

# Historic Newtown Neighborhood News

www.newtownhistoricdistrict.org

Spring 2019

Salisbury, Maryland

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

## President's Column

### Practicing Neighborliness

"Neighborliness is not an emotion but a practice."

I start my tenure as the President of Newtown Board with these words from Nancy Rosenblum's book *Good Neighbors* because I believe strongly that neighborhoods don't just happen; rather, they are made (as I used to tell my soccer players) by practice, practice, practice.

If we love Newtown, as we surely do, then we need to practice a lot to make sure it flourishes. It may sound cliché, but Newtown will only be as good as we make it. The good news is that we have lots of neighbors who are engaged in the practice of creating and fostering of our neighborhood. Won't you join us? As Mr. Rodgers used to sing: "Won't you be my neighbor?"

There are and will be lots of opportunities to practice neighborliness in Newtown. The Board's monthly meetings – held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 pm at Poplar Hill Mansion – are a good place to start. The meetings are open to all. We have created newly standing committees to offer more opportunities to become engaged. If there is a topic or issue of concern you have, chances are it can be folded into one of our committees. Throughout the year we have various events for socializing with neighbors. And this year, we will hold our popular Holiday House Tour that needs everyone's help. If you are interested and willing to become involved, let one of our Board members know.

Building a good neighborhood does involve a lot of practice and that can be hard work, but it also can be a lot of fun. Won't you become a practicing neighbor?

~Fran Kane

## 2018-2019 Newtown Association Board of Directors and Officers

R. Neill Carey  
Lisa Gingrich  
Katie Glasser, Secretary  
Angie Hartley  
Fran Kane, President (sharing a position with Mary Kane)  
Andy Kitzrow  
Susan Rall, Treasurer (sharing a position with Scott Rall)

David Scheid  
Josephine Smith  
Wirt Wolfe III  
Adam Woodis, Vice-President  
Ginny Young  
Sarah Meyers (Curator at Poplar Hill Mansion and ex-officio non-voting member of Newtown Board)

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

## *Newtown Welcomes New Neighbors!*

### **at 401 N Division Street...**

John and Charleen Burik purchased the historical Gillis Grier house, located on 401 N Division Street, in September 2018. They currently live in Easton Pennsylvania and come to Salisbury every weekend. John originally retired from Nabisco Brand after 25 years and recently retired from his second job at the City of Easton after 10 years. John now keeps busy by maintaining his self-run company, Dist. LLC. Charleen enjoyed a preschool teaching position for 12 years before becoming a church secretary, a job she has loved and enjoyed for the past 9 years. Their daughter, Sara Ashleigh, graduated with her master's degree and married her college sweetheart earlier this year. She is currently studying for her doctorate in clinical psychology. John and Charleen also have one grand-puppy, a spoiled rotten regal Beagle named Lizzy. Following a vacation in a Victorian B&B in upstate New York, John and Charleen become inspired to find a historic home to call their own. The decision to purchase the Gillis Grier house was part impulse, part retirement planning, and part fulfilling a lifelong dream. John and Charleen immediately fell in love with the home's charm and felt welcomed by their new neighbors. They are looking forward to moving to Salisbury full time this June and are excited to share the beauty of their new home with family, friends, and neighbors.



### **at 403 N Division Street...**

Austin Patteson, Joellen Craft, and our toddler Lydia moved to 403 N Division Street in August 2018. Baby Colette was born in October. We relocated from Durham, North Carolina, for Austin's new job as a nurse practitioner at PRMC. Joellen will continue her career as an English teacher part-time at Wor-Wic this summer. We are excited to be living in such a beautiful and close neighborhood, and in this gorgeous house. We just adopted a stray cat, Kiki, who kept coming through our cat door; she joins two others, Billy and Ruby, who are excited to be part of the neighborhood too.



### at 405 Park Avenue ...

Isabel and Rashid moved to 405 Park Avenue from Champaign, IL this past summer. Both work in Salisbury University's English Department; Isabel teaches Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the US and Rashid teaches Composition. They are still adjusting to the unique weather patterns of the shore but have found great comfort in the proximity of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. What they like most about living in Newtown are their neighbors and that "it feels very walkable, very much like the neighborhoods we left behind in Illinois."



### Newtown Standing Committees

In order to enable the Newtown Association to respond more quickly and efficiently and less reactively to issues as they arise, to increase participation in the work of the Association, and to codify what has become our practice, the Board of Directors has proposed the formation of three standing committees to the Board. Each standing committee will have at least one regular Board person as a member, and its size may vary, ideally with 3-5 members. The committee Chair will be determined by vote of the committee. The standing committees will make regular reports to the Board.

- 1. Board Matters:** membership, finance and information  
Responsibilities include budget and finances of the Association; how to sustain and augment membership; recruitment of new Board members; distribution of information via newsletter, public relations, and brochures. The Board Treasurer, secretary, and media representative are ex-officio members.
- 2. Neighborhood Issues:** Newtown promotion and enhancement  
Responsibilities include housing issues, crime and safety, traffic patterns; maintenance of the integrity and historic character of the neighborhood; and promotion of Newtown as a good place to live.
- 3. Community Outreach:** community liaison  
Responsibilities include Holiday House tours, block party, ice cream socials, and special events. Responsibilities also include outreach to other neighborhoods, schools, churches, city and county government

### Reminder

Are you aware of city ordinances regarding dog ownership?

- Dogs should be leashed at all times unless in their own fenced yards.
- Owners are required to clean up after their dogs.
- Please stay off private property.



Please be a good neighbor by curbing your dog and picking up trash and debris on neighborhood walks.

## Creative Green Power

In neighborhoods like Newtown it is difficult, expensive and close to impossible to have green electric power. Because of historic easements, roof construction methods and a host of other obstacles, putting solar panels on our roofs is difficult. In 2016, the state of Maryland passed the Community Solar Law. This law permits privately owned solar farms that allow individuals to subscribe to and be a part of the green power movement without physically altering their houses. The long term (6-year) project will allow up to 40,000 home to participate in the green power from 80 acres of solar farms. This experiment provides 6 power projects for the state, and the bulk of power will be available for the Baltimore area. Two (2) projects will available for the Delmarva area.

Each of the companies is listed as a Community Solar Energy Generating System (CSEGS). They produce the solar power and feed it into the electric grid. Under the Community Net Metering Law, they can then sell a portion of that energy to subscribers. As a subscriber, your power does not come from the solar farm, but you receive credit for your portion of the common energy fed into the grid by the CSEGS. Your savings as a subscriber is a range of 5% to 10% of your monthly bill.

For this trial to be successful, each CSEGS needs 2,600 initial participants, and participation helps to fund the solar farms (80 acres statewide). Each company can accept a fixed number of customers. The company reviews your average electric use and determines eligibility based upon the total electric use of all applicants. The CSGES available for our area is Nexamp, a community solar company based in Massachusetts. They began building a solar farm in Chester, MD on Kent Island last fall. The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art is already a customer, and they are looking for 300 customers by the time they become operational later this spring. If anyone is interested they should contact Eric Misbach at Nexamp Community Solar for more information and to see the procedure (emisbach@nexamp.com).

For areas like ours, the community solar project can help us go green and at the same time can preserve our historical character. ~Dave Scheid



***There is a new home restorer at work in Newtown.*** Randy Taylor is a life-long preservationist, whose father and uncle were skilled craftsmen in Worchester County. Randy has lived in the Camden Historic District for years. He was a member of Salisbury's Historic District Commission for 10 years and was Chair for part of that time. For 25 years he was a commercial banker, but about 18 months ago he ventured out on his own as JMPP, LLC, a real estate company committed to restoring mildly to deeply depreciated properties on the Eastern Shore and placing them back into the hands of new homeowners who love older homes. While some folks may not have the energy, interest, time, or ability to do the restoration, there are many people who love older homes and can be great stewards of them once they are brought back to their former glory. Randy is looking to close that gap – price points that make sense – just one, or maybe more, house at a time. An interior picture of the home whose restoration Randy just finished is shown here. He would appreciate the support of Newtown Association and is willing to look at any property in any condition.

### 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 Sue Rall, [newtowntreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:newtowntreasurer@gmail.com))

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|--------------------|-------------------------|
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