

Newtown Historic District News

Winter 2017

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.

From the President

Newtown enters 2017 with increasing good news:

- Our real estate market is picking up with fewer foreclosed properties sitting vacant.
- Our 2016 marketing efforts, including our new website, are attracting positive attention to our historic neighborhood.
- We are working with the City to address our high-speed, high-volume, high-noise street traffic.

As President since November and Newtown resident for four years now, I hope to meet more neighbors and help address your concerns.

I am also co-editor of the quarterly Newtown newsletter with Angela Hartley, and we welcome your contributions.

Happy New Year!

~Judith Dressel

The purpose of the Newtown Association is to enhance and promote the Newtown neighborhood.

The Newtown Association –

- Recommends, supports, and promotes projects that are positive enhancements of the Newtown neighborhood;
- Facilitates communication with the Historic District Commission and local agencies and officials;
- Promotes a positive image of Newtown; and
- Provides information to residents on funding sources and compliance with local laws and regulations.

With your support and volunteer efforts, we can help make Newtown a vibrant, healthy, safe, and welcoming community. Thank you for your contributions!

Your neighbors ARE the Newtown Association Board of Directors. Contact any member with news to share, issues of concern, or suggestions to better our neighborhood.

2016-2017 Newtown Association Board of Directors

Madeleine Adams, Treasurer	Vicki Greene, Vice President
Celine Carayon & Christopher Vilmar	Angela Hartley
R. Neill Carey, Secretary	Francis Kane
Don Coleman	*Andrew Kitzrow
*Barry Dressel	Sue Rall & Scott Rall
Judith Dressel, President	Elbert Robbins
Lisa Gingrich	Josephine Smith
	Wirt Wolfe III

*also serves on the Salisbury Historic District Commission



A Newtown Block Party, 1980



The 2016 Newtown Historic House Tour brought more than 200 visitors to Newtown to see eight homes and Poplar Hill Mansion decorated for the holidays. Visitors from Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Onancock, Bridgeville, Berlin, Quantico, and Salisbury enjoyed touring our neighborhood on sunny December 4th. This year's tour also included cookies, cider and caroling in a boxwood garden on North Division. Our thanks to all who contributed their time and talents to making this a most successful tour and fundraiser for Newtown!

Architectural Salvage

George White offers early 20th century or older historic housing materials free to a good home. If you're renovating and can use any of the following, please contact him at 443-783-7818 or millsite@comcast.net

- Wooden medicine cabinet (to be partially recessed in the wall between studs). Insert portion approx. 21 X 30, exterior 24 X 33, needs to be stripped.
- Ornate wood screen door, needs to be stripped, approx. 83 X 34 ½.
- Wood entrance sidelights approximately 82 X 16.
- Interior yellow pine paneled doors, substantially stripped, lockset holes, one inch thick.
- Circa 1875:
 - 4 panels raised on one side, approximately 69 ¾ X 27.
 - 6 panels, cross over bible, approx. 72 ¾ X 35 ¾
 - 6 panels, cross over bible, approx. 74 X 33 ¾

The night before, city trucks would drop off the wooden stanchions to block off traffic. In the morning, we would go to the corners and set them up to stand guard on Elizabeth Street. Occasionally, an irate driver seeking to short cut the way through might curse but would comply. Our own cars were removed. The only means of transportation left were big wheels, red flyer wagons, tricycles, and skate boards.

The children ruled and were the first to play. There were lots of them, all ages, bursting from every house it seemed. Older kids would string a net from one side of the street to the other for volleyball. Some younger adults would join in, all amateurs, in a once a year event that would leave unused muscles sore for tomorrow. There was much hilarity at awkward or misplayed digs and spikes.

Older adults, more slowly, followed with their fold-up lawn chairs and baked dishes. Card tables were set up for the food and drink. A huge grill, worthy of Vulcan, kept the hot dogs and burgers coming. Sodas and beer, nectars of the gods, slaked our thirst and spurred conversations. Conversations were everywhere in small groups: on weather, kids and traffic—ok; on politics—tread lightly.

We were, after all, good neighbors trying to live up to the injunction to love each other as ourselves or at least not to covet their goods! At the end of the day, everyone gathered in a large circle, and guitars, banjos, harmonicas, whatever instrument one played, were brought out, and the singing commenced: all the old favorites and some new tunes too.

As it got dark, kids gradually, by age, disappeared reluctantly into their homes, and later the adults followed with folded chairs under their arms. The stanchions were removed and placed out of the way for the city truck to pick up the next day.

Aristotle, that sober old Greek philosopher, once opined that every city should have shrines to the Graces or Charities, the ladies of mirth and harmony, the sources of all mortal joys. They held together a community. Seems about right.

~Francis Kane



REMINDER – Like Newtown on Facebook and keep up to date with our news – **Newtown Historic District**
Salisbury Maryland 21801 and at www.newtownhistoricdistrict.org

Clean Up for Isabella Street Bump-Outs

Several years ago, the City installed bump-outs on Isabella St. from N. Salisbury Boulevard west almost to Mill St. to slow traffic. They have made a huge difference in speeds on the street, even as the volume of traffic has dramatically increased. Newtown committed to maintaining the planted areas, and we need volunteers to weed and prune these areas twice a year.

Our fall clean-up was Saturday, October 29. It was a beautiful day and the ground was still moist from recent rains, which made the weeding easier. While there were six of us – Neill Carey, Lisa Gingrich, Janice Murphy, Michael O’Loughlin, David Scheid, and Wirt Wolfe – a few more hands would have made the job go more quickly and easily. We didn’t get pictures of the worker bees, but here is what they left for the City to pick up!



Watch for our spring clean-up date and come out and help. All are welcome, and teenagers are great gardeners in the making! It’s even fun, and it’s another way we show pride in our historic neighborhood.

Newtown Needs Your Help! Sign up at newtownassociation@gmail.com

Show Your Newtown spirit & volunteer to help with a Newtown project:

- Set up a Newtown table and share information about our neighborhood at 3rd Friday, downtown Salisbury on the Plaza, starting in April.
- Organize and recruit helpers for the Newtown block party in early June and the potluck supper in October.
- Lead a team weeding/clean up Isabella St. bump-outs in spring and fall.

Work will begin next month for the growing season of the Community Garden, and we need a volunteer coordinator to schedule Newtown neighbors to help. Contact Nicole Long at growboundless@gmail.com if you are interested, and watch **The Boundless Garden** Facebook page for news and dates!



January is Newtown Membership Month!

Have you ever wondered, *What is the Newtown Neighborhood Association and what does it do for me?*

The Newtown Neighborhood Association is a volunteer group of your neighbors – home owners and renters – who want to keep Newtown a safe and stable neighborhood. The historic homes that are the heart of Newtown make it a special place to live. Whether you are buying or renting, you know that keeping our homes and children safe comes first. And you can ensure that safety by knowing your neighbors and keeping an eye on the neighborhood. By maintaining our homes, we also maintain the value of our properties and improve the perception of Newtown as a great place to live.

How does the Neighborhood Association help?

- The Association is our voice to Salisbury’s Mayor and the police and public works departments for help on issues such as potholes, suspicious activity, and traffic in the neighborhood.

How can you help?

- Come to monthly meetings at Poplar Hill Mansion, 7-8 pm, on the second Wednesday of the month. Meet your neighbors and share your concerns.
- Contribute to the Association with your annual membership.
- Read the newsletter and know what’s going on in the neighborhood.
- Volunteer to help with neighborhood projects.
- Spread the word to your friends and neighbors that Newtown is a great place to live!

How does the Neighborhood Association use Membership dues?

- To create and maintain our [Newtown Historic District](#) website,
- To host the summer block party,
- To advertise neighborhood events, such as the Historic House Tour, and
- To support Poplar Hill Mansion and Chipman Center, among others.

Please join now! Whether you are a long-time resident or a new-comer, whether you are renting or buying your home, be a part of the Newtown Association and support your neighborhood.

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.