

Newtown News

MARCH 2016

Newtown Association meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month, 7 PM at Poplar Hill Mansion, and are open to all neighbors.

President's Message

by Neill Carey

The Newtown Association has a great Board that is bringing fresh insight into what we need to be doing as an organization and how to focus our efforts where they will do the most good.

One Board group, led by Wirt Wolfe, is working to raise Newtown's profile and image outside of Salisbury and to bring new buyers to homes in Newtown. They are off to a good start. One need they have identified is an up-to-date website. Thanks to Angela Hartley and Jeff Smith, Newtown has a good presence on Facebook. But prospective home buyers increasingly use the Internet to research neighborhoods and have seen pictures and information on the area before they contact a realtor. We need a few volunteers to work on a website for Newtown. If you are interested in helping, please let a Board member know.

A group of churches in our neighborhood is working on plans to establish a community garden in the Vern Hudson Boundless Playground next to the Chipman Center. This could become a vibrant neighborhood center similar to the garden established last year in the Camden Avenue neighborhood.

Organizers Martin Hutchison and Nicole Long will come to the **March 9 Newtown Association meeting** to discuss plans and answer questions. *Please attend to learn more and find out how you can participate!*

On December 4 we will have a holiday home tour after a three-year hiatus. It's great to do something big that puts a spotlight on Newtown and gives us a chance to work together on something fun and positive.

During the year there will be social events and work days, too. We hope you will get involved with Newtown and help it be a vibrant, friendly, healthy community.



Newtown Welcomes New Neighbors

"It's a work in progress!" say Brian and Lindsay Stallings of their home at 205 East Isabella Street, known as the Tilghman House. They fell in love with the house on first seeing it, but walked away with friends and family badmouthing the area's reputation and the daunting amount of work the house needed. True love prevailed, however, and after doing extensive research and due diligence, they bought the house in April 2015.

They hit the ground running, installing themselves and their three children in the top floor while undertaking major repairs and some sensible changes. Brian, a Salisbury native and Salisbury University graduate, teaches sixth-grade science at Bennett Middle School. Lindsay is West OC born and bred, and a graduate of Messiah College with a master's degree in counseling from Liberty University.

In December, their family and friends enjoyed a huge Christmas gathering at the home, celebrating the fabulous results of their hard work. Some former naysayers are now looking for homes in Newtown that they can revive and enjoy with their own families. "You can't get the character and charm of these old homes in new construction," says Brian, while Lindsay chimes in, "and the quality of the materials and workmanship gives you something to work with."

Brian and Lindsay enjoy outdoor activities: biking, hiking, exploring, and the beach, along with mutual interests in reading, architecture, and history. Many projects still lie ahead, but meanwhile they are living in their beautiful home and looking forward to being Newtown neighbors for many years to come!



Featured Home: 501-503 Poplar Hill Ave.

This house was built in 1905 by Elisha James Clayton Parsons, who lived there with his wife, Sallie, and daughter, Edna. When Edna married Ira Payne in 1914, they moved into the house with her parents and raised 4 daughters, living in the house until the late 1950s.

Later the house was divided into 5 apartments, fell into disrepair, and was eventually condemned. To prevent its demolition, local attorney K. King Burnett took on restoration of the exterior through Wicomico Historic Properties (WHP). Although the house had deteriorated, much of the original trim and the staircase are intact. The house was covered with asbestos shingles that hid some of the architectural features but also preserved the original wood exterior. As the shingles came off and the cheerful shades of yellow paint went on, it became apparent that the derelict was actually a gem in the rough.

The exterior of this house features Queen Anne decorative elements such as fish-scale shingles, corner spindle gallery and pendant, and wraparound porch with columns. Its front entry opens onto the intersection of Poplar Hill and Isabella. The house also features bays on both the west and south sides.

WHP has nearly finished exterior restoration, and offers the house for sale at \$35,000 as is. The purchaser may complete the interior as they choose, although residential use may be only as a single-family dwelling. Contact kkingburnett@gmail.com for more information.

Thanks to Shawn Nielsen for providing history about the house her family built and lived in for many years.

Save the Date!

Salisbury's historic Newtown neighborhood announces this year's holiday tour, scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2016, from 11 am to 4 pm. The tour, a tradition for over 30 years, provides a special opportunity to visit the interiors of some of Salisbury's oldest and grandest homes decorated for the holidays. Also available will be caroling in a boxwood garden, with cookies and hot cider. Tickets go on sale November 1. For updates, visit our Facebook page, Newtown Historic District Salisbury Maryland 21801.

T's Market Hearing

On October 20, the Newtown Association appeared before the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners to oppose granting to T's Market (on Route 13 between William and Isabella) a license to sell beer and wine.

We presented the reasons for our opposition, including the store's proximity to the Boundless Playground and the Chipman Cultural Center, as well as the behavior of T's Market's customers who drink their purchases on the curb at Ellen Street and in the children's playground, where they discard opened bottles and cans. We stressed the negative impact the store's customers have on our neighborhood and the community in general.

74 Newtown residents signed a petition to oppose granting the license. It states that Newtown supports a convenience store that sells household items, Lotto, bill-paying services, and food. We oppose beer and wine sales and the problems associated with them. T's Market's beer and wine license application was endorsed by 10 registered voters who live in the Church Street and Doverdale neighborhoods.

After three meetings, the members of the Board of License Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of the application, with provisos that the outside pay phone be removed, an inside restroom be available for customers, and an outside trash receptacle be in place.

For many years, T's Market has attracted customers who drink and urinate in public and blight the eastern boundary of Newtown. We urge our neighbors to be vigilant and report to the License Commissioners Board (410-548-4835) public behavior that is contrary to T's Market's permit. Also, call the Salisbury City Police (410-548-3165) to report public drinking, littering, or inappropriate behavior, particularly at the Boundless Playground.

Is it reasonable that a county board composed of non-Salisbury residents approve permits that directly affect our neighborhood?

Newtown Association Membership and Dues

2016 dues are now payable (the membership year runs January 1–December 31). If you haven't already paid in 2016, please send this form with your dues check to Newtown Association, PO Box 543, Salisbury, MD 21803.

(If you have questions, send an e-mail to Madeleine Adams, newtowntreasurer@gmail.com.)

Thank you for your support!

Resident: \$15	Name: _____
Non-Resident: \$20	Address: _____
Family: \$35	Address, line 2: _____
Lifetime: \$200	Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Enclosed: \$ _____	E-mail: _____

Membership supports the Newtown historic district community.

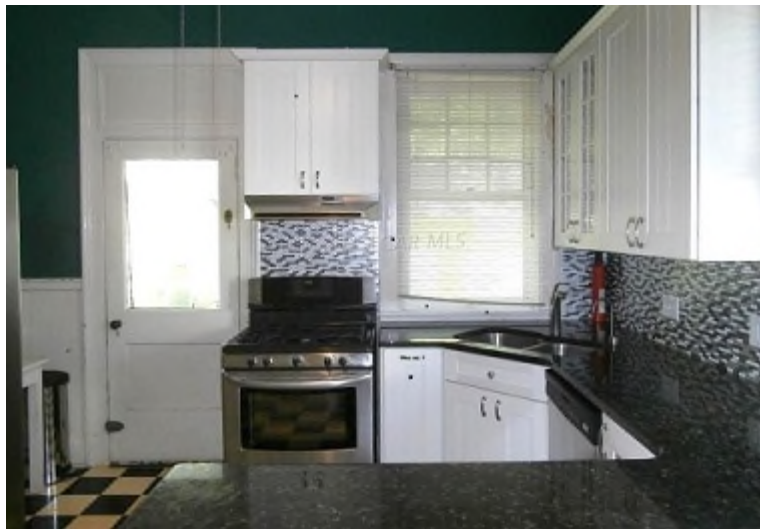
The Newtown Housing Market

Upgraded and Renovated in Newtown! 104 West William Street



This Victorian-style home (ca. 1910) is on a quiet, friendly block in Newtown, overlooking the beautiful Bethesda Methodist Church. The house has a large front porch perfect for dinners and getting to know your neighbors. A stunning Japanese maple shades the house from the summer sun while providing bright red color in the fall. The fenced backyard is landscaped with lilac, eastern redbuds, and weeping cherry for spring color, and a camellia flowers in late fall to early spring.

The house features many updates, with six bedrooms (and a seventh room that can be used as office space), and was easy to care for by the current owner, who bought it 15 years ago as a young single professional. Of the four fireplaces on the main floor, one is gas and another has a pellet stove that makes the downstairs cozy on chilly mornings. Original radiators create a comfortable temperature, using a high-efficiency gas boiler, while on the second floor Mitsubishi Mr. Slim heating and AC units provide quiet, steady climate control in each bedroom. Other new systems include a high-efficiency heat pump on the third floor and a gas-fired Rinnai tankless water heater.



In addition to the energy upgrades, the kitchen was renovated in 2010 with granite counters and stainless appliances, including a wine fridge. On the third floor, a children's room has a Wizard of Oz theme painted by a professional artist. On the second floor, plumbing is in place to create a new en suite bathroom for the master bedroom, and a comfortable sleeping porch for morning breakfasts overlooks the backyard. Siding, security system, and upgraded electric and plumbing all show how well loved and cared for this house has been. It exemplifies the benefits of city living in Newtown: high-quality construction, city utilities (including natural gas), low crime rates, and walkability to Salisbury's revitalizing downtown. Recently reduced to \$199,900 and listed by Loudell Insley, Long & Foster Realtors, 410-726-2249.