

The Newton News



VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2

FALL 2009

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DATES OF INTEREST:

- Halloween Parade
Oct. 31
- Fall Leaf Pickup
Nov. 1 thru Dec. 11
- Election Day
Nov. 3
- NMH Festival of Lights
Nov. 21
- Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Hall Closed
Nov. 26 & 27
- GNCC Holiday Parade
Nov. 28
- Senior Holiday Dinner
Dec. 6
- Municipal Tree Lighting
Dec. 14
- Christmas Eve
Town Hall Closes at Noon
- Christmas Day
Town Hall Closed

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

My first year as your Town Manager has come and gone and I want to thank everyone for their efforts in making this past year a very successful one for the Town. There is much to discuss in this newsletter so let's get right to it.

The new Town website was launched recently with much fanfare. Our vendor, CivicPlus, did a fabulous job of working with our team to develop a site that has a sleek new design and improved functionality that will keep citizens "in the know". Town officials can now easily update the site using the CivicPlus Content Management System, resulting in much more up-to-date and relevant content. From Facebook to Twitter, to the Manager's Blog and RequestTracker, the website reflects the high expectations, spirit and enthusiasm that is found in our community. Please take a moment to visit us at www.newtontownhall.com and provide feedback. The next phase of the website project will see the ability for taxpayers to pay tax bills online and eventually make utility payments online as well.

The Town recently combined several bond anticipation notes into one bond issue through the Morris County Improvement Authority (MCIA), thus saving Newton taxpayers almost \$341,000 over the life of the bond. We will continue to work hard at both the Council and staff levels to find other similar, innovative ways to save your hard-earned tax dollars.

As indicated in our Spring 2009 edition of *The Newton News*, we have successfully implemented several cost-sharing strategies with our neighbors in Andover Township. The retrofitting of two of our DPW garage bays has been completed and our new State-mandated truck wash facility is ready to go. We look forward to the utilization of the new brine road pre-treatment solution during the winter months to save on the cost of overtime and road salt. As we prepare the 2010 capital budget, we will continue to look for similar cost-sharing opportunities.

Our Public Works personnel have been very busy this past summer on a variety of projects. There have been major road, drainage and sidewalk improvements to many streets throughout the Town - we look to continue our infrastructure upgrades in 2010 as well. The new blue/white street signs have been popping up on a street corner near you - we anticipate all streets to be completed by the end of next year. The new Town signs, along with the expert landscaping from our team, have been attracting the eyes and approval of residents and visitors alike.

The Recreation department has been most diligent this summer in working on many upgrades to Memory Park, Pine Street Park, and Summit Avenue Park. I hope you take time during the crisp fall months to take advantage of some of the fine outdoor activities that you can enjoy at our wonderful municipal parks.

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 again for reading our publication and please accept my best wishes for good health & happiness in this beautiful fall season & during the upcoming holidays.

Yours for a Better Newton,

Thomas S. Russo, Jr.
Town Manager

GENERAL ELECTION—NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Polls are open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

Polling Places:

- #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.

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
- 230 Fire Prevention Official
- 231 Construction Department
- 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
- 244 Recreation Supervisor

OTHER NUMBERS

- Public Works Garage 973-383-4160
- Recycling Center 973-383-1521
- Memory Park Pool 973-383-2810
- Waste Water
- Treatment Plant 973-383-2090
- Police Department
- (Non-emergency) 973-383-2525

**THE 2009-2010
NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**

E. Kevin Elvidge, Mayor
 Kristen Becker, Deputy Mayor
 Thea Unhoch, Councilwoman
 Joseph Ricciardo, Councilman
 Helen Le Frois, Councilwoman

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

FINANCE NEWS

Homeowner Rebates

HOMEOWNER REBATES may be available to you which may reduce your property taxes.

Please call for further information:

Homestead Rebate 1-888-238-1233

Property Tax Reimbursement 1-800-882-6597

Senior Citizen/Disabled Person/Veteran
973-383-3521 ext. 239

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, 2009. Payments must be received by 4:30pm on Tuesday, November 10. If taxes are not paid by November 10, they will be considered delinquent and interest will be charged back to November 1.

TAX ASSESSMENT

The most important factor in evaluating assessments is UNIFORMITY. The methodology utilized during the Revaluation established a "uniform base" for all assessments at a specific point in time (100% of Market value as of October 1, 2007). If subsequent market stresses reduce the general level of value for property on a town-wide basis, the uniformity (relationship from property to property) itself is not disturbed. Essentially, if there was an overall decline in property values and the Town were to adjust all of the assessments by some uniform percentage (-10%, -15%), the Tax Rate would simply increase by the same percentage - thereby resulting in no overall change in the level of taxation.

If a property owner feels aggrieved because their assessment is "out of line" with other similar properties in Town, then they should pursue an Assessment Review prior to the end of the year. The review process involves filing out a questionnaire dealing with the specific facts about your property and any issues that are of relevance. 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.

PUBLIC WORKS



The Town of Newton, in a joint venture with Andover Township, has recently installed a Truck Washing Facility at the Town's Public Works Garage located on Moran Street. This facility is State mandated and in working with Andover Township both municipalities were able to equally share in the expense. We are also working with Andover Township in sharing the cost of a Brine Treatment system. This system will aid in preventing snow and ice accumulations on our roadways during inclement weather.

The Town of Newton recently installed a new updated fuel management system at our Public Works garage providing a more secure fuel distribution for the Town's fleet of vehicles.

FLU PREVENTION

Residents can help prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus as well as the regular flu by following these simple guidelines:

- Always cover your cough.
- Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Wash your hands with soap and water after and throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Alcohol based hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way!
- If you do get sick with the flu, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

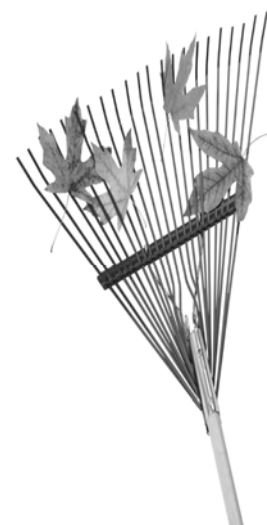


FALL LEAF PICKUP

The annual Fall Leaf Collection Program will start on Monday, November 2, 2009 and will continue for about six weeks through Friday, December 11, 2009. Residents of the Town of Newton should put leaves only at the street curb in biodegradable bags starting on November 2, 2009. The leaves will be collected by the Public Works crew, but no grass or hedge clippings, brush or other vegetative debris will be picked up. Please put the bags out at the curb line, not in the street to avoid the interference with traffic and possible breakage of the bags.

Leaves in biodegradable bags may be put at the curb from November 2, 2009 to November 30, 2009. Leaves should NOT be placed at the curb AFTER November 30, 2009. The Town of Newton will make ONE final pick up of each street between December 1 and 11, 2009. Leaves placed at the curbside after November 30, 2009 may not be picked up, if your streets final pick up has already been done.

The leaves will be taken to the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCUMA) facility for disposal. SCUMA will only accept leaves in biodegradable bags. The bags can be purchased at the local home improvement stores. Residents may take leaves to SCUMA for disposal themselves, but a small fee may be charged by the County facility.



FREE RABIES CLINIC

January 9, 2010 – Newton Municipal Garage, Moran Street
from 9:00am 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 2/1/09.

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.

U.S. CENSUS

- The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years.
- The census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution.
- The next census is in 2010.
- Your participation in the census is required by law.
- It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census.
- The Town Council has established a Census Committee to ensure that residents are informed about this important civic process.

FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

"OPERATION SANTA"

The Newton Fire Department will be hosting the 4th Annual "Operation Santa" on Saturday, December 19th. With the help of the Newton Fire Department, Santa will visit residents the Saturday before Christmas beginning at 4:00pm. 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 7:00pm and 9:00pm on December 16th or 17th). Registration forms can be picked up at the Town Hall and must be returned to the Newton Fire Department by December 14th. For more information, please call Lt. Bond at 973-383-4746.



JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM



This program is open to all residents 14-17 years of age. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity to gain insight into the profession of firefighting and other public safety careers. This program will provide personal growth and self-confidence through education and training. For more information please contact Lt. Jean Bond at 973-383-4746. Please leave your name and contact information.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

As we approach the winter months and the upcoming holidays the Town of Newton would like to make sure that your holidays are safe and joyous by offering the following fire safety tips:

1. Space heaters need space. Portable space heaters need a three-foot clearance surrounding them and they should always be turned off when leaving the room.
2. Wood stoves, fireplaces, chimneys and chimney connections and all heating equipment needs to be inspected annually by a professional and cleaned as per the manufacturers recommendations.
3. When cleaning old ashes from your stove or fireplace, place all ashes in a metal can remove the can from the house. The can should be placed away from the home and left until cooled or you are assured the ashes are completely extinguished.

For more tips please visit our website at www.newtontownhall.com/firesafetytips.

Also each winter the fire service personnel ask all property owners to shovel all snow and ice from any and all Fire Hydrants abutting their property. This is required by the adoption of Ordinance 2009-19 and enforced by the Newton Police Department.

NEWTON FIRST AID SQUAD

The Newton First Aid Squad would invite you to come join us in helping our neighbors. As a NFAS member you can become a fully certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), a First-Responder, or simply as an Ambulance Driver. An application can be acquired on our web site at www.newtonfirstaidsquad.org or telephone us at 973-383-3377.

Your Newton Volunteer First Aid and Rescue Squad would like to remind all the residents of Newton to PLEASE post your street number with large, color-contrasting, numbers in a conspicuous location on or near your front door or by attaching the blue and white house number signs, that can be purchased through our Newton Fire Department, on a post next to your entrance walkway or near the curb line. Squad Captain Irv Kinney says it can be very frustrating riding up & down a given street and not be able to find the residence needing of emergency medical services simply because there is no identification on the house.

As Autumn approaches the NFAS would like to remind you that bees are still active and therefore you should exercise care when performing a Fall cleanup around the house and grounds. Furthermore, as the leaves start to fall we need to



adjust our driving habits during wet slippery road conditions. And during the cooler weather when our thoughts turn to casual exercise we should be sure to always walk against the traffic flow and ride your bicycles with the traffic flow. When walking or bicycling we'd like to remind you to wear bright-colored clothing, and oh... for you cyclists don't forget that helmet!

Your local First Aid Squad wishes all of you a healthy and safe Autumn and lastly... remember when you need us we'll be there for you, as we have been for over 52 years.

DISASTER GUIDELINES

During a winter storm, FEMA offers the following guidelines:

- **Listen to your radio, television, or Weather Radio** for weather reports and emergency information.
- **Eat regularly and drink ample fluids**, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- **Conserve fuel, if necessary**, by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- **If the pipes freeze**, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
- **Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters** to avoid build-up of toxic fumes.

- **Refuel kerosene heaters outside** and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects. Please be aware that all thunderstorms are dangerous. In the U.S. an average of 300 people are injured and 80 people are killed each year by lightning.
- **In a forest**, seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees.
- **In an open area**, go to a low place such as a ravine or valley. Be alert for flash floods.
- **On open water**, get to land and find shelter immediately.
- **Anywhere you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates that lightning is about to strike)**, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. **DO NOT** lie flat on the ground.

OUTBOUND 9-1-1

The Sussex County Office of Emergency Management has contracted the services of Global Connect for a Community Alerting System that may be used to notify all residents of Sussex County in the event of an emergency.

The Community Alerting System, also known as Outbound 9-1-1, is an automated system that calls homes and businesses to notify them about serious emergencies. The system will also direct you to take specific actions during an emergency.

In the event of an emergency, public safety personnel will identify the affected area of Sussex County and activate the system. It will automatically call all telephone numbers within a specified area and deliver a recorded message. Uses for the Community Alerting System include but are not limited to the following:

- Amber Alerts
- Missing Person Alerts
- Emergency Evacuations
- Local Security & Crime Alerts
- Weather Emergencies
- Hazardous Materials Events

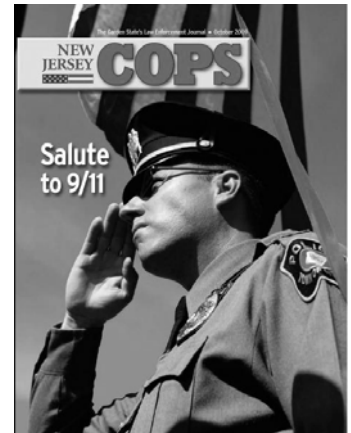
You may register your cell phone for notification at: www.sussexcountysheriff.com.

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

Inspections and subsequent issuance of a Certificate of Compliance before the re-occupancy by means of re-rental or re-sale of one and two family dwellings, and all commercial structures or rental portions are required. For residential units the Code requires a smoke detector inspection, carbon monoxide and fire extinguisher certification.

POLICE DESK

Newton's own Lt. Michael Richards is gracing the cover of the latest edition of *New Jersey COPS* magazine. Mike is featured for his contribution in organizing the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony that is held every year at the Sussex County Community College.



What are the restrictions of a provisional driver's license? Where do I sign up to receive *Amber* alerts on my cell phone? How can I schedule a car seat installation or inspection? These are just a few questions that you will find the answers to on the Newton Police Department website at www.newtonpolice.org.

The Newton Police Department is now on Twitter. For more information go to <http://twitter.com/NewtonPD>.

Handicapped and Elderly Locator Program



Senior citizens and citizens with special needs can now enjoy the comfort of knowing that they can easily be identified in an emergency by obtaining a Newton Police H.E.L.P. bracelet. For more information please contact Officer Michael Wolanski at (973) 383-2525.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This Department has been busy working on the Circulation Plan with Harold E. Pellow and Associates. A public session was held on September 17, 2009 and the Plan will go to the Planning Board in November for public hearing and hopefully adopted at the December Planning Board Meeting. Please check the Town of Newton's website for updates on the exact dates at www.newtontownhall.com.

Also the department was responsible for the oversight of the road construction projects which occurred in August. Roads paved were Park Avenue, Ferndale Avenue, Lake Avenue, Lincoln Place, Sussex Street, Jefferson Street, Adams Street, and Washington Street. Firehouse #1 was also part of this year's repaving project.

WATER & SEWER UTILITY

The Water & Sewer utility continues to run as efficiently as possible. Water hydrants are flushed in the fall and early spring. Water discoloration maybe experienced during the flushing of the hydrants. Dates for the flushing will posted on the Town's website at www.newtontownhall.com.

The water department is continuing its efforts toward leak detection of the watermains throughout the entire system. Numerous leaks have been repaired in the past year due to the diligence of the water department.

Since the retirement of Newton W&S Superintendent, Bill Grennille, the Town has hired a consultant with the required licenses required to run the water and sewer utility. The company D2L is present at the sewer plant daily.

RECENT ORDINANCES

The Newton Town Council recently adopted several ordinances of interest:

Ordinance 2009-7 adopted April 27, prohibits the feeding of deer.

Ordinance 2009-15 adopted May 27, adopts the NJ Abandoned Property Rehabilitation Act.

Ordinance 2009-19 adopted July 13, establishes that property owners are required to keep fire hydrants abutting their property clear of snow and ice.

Ordinance 2009-20 adopted July 27, establishes that home owners are required to keep their property and abutting street clean and free of garbage and obnoxious growth.

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

RECREATION

The 2009 Fall Senior Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2009. 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 Sheila at 973-383-3521 ext. 228.

Our **Annual Tree Lighting** is scheduled to be held Monday, December 14, 2009 at the Municipal Building starting at 6:00 pm. Please join us in decorating the tree, singing holiday songs, drinking hot cocoa 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, 2009 Town Council meeting at 7:00 pm. Nominations can be made through our website at www.newtontownhall.com/nominations.

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.

The Newton News

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

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.



Town of Newton
39 Trinity Street
Newton, NJ 07860

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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.

MAIN STREET NEWTON

Main Street Newton is proud to announce the new Executive Board for 2009-2010 and they are President Mr. K. Kelly, V.P. Mr. S. McGuire, Secretary Ms. J. Salvas, and Treasurer Mr. J. Cunningham, CPA/ABV CVA. In addition they welcome several new board members, Mr. B. Tomlinson, Ms. B. Wortmann. Ms. M. Sandow, Mr. R. Bitondo, and Mr. K. Mitchell. Board President Kevin Kelly states, "With this new Board and how the Town is positioned itself through their leadership, we should achieve many successes in the coming year and beyond".



In a constant process of keeping Main Street Newton on the cutting edge they are very proud to announce their new website site which should be up and running soon. This new site will have many benefits to the viewer and potential visitor, from an integrated map to help locate Dining, Galleries, Shops and Professional offices to the fresh new logo will give the website a stylish new look. These plus several other items planned should help Spring Street become the shopping, cultural and dining destination for Sussex County and beyond.

As part of this destination theme the Promotions Team, and in particular the 2nd Saturday committee, have been working diligently to create monthly events on the 2nd Saturday of every month that capture that cultural and dining theme. They have created a twice yearly event known as "Tour of Art" which happens in spring and fall. This event has grown exponentially over the first two years and indicators are this trend will continue.

For more information and other monthly events please visit www.mainstreetnewton.org or call 973-940-3178.