

Newtown Historic District News

Fall 2016

Salisbury, MD

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

ANNUAL REPORT from the PRESIDENT Neill Carey

Newtown continues its turnaround in 2016! Several homes sold this year and are undergoing renovation. The appearance of the neighborhood is improving. Newtown has more families with young children than it has had for a long time.

- A **Marketing** Committee was organized in February to tell the story of Newtown as a good place to live. Our new website, www.newtownhistoricdistrict.org, introduces Newtown to prospective homebuyers as a vibrant, livable neighborhood.
- **Traffic** in the neighborhood remains a problem. A new traffic committee has made suggestions that will be discussed with Mayor Day and Chief Duncan soon.
- Newtown residents and churches participated in this summer's new **community garden** in the Boundless Playground. Protecting the Boundless Playground is behind Newtown's opposition to the alcohol license at T's Market last year.
- **Isabella St. bump-outs.** Our agreement with the City is that Newtown volunteers clean up and weed the bump-outs on Isabella St. An annual work session is coming up. Plan to come out and help!
- Our **Holiday Tour** this year is Sunday, December 4 from 11 AM to 4 PM; eight houses and Poplar Hill Mansion will be open. This is our Association's fundraiser and a great way to showcase Newtown. We need volunteers to make this a success so let Neill Carey or Vicki Greene know if you would like to help. You will save us a call!
- **ALL residents** are asked to support the Association and its programs by paying annual dues in January every year: \$35 for a family or \$15 for a single resident. **Thank you for your support!** We can't do it without you.



HISTORIC NEWTOWN HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR December 4, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

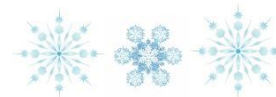
A great way to start the holiday season!

Tickets will be sold only at Poplar Hill Mansion from 10:30 a.m. on the day of the tour for \$15.

Eight Newtown homeowners are participating in our traditional tour this year, and Poplar Hill Mansion's Yuletide Open House with music and refreshments is the same day. New this year is an outdoor interlude in a boxwood garden with cider, ginger cookies, and caroling.

Be sure to share the date with your friends, family, and co-workers and encourage them to enjoy the first Sunday in December by strolling through Newtown and visiting some lovely homes. Held every other year, this is Newtown's only fund-raiser to support our community programs and events.

We need guides for houses and ticket sellers, so if you can help, please send an email before Nov. 15 to newtownassociation@gmail.com and we'll find a job for you!





Meet New Neighbors!

Lauren and Andrew Lauer became Newtown residents in May after moving from Hanover, Pennsylvania. Andrew is a new employee of Wicomico County Parks and Recreation, and worked previously in local government in York, Pa. Lauren, a registered nurse, is expecting their first child. They picked Newtown because they like its historical charm and character and its proximity to downtown. They will be renting on N. Division for the next two years, and they intend to purchase a home in the future.



Want to Fly a Newtown Flag?

Some time ago, neighbors purchased 3x5 ft. Newtown flags. The flag is red with the Newtown logo (a stained-glass motif from a window in the Gillis-Grier house) in the center. We will be placing another order in the near future. If you are interested, look for details in the next newsletter.

FOOD DONATION FOR JOSEPH HOUSE

November 19th collection, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Newtown Volunteers will distribute collection bags early in November and will collect your food donations on Nov. 19. Be sure to leave your donation on your porch that day before 10 a.m.!

Since 1984, Newtown residents and Newtown Association have donated food for The Joseph House, a non-profit charitable organization that helps the poor and homeless on the Delmarva Peninsula. It is administered by the Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary, a community of Catholic women based in Newtown.

The Joseph House Crisis Center provides emergency and on-going assistance for individuals and families in need from the Lower Shore counties of Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. It exists to maintain a presence of peace and hope to people who want to help themselves. The overriding goal is to affirm the self-worth and dignity of those who come here and to help them achieve a level of independent living. The Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. It is located at 812 Boundary Street, Salisbury, Maryland. The phone number is 410-749-4239.

The Crisis Center serves a hot meal between 10:30 a.m. and noon every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The meals are available for anyone. The Food Pantry is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Anyone who needs help from the Food Pantry should bring a photo I.D., proof of income, and a Social Security card for every member of the household. Due to increased demand, only residents of Wicomico County can receive food from the Food Pantry. Each eligible household can receive food one time per month.

NEW DATE for Newtown Ice Cream Social at the Boundless Playground & Garden! Sat., October 22, 2 to 4 p.m.

All residents are invited! Our thanks to the Wolf family, Betsy, Wirt Jr. and Wirt III, for providing this treat.

Also in the Boundless Garden, story-teller Beth Ohlsson, who regularly captures imaginations with her performances at the Library, will enchant the children. Carla Lewis offers a mosaic activity to decorate an herb bed, a new addition to the garden. Enjoy these activities AND ice cream AND neighbors! Bring your chair or blanket and meet neighbors you didn't see in this long, hot summer!

REMINDER – For safe streets at night, be a good neighbor and leave on your front and back porch lights!

Turn a Fixer-Upper into a Dream Home!

These two properties in foreclosure were recently listed for sale by their bank owners. This is good news for Newtown because it indicates that our housing market is picking up. Check out these great bargains for your friends, family, or yourself!



316 Park Ave, Salisbury, MD 21801
MLS #: 505834 \$74,900

4 beds, 2 baths, 3,358 sqft. Come look at this older home built in 1896 with more than 3300 square feet of living space. This property features 4 bedrooms, living room, fireplace, family room, 2 full baths, sunroom, screened porch, and detached 5-bay garage. Bring your ideas and your tools and restore this home to its original glory. This is a Fannie Mae HomePath property.



326 N Division St, Salisbury, MD 21801
MLS #: 506276 \$126,500

6 beds, 5 baths, 4,275 sqft. Colonial Revival built by Will Booth, circa 1909. This grand, historic home offers 6 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths. Many of the rooms have been redone but are waiting for some final touches. Central air, hardwood floors throughout many areas of the house, custom molding, 5 fireplaces, and coffered ceilings are just a few of the features. Bring your vision and transform this home to its original glory!



Results are in! The Newtown Association Board held its annual election on October 12. New members joined the Board for 3-year terms: Celine Carayon and Christopher Vilmar (sharing one position), Angie Hartley, Andy Kitzrow, and Sue and Scott Rall (sharing one position).

Officers for 2017 include Judith Dressel, President; Vicki Greene, Vice President; Madeleine Adams, Treasurer; Neill Carey, Secretary.

Finance and Rehab one of Newtown's Historic Houses with a 203(K) FHA Loan

FHA has a special program known as 203(K) rehab mortgage insurance that enables homebuyers to finance the purchase price of a home and the cost of its rehabilitation through a single mortgage or to finance rehab of their existing homes.

These loans save time and money. The cost of the rehabilitation must be at least \$5,000 and can include literal reconstruction of a home from the foundation. Covered improvements include structural alterations; plumbing; roofing, gutters, downspouts; floors; major landscape and site improvements; energy conservation improvements; and accessibility for a disabled person.

A 203K loan is available only to owner occupants for a single family or 1 to 4 unit building. Work must be done by a contractor, not the owner, and the renovation must begin within 30 days of closing.

For more information talk to your lender or go to www.portal.hud.gov.



We Need Your Helping Hands!

It's time to clean up the traffic calming bump-outs on Isabella! Meet on **Saturday, October 29 at 9:30 a.m.** at 117 E. Isabella and bring your hand tools and gloves. The City provides trash bags and will put down mulch after we finish. Let's get Newtown ready for winter!

Newtown Association Membership and Dues

Dues are due in January! Newtown Association membership runs for the calendar year, so plan on contributing to your neighborhood association in January 2017. Together we can make a difference.

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)

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

Thank you for your support! Membership supports the Newtown Historic District community.