug abuse and violence among children and youth.

Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal and the Office of the New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies ("NJ CARES") have announced grant funding for counties to establish, expand, or adapt programs like "Operation Helping Hand" in which law enforcement officers play an active role in connecting individuals suffering from opioid addiction with vital treatment, recovery and/or support services. The grant affords counties flexibility in designing their own programs, to fit the needs and concerns in each region.



Every county's program will involve coordination and collaboration between law enforcement officers, recovery specialists, and mental health professionals to connect individuals suffering from the disease of addiction treatment and/or recovery support services.

Operation Helping Hand is an innovative program that successfully unites law enforcement, government, and the addiction-service community in the battle to save lives and end the heroin and opioid crisis. Through the expansion of this initiative, the Newton Police Department can cooperatively work with other agencies to further local efforts and to get more residents on a path to recovery.

Help Keep Your Community Safe



Anonymously Report Criminal Activity

Text Message C-R-I-M-E-S (274637) Keyword: NEWTON

In strengthening public safety partnerships, one of the fundamental keys is to develop trust between the police and the community. Please remember to report your concerns when observing suspicious activity. Info-sharing regarding criminal activity can also be provided to our agency via links on social media, our website or anonymously via text message (Text tips to CRIMES (274-637) keyword NEWTON). Modern tip texting supports two-way encrypted conversations & real-time logging so that trends and incident patterns can be identified over time. The introduction of cost-effective anonymous reports - in which text messages are stripped of any identifying information before being received by police - has resulted in an increase in community involvement. In many respects, anonymous tip-texting is one of the best examples of community policing strategies at work! **However, in an emergency or to report crimes in progress, always call 9-1-1.**

Traffic and pedestrian safety in Newton will continue to receive our focused attention. Reducing distracted driving and paying more attention to pedestrians is very important. By taking enforcement action when necessary and warranted, we are actively attempting to change pedestrian and motorist behavior to reduce the incidence of pedestrian crashes, injuries and fatalities in Newton.



FIRE NEWS

The Newton Fire Department moved into the new Station Two in January of this year.

The Department responded to 316 calls in 2019.



Just a reminder, be sure to check the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure your fire extinguisher is easily accessible and operational.



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!

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.

2019 End of Year Statistics:

Call Total: 1,999

Response rate: 94.9%

Avg. Arrival Time: 5.4 mins.

NEWTONFIRSTAIDSQUAD.ORG



68 SUSSEX STREET · PO BOX 5
NEWTON, NJ 07860

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 and decks 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.

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

RECYCLING

For residents looking to reduce their household waste and become better recyclers, look no further than the Recycle Coach platform. Residents can access Recycle Coach from their desktop computers, mobile devices, or through digital assistants like Amazon Alexa and Google Home. By leveraging the power of voice technology, the platform makes it easy for people to get local disposal information for thousands of household items when they need it.

The best part: it's absolutely FREE. Receive collection reminders and real time updates on service disruptions. Simply download the FREE app in the iTunes Store and/or Google Play.

Residents should contact the Newton DPW directly for questions or assistance with setting up the mobile app:

973-383-3521, ext. 220.



RECREATION

Miss Newton, Little Miss Newton, and Little Mr. Newton: This year's annual event is going live and virtual! You won't want to miss it! Our Virtual Pageant is scheduled for Friday, June 12th at 6 pm. Little Miss and Little Mr. contestants must be at least age 5 as of October 1, 2019 and no older than age 7 by the date of the pageant. Miss Newton contestants must be at least age 17 by August 1, 2020 but no older than 21 by August 4, 2020

A \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the winner of the Miss Newton Pageant.

For all updates and the latest news from our Recreation Department please be sure to visit, follow and like our **Social Media pages** at the following links:

- **Facebook: Town of Newton Recreation-NJ**
- **Instagram: NewtonNJRecreation**

To reach the Recreation office, call 973-383-3521 ext. 247 or email us at: recreation@newtontownhall.com.

POOL NEWS

****ATTENTION****

Come join our great team! We are hiring!

Now accepting applications for the following PT Seasonal Positions:

- Lifeguards
- Pool Assistants

To learn more & apply, visit: www.newtontownhall.com/jobs.aspx

For updates on the 2020 Newton Pool Season, follow and like our Social Media pages at:

- Facebook: Town of Newton Recreation- NJ
- Instagram: NewtonNJRecreation

****POOL SEASON IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE****



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Events are subject to change. Please visit us on our website or social media for updates.

Outdoor Movies* -

Star Wars, The Rise of Skywalker will be shown on a 20ft. inflatable screen on Friday, July 24th, with a rain date of July 25th. The first 100 kids in attendance will receive a free pack of Star Wars Trading cards.

Sonic the Hedgehog will be shown on August 21st, with a rain date of August 22nd.

The movies are shown on the basketball court located at Memory Park, Moran St. and start at 8pm. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket.



A Concert Under the Stars* – Arena – *Relive the Rock* will perform some of the greatest rock songs of our time on Saturday, July 11th at 7pm. The high energy band, *Fillet of Soul* will perform funk and soul music on August 8th. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Picnicking is encouraged. Sorry, no dogs or alcohol are allowed. Concert location to be determined.

A Taste of Newton* – This annual food festival will be held on Sept 14th with the rain date of Sept 21st. Held in the municipal Parking Lot #4 on Trinity St., this ticket only event will start at 6pm and feature many restaurants from the Sussex County area. The band, *Captains of Leisure*, will be on hand to entertain you from 6pm – 9pm. Dancing is encouraged. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.greaternewtoncc.com



**All events are subject to change.*

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Newton, NJ 07860**

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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.

224 Manager's Office
225 Tax Assessor
227 Planning/Zoning
231 Recreation
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

OTHER NUMBERS

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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