



# Newtown Historic Association Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2026

## Introduction

During the prior fiscal year, the NHA continued its essential work preserving Newtown's treasured sites, growing its programs, and strengthening community ties. This report reviews activities, finances, and milestones for the year ending March 31, 2026.

## Mission Statement

The Newtown Historic Association, Inc. was incorporated in 1964 as an organization dedicated to the preservation of Newtown's historic heritage. Our mission is to stimulate interest in, preserve, celebrate and share the historic significance of both Newtown borough and township.

The Newtown Historic Association is a 100% volunteer organization. We are a non-partisan, non-political non-profit organization.

## Letter from Our President

Dear Members and Friends of the Newtown Historic Association,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past fiscal year, I am proud to share the progress we've made together in preserving and celebrating Newtown's rich history. Thanks to your generous support and active participation, we have achieved several significant milestones.

- Preservation efforts were at the forefront this year, with the Opening of the History of Newtown Exhibit at the Half-Moon Inn. The Newtown Historic Association also acquired a portrait of George Washington painted by Newtown's own Edward Hicks.
- Our educational programs continue to thrive. Through engaging lectures, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Walking Tour, and other popular walking tours, we reached and inspired over 500 participants, deepening our community's appreciation for local history.
- Community events like Spring Cocktail Party, Historic Newtown Market Day and our Holiday House Tour brought together over 3,500 neighbors, visitors, and history enthusiasts, strengthening the bonds that unite us and creating lasting memories for all involved.
- This year, our archives grew by more than 200 items, and our research services experienced increased demand. We are delighted that more people are connecting with their heritage and discovering the stories that shape Newtown.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank each of our members, volunteers and sponsors for your dedication and enthusiasm. Together, we are making a lasting impact and ensuring Newtown's history remains alive for future generations. I look forward to another year of meaningful progress and shared achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel F. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

**Dan Griffin**

President, Newtown Historic Association

## Governance

The Newtown Historic Association is governed by a committed Board of Directors whose leadership ensures the responsible stewardship of the Association's mission, finances, collections, and historic properties. The Board provides strategic oversight for programs, events, preservation initiatives, and long-range planning, while upholding the values of transparency, community engagement, and historical integrity. Through regular meetings and active committee work, the Board guides the operations of both the Half-Moon Inn (Court Inn), the Callahan Research Center and the Boone Garden, ensuring that the NHA remains a trusted guardian of Newtown's heritage. We thank the board for their leadership and countless hours of volunteering!

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

- President: Dan Griffin
- First Vice President: Brian Rounsavill
- Second Vice President: Richard Speranza
- Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Garner
- Corresponding Secretary: Caroline Bennett
- Treasurer: Lori Michelin
- Parliamentarian: Tim Potero

#### Directors

- Keyna Crawford
- Paul Gouza
- Betsey King
- Jeff Marshall
- Geno Peruzzi
- Amy Smith
- Richard Speranza
- Susan Thompson

- Gina Tognini
- David Walton

### Honorary Life Director

- Charles D. Callahan

### Joint Historic Commission Liaison

- Bill Mahler

## Site Preservation



This year saw the completion of a new hand-painted sign for the Half-Moon Inn created by Paul Gouza, an NHA Board Member, and inspired by Newtown's early tavern-sign traditions. Built with durable outdoor materials and finished in historically appropriate colors, the sign reflects more than 100 hours of design and craftsmanship. This project strengthens the site's historic character and enhances the visitor experience.

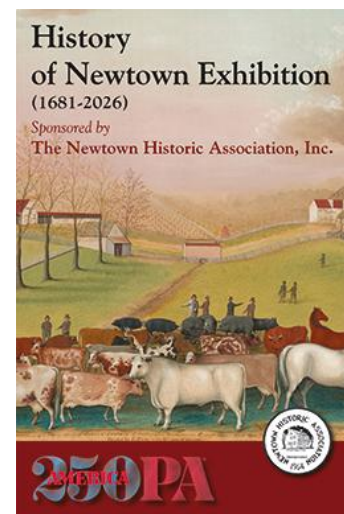
## Collections & Exhibits

### History of Newtown Exhibit

After nearly three years of planning, research and restoration, the NHA opened its new History of Newtown Exhibit in October 2025. The exhibit was/is curated by David Callahan and Brian Rounsavill. The exhibit is free and open to the public during the Half Moon Inn's regular operating hours. Donations are appreciated.

Showcasing more than 300 years of local history, the exhibit was created to connect Newtown's rich history with America's semi-quincentennial commemoration.

The exhibit includes several wonderful items, not limited to but including:



- The original circa-1760 door from George Washington's headquarters. This is the exact doorway that George Washington passed through on December 26, 1776, when he authored his letter to Congress reporting his victory at Trenton.
- A soldier's canteen that is marked with initials, currency used during the war along with other artifacts such as cannonballs that were found in the basement of the Temperance House.
- Documents on the Doan Gang's infamous raid of the Newtown Treasury.
- Arrowheads discovered locally that belonged to the Lenni Lenape people.
- The 1805 post office door that was once part of the Bird-in-Hand location.
- A cannister made in Newtown that was the same as the parts used on Apollo 13, including the air purification cannisters during the famous, "Houston we have a problem" incident.

### **Edward Hicks Collection**



The NHA further enriched its Edward Hicks Collection this year by acquiring a distinguished portrait of George Washington, masterfully painted by renowned local folk artist Edward Hicks.

### **Boone Garden**

This year the Newtown Historic Association began work to improve and restore the Boone Garden. Garden beds were thinned, weeded, trimmed and mulched, the grassy area was levelled and replanted and a Historic Marker was added to the garden. Sections of the historic fencing were removed and sent out for restoration.

## Educational Programs

Through lectures, student programs, and walking tours NHA shared Newtown's legacy with a wide audience.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Walking Tour

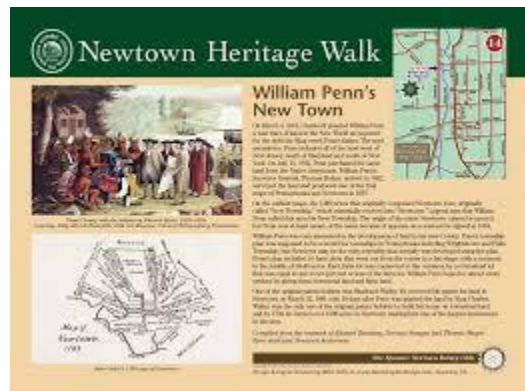


A highlight of our educational programming this year was the annual 5th Grade Walking Tour. This special event welcomed over 200 local students, providing them with a unique opportunity to explore Newtown's historic landmarks firsthand. Alongside dedicated volunteers, students learned about the town's founding, architecture, and everyday life in earlier centuries.

We believe in the importance of making history accessible to our youth, as it fosters a deeper appreciation for their community and its legacy. By engaging students in immersive learning experiences, we inspire curiosity and ensure that Newtown's stories will be remembered and cherished by future generations.

### Heritage Walk Signs

Four new Heritage Walk signs were installed this year, expanding the educational reach of the program. New signs at South State & Penn Streets and at the Enterprise Building interpret four centuries of local architecture and the history of the 1874 structure. Additional signs at Paxson Hall and the Boone Garden highlight Paxson Hall's 125 years of continuous use and recognize the Boone Garden, donated by Grace R. "Missy" Boone.



Together, these additions enrich visitor understanding and strengthen the overall Heritage Walk experience.

The NHA also completed fund raising for a Heritage Walk Sign that will be installed at the Lighthouse Hill cemetery located at the at the corner of North Congress Street and Frost Lane. The cemetery is a deeply historic site that serves as a final resting place for numerous African American residents and veterans. We thank all of our donors and look forward to celebrating installation of this important Heritage Walk sign later this year.

## The American Revolution

Ken Burns' series *The American Revolution* features footage filmed at the Half-Moon Inn. The NHA was honored to support the production of this series. The Half-Moon Inn's inclusion in the documentary not only underscores its unique place in American history but also brings national attention to the rich heritage preserved in Newtown. As the country approaches the significant milestone of the America 250th commemoration, this recognition strengthens our community's role in telling the story of the nation's founding and highlights the importance of ongoing preservation efforts. Local residents and history enthusiasts will see Newtown's legacy recognized nationally, highlighting the town's important role in American history.

## Community Programs

Our two largest community programs are highlighted below.

### Market Day



Market Day brought thousands of visitors to the Half-Moon Inn for a full day of colonial-era demonstrations, live music, children's activities, and heritage crafts. More than 100 vendors filled the grounds, making it one of our largest and most successful community events and an important fundraiser supporting NHA's mission.

The Newtown Historic Association extends heartfelt gratitude to all our Market Day sponsors and partners. Your generous support played a vital role in making this event possible, helping us bring history to life for thousands of visitors and ensuring the continued success of our community programming. We truly appreciate your commitment to preserving Newtown's heritage and fostering a vibrant local tradition.

### Platinum Sponsor

- First National Bank of Newtown



### Gold Sponsors

- Anthony Petsis & Associates
- JKJ – Johnson Kendall Johnson
- Fleck Family Holdings



FLECK FAMILY  
HOLDINGS

### Silver Sponsor

- Peruzzi Mitsubishi

**Peruzzi**



### Bronze Sponsors

- House of Grace
- McCaffrey's
- Newtown Bike Works
- Steele's Gulf Auto Repair



### Holiday House Tour

In addition, the Holiday House Tour continued to be one of our most beloved traditions, with over 900 tickets sold. This festive event offered attendees a special opportunity to explore beautifully decorated historic homes, celebrating the season and Newtown's architectural heritage.



The Newtown Historic Association extends heartfelt thanks to our Holiday House Tour Sponsors and Advertising Partners. Your generous support was instrumental in making this cherished annual event a success. We truly appreciate your commitment to preserving Newtown's heritage and enriching our community programs

**Platinum Sponsors**

- NAC/Have a Heart Foundation
- First National Bank of Newtown
- Interstate Facility Services



**Gold Sponsor**

- Leber Insurance/MAN



**Silver Sponsor**

- Deiner Money Management

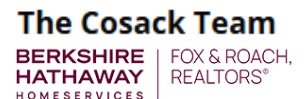


**Bronze Sponsor**

- Re/Max, Dan McCloskey



**Advertising Partners**



## Membership

The Newtown Historic Association would like to thank our over 250 individual or family members who renew their membership annually. We would also like to recognize and thank our Inn Keepers Circle Lifetime Members:

Inn Keeper's Circle – Lifetime Members	
Joseph & Priscilla Arbeiter	Bob & Betsey King
Charles & Stacey Bancroft	Richard & Georgia Koenig
Caroline Bennett	Thomas & Nancy Kovacevich
Nicolas Cavallaro	David & Patty Lynch
T. Jeffrey & Barbara Clarke	Cathy Triverio & Larry Meinert
Jane Crumlish	John & Kathleen Parry
Bob Davis, Jr.	David & Anne Pearl
Ken & Marian Disken	Janice Perry
Thomas K. Fischer	Geno & Amy Peruzzi
Barry & Mary Fleck	Craig & Helen Smith
Nancy Halpin	Nancy Terry
William and Linda Heinemann	Janet Beasley & Brian Titus
Charles Ponciroli and Bronwyn Jones	Rebecca Woodward
Ian Kelley	Gail Zagoreos

## Archives & Research

New archival acquisitions and ongoing cataloguing at the Callahan Research Center made family and local history more accessible, aiding researchers and curious residents alike.

This year's accessions reflect the community's continued commitment to preserving Newtown's history. Additions include historic books, photographs, architectural models, textiles, and artifacts connected to local families, organizations, and sites.

Highlights range from a rare 1876 *Centennial Atlas of Bucks County* and Court Street model homes to items honoring the Newtown Fire Association, Council Rock alumni, and longtime local residents. These donations enrich the NHA's collections and strengthen our ability to share Newtown's story.



## Our Reach

The Newtown Historic Association holds many events each year, our estimated reach per event is summarized in the graphic below.

 <p><b>3,000 People</b> <b>Market Day</b></p>	 <p><b>1,000 People</b> <b>Holiday House Tour</b></p>	 <p><b>75 People</b> <b>Cocktail Party</b></p>	 <p><b>30 People</b> <b>Theatre Event</b></p>
 <p><b>600 Students</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour</b></p>	 <p><b>38,253 Sessions</b> <b>61,331 Page Views</b> <b>NHA Website</b></p>	 <p><b>7,886 Visits</b> <b>NHA Facebook</b></p>	 <p><b>1,479 Visits</b> <b>NHA Instagram</b></p>
 <p><b>300 People</b> <b>Cocktail &amp; Wine Trails</b></p>	 <p><b>250 People</b> <b>Monthly Speakers</b></p>	 <p><b>600 People</b> <b>Court Inn Exhibits</b></p>	 <p><b>500 People</b> <b>Research Center</b></p>
 <p><b>70 People</b> <b>Garden Tour</b></p>	 <p><b>40 People</b> <b>Annual Meeting</b></p>	 <p><b>50 People</b> <b>Walking Tours</b></p>	 <p><b>600 People</b> <b>Donor Events</b></p>

## Finances

### Operating Budget

Category	Amount (USD)
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 164,540.73
Total Operating Expenses	\$ (120,418.93)
Restricted Donations	\$ (38,745.79)

The Newtown Historic Association's income sources include:

- Membership fees
- Event and sponsorship proceeds (e.g., Spring Cocktail Party, Holiday House Tour, Market Day, Garden Walk, Walking Tours)
- Donations, restricted donations, and bequests
- Grants: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for general operating support; Bucks County Tourism Grant for the 250th celebration
- Sales: books and royalties, ornaments, maps, building rental, NHA Logo Store

The Newtown Historic Association incurred expenditures in the following categories:

- Buildings and Grounds: security and alarm systems, internet services, water, sewer, electricity, gas, fire inspections, roof repairs, garden maintenance, lawn care, and snow and leaf removal for the Court Inn, Callahan Research Center and Boone Garden
- General Operations: tax filings, insurance, charitable organization registrations and memberships, office supplies, postage, and software licenses
- Sales: book printing and shipping, ornament production, and map printing
- Events: Cocktail Party, Cocktail Trail, Holiday House Tour, Garden Tour, and Market Day

As noted in our sources of income, the Newtown Historic Association receives restricted donations that must be used as directed by donors. We currently have restricted donations that support:

- The History of Newtown Exhibit
- The Boone Garden
- Publications
- America 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration
- Heritage Walk Signs

## Our Reserves

The Newtown Historic Association also holds funds in a commercial bank account and an investment account. The majority of the funds held in the investment account are associated with the sale of a property that we previously owned. These surplus funds are intended to cover budget shortfalls and/or major restoration or renovation expenses at the Court Inn, Boone Garden and/or Callahan Research Center which may be incurred in the future. These funds may also be used for activities related to our vision and mission.

Category	Amount (USD)
Commercial Account	\$98,288,14
Investment Account	\$343,272.58

The Newtown Historic Association does not invest in alcohol, tobacco or firearms.

## Looking Ahead

- Celebrate America's 250th Birthday
- Engage the Next Generation Through Educational Programming
- Grow Membership via Community Outreach and Partnership
- Build Capacity to Preserve History
- Implement Technology to Enhance Operations
- Increase Digital Presence and Reach

## Acknowledgments

We thank every member, volunteer, and sponsor for their invaluable contributions to the NHA's ongoing success.

## Contact

Learn more at [www.newtownhistoric.org](http://www.newtownhistoric.org) or reach us at [info@newtownhistoric.org](mailto:info@newtownhistoric.org).