



The Newton News

Volume 24, Issue 2

Fall 2011

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A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

I have just concluded my third 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, as we had to manage several crises including the watermain break caused by the actions of Andover Township’s DPW crew and the Hurricane Irene event. I want to thank all residents and businesses for their patience during these events and I must especially thank the hard working men and women who work or volunteer for Newton. By everyone pitching in and doing their part, we were able to survive these situations with minimal disruption to our daily lives, which is especially impressive when you consider the devastation that occurred in other communities due to the hurricane. Newton’s staff and volunteers are always on standby to assist the community when disaster strikes and I am exceptionally grateful for their state of readiness and preparedness.

Both the Water and Sewer Department and the DPW crews worked tirelessly this summer on the exciting Merriam Avenue watermain project. By doing the work in-house, the Town was able to save a substantial amount of money and ensure that the work was done quickly and correctly. We are fortunate to have such talented employees on our team. Other infrastructure improvements occurred this summer, with successful paving projects for four local streets, as well as significant sidewalk/ apron improvements. As of this writing we are still finishing up the final touches on the Western Plaza Lot #3 improvements, including better drainage, milling, paving, striping, and a new parking lot machine for payments.

A lot of economic revitalization continues in Newton. The Newton Theatre reopened its doors in September to a sold-out Todd Rundgren extravaganza. Check out the Newton Theatre’s website for future shows and events. The addition of a facility that can bring hundreds of people to the downtown to shop, eat, and relax, is fantastic! We have new businesses opening their doors in the downtown as we speak, and we encourage other entrepreneurs to look at the available retail opportunities in our thriving downtown. By supporting local businesses, we all do our part to ensure the economic vitality of communities like Newton.

In other macroeconomic news, Thorlabs continues their impressive work on their new world headquarters on Sparta Avenue. New restaurants are opening up in town or looking to do so, and interest continues in both the vacant EJ Brooks site and the Paterson Avenue Redevelopment Area. The key to keeping residential taxes from escalating at an unreasonable pace is the pursuit of quality commercial rates, and our staff is committed to being business friendly so that individuals and companies feel comfortable investing their capital in Newton’s commercial areas.

The Town has done its part to encourage commercial revitalization by working on a plethora of beautification projects related to the Circulation Plan implementation. Specifically, we have installed new bike racks, benches, and fido houses in the downtown district. The Newton Rotary has graciously agreed to donate two new flag poles for the downtown district, which will be used not just to display our patriotism and American pride, but they will allow us to place banners up for various events and parades. Also in the process of being installed as this goes to print are the new wayfinding signs. These signs are critical informational tools which will assist new visitors in navigating their way into town safely and into one of our many available, affordably priced parking lots. The Town’s investment in these items demonstrates a serious commitment to the success of our business merchants. Please support your local retail establishments and encourage your family and friends to visit the new Newton.

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

DATES OF INTEREST

- Halloween Parade - Oct. 31
- Fall Leaf Pick-up
Nov. 1 thru Nov. 30
- Election Day - Nov. 8
- Veterans’ Day - Nov. 11
- NMC Festival of Lights - Nov. 19
- Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed
Nov. 24 & 25
- GNCC Holiday Parade - Nov. 26
- Senior Holiday Dinner - Dec. 4
- Municipal Tree Lighting
Dec. 12
- Christmas Eve Observed
Town Hall Closes at Noon
Dec. 23
- Christmas Day Observed
Town Hall Closed - Dec. 26

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**
- 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**
- 254 Human Resources**

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 2011-2012
NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Helen R. Le Frois, Mayor
Sandra Lee Diglio, Deputy Mayor
Joseph A. Ricciardo, Councilman
E. Kevin Elvidge, Councilman
Kristen S. Becker, Councilwoman

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

GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2011

The November General Election is Tuesday, November 8, 2011. 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 20 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 8, 2011 election is October 18, 2011. 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.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The Newton Municipal Court welcomes Lucy M. DeLoreto as our new Court Administrator. Lucy previously worked in the Rockaway and Jefferson court systems, and has taken over the position left vacant by the retirement of Ann Rosellen in August.

Our Municipal Court is a Court of Limited Jurisdiction and the summary below explains more about the Municipal Courts to help you understand how we work.

You can pay most of the common Traffic and Parking Summons online @ www.njcourts.com or www.njmcdirect.com; you will see a prompt on the right side of screen that says "Pay Tickets/Summons", click and follow the prompts. If you do not see the statute listed you can always call the Court office @ 973-383-3521, ext. 236 Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

For information regarding Motor Vehicle questions, visit the Motor Vehicle Commission website: www.mvc.gov. There you will find information regarding common motor vehicle statutes and questions.

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.

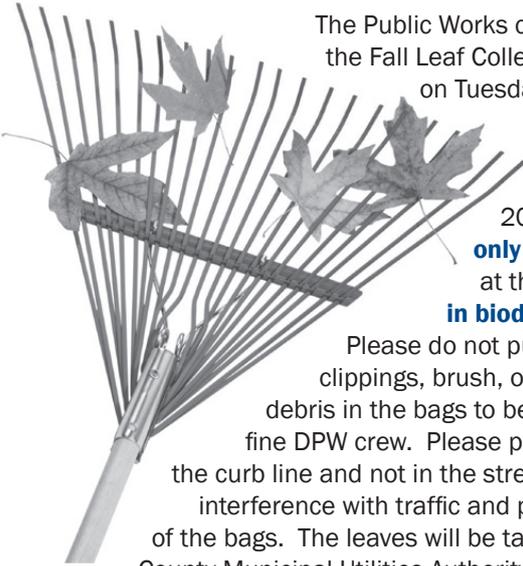
Reminders

The 4th quarter property taxes are due on November 1, 2011. Payments must be received by 4:30 PM on Thursday, November 10th. If taxes are not paid by November 10th, they will be considered delinquent and interest will be charged back to November 1st.

Homeowner Rebates

Homestead Rebate 1-888-238-1233
Property Tax Reimbursement 1-800-882-6597
Senior Citizen/Disabled Person/Veteran
973-383-3521, ext. 239

FALL LEAF PICK-UP



The Public Works crew will begin the Fall Leaf Collection Program on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 and will continue until November 30, 2011. **Leaves only** will be collected at the **street curb in biodegradable bags**.

Please do not put grass or hedge clippings, brush, or other vegetative debris in the bags to be picked up by the fine DPW crew. Please put the bags out at the curb line and not in the street. This will avoid interference with traffic and possible breakage of the bags. The leaves 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 the local home improvement stores. Residents may take leaves 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.

UTILITY 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.

FREE RABIES CLINIC

The Town of Newton is once again sponsoring a free rabies clinic on January 7, 2012 at the Newton Municipal Garage, 117 Moran Street from 9:00 AM to Noon.

Dog and Cat license fees are:

**Dogs: \$12.00 Spayed/Neutered Cats: \$10.00
\$15.00 Non-Spayed/Non-Neutered**

*Late fee is **\$5.00** each month per dog beginning 2/1/12.*

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Public Works crew will be picking up Christmas trees beginning December 28, 2011 until January 20, 2012. All trees must be free of bases, lights, and ornaments.

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.

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

OPERATION SANTA

The Newton Fire Department will be hosting the 6th Annual "Operation Santa" on Saturday, December 17th. With the help of the Newton Fire Department, Santa will visit residents the Saturday before Christmas beginning at 4:00 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 14th or 15th). Registration forms can be picked up at Town Hall and must be returned to the Newton Fire Department by December 10th. For more information, please call Chief Miller at 973-383-4746.



NEW EQUIPMENT

In July the Fire Department took delivery of a 2011 Pierce 95ft. Mid-Mount Aerial Platform truck. This truck is known as Tower 804 and replaces



the ladder truck that was totaled in a vehicle accident. The formal dedication of the fire truck followed tradition with a Wet Down that was held on September 3, 2011 at the VFW on Mill Street. Rev. Brian Sullivan of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church blessed the truck prior to the Wet Down.

FIRE PREVENTION

Please be advised that through a Shared Services Agreement between the Town of Newton and the County of Sussex, effective July 1, 2011, the Fire Prevention Bureau is now located and operating under the jurisdiction of the Sussex County Sheriff's Office at 39 High Street, Newton. Questions should be directed to Joe Inga at 973-383-0380 or jinga@sussexcountysheriff.com.

FIRE MUSEUM

The Newton Fire Department has a long history, and this past September they celebrated their 175th Anniversary. The Fire Department's Museum is located at 150 Spring Street, and the museum is open Fridays and Saturdays, Noon until 8:00 PM May through October. Group tours are available year-round by appointment. For more information: www.newtonfiremuseum.org.

RECENT ORDINANCES

The Newton Town Council recently adopted several ordinances of interest:

Ordinance 2010-17 consolidated the Zoning Board of Adjustment with the Planning Board to establish one Land Use Board.

Ordinance 2010-27 will allow for the Town to accept payments online by credit card through the Town's website for tax and utility bills.

Ordinance 2011-7 reduces the speed limit on North Park Drive to 25 mph.

Ordinance 2011-15 will provide a tax exemption for certain improvements or construction of certain residential dwelling, commercial/industrial structures within the downtown Historic District.

To review Town ordinances visit our website at www.newtontownhall.com/ordinances.

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.

FROM THE POLICE DESK...

Chief Michael Richards will be completing his first year in November 2011 serving as the 10th Chief of the Newton Police Department. During this time, his focus has been on increasing the department's effectiveness and responsiveness to problems and issues identified in the community.



Increased training opportunities offered to Police Officers has helped them improve their knowledge, skills and abilities and when we improve communications and partner with the residents and business owners of Newton, we can be more effective together at continuing to make Newton a great place to raise a family or operate a business.

A great deal of Department activity is updated and published daily for everyone to see through the "Crime Reports" link on Police Department website, www.NewtonPolice.org. Please visit the department website where you can find a wealth of additional information about the Police Department and how you can help keep your family safe and prevent criminal activity.

In addition to training, the department has also focused on improving the written directives of the department to coincide with nationally recognized best practices. There has also been an increased emphasis on the Newton Police Department crime prevention program. We look forward to any chance to make a presentation to community groups in the Newton area.

Please contact the department with any questions, suggestions or if you would like our members to give a presentation. Members of the department enjoy the opportunity to hear feedback and to improve our service through partnership with those we serve.

NEW OFFICER

Kyle J. Phlegar, 21, of Hampton Township, was appointed to the position of Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II on Monday, July 11, 2011. Kyle is currently attending the Union County Police Academy and is expected to graduate in December. Upon graduation he will help the Department with efforts in maintaining a vigilant presence in the Spring Street area. SLEO Class II Joe Sapio resigned in September to take a full-time position as a Public Safety Telecommunicator in Newton's Dispatch Center.




CrimeReports®

The Police Department has added a new tool in its efforts to improve information sharing with the community. In addition to receiving press information and information relating to real-time public safety incidents through Twitter and Facebook, members of the community can now log on to www.crimereports.com and learn for themselves about any criminal or public safety incidents that have occurred in any part of town. Users are able to drill down an inquiry to a specific neighborhood by a particular type of incident or offense. Users may also sign up for citizen crime alerts. The effort is aimed at empowering the community with knowledge of the types of crimes occurring in the area, in hopes of generating some feedback or intelligence information that could lead to solving some crimes and possibly developing trends that could help prevention efforts. The Department will continue to endeavor towards transparency in those areas that could lead to safer and more secure neighborhoods.

WINTER PARKING

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.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Department has been busy working with the Planning Board on the revision of the Land Use Ordinance. The ordinance is being updated to a form-based code and changing traditional zoning into Transect Zones. Review should be completed by the Board within the next couple of months and then the Town Council will review and adopt the updated form-based code. This is the final phase of implementation of the Vision Plan.

Reminder to Seniors who are partaking in the snow shoveling program: this is a service that is provided to the Town by the Sheriff's Department for those seniors that are 62 years of age or older; have a diagnosed handicap or possess a handicap placard; have no member of the household that 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.



RECREATION

The 2011 **Fall Senior Dinner** will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2011. Every year the Newton Recreation Commission sponsors a turkey dinner with all the trimmings 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 12, 2011 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 28, 2011 Town Council meeting at 7:00 PM. Nominations can be made through our website at www.newtontownhall.com.

PARKING AUTHORITY

The Newton Parking Authority continues making changes to provide better service to customers. As part of the Circulation Plan all the lots have been numbered, Adams Street is Lot #1, Main Street is Lot #2, Western Plaza is Lot #3, Central Plaza is Lot #4 and Eastern Plaza is Lot #5. So far, new parking meter machines have been installed and the spots have been relined and numbered in Lot #1, Lot #3 and Lot #4. These new machine accept all U.S. coins and one dollar bills for the public's convenience. A customer simply inputs the appropriate parking space number and deposits the coin or currency in the machine. Receipts from these lots **do not** need to be left on your dashboard anymore.

The Parking Authority now offers annual overnight parking passes for Central Plaza (Lot #4), Western Plaza (Lot #3), and the Adams Street Lot (Lot #1). The passes are valid January through December and are available for purchase in the Finance Office on the ground floor of the Municipal Building at a cost of \$180.00.

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.



The Newton News

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

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.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

A GUIDE TO HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEAN 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.

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.



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.

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 work place, make sure you store or dispose of them properly.
- Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PETS

- 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.

THE NEWTON SPRING STREET GROUP

Downtown Newton is thriving with boutique shops and galleries, fine dining, and entertainment, some of Sussex County's best choices. Looking ahead to fall and winter, residents and visitors will delight in a range of store events and promotions offered by the enterprising merchant members of The New Spring Street Group, an independent network of local supporters and business owners dedicated to improving the Newton retail business climate. The NSSG partners with the Town of Newton and local organizations to promote activities that encourage everyone to say, "Gotta get to Newton." Starting in September, the public has been able to enjoy Lunchfest-free Friday lunchtime concerts on Spring Street and the re-discovery of American music through the traveling exhibit "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music" sponsored by the Sussex County Arts and Heritage Council. Shop, dine, and take in a performance at the Newton Theatre, now open with an eclectic roster of musical acts each week. Spring Street will ring in the holidays with elaborate window decorations and a new people's choice window contest, debuting mid-November. Santa arrives after the Annual Holiday Parade on November 26th and re-appears on select weekends in December along with strolling carolers, luminaries, and warm wishes from the retail shops. Watch local papers and in-store signs for details. See you on Spring Street!

MEDIATION OF MINOR DISPUTES

Mediation is a process that seeks to resolve disputes through the intervention of a trained mediator, without pursuing a matter through the courts to trial and conviction. The mediator encourages discussions between the parties to help them reach an agreement they can both accept. The types of complaints sent to mediation generally include citizen complaints involving disputes between individuals or groups. These are commonly referred to as "neighborhood disputes". Not all complaints can be referred to mediation. For example, motor vehicle matters and criminal matters cannot be resolved using the mediation process.

Mediation offers benefits, including: establishing early, direct communications and understanding between the parties about the important issues of each side; the result may benefit all of the parties and provide a win-win solution; and mediation can be less expensive, more relaxed and a more meaningful alternative to the traditional trial process. Mediation is available in nearly all municipalities and is made possible largely because of the efforts of trained volunteers who are the mediators. As indicated by the Chief Justice, one of the keys to the future of the Municipal Court system, and, indeed, a key to the future of the entire Judiciary, is the continued use and expansion of mediation and other community dispute resolution programs. This grass roots citizen involvement in the administration of justice is a particularly effective means to keep the Courts close to the communities they serve.