

Volume 9 Issue 3 May - June 2025

Newtown Grant  
Homeowners Association

# The Newtown Grant Newsletter

[www.newtowngrant.org](http://www.newtowngrant.org)



## Inside this edition:

Blood Drive Flyer, 2025 Splash Fitness Water Aerobics, 2025 Newtown Grant Swim Lessons , Pet-Dog Rules, Newtown Grant Outdoor Pool, New Tennis Courts, Robs Review, Home Improvement Projects, Illegal Trash Disposal, Mailbox Maintenance, and so much more



**360 Eagle Road  
Newtown, PA 18940  
(215) 968-3789**

**Email Addresses**

- [events@newtowngrant.org](mailto:events@newtowngrant.org)
- [marketing@newtowngrant.org](mailto:marketing@newtowngrant.org)

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Also make sure to sign up for our newsletter  
either via our Website at  
[www.newtowngrant.org](http://www.newtowngrant.org)

**Blog**

- [www.newtowngrant.org/blog](http://www.newtowngrant.org/blog)



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## POOL SEASON IS AROUND THE CORNER!

The Newtown Grant Outdoor Pool will be opening on **Memorial Day Weekend starting on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>** (please see pool rules for posted hours of operation) and weekends thereafter. The full weekday opening starts on Wednesday, June 18th. Last year key cards were issued to residents for scanning and access to the pool.

If you obtained a card in prior years, and do not have an outstanding balance on your homeowner association account, the card remains active so long as you continue to be a resident of Newtown Grant and do not have an outstanding balance. If you do have an outstanding balance, your card has been deactivated and will be reactivated once your account balance has been paid. Key Cards of former residents of Newtown Grant have also been deactivated.



If you do not have a Pool Key Card you will need to obtain a card for access to the pool providing your homeowner account is in good standing with a zero balance and you can show proof of identification and residency within Newtown Grant. Renters must first provide in advance, a copy of their current executed lease agreement to [rob.degeorge@fsresidential.com](mailto:rob.degeorge@fsresidential.com) prior to obtaining a pool key card. There is no cost for the initial card. Key Cards can be obtained at the Recreation Manager's Office located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the clubhouse on Fridays from 4:00-8:00pm, Saturdays from 12:00pm-8:00pm and Sundays from 12:00-7:00pm.

Additionally, if you were issued a card that you lost, a new card can be issued to you at a cost of \$10. Your old Fob will be deactivated.

Pool guidelines are published on the Newtown Grant website ([www.newtowngrant.org](http://www.newtowngrant.org)). The guidelines and rules will be updated prior to pool opening to assure their accordance with current CDC or Bucks County Department of Health requirements. You may contact Community Manager Rob DeGeorge ([Rob.DeGeorge@fsresidential.com](mailto:Rob.DeGeorge@fsresidential.com)) or 215-968-3789 x 2) or the Recreation Office (215-968-3789 x 1) with any questions.

### 2025 OUTDOOR POOL HOURS

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Junior Pool

Weekend's only from May 24th through June 15th  
Saturday & Sunday 10:00 AM – 6:00PM

Everyday starting June 18th through September 1st (Labor Day)  
Monday-Friday  
11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Saturday and Sunday  
10:00AM – 6:00pm

#### Main Pool

Weekend's only from May 24th through June 15th  
Saturday & Sunday  
10:00 AM – 8:00PM

Starting June 18th through September 1st (Labor Day)  
Monday – Friday  
11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday  
10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

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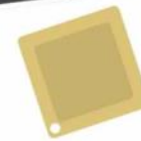
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# **SPLASH FITNESS WATER AEROBICS**

**IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH WITH THIS FUN, LOW IMPACT  
AND FULL BODY WORKOUT.**

**WEDNESDAYS.....JULY 2ND—AUGUST 20TH  
7:00PM-8:00PM**

**OR**

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS.....JULY 3RD—AUGUST 21ST  
10:00AM-11:00AM**

**@ NEWTOWN GRANT OUTDOOR POOL**

**CLASSES START WEDNESDAY, JULY 2ND**

This is a low impact and exciting water aerobics class where no swimming skills are needed.

This class is designed to improve flexibility, range of motion, strength, muscle tone and cardiovascular endurance while using the resistance of the water to cushion the feet, knees and back.

Exercises are performed to lively, motivating music and are effective and easy to follow.

**All equipment is provided. Just bring a towel, bottle of water and water shoes (if you have them).**

**\$5.00 per person per class.**

**Pay via VENMO (@Newtown-Grant) or cash the day of.**

**For more information, please contact  
Michelle @ 609-439-2733 or MMRDWS@yahoo.com**



## HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Spring is in the air...many people take this time to get started on home improvement projects they've been contemplating. With that in mind, here is some information to help assure that your home improvement project runs smoothly...



- Don't forget to please check your clusters Environmental Review Board (ERB) Rules and Regulations first and to please submit ERB Request Forms to your designated cluster association property manager for such exterior structural work that requires it. Each cluster association owner can find their respective cluster ERB guidelines as well as contact information for their property manager on the Newtown Grant Website which is: <https://www.newtowngrant.org/>
- When choosing a contractor, make sure they are registered with the State of Pennsylvania, and they provide you with their HIC (Home Improvement Contractor) number. You can check to see if a contractor is registered by going on the following website: <http://hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov>
- It's also a good idea to check with other agencies such as the Better Business Bureau and Department of Consumer Protection before choosing a contractor.
- Make sure all required approvals and permits have been secured before you or your contractor begins work. Information and forms can be found on Newtown Township's website [www.newtownpa.gov](http://www.newtownpa.gov) or you can contact the Newtown Township Codes & Zoning Office for assistance. Don't forget, any exterior structural work that requires ERB submission can not start until you have received permission from your cluster association board and respective property manager.
- If your project requires digging, you or your contractor must contact PA One Call ([www.pa1call.org](http://www.pa1call.org) or dial 8-1-1) at least 3 to 10 business days before you dig – IT'S THE LAW. PA One Call will contact the utility companies to mark their lines with paint, flags or stakes. It's important you see marked lines on your property before digging takes place so no accidents occur...keep in mind that careless digging could result in serious personal injury, environmental damage and costly delays.
- Finally, you should always make sure that all the proper inspections are completed including a final inspection before you pay your contractor the remaining balance due upon the job's completion. If you're unsure what inspections have been completed, you can contact the Newtown Township Codes & Zoning Office for this information at 215-968-2800 extension 242 or 265.

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# POOL RULES

## **Membership:**

The Newtown Grant pool is for Newtown Grant residents, in good standing, and their paid guests (also see Granny Pass and Nanny access). Please enter the pool area through the entry gate next to the clubhouse. Each residents Key FOB must be scanned in the presence of the Pool Gate Attendant before entering the pool area. Any guest(s) that a resident shall bring to the pool will need to be identified and the appropriate guest fee paid. Accepted forms of payment are Venmo and Cash.

- Children under age 13 must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.
- Children age 13-17 may attend without an adult and may bring one (1) paid guest.
- Residents age 18 or older may bring a maximum of four (4) paid guests, per household.

## **Junior Pool:**

The Junior Pool is for children five (5) years old and younger. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and will be their sole responsibility. All diapers must be covered by rubber pants. Swimmy diapers are not sufficient alone.

## **Etiquette:**

Pool access is not permitted unless a lifeguard is on-duty. Running, diving, pushing, wrestling, rough-play or similar activities are not permitted. Continuous loud disturbance and/or the use of profanity are not permitted. The lifeguard(s) and Recreation Manager(s) have the authority to enforce all rules and may direct offenders to leave the pool area (see Suspension from Pool).

## **Safety:**

Please be aware of others using the pool at all times. Acceptable floatation devices are US Coast Guard approved floatation devices (PFDs), water wings, kickboards and “noodles”. Other free-floating devices are not permitted in the pool including tubes with “shirts” attached. Ball playing is permitted at the discretion of the lifeguard(s).

## **Parking:**

Please Park only in the designated parking spaces in the parking lot and respect all handicapped marked parking spots. Do not park in a No Parking area or leave your car unattended in the circle at any time. Those areas must be kept open as a safety measure for emergency vehicles, if required.

## **Guests:**

Each household may bring up to four (4) guests when accompanied by a resident Key FOB holder age 18 or older. The guest fee is to be paid at the time of entry. The resident Key FOB holder will be responsible for their guest(s) and must stay with the guest(s) throughout the guest's entire visit to the pool. If your child brings a friend, that friend is your responsibility and the adult resident must be present at all times.

## **Guest fee:**

The daily guest fee is \$5.00 per guest. The fee is non-refundable.

## **Granny Pass:**

Granny Key FOBs will be activated for a Newtown Grant resident for the purpose of caring for their grandchildren, who do not live in Newtown Grant. Grandparents must have their grandchildren registered for access to the pool at the time of Key FOB issuance. The Grandparent is responsible for their grandchildren that they bring to the pool and is subject to all pool rules.

## **Nanny Access:**

Nanny/Babysitter may use the Key FOB of a resident parent that has been activated to allow for such use. The Nanny/Babysitter is responsible for the child or children they bring to the pool and is subject to all pool rules.

## **Shade Pavilions:**

Shade pavilions are available for the use and enjoyment of all. Please limit any parties to a maximum of two (2) hours under the pavilion. Parties at the pavilion are first-come, first-serve. Property Management, Recreation Coordinators and Lifeguards do not and cannot schedule parties at the pavilions.

## **Clubhouse:**

Bathrooms are available for use with direct entry from the pool area. It is strongly recommended that you wear footwear when using the bathrooms. Always be aware of the possibility of wet floors and slippery conditions given it is a pool area and water can and will be anywhere you may walk. Entry to the clubhouse/ banquet room from the pool area is discouraged. If you need to otherwise enter the clubhouse your bathing attire must be dry, you must be appropriately covered and wearing footwear. Initial access to the pool is through the gate next to the clubhouse, not through the clubhouse.

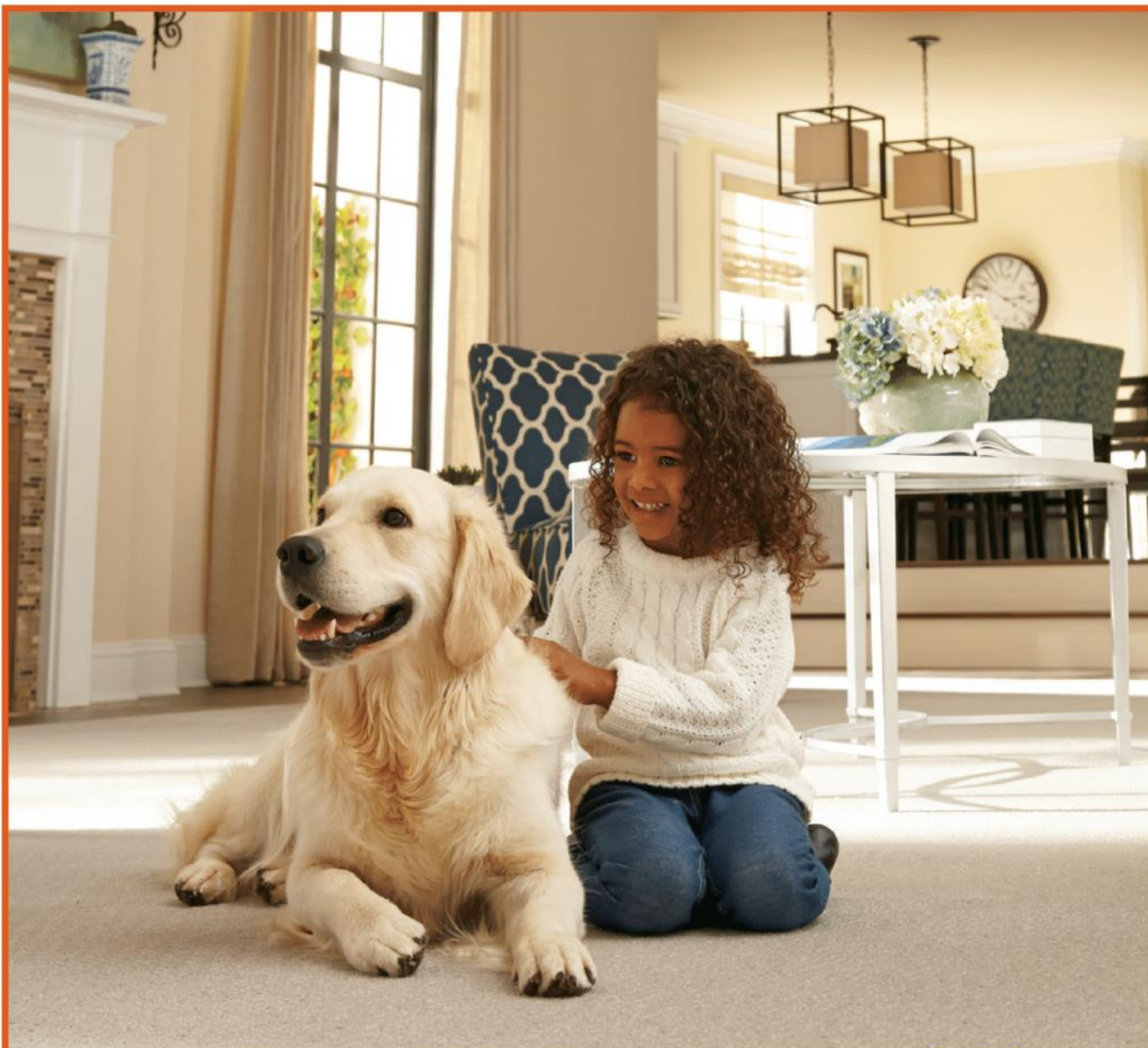
## **Suspension from the pool:**

The lifeguard(s) have the authority to enforce the rules and may direct offenders to leave the pool area. Violators may be suspended from the pool:

- for fifteen (15) minutes to calm down, and
- after two (2) offenses loss of all pool privileges for two (2) days at the discretion of pool management.

Violators may also have their pool privileges suspended for the remainder of the pool season if there is falsification of information, unpaid fines, open violations or a delinquent Association account.





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# 2025 SPRING FLING AND EASTER EGG HUNT EVENT





## NEWTOWN GRANT CLUBHOUSE TRASH ENCLOSURE AND ASSOCIATION PET WASTE TRASH CANS



Please be advised that the clubhouse trash cans and the association wide pet waste trash cans are not to be used for the disposal of private household trash. Unfortunately, the association has seen an uptick in the amount of private household trash that are being disposed in these cans.

The pet waste trash cans are smaller gallon cans that are emptied twice a week and when someone disposes a bag(s) of household trash in these cans, these cans begin overflow. Household trash that is generated is the responsibility of that individual household to dispose of with a privately selected trash hauler.

Moving forward, anyone caught illegally disposing household trash in either the clubhouse trash enclosure or the association wide pet waste trash cans will automatically be issued a violation fine of \$350.00

## PER NEWTOWN GRANT RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING TRASH CAN(S) STORAGE:



- Trash bins and/or trash bags shall not be permitted to stand along the outside wall of any building
- All non-recyclable trash shall be in bags that tie closed and be placed within trash bins with a top closure.
- Trash bins and recyclable trash containers shall not be placed outside until the evening before the scheduled trash pick-up no earlier than 7:00 PM.
- Trash bins and recyclable trash containers shall be removed from the street returned inside as soon as possible, but no later than 9:00 PM on the day of pick-up.
- Society Place Condominiums use dumpsters and initiates an immediate and un-waivable fine of \$50 per bag/box left on the ground and not deposited in trash bins. This fine escalates with each infraction

### Trash Bin Cleaning



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Prices are for 2 trash cans cleaned

**Trash Can Before**

**Trash Can After**





**DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.**

**Blood Drive**  
**Newtown Grant**

**Homeowners Association - Clubhouse Banquet Room**  
**360 Eagle Road**  
**Newtown, PA 18940**

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**



Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit  
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## PICKLEBALL COURT KEY ACCESS AND COURT RESERVATION SYSTEM COMING LATE SPRING/EARLY SUMMER 2025

Please be advised the Newtown Grant Pickleball Courts will soon have a key access control system installed along with a court reservation system. Once both entities are online at the same time, Newtown Grant Residents will be required to reserve a court and associated playing time via the [newtowngrant.org](http://newtowngrant.org) website. Reservation system will have parameters put in place such as a time limit to reserve the court and how far in advance you are able to reserve.

Additionally, in an effort eliminate usage of the courts from outside groups, access to the Pickleball Courts will be granted only with an access control key card (similar to the outdoor pool). If you already have an access key card for the outdoor pool, no action is needed as all key cards will be given access to the Pickleball Courts. However, if you do not have a key card, you will need to obtain one using the same protocols and checkpoints as when we issue pool key cards.

Access key cards are currently issued with the Recreation Staff. Hours currently are Friday Nights from 4:00pm-8:00pm, Saturdays from 12:00pm-8:00pm and Sundays from 12:00-7:00pm.

Recreation Staff will available seven (7) days a week starting June 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am – 7:00pm to issue key cards. .

Further information regarding the pickleball court reservation system will be distributed at a later date.



# GUTTER BUCKS COUNTY, PA PEOPLE

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# Circle of Friends Preschool

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- Transitional Kindergarten - for those children who need an extra year before heading to kindergarten or who just missed the cut off
- AM and PM 4s
- AM and PM 3s
- AM Drop Off 2s
- Team Toddler (Toddlers with a grown-up)

For information Call 215-598-9445 or Visit

[www.CoFPreschoolNewtown.org](http://www.CoFPreschoolNewtown.org)



Circle of Friends Preschool and Enrichment Programs is a non-profit preschool and is a mission of the Anchor Church



## NEWTOWN GRANT CLUBHOUSE ELECTION POLLING LOCATION

The Newtown Grant Clubhouse will be an Election Polling location for the General Primaries on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Voting hours will be from 7:00am – 8:00pm in the clubhouse banquet room.



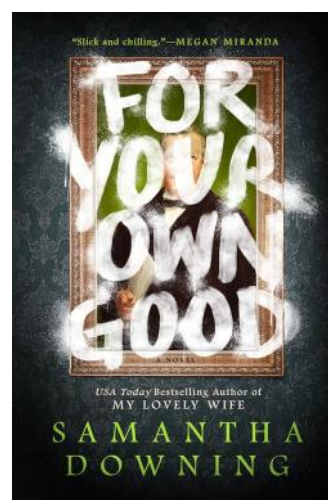
## NEWTOWN GRANT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION BOOK CLUB

Newtown Grant Homeowners Association Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. at the Newtown Grant Recreation Clubhouse.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be discussing the book "Lady Clementine" by Marie Benedict

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be discussing the book "For Your Own Good" by Samantha Downing.

If you are interested in joining our book club, please contact Andrew Bell at [Atbell2@gmail.com](mailto:Atbell2@gmail.com).





# NEWTOWN GRANT SUMMER SWIM LESSONS

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## NEW TENNIS COURTS COMING 2025

Please be advised the Newtown Grant Tennis Closed are currently closed as all four courts are scheduled to undergo reconstruction replacement. Four brand new tennis courts along with a new tennis court fence will be coming by July 4<sup>th</sup>! We apologize for the inconvenience to our tennis players; however, we are excited and looking forward to court improvements.

So far, new tennis court net post footers have been installed. Work is currently underway on an updated fence. Mill/Paving of the courts to take place in May followed by painting of the courts in June. Tennis Court will be ready for play by the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend.





## MAILBOX MAINTENANCE

Inspect your mailbox every spring and fall season to ensure that it is in good condition. Remember that snow coming from a plow can be extremely heavy causing a mailbox in poor condition to come down.

Is your mailbox sturdy? Plastic mailboxes tend to become brittle with age. Make sure that the door on the mailbox is closed tightly, if the door is open or missing then the mailbox may “fold” on impact from the snow. Is the wooden post straight and in good condition? The township is not responsible for a mailbox that is hit due to it leaning into the roadway. Be aware that an old rotted wooden post can easily break from the impact of snow.



Mailboxes (mainly pertains to single family homes in Newtown Grant) should be located so the face of the mailbox is 6-8 inches back from the edge of the roadway. This is according to USPS guidelines. Newtown Township Public Works suggests that you put them as far as 15 inches back from the road edge.

Did you know that Newtown Township is one of the few Townships that have a reimbursement policy for damaged mailboxes during snow plowing season. Please visit their website at [newtownpa.gov](http://newtownpa.gov) for details and requirements regarding the policy.

## NON-SUMMER SEASON CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Our non-summer season clubhouse hours are as follows:

Monday – Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm  
Friday: 8:30am – 8:00pm  
Saturday: 12:00pm – 8:00pm  
Sunday: 12:00pm – 7:00pm

Game Room will be available Friday Nights from 4:00pm – 8:00pm and also on weekends during.

\*Game Room available seven days a week from 11:00am – 7:00pm starting Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> when Outdoor Pool opens seven days a week.



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# **ALL PETS (DOGS & CATS) MUST BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES WHILE OFF OWNERS LANDS:**

## **Per Newtown Grant, Newtown Township and the State of Pennsylvania:**

- No pet shall be permitted to run at large or to roam without a leash on any lands other than its owner's land.

Additionally, per the State of Pennsylvania: "All dogs must be under control not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners responsible for damages caused by their dog."

<https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Animals/DogLaw/pa-dog-laws/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Anyone observed of having their pet off leash-off their personal property will be subjected to a \$100.00 Newtown Grant Homeowners Association fine and a \$350.00 fine from the Township and State of Pennsylvania.**



### **Dog Park at Core Creek Park:**

For those owners/residents who are looking for an off-leash venue for your dog to run at large or roam around without a leash, Core Creek Park which part of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation department has a beautiful dog park. Amenities include benches, landscaped pathways, water fountain, restrooms, convenient parking, waste bags and waste stations. Core Creek Park is a short 10-15 minute drive from Newtown Grant.

Bucks County residents can register and purchase a key fob which will allow you access to the dog park from dawn and until dusk. Dogs must also have a valid Bucks County registration and be up to date with vaccinations.

For additional information regarding the Dog Park at Core Creek Park, please visit the following link: <https://www.buckscounty.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/OffLeash-Dog-Park-47>



## **Newtown Grant Pet (Dog) Waste Policies:**

Any person owning or having the care, custody, possession, or control of a dog(s) while off the person's premises shall have in their possession the equipment necessary to remove the dog's fecal matter and shall so remove such fecal matter deposited by their dog(s) before the owner leaves the immediate area where the fecal matter deposited. Pets shall NOT be walked between buildings (rear or side yards) except in case where side yard is completely private. Pets may be walked in designated areas on the perimeter of the Community. Please dispose of pet waste in the designated trash cans on North/South Drive and Jonquil Drive or in your own garbage can only.

A violation of this Section shall be an infraction, the penalty for which shall be a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), which shall be assessed for a first offense of a violation of this section and Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each occurrence thereafter. These fines will not be waived.



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## **COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PARKING NOT PERMITTED:**

### **Per Newtown Grant Master Board Rules and Regulations:**

All vehicles must be properly licensed and registered. Vehicles may not be disabled, leaking fluids, and must not be in an obvious state of disrepair. Only private passenger type sedans, coupes, vans, sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks and two wheel power vehicles are allowed to park in Newtown Grant, unless garaged in the Unit. No recreational vehicles (including but not limited to campers, or any kind, motor homes, boats or other recreational equipment), nor commercial vehicles (regardless of whether licensed or registered as a commercial vehicle) may be parked in Newtown Grant, unless garaged in the Unit.

Vans, as well as other enclosed vehicles must have windows on all four sides. Vans and other enclosed vehicles must have windows in the front and back on the passenger and driver's side. Blank metal sides or panel sides are not permitted. No vehicle may have a commercial appearance, including but not limited to ladder, tool and equipment racks or visible advertising or lettering. Dump trucks, vehicles having a double rear axle, fifth wheels, and other vehicles of similar nature are specifically prohibited anywhere in Newtown Grant unless garaged.

Commercial vehicles are permitted to park temporarily (but not overnight) in Newtown Grant in connection with service or repair to a Unit or the Common Element





## STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SKIN CANCER

Protecting yourself from the sun's harmful UV rays is the first step in skin cancer prevention. A person's risk for melanoma doubles if they have had more than five sunburns, so don't skimp on the sunscreen, and don't forget to protect your scalp and ears.

For proper sunscreen use, it should be applied 30 minutes prior to going outside and reapplied every two hours of being in the sun. The sun's rays are most intense between 10:00am and 2:00pm so try to stay out of the sun during this peak time.

The FDA recommends applying a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or higher to all uncovered skin. Regular daily use of SPF-15 sunscreen can reduce your risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma by about 40% and lower your melanoma risk of 50%.

Clinical studies have not determined that daily use of sunscreen can lead to vitamin D insufficiency. Studies actually show that people who use sunscreen regularly can maintain their levels of vitamin D.

Depending on the strength of your sunscreen, anywhere from 2%-7% of solar UVB rays are still reaching your skin, giving your body the opportunity to manufacture vitamin D.

While it's important to check yourself at home often, getting an annual skin cancer screening by a professional can be instrumental in identifying any suspicious lesions and treating them early.

Scheduling your yearly fully body skin exam with a dermatologist is the most important step in detecting skin cancer.

Melanoma can be found anywhere on the body, and are sometimes overlooked on self-exams, especially on the back or scalp.



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## ROB'S REVIEW

**Drive Carefully** – Friendly reminder to please obey the speed limit signs in Newtown Grant which is 25 MPH and Jonquil Drive and fifteen (15) miles per hour on all other streets. All STOP signs at intersections MUST be observed. This is enforced by Newtown Township Police Department.



**Game Room & Clubhouse** – Game Room is available weekends only. Game Room features a Ping Pong Table, Foosball Table, Billiards Table and Dart Board! A valid identification card is required to provide to the recreation staff to access the Game Room during the hours of 4:00-8:00pm on Fridays, 12:00-8:00pm Saturdays and 12:00-7:00pm Sundays.

**Lending Library** – Check out our new Lending Library located in the clubhouse lobby. This is a “leave a book, take a book” library that is available when the clubhouse is open.



**Visit Our Website** - Visit our Website! - Please visit our website at [www.newtowngrant.org](http://www.newtowngrant.org) for information on the Clubhouse and the Community. You can find info on all the clusters within Newtown Grant. You can also see management contact info for FirstService Residential, CAMCO and Continental Property Management. If you need immediate attention you can contact our FirstService Customer Care Center at 800-870-0010.

**Environmental Review Board (ERB) Reminders for Exterior Home Improvements** – As the spring and summer months approach, as a friendly reminder, to please double check with your respective clusters regarding what exterior home improvements require an Environmental Review Board (ERB) to be submitted for board approval prior to scheduling. To view your clusters ERB guidelines, please check out the Newtown Grant website at [www.newtowngrant.org](http://www.newtowngrant.org), then click on the Master Board & Clusters tab and then your respective cluster. ERB guidelines and forms can be found on the right hand side of the screen. For any questions or additional information, please contact your associated cluster property manager for assistance.



**Newtown Grant Trash Can Policy:** Per Newtown Grant Master Board Rules and Regulations.

Trash and/or trash cans:

- Trash bins and/or trash bags shall not be permitted to stand along the outside wall of any building
- All non-recyclable trash shall be in bags that tie closed and be placed within trash bins with a top closure.
- Trash bins and recyclable trash containers shall not be placed outside until the evening before the scheduled trash pick-up no earlier than 7:00 PM.
- Trash bins and recyclable trash containers shall be removed from the street returned inside as soon as possible, but no later than 9:00 PM on the day of pick-up.
- Society Place Condominiums use dumpsters and initiates an immediate and un-waivable fine of \$50 per bag/box left on the ground and not deposited in trash bins. This fine escalates with each infraction.

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## WHY LANDSCAPING MULCH CAN SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST—AND HOW TO PREVENT IT

Most people don't think "fire hazard" when they think of mulch. However, that's exactly what your mulch can be if improperly applied.

If you've never heard of mulch fires or spontaneous mulch combustion it can sound made up. Sadly, mulch fires are very real, but there are things that you can do to prevent them, like being careful with where you place your mulch, how you care for it and what kind of mulch you use. We spoke with two fire experts about what causes mulch fires and how you can prevent them from happening in your own yard.

### What Causes Mulch Fires?

There are two beliefs about mulch fires out there. The first is that mulch can spontaneously combust causing fires. The second—and most widely believed—is that mulch catches fire due to improperly discarded smoking material.

Spontaneous mulch combustion is believed to happen when heat builds up within a thick layer of mulch, say six inches or more. Theoretically, if enough heat builds within that layer, it can start to smolder and cause a fire. Although not extensive, there is some research supporting that mulch can spontaneously combust in certain atmospheric conditions.<sup>1</sup>



"The latter theory of mulch fires being caused by improperly disposing of flammable material, like cigarettes, is more plausible," said Michele Steinberg, Wildfire Division Director of the National Fire Protection Association.

"Mulch may not burst into flame at the touch of a cigarette, but it can and does smolder, and fire can creep along under mulch beds and erupt long after the initial ignition as humidity drops and wind picks up," she said.

### How to Prevent Mulch Fires

The last thing you want to happen after laying down a beautiful layer of fresh mulch is to see your house going up in flames. To avoid that, consider implementing these safety tips in your garden:

- Place organic mulch away from the house.
- Place wood chips, pine needles, even rubber mulch at least 18 inches from the house, grills, decks or other structures.<sup>2</sup> It'll decrease the chance of fire spreading to the house in case the mulch catches fire.
- Wet your mulch.
- Use stones, rocks or sand close to the house.
- Organic mulch, like wood chips, pine needles, even rubber are combustible. To reduce fire risk, use nonflammable mulch like rocks and sand if you are placing it within five feet of your home.
- Never discard cigarettes in mulch. Avoid putting out cigarettes or other burning material in potted plants, landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.





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The Borough of  
*Newtown*  
PENNSYLVANIA



# Native Plants, Thriving Habitats: How You Can Help

Join us for an inspiring evening as we explore how individuals can make a meaningful impact on the environment—no matter the size of their space!

## Featured Speakers



**Krista McCook**  
Homegrown National Park  
(Doug Tallamy's new initiative)

Learn how anyone—whether you have acres of land or just a few potted plants—can contribute to ecological restoration. (Joining via Zoom).



**Diane Smith**  
Bucks County Audubon Society at  
Honey Hollow

Wildflowers are so important to our local habitats! Learn about native flowers that you can grow and protect to keep pollinators happy and healthy. (In person).

## Event Details:



May 8, 2025



7:00 - 9:00 PM



The Chancellor Center  
30 N Chancellor St.,  
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## SPRING PLUMBING HELPFUL REMINDERS

With the changing seasons, now is a great time to give your plumbing system some attention. Routine maintenance and a proactive approach can help prevent costly issues. Here are five plumbing tips to ensure an effective plumbing system.

### **Regular Maintenance:**

Like any other part of your house, your plumbing system requires regular maintenance. You should schedule routine checks to inspect pipes, faucets and appliances for any signs of damage or wear. By identifying potential issues early, you can address them promptly while saving from expensive repairs and potential water damage.



### **Watch for Signs of Leaks:**

Water leaks can be elusive but can cause significant damage if left unattended. Keep an eye out for damp spots, water stains on walls or ceilings or unexpected increases in your water bill. If you notice any of these signs, it's crucial to investigate and address the issue promptly to prevent further damage and conserve water.



### **Be Mindful of What Goes Down Your Drain:**

One of the best ways to prevent plumbing issues is by being mindful of what you put down your drains. Don't dispose grease, coffee grounds, and other non-flushable items down sinks and toilets. These items can cause clogs and backups, which will cause headaches and potentially damage your system.



### **Know Your Shut-Off Valves:**

It's crucial to know the location of your main water shut-off valve and individual shut-off valves in the event of a plumbing emergency. Being able to quickly turn off the water supply can minimize damage if a pipe bursts or other plumbing issues. In addition to knowing their location, take the time to ensure they are in good working order.



### **Invest in Quality Plumbing Fixtures:**





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