

A Tour of Newtown, Connecticut



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Welcome to Newtown!



Mural by Virginia Zimmerman

A Tour of Newtown

We would like to take you on a tour of Newtown. Not only will this guide provide some of the history of the town and show you historic sites on Main Street and beyond, but you'll also learn about some of the places, events, services, and support that make Newtown such a special community for people of all ages.

We are proud of the community that we have built since its founding in 1705. Whether you are from out of town or have lived in Newtown for generations, we hope this guide will teach you a few things about our special community – and possibly even inspire you to reach out and get involved too!

This guide is a joint presentation of the Newtown Lions Club and the Flagpole Photographers Camera Club.

www.NewtownLions.org

www.FlagpolePhotographers.com



The Seasons in Newtown



A Few of Newtown's Attributes



Newtown is a wonderful family-oriented community. We support our great schools known for their excellent award-winning academic, music and sports programs. Newtown also has great parks, recreational opportunities, and a host of community events. It is also conveniently located to New York City, Hartford and Boston.

Newtown has many fine clubs and organizations that meet every interest. Arts and theater groups, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts Troops, Bridle Lands, Choral Society, FAITH Food Pantry, Fish and Game Club, Flagpole Photographers Camera Club, garden and horticulture clubs, Hospitality Hall, Historical Society, Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, Meals on Wheels, Newcomers & Neighbors Club, Newtown Action Alliance, Sandy Hook Promise, Society of Creative Arts of Newtown (SCAN), Visiting Nurse Association, five volunteer fire companies, and Women Involved in Newtown (WIN), are just some of the community groups in town that are available to residents.

Newtown also has a very active Parks and Recreation Department, many adult and youth sports programs, the NYA Sports & Fitness Center facility for all ages and a New Community Center and Senior Center.

Why is it "Nicer in Newtown"? It's the town, the people, the schools, the events, the programs, the churches, and the volunteers!

Newtown Schools



In 1920, the old academy building which served as a high school for Newtown, mysteriously caught fire and could no longer be used. Following that, Newtown benefactress Mary Elizabeth Hawley donated a new High School building to the town. This became the first of several buildings she donated to Newtown.

When the Hawley School was completed in 1921, it was considered to be one of the most advanced school buildings in the state. In addition to having central heating, it was completely fireproof and contained a state of the art chemistry lab and full auditorium for community meetings. The building continued to be used as a High School until 1953 when a new High School was constructed on Queen Street. The Hawley School then became an elementary school. *After 100 years of existence, Hawley is even getting some air conditioning!*

As Newtown continued to grow, yet another high school was built in 1970 and the school on Queen Street became the Newtown Middle School.

There are now four elementary schools for K-4: Hawley, Head O'Meadow, Middle Gate, and Sandy Hook. Grades 5 and 6 are housed at the Reed Intermediate School, grades 7 and 8 are at the Newtown Middle School, and grades 9-12 are at the Newtown High School on Berkshire Road.

Newtown schools are *far above the state average in key measures of college and career readiness*. Its academic programs have a substantial number of Advanced Courses, great award-winning Music programs, *over 65 Clubs and activities*, and a Sports program that continually advances to the State Level in many different sports.



Interesting Historical Facts

From Newtown Historian Dan Cruson's book, "A Mosaic of Newtown History"

Money and Counterfeiting in Colonial Newtown

What little paper money that circulated here was not legal tender and was frequently counterfeit. A small group of intrepid Newtown men were responsible for bringing to justice members of at least two gangs of counterfeiters who were operating in and around Fairfield County, one in 1746 and another in 1768.

Crime Does Not Pay in Sandy Hook

Following various burglaries between 1894 and 1897, twelve men were apprehended and ended up in the state prison. Of all the robberies, the largest haul appears to be \$5.00 and a new sportscoat.

In one burglary, two men entered a baggage room, stoked up the fire, and opened and searched all the drawers in the room, but recovered little of value except a small revolver. They then broke into a bar and took some small bottles of liquor and an umbrella. During an ensuing shoot-out one of the burglars suffered a shotgun blast. The doctor removed 20 pieces of shot out of his hip and back, and another piece of shot pierced his ear and hat.

The Poor House

The Poor House was built in the early years of the 19th century as an alternative to farming the indigent out to various families within town, who would be willing to care for them in exchange for town subsidies. In an account of expenses for the town of Newtown kept between 1807 and 1820, the cost of keeping the poor was the highest of any town expenditure.

Taxes for Schools

School expenses were once handled by the school committee which had the power to tax and disburse tax revenues independently of the town.



SIGHTS AROUND TOWN



Painting by Jim Chillington

The Newtown Flagpole

Newtown's flagpole in the center of the intersection of Main Street at Church Hill Road and West Street stands 100 feet above ground, is buried 11 feet below ground and weighs 2½ tons. It was first installed as the wooden "Liberty Pole" in 1876 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Three wooden poles were used before the present steel pole was erected in 1950. The Newtown Hook and Ladder and the Newtown Lions Club volunteers replace the smaller 12' x 18' winter flag with the larger 20' x 30' summer flag yearly.

As early as 1880 there have been many calls to remove the flagpole. In 1981, however, state legislation was passed prohibiting the removal of the "*Historic Landmark*," assuring this symbol of Newtown will remain standing.

There have been many suggestions on how to relieve the congestion at the flagpole. These range from installing a permanent traffic cop at the site, to constructing a roundabout around the flagpole, to adding a traffic light at the Currituck Road and Route 25 Main Street merger. Still, it seems that drivers are growing increasingly courteous and patient as they navigate around the town's famous landmark.



The Newtown Meeting House

Newtown was founded in 1705 and then incorporated in 1711. Many of the first settlers came here from Stratford. They began gathering in each other's houses for worship and town meetings, but they needed a larger space for the townsfolk to gather. At that point in history, there was no separation of church and state and attendance at public worship was compulsory. The Congregational order of church government was the approved order for the colonies. The church was established here in 1714 and Thomas Tousey was the town's first minister. In 1720, the first meeting house/church building was completed. It sat in the middle of Town Street, now Main Street, facing Bridgeport. *All property owners in town were taxed to support the church and minister.*

People, mostly men, would meet here to discuss town matters such as hiring a teacher, finding a pig warden, repairing roads and other items. On Sundays, they and their wives and children would gather for services that were two hours long. The minister often used an hourglass to make sure the sermons were long enough. Because the sermons were long and often read, some people fell asleep. However, *there was a man called a tithing man who carried a tithing rod to awaken slumbering parishioners.* Men sat on one side and women and children on the other, with the few slaves seated at the back. A drummer was used to call worshipers every Sunday, until he was replaced by the bell (which is still in the steeple) in 1763. There was no heat in the building so it was quite cold.

In 1792, Trinity Church wanted to enlarge its building and move to the other side of the street. Since they needed more room, they asked the Congregationalists to move their church 132' to the west. *Incredibly, the building was jacked up, ox carts were placed under it, and it was moved onto its current foundation in less than 2 hours.* Eventually, the Congregationalists sold their building to the Newtown Historical Society for a dollar. Today, no official town meetings are held in the old church building, but it remains a popular spot for concerts and weddings.



The Liberty Pole Building

Formerly known as the “Chase Building”



This structure, commonly known as the “**Chase Building**,” located at 33 Main Street was “a mess” when the new owners purchased it and began restoration. The restorers did a fair amount of research on the building and the time spent poring over archived Historical Society photographs and other records was time well spent.

A long line of commercial enterprises have been located on this corner for over 230 years. Newtown’s first general store opened here sometime around 1785, and *in 1924, the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P) opened at that location.* It “has housed everything from grocery stores and soda fountains to real estate and an insurance office.” It was also the first home office of The Newtown Bee in mid-1877. Over the years, tenants have also included dentists, financial planners, a drug store, a bookstore, beauty shops, a dry cleaner, the VNA thrift shop, and a stationery supplier. When the larger section had been built in 1825, it was even used as a town hall.

Adapted from: “A Return To Grandeur For A Historic Main Street Property” By Nancy K. Crevier, *The Newtown Bee*, September 29, 2015

Newtown Savings Bank

Newtown Savings Bank was founded in 1855 to provide banking services to local citizens. Its first office was in the home of Henry Glover, not out of the back of a Conestoga wagon on West Street as one rumor suggested. In its first annual report in 1856, the bank had \$7,104 in real estate loans and \$17,201 in deposits. The bank purchased a safe in 1860 for \$100. In its long history, the bank has only been broken into twice with the second time being in 1905. *In that break in, burglars blew the safe, but according to the bank's history notes, there was only \$7.80 in the safe at the time.* The bank's first building opened for service in 1910, on the site of the present main office location in Newtown.



The bank now has 14 branches in the area. Over the years, the architecture of the bank additions have been blended into Main Street's sense of historical buildings. This addition to the bank was originally the Congregational Church Parsonage and now contains offices for the bank's top executives.

The General Store



The Newtown General Store was built in 1847. The original mercantile shop was a place where people congregated on Main Street to discuss the topics of the day while buying their day to day staples.

Today the Newtown General Store is a full-serve delicatessen. You'll also find other unique items available for purchase.

Be sure to stop in at the General Store for a quick lunch or a cup of coffee. Many of the sandwiches they serve are named after places and things found in Newtown:

*THE FLAGPOLE
THE HAWLEYVILLE
THE DICKERSON
THE QUEEN STREET*

*THE BOROUGH
THE BOTSFORD
THE TREADWELL
THE CASTLE HILL*

*THE SANDY HOOK
THE DODGINGTON
THE TAUNTON HILL
THE BEE*

Edmond Town Hall



Edmond Town Hall was gifted to the town by Mary Elizabeth Hawley in August of 1930, and was named in honor of her great-grandfather, Judge William Edmond. Sadly, Ms. Hawley did not live to see the building completed. The clock tower bell first rang for her funeral.

The Georgian Style building on Main Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and houses a 500-seat theater, a formal 250-seat banquet hall, a 600-person occupancy gymnasium and spaces for fund raising, weddings and special events. In 2007, the Lions Club raised funds for the replacement of the majority of the theater seats.

Edmond Town Hall is known for its \$3 movies and some "Special free movie events."



Step inside to see the wonderful Mural of Paintings by artist David Merrill portraying many of Newtown's Icons.



The Monument

Known to most as the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the memorial was the last of the gifts benefactress Mary Hawley bestowed on Newtown.

Although it is thought of as “the war memorial,” the monument’s original name was “The Peace and Liberty Monument.” The intention was not to suggest battle, but as stated in a May 15, 1931, *Newtown Bee* article, to give Newtown a memorial *“symbolic not only of the three great victories of the American people, but representative, as well, of the nobler things of the spirit — it was not the actual conflict that it desires to commemorate, but rather the spirit and idealism that prompted the sacrifice of thousands of youthful lives for honor and principle.”*

The monument is “to commemorate three periods in the history of our development when force of arms inspired by the spirit of righteousness and lofty ideals brought our country into being; protected it through civil strife; and raised it to the position of Champion of World Democracy and Guardian of Peace.”

The McGovern Granite Co. began work, following a brief note in *The Newtown Bee* on September 4, 1931, that “Some crazy or vicious individual backed his auto across a section of the little triangle where the soldiers’ memorial is to be erected after Mr. Steck had finished grading. Some boys have been tracking the plot up, and cows have been allowed to walk across the newly graded plot.”

It was not until May 1939, though, that the monument was officially dedicated during an extravagant Memorial Day celebration that included a parade from Sandy Hook Center to the top of Main Street, the decoration of the streets and businesses with flags and buntings, specially selected speakers, bands, poetry and actress and opera singer Grace Moore’s only Newtown performance.



Summer Flags on Main Street



In addition to the iconic Newtown Flagpole in the middle of our historic Main Street, the street is also lined during the summer with smaller American flags. The Newtown Lions supply, mount, and service these flags every year. The flags are mounted on Memorial Day weekend and fly through the Labor Day Parade.



Main Street Historic District

The Matthew Curtiss House in “The Borough”



Main Street is an important part of the Historic District. There is great pride in living on Main Street. In the past few years, there have been many homes that have been restored. In order to maintain the historical feel of the area, the Borough has not allowed the installation of traffic lights in the center of Main Street at the Flagpole.

Matthew Curtiss, Jr. purchased the house at 44 Main Street in 1781. It is a fine example of Connecticut saltbox architecture, and for some time it was believed that he was the house's builder and first resident. Thus his name was attached to it. Subsequent research shows that the house was originally constructed in about 1750. Curtiss sold the house in 1807, but may have continued to live there until his death in 1824. The house was acquired by the Historical Society in 1970. It serves as their headquarters and is *open to the public as a house museum*.

The present contents of the house include not only furnishings of the time the house was new but also items of later date which help to tell the history of Newtown. Rooms suggest the way family possessions could have been added as one generation followed another.

Houses on Main Street

Main Street is a pleasure to walk down anytime of the year



Cyrenius H. Booth Public Library



Newtown's Main Street is filled with wonderful old buildings. Mary Hawley, Newtown's benefactress, is responsible for one of the most striking - the Cyrenius H. Booth Library. Built in 1931 and named for her maternal grandfather, Dr. Cyrenius H. Booth, it was one of her many gifts to Newtown. Unlike other municipal buildings – Hawley School and Edmond Town Hall – the library was *designed to resemble a gracious Georgian home* to blend with the historic homes lining the street. To this day, many Newtowners and visitors alike assume the library was once a home converted to a library.

The staff is known for its “small town” friendliness as well as its skills in providing top-notch research to locate information and answer your questions. Ask what the “H” stands for in Cyrenius H. Booth, search your ancestry in the excellent genealogy collection, explore the chbMAKERS Corner, have a cup of coffee in the small café, or browse through the offerings in the Friends of the Library's Little Bookstore.

The C.H. Booth Library offers materials, information and support for every member of our community. They look forward to providing more co-working spaces and a business incubator for entrepreneurs, job seekers, independent professionals, students and remote workers. They also offer support for local businesses and for the economic growth of our town.



Inside the C.H. Booth Library

Once inside this beautiful building, you will see how the original reading rooms have been adapted to meet the ever-changing needs of a growing community. The historic blends with modern technology to provide a 21st Century library that speaks of the past.

The library still provides a comfortable reading room filled with magazines and newspapers, quiet-study areas, small-group meeting spaces, and interesting programs for all ages. The building is also filled with a marvelous collection of antiques and relics of Newtown's past. Many of these items had belonged to Mary Hawley and came from her home.



Along with printed books, DVDs, and CDs, the library now offers downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, online materials, and WiFi.

The new chbMAKERS Corner is a gathering place where all ages can discover new skills and network with others to explore and create.

The Pleasance



An old gas station at 1 Main Street was purchased by the owners of *The Newtown Bee* to build a new office and print shop. However, the cost to build the new building turned out to be twice what they wanted to spend, so they decided to convert their property into a wonderful public garden instead. It was given the fitting name of “The Pleasance” when it was established in 1997. The property is beautifully landscaped and has pathways to many features including an antique cast iron Fiske fountain, a gazebo, various large sculptures, and a bocce court.

It even has a “*Bunny Garden*” sculpture garden complete with Mr. McGregor, and Peter too, in his garden and Mrs. Rabbit and her young bunnies welcoming all children into their storybook home located in the back of the property.

The Newtown Bee

The *Newtown Bee* was established in 1877 as a post-Civil War rural weekly newspaper. However, its original founder, John T. Pearce, did not always feel there was enough news to report, so some weeks he did not issue a publication.

The early *Newtown Bee* identified itself as "independent Republican" and was challenged by an upstart paper aligned with the Democratic Party called the *Newtown Chronicle*. Founded in 1880, the *Chronicle* enjoyed a large readership among the many Irish immigrant workers who came to Newtown to build the railroads, farm, and work in the rubber belting industry. Reuben Smith purchased the *Bee* in 1881, bought out the *Chronicle*, and committed the *Bee* to non-partisan news coverage.

The *Bee*'s success at building an initial subscriber list is attributed to Reuben Smith's brother, Allison, *making a circuit in horse and carriage* of surrounding settlements to sell subscriptions and collect social news, and, then later, to the formation of a network of correspondents in dozens of communities around Newtown. These activities yielded news of social affairs, illnesses, sermons, agricultural plantings, lawsuits, arrests, thefts, road conditions, fires, lightning strikes, shad runs, and business ventures.

In September 1980, R. Scudder Smith, then owner and publisher of the family newspaper, brought the paper into the electronic age when computers replaced the old typewriters in Editorial. In March 1995, it also became the first newspaper in the state to offer continuously updated news and information on its website. The *Bee* is a member of New England Newspaper & Press Association, with multiple awards for editorial and advertising content.

Located at 5 Church Hill Road, the *Bee* continues to have members of the Smith family on staff six generations later.



Fairfield Hills Campus



Home to:

- Newtown Municipal Center
- Newtown Community Center and Senior Center
- NYA Sports & Fitness Center
- Baseball, softball, and soccer fields
- Victory Garden
- Edible Fruit Trail
- Walking Trails - 2 miles of trees, flowers and open air
- Dog Park
- Horse Trails
- Seven Pickleball practice courts

Newtown acquired the 30 buildings of the former Fairfield Hills Hospital 185-acre property from the State of Connecticut in 2004. Some have envisioned transforming the site into a college campus, others a commercial complex, or a golf course. **The discussions continue.**



Ferris Acres Creamery



Some of the best ice cream in America is found right here in Newtown! In 1864, William David Baldwin Ferris, a descendant of the first Ferris to arrive in Newtown around 1703, purchased the farm where Ferris Acres Creamery stands today. He established a family tradition in agriculture that has been adopted by at least one family member of each succeeding generation. Today, Ferris Acres Creamery located at 144 Sugar Street on Route 302 continues as a true family business with three generations involved.

People come from all around for this amazing ice cream! *Local favorites include Cow Trax, Route 302 Chocolate Moo, The MJ Rell, Bada Bing, Ali-Oop, and Bad Habit.*

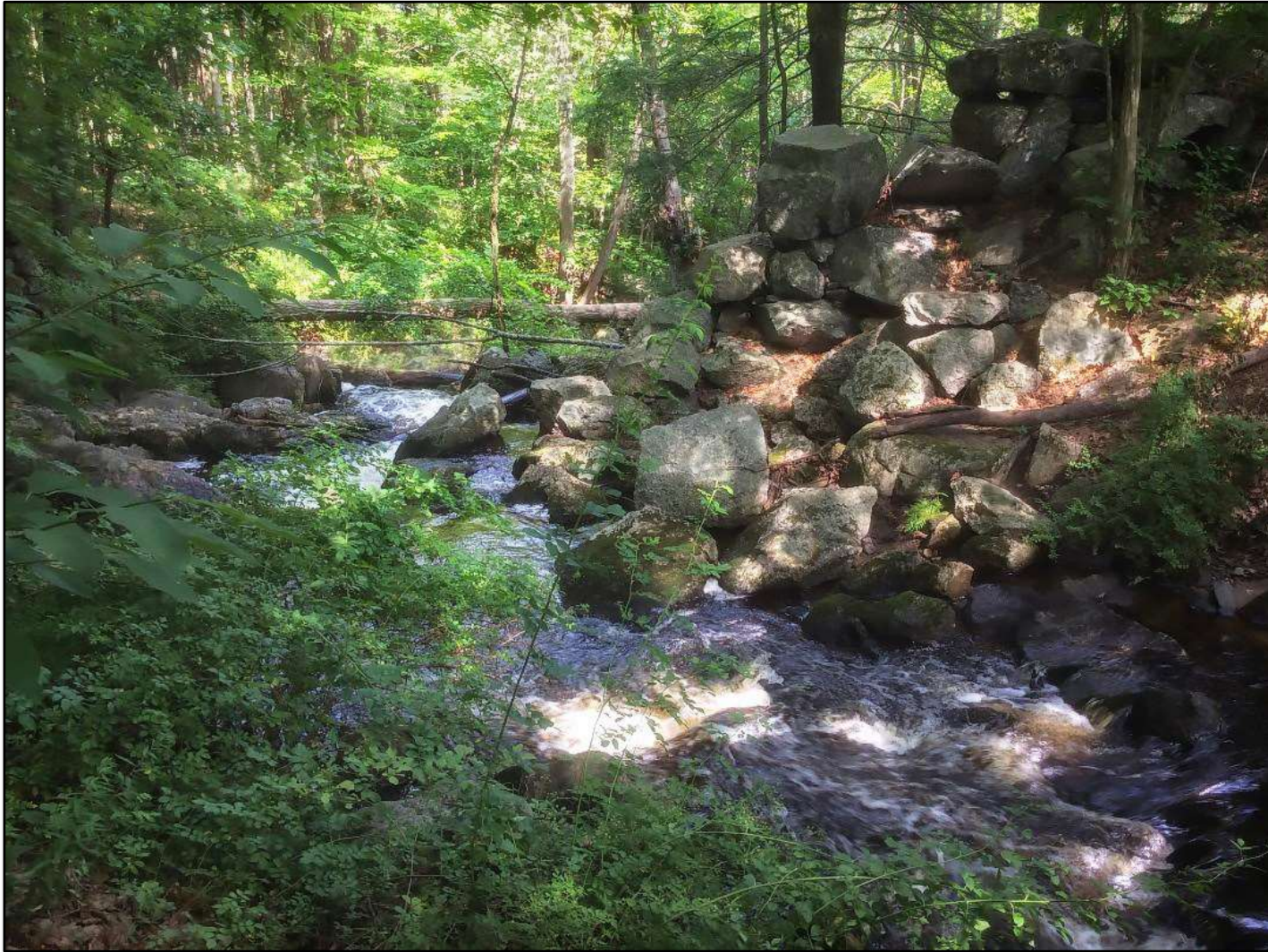


The Flag Trees on Route 302



The living painting at 68 Dodgingtown Road on Route 302 was created by artist David Merrill at the bequest of the property owner, Mr. Harold Lasher, and has been photographed countless times. Mr. Lasher, who lost many close friends and colleagues in the September 2001 terrorist attacks, decided to honor them after seeing the color guard march at St. Patrick's Cathedral for a 9/11 memorial service. "They died because they were American," he said. *"The flag represents everything America stands for – Strength, Liberty, & Freedom."*

Orchard Hill Nature Center



Orchard Hill is a great place to visit for a relaxing walk through the woods. *There are 15 varieties of trees and 14 varieties of plants that are marked as to their type, and a refreshing stream.* The park is located at 20 Huntingtown Road. Its historical assets include two mills and dams, which date back to the early part of the 19th century. Its natural assets include rare beauty and a remarkable diversity of habitats which provide a home to an unusually large number of species of plants and animals. The Newtown Lions do much of the maintenance of this park.

Open Space and Forested Land



Between land conserved by the Newtown Forest Association, planned open space by the Town, and state forests and parks, Newtown has many natural areas which have been preserved. The Newtown Forest Association, the oldest private land trust in the state, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to accumulating and preserving open space and forests for public enjoyment and for future generations. They currently hold over 1,100 acres and are the largest private landowner in Newtown.

In its 60 square miles, Newtown is blessed with forests, fields, rivers and streams. There are currently 2,000 acres of town-owned open space, which includes 6 preserves: Deep Brook, Halfway River, Pole Bridge, Pond Brook, Laurel Ridge and Stone Bridge. Many parcels abut State Forest land, Newtown Forest Association properties, and private land trusts, creating wildlife corridors.

Included in these acres of open land is Al's Trail, a 10.7 mile trail through a greenway that winds its way through a state forest, a state park, town forests, town open space and private property. *Along the way one can see eagle roosting areas, a family-owned vineyard, abandoned gold and feldspar mines, steep rock cliffs, and one of the best trout streams in Connecticut.* All within three miles of the center of Newtown!



Dickinson and Treadwell Parks



DICKINSON MEMORIAL PARK - Located at 50 Elm Drive in Newtown, this park is open to Newtown residents only, from 9 a.m. until sundown. Dickinson Park has five NEW tennis courts, a softball field, a NEW basketball court, a NEW Skate Park, two playground areas which now includes a **New handicap accessible area**, FUNSCAPE creative play area, and a pavilion and picnicking facilities, complete with charcoal grills.

TREADWELL MEMORIAL PARK - Located at 47 Philo Curtis Road in Sandy Hook, this park is open from 9 a.m. until sundown. Amenities include four tennis courts, a ball wall, a basketball court, two playground areas, a pavilion, a multi-purpose baseball/softball field, two regulation-size soccer fields, and a swimming pool complex, which features an 8-lane, 25-yard pool, with a diving "L" and wading pool. Locker facilities are available. The Newtown Lions Club was instrumental in building the playground.

EVENTS IN NEWTOWN



Mustang Raffle



Every spring for over 25 years, the Newtown Lions Club kicks off a Mustang Car Raffle. This year it is a beautiful candy apple red 2019 Ford Mustang, proceeds going to charity. All the Mustangs are convertibles with a V8, automatic transmission, power steering, and disc brakes in stunningly beautiful condition.

Remember those days of cruising down the highway with the wind in your hair and your best one by your side? Let this event take you back in time!

Annual Newtown Earth Day Festival

Newtown's Earth Day Festival is a daylong event of family fun and learning held on the front lawn of the Newtown Middle School at 11 Queen Street. This annual outdoor event was organized by a group of concerned citizens over 10 years ago to highlight the town's natural resources and help the town learn how to become a bit "greener."

There is music all day long by local bands, dancers from a number of dance organizations, wildlife exhibitions, raffles, pizza and food trucks, and a number of environmental exhibitions and demonstrations to attract all comers. It brings together friends, neighbors, school groups, work colleagues, clubs and organizations to make our town a better place.

As part of the Earth Day event, the Newtown Lions Club invites you to join us in participating in our **Lose The Litter** campaign to help clean up the streets, parks and schools of Newtown.

Tackle the Trash! The Lions Club will provide garbage bags and gloves if you need them. You can choose a road, a park near you, or one of the many school parking lots and grounds to clean up. Sign up at the Lions table at the Newtown Earth Day Festival and let them know what area you are going to clean. Working together we can all make a difference!



The Duck Race

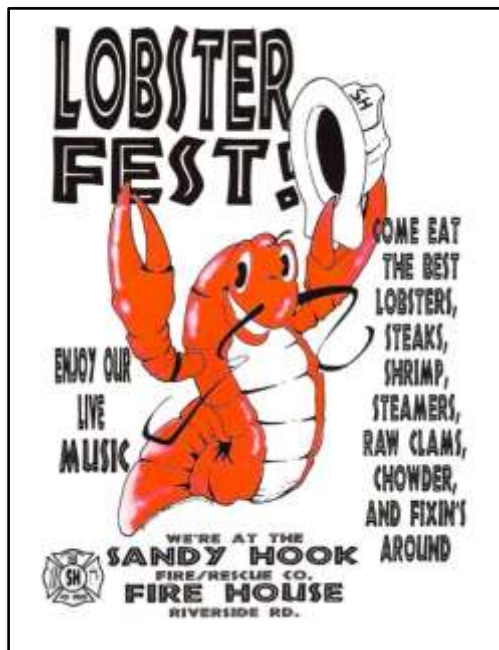


Lobster Festival



The Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company's Annual Lobster Festival, presented in early June on a Friday and Saturday night, attracts thousands of guests yearly. 2,050 lobsters and 750 pounds of ribeye steaks were served in 2018! The event takes place at the Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire & Rescue main station located at 18-20 Riverside Road.

Although this is the main fundraiser for the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company, they also have a Christmas Tree sale and flower sales during a number of holidays to support their activities.



Cyrenius H. Booth Library Book Sale

Thousands of book dealers, avid readers looking for that special book, and people looking for a bargain come to Newtown where the Library hosts a Book Sale every year. It is a five-day event held at the Reed Intermediate School located at 3 Trades Lane. This event is held the weekend after the Fourth of July every year.



The event in 2018 featured *100,000 books, collected by a hundred volunteers who raised \$100,000* for the Library's operations. Five hundred people waited in line for the doors to open on the first day of the 2018 sale!

Newtown Labor Day Parade



On September 3, 1962, 4,000 people lined the streets of Newtown to view the town's first ever Labor Day Parade. *The first parade was intended to be a Memorial Day Parade but the organizers were late in getting the planning started so it became the only Labor Day Parade in the state.* Newtown was a much smaller town in 1962 with a country flare. "Everybody, when you walked down Main Street, knew each other and said 'hello.'" Forty-one units marched in that first parade. In 2017, more than 200 units participated. Newtown's Labor Day Parade has grown to be the largest in the state, attracting governors, senators, and other dignitaries.



The Great Pumpkin Race





The Newtown Lions Club presents

The Great Pumpkin Race

Sponsored by



Newtown Savings Bank
The Power of Local

Saturday, October 20, 2018
10 am to 2 pm
Behind Edmond Town Hall
Rain date: Sunday October 21, 2018

Build a
Pumpkin Racer

Decorate a
Pumpkin



TREBUCHET!

Pumpkin Races &
Pumpkin Decorating Contests

Enter both!

Food, Music, Local Entertainment

Please register at the event – \$5 per race or decorating contest entry





RULES:

- 

Pumpkins being raced need to have 4 wheels and 2 axles, both of which must pass through the Pumpkin. Pumpkins will be raced by age group
- 

Carve and/or decorate a Pumpkin: Pumpkins will be judged by age group and prizes will be awarded for Scariest, Funniest, and Best Decorated Pumpkins. The Town and Country Garden Club will provide free pumpkin decorating crafts for children.
- 

Age Groups: 8 and under, 9-12, 13-17, and 18 and over

Tentative Schedule of Events

- 10:00 am – Registration opens (\$5 per entry)
- 11:00 am – Decorated Pumpkin judging (Scariest, Funniest, Best Decorated)
- 11:30 am – Pumpkin Races begin with 8 & under age group
- 11:45 am – Decorated Pumpkin winners announced
- 12:00 pm – Entertainment (will be announced on newtownlions.org)
- 12:15 pm – Pumpkin races for 9-12 age group
- 12:45 pm – Pumpkin races for 13-17 age group
- 1:00 pm – Pumpkin races for 18 & over age group
- 1:00 pm – Mustang Raffle Drawing (at front of Edmond Town Hall)
- 1:30 pm – Age Group Champions face off in Pumpkin Race Finale!

Eighth Grade Scarecrow Contest



Students at Newtown Middle School have been creating *"larger-than-life"* scarecrows for the annual Eighth Grade Scarecrow Contest for over 20 years. Students are encouraged to work in groups, but can create their scarecrows on their own if they wish. The Art Enrichment students make their creations as part of a class project, but any eighth grader may participate. Residents may vote for their favorites at \$1 per vote and all funds raised benefit the charities that are chosen by the top three winning groups.

Halloween Night on Main Street

The “Happening Place” to Enjoy Halloween

The festivities and crowds have grown incrementally for decades, with many under the *misconception that this is a Town sanctioned event*.

Thousands of costumed Trick-or-Treaters have been known to visit residents on Main Street. Residents reported between 2,050 and 2,300 at their doors in 2017, with the first costumed guests appearing as early as 4:30 that afternoon.

Residents easily spend a few hundred dollars on candy. (Eric DaSilva letter to the editor, May 2018: “As a Main Street resident who spends over \$300 annually for Halloween candy...”)

Since 2011, residents and visitors have been treated to a display of carved pumpkins. The pumpkins were launched as a fundraiser.

Newtown police officers help with traffic along the busy roadway. Some also stand outside the police station at 3 Main Street, handing out treats. Local groups often set up in the courtyard of Edmond Town Hall, offering non-candy fun, treats, and games.

Adults often join in the festivities as well, donning costumes and escorting children as they walk along Main Street.

Excerpts from *Newtown Bee* articles



Luminaires



Newtown's Main Street and Ram Pasture come alive each year with the Christmas Spirit. Residents follow luminaries that line South Main Street and Elm Drive to attend the Annual Ram Pasture Tree Lighting. It is held on a Friday night, generally the week after Thanksgiving, each year. This tradition has been going on for over 30 years.

The Tree Lighting

Recent Tree Lighting events have included performances from Newtown High School's acapella singers, the Ashurst Academy of Irish Dance, and Lathrop School of Dance. In addition to the entertainment, caroling and refreshments served, the highlight of the night is a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Community Wellness



The Newtown Center for Support and Wellness was chartered by the Town of Newtown and is the single point of entry which connects members of the community with wellness resources through a strong referral system and dedicates staff to families and individuals in need. Their office is located immediately on the right as you enter the Fairfield Hills Campus.

The Town of Newtown strives to provide a healthy community that encourages schools, businesses, and organizations to support wellness through the delivery of services that promote: Healthy Life Choices, Connections with Others, Awareness and Education, and Positive Emotional Well-Being.

Food Banks



Newtown has two locally supported food banks.

One is the F.A.I.T.H. Food Pantry, located behind St. Rose Church. The letters of their name stand for **F**ood **A**ssistance **I**mmEDIATE, **T**emporary, **H**elp. During COVID-19 hours are restricted to by APPOINTMENT only and you must call in advance.

The second is Hospitality Hall, located in the Newtown Congregational Church. They offer a supply of donated items to support the needs of people who are currently in need. It is open during office hours.



Community Services



The Newtown Parent Connection, Inc. can offer help and *guidance to those struggling with issues of substance abuse*. If you need help with a loved one's substance use or abuse and don't

know where to go, call them at 203-270-1600. They have been embracing and empowering families in our community - reaching out to promote healing and wellness - for over 20 years. They know how critically important prevention, early intervention and ongoing support for your child, loved ones, and their families can be. At Newtown Parent Connection they work with individuals and families to build resiliency and strengthen the connection amongst family members and loved ones. They offer a weekly gathering for parents and caregivers with children or loved one's affected by substance use/abuse. This group provides a confidential venue to receive information and support concerning how to handle their child's or loved one's suspected or confirmed use of substances. It is facilitated by an experienced drug & alcohol counselor.



The Newtown Prevention Council is a coalition of diverse community members committed to creating a culture in Newtown that positively engages the community to empower youth and families *to make healthy thoughtful decisions and to support healthy, substance free living*.

FAMILIES UNITED IN NEWTOWN


Families United is a local grassroots support organization for families with children on the autism spectrum. Families United in Newtown (FUN) was started *to help bring the community of special needs families together in a safe and welcoming place*. At each FUN meeting, families are paired with a National Honors Society student from Newtown High School who will spend time with the kids, giving the parents a much needed break. In addition to numerous FUN meetings the group typically holds at least one public concert each year that features a mix of local performers from among participating FUN families as well as local musicians from the community and beyond.



Newtown Youth and Family Services is a non-profit youth service bureau and mental health clinic for children, teens, adults and seniors. For over 30 years, NYFS has been committed to providing high quality human health services to promote individual and community wellness. Specialized services include: outpatient individual, couples and family counseling, substance abuse treatment services, Autism and social programs, prevention initiatives and support groups. *Their mission is to help children and families achieve their highest potential*. They provide high quality human and behavioral health services in their office located at 15 Berkshire Road, Sandy Hook.


Community “Vision” – At Home & Abroad

Connecticut
Lions
KidSight
Program



FREE Pediatric Vision Screening

Lions
kidSight
usa



Community Eye Screening For Children

What is KidSight?

KidSight is part of a nationwide initiative of Lions Clubs International to help parent, child care providers and educators to find and treat children's vision problems

Our Mission is to Address America's
#1 Health Issue for Children –
VISION PROBLEMS

Connecticut Lions KidSight program is funded by the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (CLERF) under their Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP)

Lions District 23A covers 50 Lions clubs with HIPPA compliant protocols and trained Lion volunteers, dedicated to solving the critical issue of vision problems in children.

Lions offer this service

Free

Our #1 priority is to screen children in the 6 month to 6 year old age group, since the earlier vision disorders are detected, the higher success rate of correction.

Since children of all ages benefit from vision screening, Lions KidSight will expand its services through Grade School upon a School District's request.

The Newtown Lions have partnered with the Visiting Nurse Association of Newtown in vision screening programs both in the schools and in the community. Screening has been expanded to include grade school students in addition to pre-school children. Free eye screenings have also been made available to the public at the Annual Newtown Public Safety & Health Fair. At the fair, Lions members also distribute information about the Lions KidSight Program, which helps parents, children, and educators detect and treat children's vision problems.

The Newtown Lions also collect used eyeglasses for distribution to people in need.
Over 2,000 eyeglasses are collected per year.

Started by a request from a Newtown School teacher, the Newtown Lions facilitated the \$400,000 grant from Lions International for an Eye Clinic in Africa. This Grant was given to a project called the “Sustainable Comprehensive Community Eye Health Program.” The Newtown teacher had previously traveled to Africa to help with eyesight exams and treatments for the poor in remote areas. The project began as a local effort, and the new eye clinic will be funded for Counties in Liberia. This is the second eye clinic effort Newtown efforts will support.

Always in Our Hearts



Our Community

Newtown remembers the 20 children and six educators killed at Sandy Hook School on December 14, 2012. We treasure the memory of those beautiful children and the adults who loved and cared for them.

Out of this horrific tragedy, with a hurt of such magnitude that the families of loss will forever carry the weight of grief, grew programs and practices that are conduits of hope and change. A focus on emotional wellness, healthier homes, and safer schools emerged, along with recognition of the special relationship of children with the arts, nature, and animals.

Above all else, we learned anew the power of love. Family foundations and community organizations rose from the sadness with commitments for a better future; a safer, more compassionate and connected world. A vision took root that we can and will aspire to a world with less violence; where all children are safe and loved; where relationships are guided by compassion and empathy, inclusiveness and emotional wellness.

We are proud to continue our support for these foundations and organizations that help shine a light on a better future.

Do you want to get involved in our community?

The Newtown Lions Club is made up of men and women who enjoy good fellowship and give their free time to help those in need in their community, their state and the rest of the world.

Lions also welcome high school aged boys and girls to join our Leo's Club.

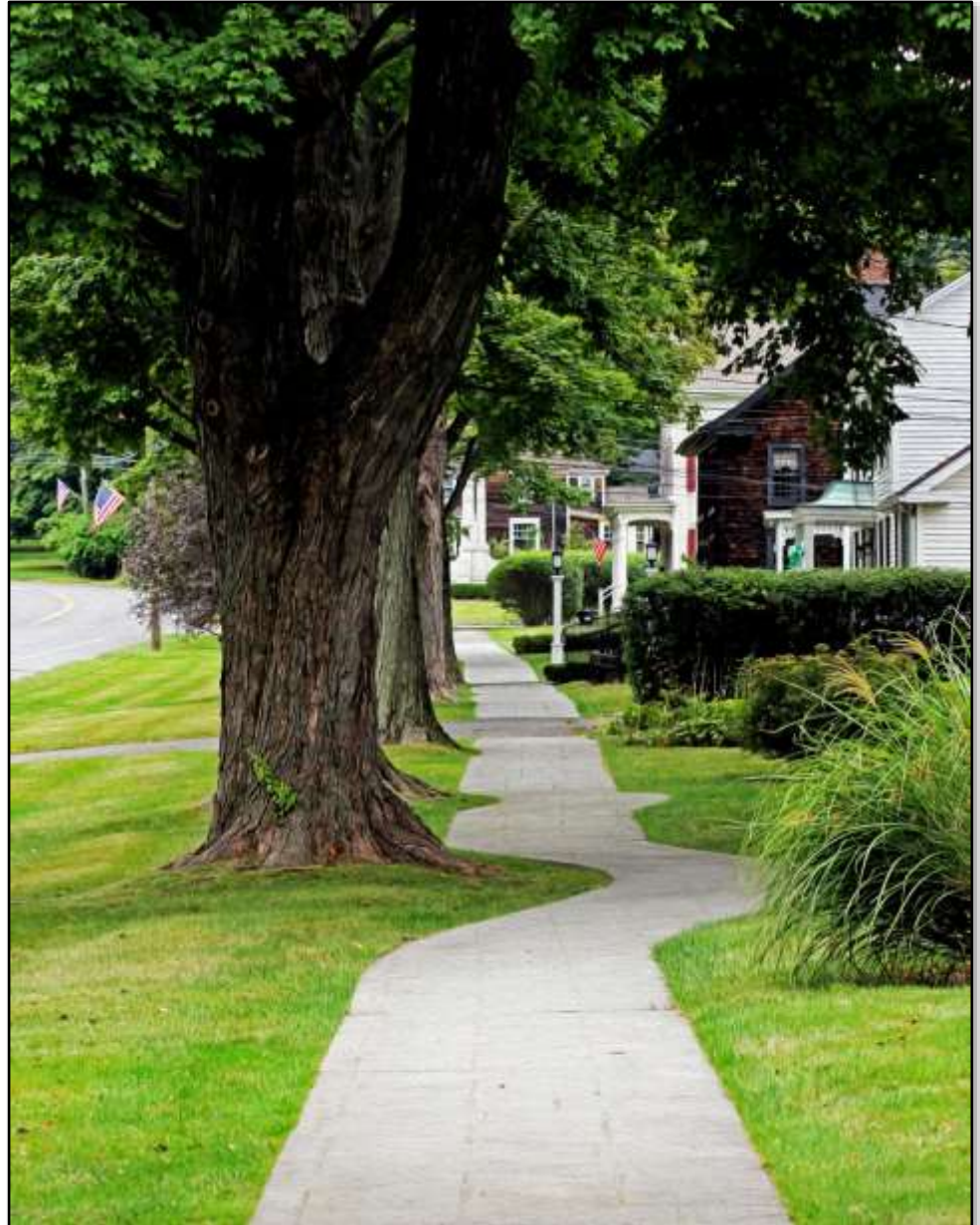
For more information on how to get involved with the Newtown Lions Club, please contact:

Membership@NewtownLions.org
www.NewtownLions.org

For Lions, “We Serve” is not only a motto
but a definition and philosophy.



*We Make a Living
By What We Get,
But We Make a Life
By What We Give*



Thank you Flagpole Photographers Camera Club



We would like to thank Flagpole Photographers Camera Club members Mark Ashbolt, Chane Cullens, Rhonda Cullens, Anne Eigen, Linda Lubinsky and Sue Thompson for supplying most of the photos for this guide!

Flagpole Photographers Camera Club is a local nonprofit group founded in 1985 that enables members to share their images and expertise, to learn and grow in their photography, and to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow photographers. They come from diverse backgrounds, with photographic skills ranging from beginning novices to professionals. New members are always welcome to join the club and may *enter their work in monthly club competitions, participate in workshops, take field trips, get involved in community programs, and take part in annual exhibits.*

Additional club information, meeting dates, including calendar of events, member galleries, and workshop information can be found at: FlagpolePhotographers.com. For more information contact Info@FlagpolePhotographers.com.

Hope you enjoyed your tour!



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