



A Day of Celebration

Fun and Learning

For the Whole Family

Newtown, PA: Rich in History, Abundant Present-Day Charm

The United States of America is celebrating its 250th anniversary in 2026, but by the time the American Revolutionary War came to Newtown, PA, in 1776, this beautiful small town already had a rich history. It was part of the vast tract of land purchased by William Penn from the Native Americans on July 15, 1682. It is said that Penn originally called this area his “New Township,” which essentially evolved into “Newtown.”

Newtown was the scene of some very important events during the Revolutionary War. From this small town on Christmas morning in 1776, Gen. George Washington marched from his headquarters to join the Battle of Trenton. Fairly reliable accounts indicate that Washington made his headquarters here after the Battle of Trenton and the famed crossing of the Delaware River and before the Battle of Princeton. The house that Washington chose as his headquarters, originally

constructed in 1757, stood on South Sycamore Street. In this private residence, Washington wrote two famous letters to Congress describing the victory at Trenton.

After the Battle of Trenton, Washington used the old Presbyterian church on Sycamore Street as a jail to house several Hessian prisoners. In 1778, the Bird in Hand Inn, on South State Street, was the site of the only Revolutionary War action to actually occur in Newtown. Here, a skirmish with a detachment of British soldiers took place behind the inn, during which a number of Americans were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. In addition, large quantities of precious supplies were lost in this famous engagement.

Newtown was the county seat of Bucks County from 1726 until 1813, and one of our most prominent citizens was Edward Hicks (1780–1849), the famed primitive artist and Quaker preacher.



Although much has changed over the last 344 years since William Penn’s vision of a “New Township,” Newtown has retained a sense of its history and maintained a residential village character. Rich in history and abundant with historic charm, Newtown’s past exists side by side with the present, and the old has become a part of the new.

Extracted from the introduction to “Arcadia Images of America Series: Historic Newtown,” courtesy of Brian Rounsavill



On behalf of Newtown Borough, it is my pleasure to welcome you to “Newtown Celebrates America 250.” Please enjoy all the amenities and activities available to you today in our beautiful town, and let us recognize and celebrate our history, our freedom, and our future.

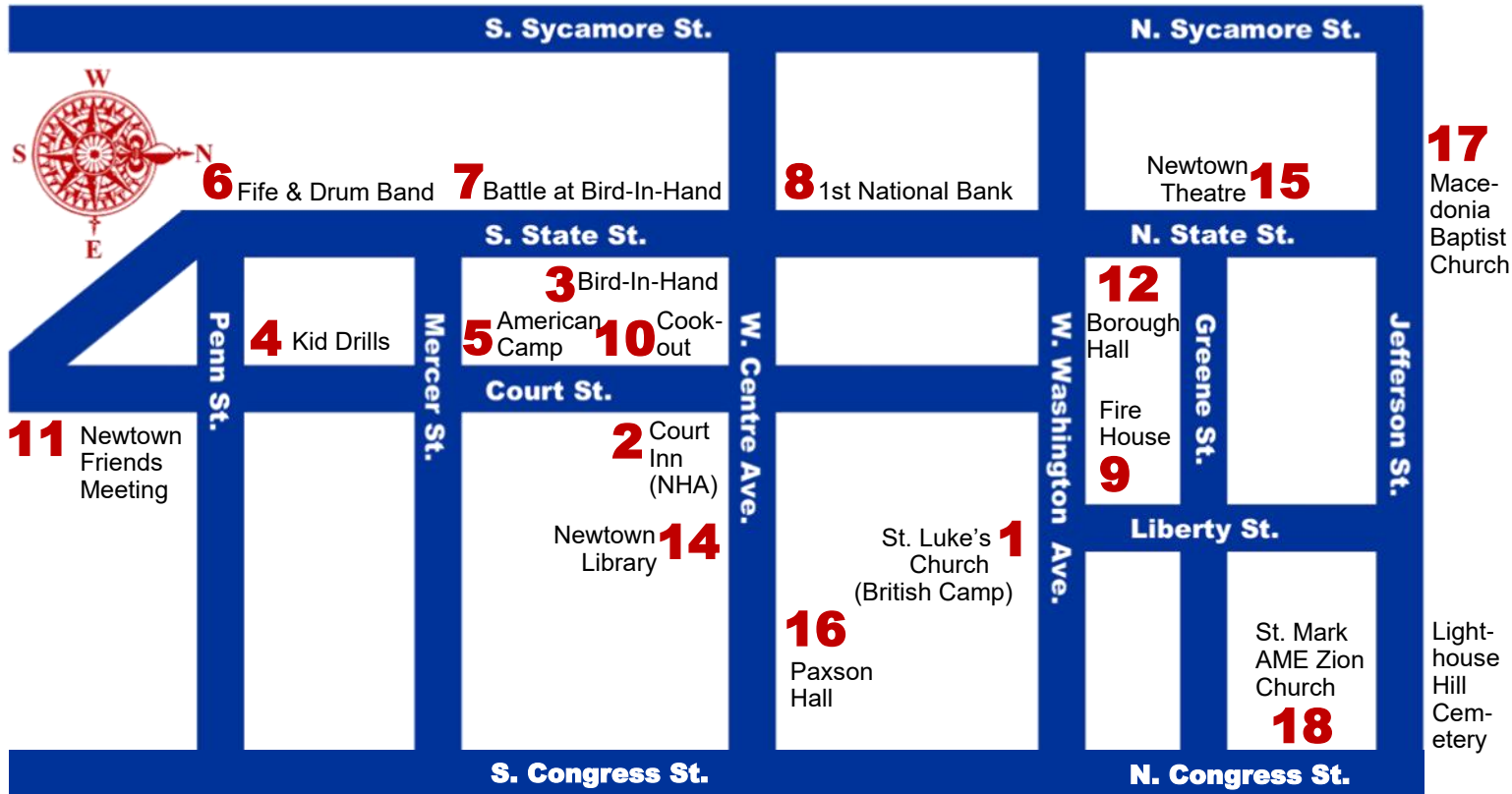
*Tara Grunde-McLaughlin
Mayor, Newtown Borough*





Map and Schedule of Events

Historic Presbyterian Church **13**



9 a.m.

1 Historic Prayer Service, British Soldier Encampment St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 100 Washington Avenue

9 a.m. morning prayer service, from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer
12:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. British soldier encampment



9:30 a.m.



2 History of Newtown Exhibit and Tour

Newtown Historic Association, Court Inn, 105 Court Street, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Learn about Newtown's history and take a tour of the historic Court Inn. Kids are welcome to participate in various children's activities.

12 p.m.—4 p.m. Annie Halliday, Mercer Museum, discusses Newtown history

3 Daughters of the American Revolution Crafts for Kids

Bird-In-Hand, 111 South State Street, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Washington Crossing Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution offers colonial-themed crafts for children.



4 Military Drills for Children

Court St. between Mercer and Penn, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

5 American Soldier Encampment

Patriot's Park, corner of Court and Mercer, 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

6 Fife and Drum Band

State Street, between Penn and Centre, 9:30 a.m.—12 p.m.

10:50 a.m. (approximately)

7 Battle at the Bird-In-Hand *State Street at Centre Avenue*

See a reenactment of the Loyalist Raid of 1778, the only Revolutionary War fighting that occurred in Newtown.



12 p.m.



8 Historic Displays at First National Bank and Trust *First National Bank and Trust, 40 South State Street, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.*

Learn more about the founding of our historic bank through a video presentation and displays.
12 p.m.—4 p.m. Clint Flack, Mercer Museum, discusses Newtown history, Doan Gang

9 Newtown Fire Association History and Historic Fire Truck *Newtown Fire Rescue Station, 14 Liberty Street*

12 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Displays at Newtown Fire House Museum
1:30 p.m. See historic fire truck “Old Washy” in action



10 Food and Activities in Boone Garden *Boone Garden across from Half-Moon Inn, 105 Court Street*

12 p.m. – 2 p.m. All American Cookout —free hot dogs, chips, and beverages
2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Family games and kid activities



11 Edward Hicks at Newtown Friends Meeting *Newtown Friends Meeting, 219 Court Street, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.*

Tour the historic Quaker meeting house and see a reenactor painting as he portrays famous Newtown artist Edward Hicks.

12:30 p.m.

12 William Penn and Pennsbury Manor *Newtown Borough Hall, 23 North State Street, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

Meet Pennsylvania’s founder, who also founded Newtown.



13 Hessian Soldier Reenactment *Historic Presbyterian Church of Newtown, 76 North Sycamore St., 12:30 p.m. 4 p.m.*

Tour the sanctuary and graveyard of this historic church and meet Hessian soldier reenactors, who will share the German experience during the American Revolution and explain why many Hessians stayed in America.



14 History Presentation, Children’s Activities/Crafts/Games *Newtown Library Co., 114 East Centre Avenue, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

15 Movies and Music *Newtown Theatre, 120 North State Street* **12:30 p.m.— 2 p.m.** Silent Movies, **3 p.m. – 4 p.m.** Civil War Band



1 p.m.

16 Tea with Dr. Lettie Smith *Friends Village Paxson Hall, 50 South Congress St., 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

Enjoy refreshments with Dr. Lettie Smith, famous Newtown doctor and first resident of Paxson Hall.

1:30 p.m.

17 Life and Legacy of Harriet Tubman *Macedonia Baptist Church, 218 North State Street, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

Experience Harriet Tubman’s enduring legacy of freedom, justice, and resilience, and take an optional tour of the famous Lighthouse Hill Cemetery.



18 Tour and History of St. Mark AME Zion Church *136 North Congress Street, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*



General Information



Newtown Celebrates America 250 Coloring Contest

Restrooms

PortaPots, Corner of Mercer and Court Streets
Newtown Borough Hall, 23 North State Street
Newtown Theatre, 120 North State Street
Newtown Friends Meeting House, 219 Court Street

Food

Boone Garden, 105 Court Street
Newtown Library Co., 114 East Centre Avenue
Newtown Theatre, 120 North State Street

Water

Newtown Hardware House, 108 South State Street

Commemorative Merchandise

Show your Newtown pride with our exclusive America 250 commemorative collection, available now at the NHA Logo Store:
<https://newtownhistoric.printful.me/>
Shop adult and children's apparel, baseball hats and tote bags.

Pick up your drawing template at the Half Moon Inn or Newtown Library Company, or download it at https://newtownhistoric.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/USA-250th-Cover-Sheet_rev.pdf

Age Groups: 3–5 years | 6–7 years | 8–9 years
10–11 years | 12+ years

Return completed drawings to the Newtown Historic Association (Half-Moon Inn or Callahan Research Center) or the Newtown Library Company during operating hours on or before August 8.

Display & Awards:

- ◆ Drawings displayed August 8 during the Newtown Celebrates America 250 celebration
- ◆ Winners announced by August 31
- ◆ Prizes include a Certificate of Recognition, Library Book Sale Gift Card, and a READCrayon
- ◆ Winning artwork available for purchase on printed canvas from the NHA Logo Store

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