

The Newton News



VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

FALL 2012

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DATES OF INTEREST

- Halloween Parade
Oct. 31
- Fall Leaf & Brush Pickup
Nov. 1 thru Nov. 30
- Election Day
Nov. 6
- Veterans' Day (Observed)
Nov. 12
- NMC Festival of Lights
Nov. 17
- Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed
Nov. 22 & 23
- GNCC Holiday Parade
Nov. 24
- Senior Holiday Dinner
Dec. 2
- Municipal Tree Lighting
Dec. 10
- Christmas Eve
Town Hall Closes at Noon
Dec. 24
- Christmas Day
Town Hall Closed
Dec. 25

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

I have just concluded my fourth year as your Town Manager and I must say that I continue to be blessed to lead such a fine community. We have many exciting projects to talk about so let's get down to business. The summer has been a busy time of year for us. Following on the heels of the successful Merriam Avenue project, both the Water & Sewer Department and the DPW crews worked tirelessly this summer on the Moran Street and Maple Avenue watermain projects. By doing the work inhouse, the Town was able to save a substantial amount of money. We are fortunate to have such talented employees on our team.

The summer brought another water crisis as a local vendor disrupted our water service coming into Town from Morris Lake. Occurring in the Drake Manor section of Andover Township, the disruption was adroitly handled by our staff, minimizing problems for local residents and businesses. We urge everyone to follow the law and "call 8-1-1 before they dig" so that problems like this do not happen in the future.

Other projects that were started or completed this summer included: the new retaining wall at the Municipal Building; a new retaining wall near Memory Park; various park, playground, and pool improvements; purchase of a new chipper for the DPW; new turnout gear dryers for the Fire Department; guardrail and fencing at Memory Park; new email server for the Police; and a new solar powered traffic data/message trailer for the Police. These are just some of the numerous projects that occur throughout the year in your community, and rest assured that we are very grateful for the support you provide us so that we may in turn provide quality equipment to staff and exceptional services to residents and businesses alike.

In economic news, the Town has approved a new townhome development behind the Quick Chek property on Sparta Avenue. The redevelopment plan for Newton Townsquare was successfully amended and improvements continue to the properties near Thorlabs. The Newton Theatre continued to add great entertainment with more shows added every week. Please support our local small businesses - they are the engine that drives the economy. We encourage those with a passion for retail to consider opening up shop in Newton. Remember: The key to keeping residential taxes from escalating at an unreasonable pace is the pursuit of quality commercial ratables, and our staff is committed to being business-friendly so that individuals and companies are comfortable investing their capital in Newton's commercial areas.

Another exciting project that has just come online is the review and update of the Town's Vision Plan. As you may recall, the Town of Newton began a visioning process in 2005, which utilized visual preference surveys during two public workshops to gain a consensus on the direction of planning and development for the Town. The results of the workshops were compiled into a vision plan known as the "Town of Newton's Urban Design Plan." The plan outlined a community consensus on the type of development desired, identified potential areas for redevelopment and framed a new zoning scheme for the Town.

Now, eight years after the development of its first vision plan, the Town Council wishes to review and evaluate the vision. While the Town has had many successes there have also been setbacks in other areas. As part of this project, the Town is reaching out to the community of Newton, businesses and residents alike, for input on the Vision Plan Update. The Town will hold two visioning sessions: Thursday, October 25th, 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 27th, 9:00 a.m., both at the Municipal Building located at 39 Trinity Street. I hope to see you at one or both of the sessions - your input is critical to our long-term success!

Our 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 this beautiful fall season and during the upcoming holidays.

Yours for a Better Newton,

Thomas S. Russo, Jr.
Town Manager

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	OTHER NUMBERS	
224 Manager's Office	Public Works Garage	973-383-4160
225 Tax Assessor	Recycling Center	973-383-1521
226 Deputy Town Manager	Memory Park Pool	973-383-2810
227 Planning/Zoning	Wastewater	
228 Comm. Dev./Recreation	Treatment Plant	973-383-2090
232 Municipal Clerk	Police Department	
233 Treasurer	(Non-emergency)	973-383-2525
236 Deputy Court Administrator	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>THE 2012-2013 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL Sandra Lee Diglio, Mayor Joseph A. Ricciardo, Deputy Mayor E. Kevin Elvidge, Councilman Kristen S. Becker, Councilwoman Daniel G. Flynn, Councilman</p> </div>	
239 Tax Collector		
240 Water/Sewer Collector		
241 Finance Officer/CFO		
242 Court Administrator		
243 Fire Prevention Secretary		
244 Human Resources		
254 Human Resources		

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

GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 6, 2012

The November General Election is Tuesday, November 6, 2012. In order to be eligible to vote, one must be a U.S. citizen who is 18 years old by Election Day; a resident of the State and County at least 30 days prior to an election; and not be serving a prison sentence or be on parole/probation for an indictable offense. The last day to register in order to be eligible to vote in the November 6, 2012 election is October 16, 2012. Registration forms can be picked up in the Municipal Clerk's office or downloaded at www.state.nj.us/state/elections.

Polls are open 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Polling Places in Newton:

- #1 & #2** Newton Fire House
22 Mill St.
- #3 & #5** Hose & Chem. Co.
56 Woodside Ave.
- #4** NFAS Building
8 Sussex St.
- #6** First United Methodist Church
111 Ryerson Ave.

TOWN COUNCIL

The Newton Town Council welcomes a new member! Daniel G. Flynn was sworn into office on July 2nd.

Councilman Flynn has resided in Newton for 2 years. After graduating college, Mr. Flynn went to work as a Civil Engineer for DMJM Harris where he aided in the design and analysis on several highway transportation projects. In 2008, he went to work as a Project Manager for Stormwater Compliance Solutions, LLC, an engineering firm that specializes in stormwater management and many other types of water resource related projects. Mr. Flynn also works for Ferriero Engineering, Inc., as a design engineer and assists in various municipal engineering projects.

Mr. Flynn has traveled to several Central and South American countries during and after college. He believes that traveling and immersing yourself in different cultures really allows for a greater appreciation of others and your own culture. We welcome Dan to our team!



FINANCE NEWS

Year End Penalty for Delinquent Taxes

Pursuant to R.S. 54:4-67 the Town of Newton imposes a 6% year-end penalty on all accounts in which the delinquencies exceed \$10,000. At the end of the year the 6% penalty is added to the total delinquency and carried forward into the next year. Interest is then charged according to Statute.

Reminders

The 4th quarter property taxes are due on November 1, 2012. Payments must be received by 4:30 PM on Tuesday, November 13th. If taxes are not paid by November 13th, they will be considered delinquent and interest will be charged back to November 1st in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-67.



ONLINE PAYMENTS



Residents can now pay their tax and utility bills online. Go to www.newtontownhall.com, click on either the "Pay Taxes Online" or "Pay Utilities Online" links on the left side of the homepage and follow the prompts. When you pay from the Town Website before midnight, your payment will be processed the next day. If you use your bank's online pay system your payment may take 2-3 days before the Town receives and can post your payment. A fee does apply.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

The Public Works crew will be picking up Christmas trees beginning December 26, 2012 through January 25, 2013. All trees must be free of bases, lights and ornaments.

FREE RABIES CLINIC

The Town of Newton is once again sponsoring a free rabies clinic on January 5, 2012 at the Newton Municipal Garage, 117 Moran Street from 9:00 AM to Noon.

Dog and Cat license fees are:

Dogs: \$15.00 Spayed/Neutered Cats: \$12.00
 \$18.00 Non-Spayed/Non-Neutered

Late fee is \$5.00 each month per dog beginning 2/1/13.

NOTE: The State of New Jersey mandates that the current rabies vaccination cannot expire before November 1st of the current year. Dogs can safely be vaccinated every two years.

License application forms may be downloaded at www.newtontownhall.com/licenses.

FALL LEAF & BRUSH PICK-UP

The Town of Newton announces that it will combine a brush pick-up with the annual leaf collection program in November. The Public Works crew will begin the Collection Program on Monday, October 29, 2012 and will continue until November 30, 2012. Please put the bags and brush out at the curb line and not in the street. This will avoid interference with traffic and possible breakage of the bags. 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 brush and light pruning. Property owners are responsible for felled trees. The leaves and brush will be taken to the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) facility for disposal. SCMUA will only accept leaves in biodegradable bags. The bags can be purchased at local home improvement stores. Residents may take leaves/brush to SCMUA for disposal themselves, but a small fee may be charged by the County facility.



TAX ASSESSMENT

Any property owner that feels their assessment is "out of line" with other similar properties in Town, or at a level not representative of the current market value, can pursue an Assessment Review prior to the end of the year. The review process involves submission of a questionnaire dealing with the specific facts about your property and any issues that are of relevance. The Assessment Review Form is available electronically on the Town's website (through the Finance Department link). The Assessor reviews any submissions in this regard between October 15th and December 15th, in order to implement any necessary changes to the Tax Book for the following year. If a review results in no change to the assessment, the property owner will be notified of this decision by mail, and informed about the Appeal Process available to them.

During December, the Assessment office announces a date and time when the Tax Book will be available for review by the public (Typically Christmas week). This provides the public with an opportunity to review any property assessments before those figures are filed with the Sussex County Board of Taxation. The County Tax Board adopts the official Tax Book by January 10th of each year. Property owners receive written notification of their current assessment each year in February via postcard. The deadline for filing any new tax appeals to challenge an individual assessment is on or before APRIL 1st.

NEWTON: SUSSEX COUNTY'S DOWNTOWN

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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A reminder to Seniors who are partaking in the snow shoveling program: this is a service that is provided to the Town by the Sussex County Sheriff's Office for those seniors that are 62 years of age or older, have a diagnosed handicap or possess a handicap placard, no member of the household is physically able to do shoveling, and member(s) of the household must be on a fixed income. There is a limit on the numbers of seniors who can be placed on the list. For more information you can contact the Community Development Department at (973) 383-3521, ext. 228.

WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Ban on Outdoor Water Use: The Town of Newton issued a ban on outdoor water use to all residents and water customers of the Town of Newton Water System effective September 13, 2012. Morris Lake is presently at 28 inches below the spillway and is continuing to decrease due to lack of rain. All customers are advised that watering their lawns, washing vehicles, washing of driveways, walkways, and sidewalks, or utilizing water to fill swimming pools, fountains, and ponds is strictly prohibited. We ask that residents and customers take measures to conserve water inside their homes as well. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

The Town Manager, through the Chief of Police and the Police Department, shall enforce the provisions of this section. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate such water restrictions or bans or outdoor water use adopted by the Newton Town Council. For violation of any provision of this article, any other chapter of this Code, or of any other ordinance of the Town where no specific penalty is provided regarding the section or sections violated, the maximum penalty shall, upon conviction of a violation, be one or more of the following: a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days or a period of community service not exceeding 90 days.

The Newton News

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

RECREATION

The 2012 **Fall Senior Dinner** will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at Noon. Every year the Newton Recreation Commission sponsors a holiday dinner for senior citizens in Newton. All senior residents of Newton are invited to participate in this event. For reservations, please call Suzie at 973-383-3521, ext. 228.

Our **Annual Tree Lighting** is scheduled to be held Monday, December 10, 2012 at the Municipal Building starting at 6:00 PM. Please join us in decorating the tree, singing holiday songs, and enjoying refreshments.

Once again this year we will be having the House Decorating Contest. We would love to see your house decorated for the holidays. There will be a prize for the winner. The winner will be announced at the December 26, 2012 Town Council meeting at 7:00 PM. Nominations can be made through our website at www.newtontownhall.com.

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 7:30 AM 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 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Saturdays 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Brush leaves and grass clippings are no longer accepted at the Recycling Center.

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

OPERATION SANTA

The Newton Fire Department will be hosting the 7th Annual "Operation Santa" on Saturday, December 22nd. With the help of the Newton Fire Department, Santa will visit residents the Saturday before Christmas beginning at 2:30 PM. Santa will drop by your home to see your child(ren) for a donation of \$10.00 for the first child and \$5.00 for each additional child. Santa will arrive on the FIRE TRUCK and deliver YOUR GIFT from Santa. (You must drop off your present for your child(ren) at the #2 Fire House, located at the corner of Woodside and Lawnwood Avenues between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM on December 18th or 19th). Registration forms can be picked up at Town Hall starting on October 22nd and must be returned to the Newton Fire Department by December 14th. For more information, please call Fire Fighter Jason Miller at 973-383-4746. You can leave a message with your full name, address and phone number.



RECENT ORDINANCES

The Newton Town Council recently adopted several ordinances of interest:

Ordinance 2011-19 in the event any tree/shrub or portion thereof along a public highway presents a hazard to public safety, then the owner of the property in front of which the tree/shrub is located shall be required to remove the same upon service of written notice from the supervisor of public works.

Ordinance 2011-23 prohibits "Outdoor Furnaces" in all zones.

Ordinance 2011-26 provides the option for a Merchant parking pass to be purchase semi-annually and annually for business owners on Spring Street who have a ground floor business located on Spring Street from Union Place to Main Street

Ordinance 2012-2 adopts a new code book for the Town of Newton.

Ordinance 2012-7 creates a loading zone in Lot #1—Adams Street Lot.

Ordinance 2012-11 prohibits engine braking within the Town of Newton.

To review Town ordinances that have recently been adopted visit our website at www.newtontownhall.com/ordinances.

PARKING REGULATIONS

When snow accumulates and covers any public street, road, or parking lot, vehicles are not allowed to be parked on those streets or in those parking lots until the Public Works Department has had sufficient time to plow the snow. Vehicles parked illegally on snow-covered streets or in parking lots will be **ticketed and/or towed**. In the interest of public safety, Newton residents are asked to abide by the above regulations following snowstorms.

Chapter 307-49 of the Code of the Town of Newton prohibits the parking of vehicles on any street within the Town of Newton during the hours of 4:00am and 6:00am. To review the code of the Town of Newton please visit our website at www.newtontownhall.com/municipalcode. For a complete listing of Schedules see Chapter 307, Vehicles and Traffic, Article XI, Schedules.



FROM THE POLICE DESK...

Newton Police Chief Michael Richards believes that from homeland security to hometown security, it has long been proven that assistance from the public is invaluable to law enforcement efforts to prevent crime, conduct investigations and assist victims of criminal activity.

With this belief in mind, Newton PD has been a leader in law enforcement innovation and community engagement. We're proud to announce several initiatives, recently expanding existing and implementing new programs for residents of the Town of Newton.



Building upon the success of the crime mapping service featured on www.NewtonPolice.org that publishes our activity on a daily basis, we now accept anonymous tips via text message, on the web, Facebook and via free iPhone and Android apps. Combining crime tips with our crime mapping service, two way communications are facilitated, the police operation is more transparent and the public and police become more effective public safety partners.

We're also excited to be participating in the Project Medicine Drop program, an initiative of the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. Through our participation, the Department has securely installed a medication drop box in the lobby of Police Headquarters. Residents are invited to visit the station at any time, every day of the year to anonymously discard their unused, unwanted or expired medications.

Project Medicine Drop is another fine example of working with our community to promote public safety. The program helps keep prescription drugs from falling into the hands of those who might make them available for abuse, and prevents them from being flushed into the water supply or thrown into the trash where they could contaminate the environment.

The Department will continue to foster communications and partner with the residents, businesses and community organizations of Newton as we aim to be increasingly effective at making Newton a safe and great place to raise a family or operate a business.



Visit our website to find additional information about the Police Department and our activities. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Members of the department enjoy the opportunity to hear your feedback and to improve our service through partnership with those we serve.

For More Info, Please Visit Newton PD at www.NewtonPolice.org

THE GREATER NEWTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Greater Newton Chamber of Commerce is an organization committed to foster, protect, and advance the commercial, mercantile, professional, financial, manufacturing, and civic interest in Newton and its environs. Building a strong business future in the greater Newton area is one of the primary goals of the Chamber of Commerce. We serve as a resource for the businesses and the community. For more information visit www.greaternewtoncc.com.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: you name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cleanup costs.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

As a resident, business, or other member of the Newton community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water:

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- ◆ Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- ◆ Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- ◆ Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- ◆ Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- ◆ If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.

- ◆ Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local bodies of water and the water is not treated.
- ◆ If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- ◆ Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.

Keep pollution out of storm drains

- ◆ Recycle used motor oil.
- ◆ Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local bodies of water.
- ◆ Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.
- ◆ Clean and plentiful water is important to our families, our environment, our economy and our quality of life. Did you know that animal waste from pets can pollute our waters? When left on the ground, pet waste is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into storm drains that carry it to our rivers, lakes, bays, the ocean and drinking water. Animal waste contains a high concentration of nutrients as well as bacteria and disease-causing microorganisms that can cause problems.

Clean up after your pet

- ◆ Follow the Town of Newton pet-waste rules.
- ◆ Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or people's property.
- ◆ Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.
- ◆ Dispose of the unwrapped pet waste in a toilet.
- ◆ Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

Don't litter

- ◆ Place litter in trash receptacles.
- ◆ Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- ◆ Participate in community cleanups.

Dispose of yard waste properly

- ◆ Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- ◆ Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- ◆ Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.



Frequently Asked Questions About 2-1-1

What is 2-1-1?

A place to turn when you need to find state or local health and human service resources to address urgent needs or everyday concerns – Free; Confidential; Multi-lingual; TTY accessible; Available 24/7

An easy-to-remember telephone number that connects callers to resource specialists who are ready to guide callers to available resources that will do the most good

A Web site that provides easy access to our resource database and topical Web pages that provide essential facts, contact numbers and Web addresses so individuals have the tools they need to find answers

A service that reliably tracks expressed needs and regularly provides government leaders with data that enables them to address emerging social trends in real time.

What types of questions can be answered by 2-1-1 Call Specialists?

While resources that are offered through NJ 2-1-1 vary from community to community, call specialists will provide comprehensive information and referral services to callers about a variety of issues, including:

Basic Human Needs Resource: food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rental assistance, utility assistance...

Support for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities: adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services...

Support for Children, Youth and Families: childcare, after school programs, Kids Care (health insurance programs), family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services...

Physical and Mental Health Resources: health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, Children's Health Insurance Program, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation...

Employment Supports: financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs...

Where is 2-1-1 available in New Jersey?

Calls are received from anywhere in the state. You can reach NJ 2-1-1 by dialing 2-1-1 from any landline or cell phone. You can also communicate with a resource specialist through Instant Messaging technology on our Web site.

Is there a charge for using NJ 2-1-1?

2-1-1 is offered to the public for free. There is no charge for calling 2-1-1 and speaking with a resource specialist. There is no charge for searching the resource database to find resources in your community. And, there is no charge for using our Web site to learn about the health and human service system in our state, how it works, what services are available to help you and who you should call to address the challenges you face.

Need Help? – Dial 2-1-1

You are encouraged to dial "2-1-1" 24 hours a day, seven days a week if you need help in understanding and finding available assistance services. 2-1-1 will help identify with you the best local resources to fit your individual needs during times of distress or for life's everyday situations.