

Newtown Historic District News

Spring and Summer 2017

Salisbury, Maryland

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



Award for Excellence in Media and Publications

Newtown was honored by the Maryland Historical Trust on April 20 at the 2017 Preservation Awards ceremony in Annapolis, MD. Newtown received this year's Award for Excellence in Media and Publications for the www.newtownhistoricdistrict.org website, which went live in June 2016 and showcases the history and charm of the neighborhood. The website was designed to feature the livable, affordable neighborhood as an ideal location for interested homebuyers. Newtown Association Board member Barry Dressel accepted the award on behalf of Newtown Association, and Mayor Jake Day said: "The Newtown Historic District has done a tremendous job in putting together a website that is comprehensive in its approach to marketing the neighborhood." Letters supporting our application were received from Mayor Jake Day, Former Mayor Barrie Parsons Tilghman, and Historic District Commission Chair Scott Saxman and Member Andy Kitzrow.

REMINDER – Like Newtown on Facebook and keep up to date with our news – [Newtown Historic District](https://www.facebook.com/newtownhistoricdistrict) [Salisbury Maryland 21801](https://www.facebook.com/newtownhistoricdistrict) and at www.newtownhistoricdistrict.org

Not-to-be-Missed Heritage Events for Your Summer Calendar!

- **July 9, 12:30 pm** - Parsons Cemetery rededication of its restored walls and gates and beautification projects. Established in 1873, Parsons Cemetery represents more than 150 years of Salisbury history. Activities will include a reception with music by harpist Kara Dahl Russell and introduction of a new information system that can store historical information and images for family and genealogy use. Seating and parking are available.
- **July 9** - Vintage baseball at Pemberton Historical Park.
- August 12 - Chipman Cultural Center offers a jazz and gospel show with Tanisha Jones.

150th Anniversary Celebration of Wicomico County

- August 19 - Parade of Towns at the Wicomico County Fair at WinterPlace Park.
- September 15 - Courthouse uplighting and historic pub crawl in downtown Salisbury.

Looking for a way to be involved in your Newtown neighborhood?

The following jobs need to be done on a regular basis. Contact newtownassociation@gmail.com if you can help!

- Ever wonder about the Isabella St. bump-outs? These traffic-calming structures were installed by the City with the understanding that Newtown will maintain them. They need to be weeded in Spring and Fall. Volunteers are needed for Spring cleanup. And if you have a bump-out in front of your house, please keep it tidy and weed-free!
- Salisbury Third Fridays – set up a table and share information about Newtown, downtown Salisbury’s next door historic neighborhood. Every month in nice weather. Walking Tour brochures are available for handouts.
- Newtown Boundless Garden needs volunteers to weed and harvest all summer long!

Newtown Annual BLOCK PARTY!! June 10, 3-6pm E. William at Gay Street

- Newtown Association will provide burgers, dogs and drinks (thanks to your Membership dues!)
- Bring a dish to share and your chairs (and a table if you have one)
- Kids fun activities include a **MOON BOUNCE***

(*provided by Tish Ottey of the Hamilton Recovery House at 326 N Division Street)



Bulletin Board

Flag Day is Wednesday, June 14

Let’s see how many houses can put out a flag this year. United we stand!

Laura Marasco has antique furnishings to sell. Contact her at llmarasco@salisbury.edu before the end of May if you’re interested in knowing more.

Remember the value of trees

From a study shared by the Chesapeake Bay Trust newsletter: “After a large tree was removed, a home’s energy use went up 4-6% annually and on average increased by 8-10% in summer months of peak air-conditioning demands. Houses had 10-20% lower energy bills when shaded by trees.”

AT POPLAR HILL MANSION THIS SUMMER

June 22, 11:30 am, Huston Family Tea. Menu includes soup, tea sandwiches, homemade scones with clotted cream and jam, desserts, and of course tea. The ladies of Poplar Hill Mansion will be wearing fashions of the Federal Period. \$22 per person. Reservations required.

June 22, 5 pm Dr. Huston's Surgery Room Exhibit Ribbon Cutting. Chamber of Commerce and City of Salisbury officials are invited. The event is free, and everyone is welcome to attend.



August 12, 11:30 am, Fairytale Tea. The Mansion's first children's tea! The kid-friendly menu will feature cold soup, tea sandwiches, fruits, homemade scones with jams and jellies, desserts, and of course tea. This is a perfect opportunity for grandparents to share the Mansion's history with the next generation. Please be advised that some of the food may contain allergens, such as nuts. Best for ages 5+, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. \$22 per person. Reservations required.

DID YOU KNOW?

The property now known as Poplar Hill was known as Pemberton's Good Will when Dr. John Huston purchased the property and completed construction of the house in 1805. He lived here with his wife, Sarah, and daughters, Elizabeth, Isabella, Anne, and Sally, until his death in 1828. Dr. Huston practiced surgery throughout Salisbury and in his home and often bartered for his services. He also leased out his 357-acre farm, which stretched from Poplar Hill towards Lake Humphries (now downtown Salisbury). His widow inherited the property and by the 1840s was selling off parcels that became today's Newtown neighborhood, Salisbury's first suburb. Sarah manumitted many slaves, and by 1850 only three slaves remained. Eldest daughter, Elizabeth, eventually obtained the house and the three acres that remained and sold it to the Waller family in 1881.

AT NEWTOWN'S BOUNDLESS GARDEN THIS GROWING SEASON...

Helping hands are needed! Every Saturday from 9 to 11 am, volunteers are pitching in to produce this summer's crop. Wicomico Presbyterian, Trinity Methodist, and Hudson Health Services have each signed up to provide workers for one Saturday per month. Newtown's volunteers are needed for the 4th Saturday of every month. So put on your gardening gloves and come out! Every Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 3 pm, Garden Coordinator Nicole Long works at the garden and welcomes your help.

Already planted and growing: sugar snap peas, beets, broccoli, Napa cabbage and spinach; collard greens are ready to be harvested now! Sunflowers went crazy last year so if you want sunflowers this summer, bring a shovel and come dig some!!!

Support our garden. Donations of ever-bearing strawberry plants are needed! Financial support is always welcome. Checks can be written to Community of Joy Church -- include Boundless Garden in the memo line and mail to Community of Joy Church, 802 Kearny Court, Salisbury, MD 21804.

The garden is a perfect space for a summer evening of music. Is anyone in Newtown part of a group of musical friends? Would you like to share your talents? Email newtownassociation@gmail.com to confirm a date, and we'll send an e-blast to all to bring chairs and kids and enjoy an outdoor evening with neighbors.



Watch for news of Newtown's very own **Little Free Library** being installed in the garden soon! Thanks go to Dr. Harry Suber, who designed and constructed a very special library box. Newtown will join the Camden Community Garden and others in Salisbury offering free books for all ages, especially neighborhood children.

Harry says of his design: "An important factor was to allow room for large children's books, so the inside is 22" high by 17" wide, and divided into two parts, one side for tall books, the other with two (adjustable) shelves for regular-size books. The inside partitions are easily removed to allow for reconfiguration. The door was designed to be inviting to children and arouse their curiosity about the adventures of reading. The door panel is Plexiglas engraved with an image of the west door to the mines of Moria (from Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*) and is back-lit with RGB LEDs (solar and battery powered, motion activated). The door frame is walnut carved with Celtic designs." It is indeed a very special library!

GARDEN



Saved from demolition and preserved by Wicomico County Historic Properties, Inc. (WHCP) with assistance from Newtown Association and numerous other organizations, 501-503 Poplar Hill has a new owner. According to Dr. Ray Thompson, Vice President of WHCP, "Due to the steadfast vision of King Burnett, Aleta Davis and others, the property has been stabilized and its exterior restored." The property has been purchased by a preservation-sensitive buyer who grew up in Newtown and who will maintain it as a single-family home; modernization of the interior can now be undertaken. By rehabilitating this historic property, WCHP and Newtown Association contribute to Newtown as an attractive, safe, and sustainable historic neighborhood in vibrant downtown Salisbury.



SOLD! 501-503 Poplar Hill

Newtown Association Membership

Newtown Association membership runs for the calendar year. 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 programs and outreach of the Newtown Historic District community. Newtown Association supports our neighbors, Poplar Hill Mansion, Chipman Center, and Boundless Community Garden.