

The Newton News



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2017

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DATES OF INTEREST:

- Memorial Day
Town Hall Closed
May 29th
- Primary Election Day
June 6th
- Miss Newton,
Little Mr. & Miss Newton
June 9th 5:30pm
@ Project Self Sufficiency
- Newton Day
June 10th
- Pool Opens
June 23rd
- Council Reorganization Mtg.
July 1st, Noon
- Independence Day
Town Hall Closed
July 4th
- Mets-Yankees Bus Trip
August 15th
- SC Firemen's Parade
October 7th

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:

- ◆ Purchase of New Backhoe
- ◆ New DPW Garage Doors
- ◆ New DPW Crash Trailers
- ◆ Firehouse 2 Construction
- ◆ Roller Hockey Walls/Resurfacing
- ◆ Liberty Street and Madison Street Improvements
- ◆ Purchase of Various Pool Equipment
- ◆ Dugout Upgrades
- ◆ New Pole Barn Structure
- ◆ Sewer Line Inspection Project
- ◆ Sparta Avenue Pump Station Improvements – WWTP
- ◆ Sussex Street Pump Station Improvements – WTP

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., MPA, CPM
Town Manager

SUMMER HOURS

May 30th through September 1st
Monday - Wednesday 8:30am to 4:30pm
Thursday 8:30am to 6:30pm
Friday 8:30am to 1:30pm

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	Construction	
225 Tax Assessor	(Hardyston Twsp)	973-823-7020
227 Planning/Zoning	Fire Marshal	
228 Comm. Dev./Recreation	(Sussex County)	973-579-0380
231 Code Enforcement	Memory Park Pool	973-383-2810
232 Municipal Clerk/Registrar	Public Works Garage	973-383-4160
233 Treasurer	Recycling Center	973-383-1521
236 Deputy Court Administrator	Sewer	
239 Tax Collector	Treatment Plant	973-383-2090
240 Water/Sewer Collector	Police Department	
241 Finance Officer/CFO	(Non-emergency)	973-383-2525
242 Court Administrator		
254 Human Resources		
256 Deputy Registrar		

THE 2016 - 2017 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Sandra Lee Diglio, Mayor
Wayne Levante, Deputy Mayor
E. Kevin Elvidge, Councilman
Helen R. Le Frois, Councilwoman
Daniel Flynn, Councilman
Reorganization to be held July 1st

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



Get Social With Us



/GoNewtonNJ



newtontownhall.com



@GoNewtonNJ

FIRE REMINDERS

The Newton Fire Department would like to remind everyone to check the batteries on their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure your fire extinguisher is easily accessible and operational.

Also, 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:

June 3, 2017— Fire Department Annual Steak Bust at Firehouse #2, 56 Woodside Avenue, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. All you can eat, steak, baked potato, corn and salad. See any member for tickets.

October 7, 2017— Sussex County Firemen's Parade. Newton Fire Department is hosting the parade on Spring Street this year.

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S NEWS...

FISHING PERMITS

Fishing at Morris Lake began on Saturday, April 15, 2017. 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 Town Wide Garage Sale will be held on **August 4th, 5th and 6th**. 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.

2017 BUDGET ANALYSIS

"On April 10, 2017 the Town Council will vote on the 2017 Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program, which totals \$12,535,000. 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 \$2,579,510, 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 2016 level of \$187,639 to the new 2017 level of \$185,938. Therefore, factoring in these new calculations and the budget and tax levy as proposed, the municipal taxes on an average assessed home in 2016 of \$2,678 will go up to \$2,702 in 2017 - an increase of about \$.06 a day.

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 \$4,432,000 for the 2017 year. The Water and Sewer budget provides service to 2,651 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 2017 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 2017 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

TAX BILLS

Tax bills for the Final 2017/Preliminary 2018 will be mailed in late July 2017. 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 2017 (August and November) as well as the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2018 (February and May). The annual mailing of bills follows the certification of the tax rate by the Sussex County Board of Taxation.

Any property owner who has had a change to their mailing address should notify the tax office, in writing, prior to July 1, 2017 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 2016 Form PTR New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement ("Senior Freeze") applications were mailed in late February 2017. You must file your application no later than June 1, 2017 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.

2017 HOMESTEAD CREDIT

If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Credit the State will be applying the credit to your 2nd quarter 2017 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.

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.

Also, often common, routine maintenance/repairs require Building permits – when in doubt; please call first!



WATER AND SEWER UTILITY



Please take note that effective with the 2nd quarter 2017 June billing, accounts will be billed on the 25th day of February, May, August, and November. All payments **must** reach the finance office by March 25, June 25, September 25, and December 25, or they will be subject to a 10% penalty.

On April 10, 2017 the Town Council will lift the water restrictions. However, residents are encouraged to practice water conservation efforts.

ZONING REMINDERS

The Zoning Officer, Katherine Citterbart, would like to remind 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
- Dumpsters

Also, 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.

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

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.



POLICE DESK

Members of the Newton Police Department are dedicated professionals, committed to serving our residents, business owners and visitors. We continually look for ways to improve our operation and ensure public safety for all. Working together with community organizations and other agencies, as well as, partnering with the public we serve helps to strengthen our effectiveness.

Communication and community engagement is a key element of this collaborative community policing approach. As such, we regularly share information through our website and social media and we host “Coffee With a Cop” events, which serve as a great opportunity to get to know your hometown Officers in a relaxed, informal setting. We also have a free mobile app where we publish a map of nearly all police activity, updated every day for the entire Town. Sign up to receive alerts when something happens near where you live or work.

Considering that effective communication is bi-directional, we ask everyone to please help *us* help *you*. Please remember to *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 suspected criminal activity in progress, always call 9-1-1.*

**Help Keep Your
Community Safe**



TipSubmit
Anonymously Report
Criminal Activity
Text Message **C-R-I-M-E-S** (274637)
Keyword: **NEWTON**

Another example of this collaborative approach is the **Sussex County C.L.E.A.R.** program - **Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery** [www.CLEARprogram.org]. The scourge of the widely recognized opioid epidemic effects everyone - *and* everyone benefits from helping people with addiction. The C.L.E.A.R. program is a model public safety/public health partnership that is helping make a meaningful positive difference in the quality of life for individuals, families and our entire community.



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. We’re partnering with Trans Options and their *Street Smart* program again this year to help change pedestrian and motorist behavior to reduce the incidence of pedestrian crashes, injuries and fatalities in Newton.



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**

COURT NEWS...

The Town of Newton & Green Township Municipal Court warmly introduces our new Deputy, Aida Cahill. Aida is certified in Municipal Court Administration. She comes with a wealth of knowledge and has many years within the Municipal Courts and has worked in both the Sparta Municipal Court and the Ogdensburg Municipal Court.

Bail Reform began on January 1st, 2017. This is a major shift in court procedures within the Municipal Courts throughout the State of New Jersey.

For payments of Traffic Tickets via the Web, please go to www.njcourts.gov. You can also make your payments in person or thru the mail. Payments can be made with Credit Cards thru the Violations Bureau, Money Orders, Cash or Personal Checks. (Please note: Green Township Court does not accept credit cards thru the Violations Bureau window). **NEWTON MUNICIPAL COURT DOES NOT TAKE PAYMENTS OVER THE TELEPHONE.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipal Court office, at (973) 383 3521 (Deputy Court Administrator) Ext. 236 or (Court Administrator) Ext. 242.

RECREATION

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

This annual event is scheduled for Friday June, 9th at 5:30pm at Project Self-Sufficiency in 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. The application will also be available on our website at www.newtontownhall.com. Applications must be received at Town Hall no later than June 2nd at noon. Little Miss and Little Mr. contestants must be ages 5-7 by October 1, 2016. Miss Newton contestants must be between the ages of 17-21.

Newton Pool Registration:

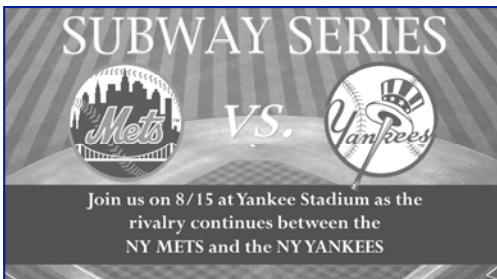
The Newton Pool will be open June 23rd through August 27th. Hours of operation will be Noon – 7:00pm daily. All family memberships will receive one free session of swim lessons! Swim lessons will be held in the mornings and the evenings to accommodate your busy schedules. Registration information will be posted on the Town website and also on our Facebook page. Visit us on Facebook at “Town of Newton Recreation” for more information.

There are many activities planned for the 2017 pool season. Mark your calendars for the July 4th Salute to Heroes event, the Hawaiian Luau on July 22nd, and the Flick and Fun showing of “Moana” on August 19th! Additional fun activities will be posted on our Facebook page so be sure to “Like” us to stay up to date!

For more information, please contact the Recreation Department at recreation@newtontownhall.com or 973-383-3521 x228.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game:



The Recreation Department is hosting a bus trip to see the NY Yankees and NY Mets go head to head in a Subway Series game on Tuesday, August 15th. The cost per person is \$110 and includes roundtrip transportation, game ticket, and all you care to eat Pepsi, sausage, hot dogs and pretzels through the 5th inning! The bus will depart the Newton Park and Ride behind Shop Rite at 4:00pm. Space is limited and not guaranteed until payment via check or cash is received. For more information or to reserve your seat, please contact the Recreation Department at recreation@newtontownhall.com or 973-383-3521 x228.

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 Street. Only \$5 per class. No pre-registration necessary. Contact the Recreation Department at recreation@newtontownhall.com or 973-383-3521 x228 with questions.

Prime Time Seniors:

This social group is for residents of the Town of Newton, ages 55 and up. They meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at Newton Firehouse #1, 22 Mill Street. Refreshments are served at 12:30pm with the meeting beginning promptly at 1:00pm. For information call Pat Powers at 201-410-8406.

ELECTION NEWS

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 6th. Polls are open 6:00am to 8:00pm. 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	39 Trinity St.
#4	NFAS Building	66 Sussex St.
#6	First United Methodist Church	111 Ryerson Ave.

The **Primary Election** will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017.

The **General Election** will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.



BRUSH PICKUP

The DPW crew will pick up brush ONLY during the month of May. Leaf pickup will only be conducted during the Fall.

****PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE SCHEDULE FOR PICK-UP****

Pickup will follow the Recycling pick up schedule. **Zone 1** will be picked up the week of May 1st, **Zone 2** will be picked up the week of May 8th, **Zone 3** will be picked up the week of May 15th, and **Zone 4** will be picked up the week of May 22th. Please cooperate by making sure brush is placed at the curb **by 7:00 a.m.** 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 <http://www.scmua.org>.

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.



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 Bernard Hattersley, Code Enforcement Director, at 973-383-3521, Ext. 231.

Town of Newton
39 Trinity Street
Newton, NJ 07860

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PERMIT NO. 194
SPARTA, NJ 07871

The Newton Town Council typically meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month. All meetings are held at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers located on the first floor of the Municipal Building at 39 Trinity Street. Meetings are open for public attendance and comment.



E. Kevin Elvidge
Councilman

kelvidge@newtontownhall.com



Sandra Lee Diglio
Mayor

sdiglio@newtontownhall.com



Daniel Flynn
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Wayne Levante
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