What's Goin' On
Around Town
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

Winter/Spring 2017 | Volume 11 - Quarter 1

NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP

FLIP OVER for Parks and Rec Winter/Spring Classes!

NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Chairman

Gerry Couch
Secretary

Jen Dix
Member

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Happy New year! We've made it through the holidays and I'm looking forward to 2017.

Looking back on 2016 we've had some challenges, changes and successes.

As I mentioned in my Fall report we had a vacancy on the Board of Supervisors that I can now report that we have filled. I'd like to welcome Gerry Couch to the Board as our newest member. Welcome Gerry and I look forward to working with you on the Board.

We've also welcomed Joe Schiavoni as our new Public Works Director and saw our long time Director Ron Weaver Jr. retire. We wish both of them continued good luck.

We've had some challenging issues including a difficult budget season where we are continuing to try and manage all of the great services the Township provides despite the challenges due to projected shortfalls in our Earned Income Tax revenues.

Despite these and other challenges, we were able to keep the momentum going regarding our plans to tie the Township's many neighborhoods, parks and existing trails together. In 2016 we approved a comprehensive trail plan and in 2017 we are looking at starting to move on building new segments of trails in the Township through strategic use of developer provided Park and Rec fees and matching County and State funds.

I've enjoyed my time as Chairman of the Newtown Township Board of Supervisors this past year. I'd like to thank my fellow Board members for their continued dedication to service to Newtown Township and I look forward to working with you all in 2017.

Kyle Davis
Chairman

NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP

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215-968-2800 • www.newtownpa.gov
Comcast Cable Channel 22
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IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Dial 911

Non Emergency Response Newtown Police, Rescue Squad and Fire Department 215-598-7121
Newtown Police Office (non emergencies) 215-579-1000
Newtown Rescue Squad (non emergencies) 215-968-3500 ext.2
Newtown Fire Department (non emergencies) 215-968-3731
Newtown Township Administration 215-968-2800

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

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NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP SNOW ANGELS ARE NEEDED!

Winter snowfall can leave many elderly and those with physical disabilities trapped in their homes, isolated and afraid that ambulances and vital emergency services would be delayed in reaching them. The Township's solution was the creation of the Newtown Township Snow Angels, a free program designed to help elderly or infirm Newtown Township residents clear snow from their driveways and sidewalks during winter storms.

Newtown Township wants to link volunteers with residents age 65 or older or with a physical disability. To be considered for this free service they must reside in Newtown Township without a household member able to shovel snow living in the residence and lack snow removal resources.

This volunteer opportunity is great for individuals, families, scouts and high school students. Volunteers are asked to help at least one resident for the entire winter.

Please consider joining Newtown Township Snow Angels efforts of "neighbors helping neighbors"! To register as a volunteer with the Newtown Township Snow Angels program and ensure that township elderly and disabled are cared for this winter, or if you have any questions please contact Newtown Township, Snow Angel Coordinator, Kathy Pawlenko at 215-968-2800 ext. 272 or email kathyp@newtownpa.gov.

SNOW ANGELS

BACKYARD BIRDING FAMILY FORUM

Love to watch birds from your window? A Backyard Birding Family Forum will be held at the Newtown Township Building on Saturday, January 21, 2016 from 10-12. A representative from Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow will discuss ways to make your yard bird-friendly and how to participate in The Great Backyard Bird Count. The discussion will be followed by a child-friendly bird feeder craft activity. The Great Backyard Bird Count is a free annual event for bird watchers of all ages. Scientists use the information from this citizen-science project to help get the big picture about what is happening to bird populations around the world. Join us to learn how you can participate!

HOW TO REGISTER FOR PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS!

We have plenty of registration options! You can print and then mail the registration form in with your credit card and class information. You can also stop by our offices and register in person, we are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and closed on Holidays. You can call within those same times and speak to our staff to register over the phone: 215-968-2800 ext. 239. You can fax us the registration form to: 215-504-2202. Finally, you can register online through our secure website after creating or logging in to your current account at www.newtownfun.com!

1 MAIL-IN
Newtown Parks & Rec.
100 Municipal Drive
Newtown, PA 18940

2 FAX-IN
Fax to: 215-504-2202
Complete the registration form with credit card information including signature in order to register.

3 PHONE-IN
Call 215-968-2800 ext. 239 to register by phone. All phone registrations must be paid by **Visa, MasterCard or Discover.**

4 WALK-IN
Walk-In Registrations Parks & Rec. Office located at the Newtown Municipal Administration Building

5 ONLINE
Go to **www.newtownpa.gov** to register for most programs!

Parks & Recreation Winter Fun!

Discount Ski Tickets!

MOUNTAIN	SALE PRICE	TOTAL SAVINGS OFF GATE
Bear Creek (open to close)		
Midweek	$34	$16
Weekday/Holiday	$62	$5
Night (4-10 pm)	$26	$11
Big Boulder/Jack Frost (open to close) (adults 18+, youth ages 7-18)		
Adult Midweek	$38	$10
Adult Weekend/Holiday	$49	$9
Youth Midweek	$33	$2
Youth Weekend/Holiday	$40	$5
Night (3 pm to close, BB only)	$27	$3-$7
Blue Mountain (8 hour)		
Weekday	$50	$5
Weekend/Holiday	$63	$7
Night	$33	$7
Elk Mountain (day or twilights)		
Midweek	$52	$2
Weekend/Holiday	$62	$4
Montage Mountain (open to close)		
Ages 19+, Thu-Sun	$52	$10
Ages 6-18+ Thu-Sun	$43	$6
3-Hour Snow Tubing (Fri-Sun or Holiday)	$22	$3
Shawnee Mountain (open to close)		
Adult any day	$48	$2-$14
Youth (under 18) any day	$38	$2-$7
Ski/Snowboard Package *(includes lift, rental, and optional lesson)*	$75	$15-22

- **No refunds will be issued. #171040**
- **All ticket sales are final, good for the full 2016/2017 season**
- **Tickets must be purchased in person at the Newtown Parks & Recreation Office check or DSCVR/VISA/MC, 8:00-4:30 M-F, closed on Holidays.**
- **Please call to confirm availability - 215-968-2800 ext. 239**

HOUSE ADDRESS

As we are starting a new year the Newtown Township Emergency Services Department would like to bring an important safety concern to everyone's attention. When seconds count, it is imperative that your house be easily identifiable for first responders. Not being able to find the location of someone who is having a medical emergency or fire can delay treatment and possibly even jeopardize lives.

First responders finding an address is extremely important.

Newtown Township ordinance requires residents to install, paint or carve address numbers permanently and conspicuously on the front of their home or business, mounting the numbers upon the front wall, door, porch or placed upon a freestanding mailbox or post, so as to be clearly visible from the street. Obstructions must not block line of sight. On residential properties, each number shall be at least four inches high. On non-residential properties, each number shall be at least six inches high.

Remember before we can help you, we have to find you!

A NOTE FROM NEWTOWN TWP TAX COLLECTOR, TAMMY SUTTON

Just a few reminders to Newtown Township Tax Payers. The 2017 County & Township Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed March 1, 2017. The due date to obtain the 2% discount is April 30, 2017. If you make your payment after April 30, 2017, the due date to pay the bill at the face amount with no discount and avoid penalty is June 30, 2017. School Real Estate and Occupation bills will be mailed on July 1, 2017.

ALL REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS must be paid by December 31, 2017 to avoid a lien being placed on your property.

WHEN YOU ARE MAKING PAYMENTS, PLEASE BE SURE TO USE OUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS: **100 MUNICIPAL DRIVE, SUITE 101, NEWTOWN, PA 18940**

If you wish to make a payment in person and you can not get here during business hours, you may drop your payment in the drop box outside the Township Administration building. On line payments are accepted thru www.OfficialPayments.com or by phone 1-800-272-9829 using the jurisdiction code 7821. You may pay by credit card or e-check. There is a convenience fee for this service which is outlined when you make your payment. This information is also available on the back of your tax bill.

If you need to make a change to your occupational status or report a change in residency related to your Occupation Tax bill, please contact Council Rock School District Tax Office to report your change 215-944-1090.

Keystone Collections Group is the collector of the 1% EIT Tax. Payments must be made directly to Keystone Collections Group. You can contact them to find the locations where payments can be made if you wish to pay in person or if you have questions regarding that tax. 724-978-0300 or www.keystonecollects.com.

If you would like to receive email reminders about tax bills and due dates and updates from the Tax Office, please email the office and request to be put on the email list at tammys@twp.newtown.pa.us.

For detailed information on Newtown Twp/Bucks County/Council Rock School District taxes, please visit the office website www.newtowntownshiptaxoffice.com.

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www.rocksoftball.org

WATER QUALITY TIPS FOR WINTER

Below are some tips to help the Township improve the water quality in our streams, lakes and rivers:

- **Shovel early.** The more snow and ice you remove, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be.
- **More salt does not mean more melting.** Apply appropriately, salt takes time to work.
- **Fifteen degrees Fahrenheit is too cold for salt.** Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use a traction agent as needed, but remember they do not melt ice.
- **Sweep up excess.** Salt or sand on dry pavement is no longer doing any work, sweep it up before it is washed away.
- **Try an alternative for traction.** Sand and kitty litter are effective but can clog sewers and degrade stream habitat when washed away. Cracked corn can be an alternative to try that is more environmentally friendly.
- **Understand what's in it.** All de-icers will melt the ice but some have less of an impact on the environment. Instead of sodium chloride or calcium chloride use products containing an acetate, potassium chloride, or magnesium chloride.

To report an illicit discharge to the storm water collection system or to a stream, creek or river, call the Newtown Township Public Works Department at 215-968-2800 x246.

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NEW POLICE OFFICER

Nicholas J. Ciambrello is 23 years old and resides in Newtown Township. He was sworn in as our newest Police Officer at the Board of Supervisor meeting in September of this year.

Nick is a graduate of Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, NJ and received his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Wilkes University. In the summer of 2014, Nick served as an intern with the Bucks County Sheriff's Department and graduated from the Montgomery County Community College receiving his Act 120 Certification as a police officer.

As part of our selection process, we chose Nicholas as a candidate from a hiring list established by the Bucks County Chiefs of Police Association and the Bucks County Police Training Center in May of this year. The consortium list is established after candidates participate in and pass physical agility and written tests. Newtown Township Police Department is among the twenty-four police departments that use the results of this process to identify potential candidates. While we use the consortium list as a tool in our hiring practices, we also conduct an extensive background investigation on each candidate. They are also required to submit to a polygraph test along with complete medical and psychological testing before being offered a position as a police officer with our department.

SNOW PROCEDURES

Newtown Township Public Works Department has developed a formal plan of action for snow and ice control. The following excerpts are some of the areas we find most important for you, the resident, to be informed of. Working together we believe we will be able to proactively assure a smooth operating procedure for combating winter storms. Please familiarize yourself with these guidelines and adhere to them. Ultimately, you will be helping your township to help you. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

SALT APPLICATION

Salt and/or magnesium chloride will be applied when snow begins to lie or rain freezes on road surfaces. Salting assignments shall be in accordance with snow and ice control maps. Salting will cease when snow reaches a depth of two inches, except when salting and plowing simultaneously.

SNOW REMOVAL / PLOWING

Snowplowing usually begins when depth reaches two inches or at the discretion of the Director of Public Works or authorized representative. Each township street will be plowed to the curb, widening the street and allowing for additional snow, unless otherwise directed. Snow will be plowed from roads in order of priority starting with primary, arterial, secondary, and lastly, 153 cul-de-sacs.

PARKING DURING WINTER STORMS

It is an ordinance by law that no vehicle should be parked on any township road once ice or snow has accumulated to one (1) inch in depth. Any vehicle in violation of this law will be towed and impounded. A fine may also be attached.

SNOW REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS

It is the responsibility of the property owner to clear a pathway on the sidewalk within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling. Snow is to be placed on the property owner's property. Snow should NEVER be placed in the roadway.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Homeowners are asked to clear snow from around the fire hydrants near their homes.

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF HENRY PASQUALINI:

When you see lights behind you . . .

A traffic stop almost always begins with a police car flashing its lights behind you, perhaps giving a short siren blast. Even if you've never been pulled over before, you should know how to respond to this:

Immediately pull over to the curb or shoulder of the roadway. If you are not the motorist the officer is attempting to stop, you should still follow this procedure so the officer can easily go around you to get where they actually need to be. If you are being pulled over, stay there even if it seems to be an unsafe place to park. If the officer doesn't like where you are, they will instruct you to move your vehicle.

PACK 20 HELPS OUT AT THE BIRD WATCHING BLIND AT THE CLARK NATURE CENTER!

Troop 74 Eagle Scout Andrew Collito's project was the refurbishment of a bird watching blind at the Clark Nature Center. He also planted bird friendly shrubs and added birdhouses. Now The Clark Nature Center Bird Blind has young Cub Scouts from Pack 20 with their leader Justin Chafey who have taken on the upkeep of the bird blind area to keep the area inviting for birds and park visitors to enjoy! They will be making birdhouses and feeding the birds this winter!

The Clark Nature Center's address is 235 Durham Rd., be sure to visit the bird blind to enjoy the cardinals, sparrows, titmouse, blue jays and occasional woodpecker!

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THE DURHAM TURNPIKE TOLL HOUSE

There has been a lot of talk in Newtown lately about plans to redesign and redevelop the Village at Newtown Shopping Center. Developer Brixmor has been showing drafts of different concepts to our Supervisors and each draft has included preservation of the Toll House in front of Wells Fargo Bank. It is a point of pride among all of our Supervisors that when new development comes to Newtown, our historic old structures are included in the plans and the Toll House is no exception.

This small yellow house was originally located at the corner of Sycamore Street and Durham Road and served as a toll gate for what had been called the Durham Turnpike, now Durham Road or Route 413. From 1867 until about 1920, a toll was collected for travel from Sycamore Street to the Anchor Tavern in Wrightstown (the current intersection of Durham Road and Second Street Pike.) The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted a charter for the Toll Road, authorizing the collection of fees of one cent for pedestrians, and two cents for animal carts. When automobiles came into use, the charge was five cents for car and driver. The Toll House served as the home for the gate keeper and his family.

When the toll was no longer collected, the little yellow house became a private residence. In 1955, the Goodnoe family had it moved to the intersection of Durham and Eagle Roads and it was used as a residence for the Goodnoe dairy farm's herdsmen. That position was held for a number of years by Martin Edwards, who cared for the Goodnoe dairy cattle. His daughter Laura Jean Tanner, remembers her life in the house and on the farm fondly, although she remembers her address as being "Doylestown Pike." What appears from the outside as a very little house was once home to Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and six children- the eldest had already married when the family moved in. Jean describes the house as very comfortable with an eat-in kitchen, parlor, bedroom and powder room on the main floor and bedrooms and bathroom on the two upper levels. The full basement was used for a laundry room and storage. Jean has many warm and happy memories of life on Goodnoe farm.

The toll house remained Jean's mother Rita's home until the building was moved again to make way for the new shopping center in the 1980's. At that time, the developer of the shopping center, working closely with the Newtown Joint Historic Commission and Newtown Historic Association, began its work to preserve and restore the house. The roof was replaced with wood shingles and the old aluminum siding was removed to reveal wood siding in surprisingly good condition. Windows were repaired, doors were replaced and missing shutters were put back. The first floor was renovated and the toll keeper's window was restored. A new replica toll gate was placed out in front.

Since that last restoration effort, the house has remained empty and unused and the work that had been done has begun to deteriorate. Our current Historic Architectural Review Board has been instrumental in working with the new developers who have agreed to keep and restore the Toll House and make it an integral part of the plans for a new face on Village at Newtown. Brixmor Developers are optimistic that a tenant with a seasonal business will be found to make use of the property as a centerpiece for their proposed upscale shopping center.

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Spring is around the bend and many people take this time to get started on home improvement projects they've been contemplating. With that in mind, here is some information to help assure that your home improvement project runs smoothly . . .

• When choosing a contractor, make sure they are registered with the State of Pennsylvania and they provide you their HIC (Home Improvement Contractor) number. You can check to see if a contractor is registered by going on the following website: http://hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov. It's also a good idea to check with other agencies such as the Better Business Bureau and Department of Consumer Protection before choosing a contractor.

• If you live in a community with an HOA (Homeowner's Association), please contact your association to check whether the proposed project meets the association's bylaws.

• Make sure all required approvals and permits have been secured before you or your contractor begins work. Information and forms can be found on Newtown Township's website www.newtownpa.gov or you can contact the Codes & Zoning Office for assistance.

• If your project requires digging, you or your contractor must contact PA One Call (www.pa1call.org or dial 8-1-1) at least 3 to 10 business days before you dig - IT'S THE LAW. PA One Call will contact the utility companies to mark their lines with paint, flags or stakes. It's important you see marked lines on your property before digging takes place so no accidents occur…keep in mind that careless digging could result in serious personal injury, environmental damage and costly delays.

• Finally, you should always make sure that all of the proper inspections are completed including a final inspection before you pay your contractor the remaining balance due upon the job's completion. If you're unsure what inspections have been completed, you can contact the Codes & Zoning Office for this information.

TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

The changing temperatures can have a significant effect on your home that, if left unchecked, may result in major repairs in the future. It's always a good idea to prepare in advance before the snow and icy weather starts setting in, so to stay ahead of Jack Frost, it's a good time to inspect these items and make the required repairs, if necessary.

- Roofs – examine for missing or torn shingles
- Siding – examine for missing siding & trim
- Entry doors – check caulking and for cracking, deteriorated wood
- Windows – check for adequate caulking & weather-stripping
- Gutters and downspouts – clear of leaves & debris
- Hoses - remove hoses from their outside spigots to prevent broken pipes and interior water damage

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Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

AND DONT FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

NFPA Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division
1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

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FACT

The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.

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