



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 exciting projects that will be underway shortly include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Cable Franchise Renewal
- ◆ Parking Analysis for Spring Street
- ◆ Shared Services Department Review
- ◆ Armory Cleanup and Redevelopment
- ◆ G&H Redevelopment Plan
- ◆ Master Plan Revisions
- ◆ Safe Streets Campaign w/TransOptions
- ◆ New Street Signs
- ◆ Firehouse No. 2 Construction
- ◆ Grit Collector – WWTP
- ◆ High Street Tank Mixer

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 29th through August 31st

Monday - Wednesday 8:30am to 4:30pm

Thursday 8:30am to 6:30pm

Friday 8:30am to 1:30pm

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MUNICIPAL CLERK’S NEWS

May 8th is the date for the Town’s **Municipal Election**. Polls are open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. There are three Town Council seats at stake in this election. The successful candidates in the May Municipal Election will be sworn into office at the annual Reorganization meeting of the Town Council to be held on July 1st in accordance with our non-partisan Council-Manager form of government. If you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Clerk at 973-383-3521 ext. 232.

Polling Places in Newton:

#1 & #2	Newton Fire House	22 Mill Street
#3 & #5	Newton Municipal Building	39 Trinity Street
#4	Newton First Aid Squad Building	68 Sussex Street
#6	First United Methodist Church	111 Ryerson Avenue

The **Primary Election** will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018.

The **General Election** will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

Are you a United States citizen? Are you at least 17 years of age?*

Will you be a resident of the State and County 30 days before the election? Are you NOT currently serving a sentence, probation or parole because of a felony conviction? If so, you are eligible to vote! Visit www.sussex.nj.us/elections to register.

Registration Deadline: 21 days before an election – April 17th for the May 8th Municipal Election.

*You may register to vote if you are at least 17 years old but cannot vote until reaching the age of 18.

FISHING PERMITS

Morris Lake is open for fishing! **Fees: \$20.00 for residents; \$15.00 for residents over 62 yrs. of age.**

TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE

This year, the Town will hold their annual **Town-Wide Garage Sale** on **August 3, 4, and 5**. 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 27. Maps will be available at the Town Clerk’s Office and Police lobby.

Dates of Interest:

- Municipal Election Day
May 8
- Memorial Day
Town Hall Closed
May 28
- Summer Hours Begin
May 29
- Primary Election Day
June 5
- Miss Newton, Little Mr. & Miss Newton
June 8 5:30pm
@ Project Self Sufficiency
- Newton Day
June 9
- Pool Opens
June 25
- Council Reorganization
July 1 @ Noon
- Independence Day
Town Hall Closed
July 4

THE 2017–2018 NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL



Wayne F. Levante, Mayor
wlevante@newtontownhall.com



E. Kevin Elvidge, Deputy Mayor
kelvidge@newtontownhall.com

Helen R. Le Frois, Councilwoman
Daniel G. Flynn, Councilman
Sandra Lee Diglio, Councilwoman

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

2018 BUDGET ANALYSIS

"On April 9, 2018, the Town Council adopted the 2018 Municipal Budget and Capital Improvement Program, which totals \$12,766,000. 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 \$1,888,607, 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 2017 level of \$185,938 to the new 2018 level of \$185,611. Therefore, factoring in these new calculations and the budget and tax levy as proposed, the municipal taxes on an average assessed home in 2017 of \$2,702 will go up to an estimated \$2,731 in 2018 - an increase of about \$.08 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 \$4,525,000 for the 2018 year. The Water and Sewer budget provides service to 2,660 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 2018 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 2018 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

2018 HOMESTEAD BENEFIT

If you are eligible to receive the Homestead Benefit the State will be applying the credit to your 2nd quarter (May) 2018 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.

TAX BILLS

Tax bills for the Final 2018/Preliminary 2019 will be mailed in late July 2018. 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 2018 (August and November) as well as the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2019 (February and May). The annual mailing of bills follows the certification of the tax rate by the Sussex County Board of Taxation.

Any homeowner who has had a change to their mailing address should notify the tax office, in writing, prior to July 1, 2018 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 ext. 239.

NEW JERSEY PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT (PTR) SENIOR FREEZE PROGRAM

The 2017 Form PTR New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement ("Senior Freeze") applications were mailed in late February 2018. You must file your application no later than October 31, 2018 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. 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.

GREATER NEWTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The mission of the Chamber is to endeavor to foster, protect, and advance the commercial, mercantile, professional, financial, manufacturing, and civic interest in the greater Newton area. The purpose is to connect the public with local business, promote the Town and events, to educate, support entrepreneurs and existing businesses in the local area, drive customers to members, provide a stage for members and non-members.

Throughout the year the Newton Chamber hosts events and special projects that include: The Newton Day Festival, Holiday Parades, The Taste of Newton, dinners, meet and greets, ribbon cuttings, and other events as suggested by our members.

Monies raised from these events offset the cost of our scholarship presentations and the many things the Chamber does to beautify the Town. These include: Flag for each lamppost, wreaths at holiday time, and the flower baskets on Spring Street. For more information visit greaternewtoncc.com.

Coming Events for 2018 to be held on Spring Street:

Memorial Day Parade – May 28

Newton Day Festival – June 9

Taste of Newton – September 10

Holiday Parade – November 24

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

Please be advised that water/sewer accounts are now 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. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be extended to the next business day.

Did you know that 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.

ZONING REMINDERS

The Zoning Officer, Katherine Citterbart, would like to remind residents that zoning permits are required for the following:

- Fences
- Retaining Walls
- Decks
- Sheds
- Additions
- Temporary Storage Containers
- Pools (including temporary)
- Alterations

Also, the parking of vehicles on areas other than driveways is prohibited in front yards of single family detached and duplex residential dwellings.

A property survey must be submitted along with most Zoning Permit Applications.

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 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.

Get Social With Us



/GoNewtonNJ



newtontownhall.com



@GoNewtonNJ

POLICE DESK

Members of the Newton Police Department continually look for innovative ways to improve our operation and ensure public safety for all. We enjoy working together with our schools, businesses, community organizations and other agencies, partnering to strengthen our public safety effectiveness.

Help Keep Your Community Safe

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

Understanding that communication and community engagement is a key element of community policing, we routinely share information through our website and social media. We

regularly host "Coffee With a Cop" events, which serve as a great opportunity to get to know your hometown Officers in a relaxed, informal setting and we publish a map on our website of nearly all police activity, updated every day for the entire Town.

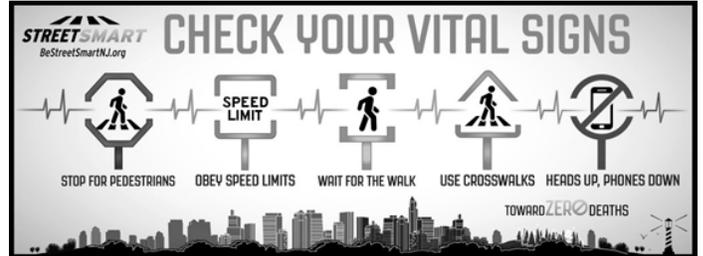
As our public safety partner, we ask everyone to please help us to help you. Please remember to *always* lock your doors, remain vigilant and call the Police Department if you see anything suspicious or have any concerns. You can also anonymously provide information about criminal activity via text message (Text tips to CRIMES (274-637) keyword NEWTON) or via links on social media or our website. *In an emergency or to report suspected criminal activity in progress, always call 9-1-1.*



Two prominent issues affecting our community are the opiate epidemic and pedestrian safety. To address these issues, Newton PD is leading efforts through our involvement with the **Sussex County C.L.E.A.R.** program and our work with Trans Options Street Smart Program BeStreetSmartNJ.org.

The **C.L.E.A.R.** - Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery Program CLEARprogram.org is achieving success in the helping to turn the tide on this devastating opioid epidemic. Addiction affects 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. Please visit the website to learn more.



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.

COURT NEWS

The Town of Newton & Green Township Municipal Court is pleased to announce the appointment of James P. Sloan, Esq. as the new Municipal Court Judge. Also new to the Court staff is Katherine Quinn, Certified Court Administrator and Sarah Grub, Deputy Court Administrator. Their different backgrounds in business, court experience and law provide an all-encompassing array of abilities and perception, which will provide aid and growth to the Town as well as its citizens.

Court sessions have been changed to Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am. For payments of traffic tickets only please go to njcourts.gov. Payments are also accepted via mail or in person at the Violations Bureau window. We accept Visa & Mastercard. No payments will be taken over the phone. The Municipal Court office number is 973-383-3521 ext. 242.

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.

RECREATION

Miss Newton, Little Miss Newton and Little Mr. Newton: This annual event is scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2018 at 5:30 pm at Project Self-Sufficiency in Newton. Applications will be available beginning May 1 on the Town website at <http://www.newtontownhall.com/122/Programs-Events>. Applications must be received at Town Hall no later than June 1st at noon. Little Miss and Little Mr. contestants must be at least age 5 as of October 1, 2017 and no older than age 7 by the date of the pageant. Miss Newton contestants must be at least age 17 by August 4, 2018 (date of the Queen of the Fair Pageant) but no older than 21 by August 4, 2018.

Newton Pool Registration: The Newton Pool will be open June 25 through August 26. Hours of operation will be Noon-7:30 pm Monday through Sunday (with the exception of swim meet nights and swim lessons). 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" and "Newton Town Pool" for more information.

There are many activities planned for the pool season, including the July 4 Salute to Heroes event, the Hawaiian Luau in August, and the Flick and Fun movie night featuring "Sherlock Gnomes" on July 28. 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 call 973-383-3521 ext. 228.

Bus Trips: In the works...Jersey Boys on Broadway? Subway Series baseball game at Citifield? Or both!! Stay tuned...and Like us on Facebook: NEWTON RECREATION for latest announcements!

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 9:30 am to 10:15 am and Friday morning from 10:30 am to 11:15 am at Newton Firehouse #1, 22 Mill St. Only \$5 per class. No pre-registration necessary. Call 973-383-3521 ext. 228 with questions.

Prime Time Seniors: A social group for the residents of the Town, ages 55 and up meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Newton #1 Firehouse, 22 Mill Street. Refreshments are served at 12:30 pm; meeting promptly begins at 1:00 pm. For information call Joyce Franklin at 973-945-6375.

For the latest information on Recreation Happenings, LIKE and follow us on Facebook: NEWTON RECREATION, on Twitter: @NewtonRecNJ, or via the Town website: www.newtontownhall.com.

To reach the Recreation office, call 973-383-3521 ext. 228 or email us at recreation@newtontownhall.com.

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!

With 1802 emergency calls, 2017 turned out to be the squad's busiest year ever. Answering emergency calls, however, is only a small window into the work that we do for the community. Our squad can very frequently be seen at community events where we provide public education, standby coverage, and other philanthropic service for Greater Newton including:

NFAS is always seeking new members! We seek anyone and everyone with a desire to help their community. No experience is required and we offer all training necessary at no cost to our volunteers.

Not interested in being on ambulance but still seeking to volunteer? Join our AUXILIARY! This newly established membership category provides a vital support function for our work on the ambulances including maintenance, fundraising, community awareness, and logistical support.

If you are interested or wish to learn more, please visit our newly-redesigned website at newtonfirstaidsquad.org. Additionally, you can call us any time at 973-383-3377, email us at info@newtonfirstaidsquad.org or stop by at 68 Sussex Street!

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:

- ◆ **Sidewalks – Repair/replace** *elevated or damaged sidewalks, clear away winter grit.*
- ◆ **Remove** any *exterior yard debris* that may have accumulated over the winter, such as, tree branches, leaves and brush.
- ◆ **Repair damaged** *exterior home fixtures*, such as, siding, gutters, down spouts, shutters, railings and fences.
- ◆ **Address** exterior **painted surfaces** *that are peeling, faded or unpainted.*
- ◆ **Prepare for continual lawn maintenance and weed removal.**
- ◆ **No equipment or apparatus** shall be placed by any person in a public street or right-of-way or on private property **within 15 feet of any public street or right-of-way** such that the use of the equipment or apparatus would tend to require any user to be in a public street or right-of-way.

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.

BRUSH PICKUP

The DPW crews will pick-up brush ONLY during the month of May. Pick-up will follow the Recycling pick-up schedule. **Zone 1** will be picked up the week of **May 7**, **Zone 2** will be picked up the week of **May 14**, **Zone 3** will be picked up the week of **May 21**, and **Zone 4** will be picked up the week of **May 28**. Please cooperate by making sure brush is placed at the curb **by 7:00 am**. 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 Utilities Authority in Lafayette for disposal.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

As the weather is heading towards warmer temperatures and the 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. 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. Any resident with an open pool permit must have a final inspection from the Town *before* using the pool. Pools that are in use without a final inspection will be subject to penalties and violations.

Effective 2/28/18 required permits have changed for homeowners. Please call (973) 823-7020 for more information and before purchasing your pool.

BULK WASTE COLLECTION

Bulk Waste Curbside Collection will occur on April 21, 2018 and will coincide with the 2018 Neighbors Helping Neighbors event. Residents will be allowed to place up to 500lbs of bulky items for the collection curbside. NO electronics, household garbage, recyclable material, clothing, building materials, brush/leaves/grass, hazardous materials or tires will be collected.

Permits for the 2018 Bulk Waste Collection are available for pick up at the Municipal Building, 39 Trinity Street on the 2nd floor. Additional details will be provided with the issuance of the permit. Contact Town Hall at 973-383-3521 ext. 228 with any questions.

**Town of Newton
39 Trinity Street
Newton, NJ 07860**

**PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**

**PERMIT NO. 194
SPARTA, NJ 07871**

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
228 Recreation
231 Code Enforcement
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 Twsp) 973-823-7020
Fire Marshal
(Sussex County) 973-579-0380
Memory Park Pool 973-383-2810
Public Works 973-383-4160
Recycling Center 973-383-1521
Sewer
Treatment Plant 973-383-2090
Police Department
(Non-emergency) 973-383-2525

#newtonnj