

Top of the Hill Association



A NEWPORT NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Great neighbors. Wonderful Friends. Strong Community.

FALL 2026

President's Message: FALL 2026

President's Letter by Laurie Love

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is continuing to enjoy this beautiful early Fall weather!

It was terrific to see so many members attend our Summer Garden Party last month and welcome our 10 newest members. We deliberately did not plan many events during the summer months as everyone is so busy hosting family and friends, but now that Fall is upon us, we have started filling the events calendar!

This month we have our Ward 2 Candidates Forum and a new Walking Tour. We have an objective to schedule the most popular events once per quarter. Wine Tasting and Walking Tours are always popular, so we are working on hosting those two activities on a more routine basis. Please be sure to join the Groups that are of interest to you. Some events are only posted to the Groups (ie. Wine Tasting) as the numbers of participants is limited. The Mahjong Group is growing to another ensemble of 8 members. If you are interested in joining the second ensemble, please simply add your name to the Mahjong Group and we will contact you with more information. Of course, if you have ideas for new events, we would love to hear from you.

Next month, we will restart our monthly Happy Hour, hold our Annual Membership Meeting, conduct our Fall Clean Up of Luce Park and organize a Pet Costume Contest the week before Halloween. There's also a Community Concert and Trivia Night scheduled. November activities are starting to be posted, starting with a Cook the Book Event. Our Holiday Party is already posted and will take place December 6th. Stay tune--all posted events are always promoted via email.

I want to thank our wonderful TOH Board for all they do in support of the association. Thank you Mary Robins for serving this past year as Membership Chair. Mary is now kindly publishing our newsletter. The association depends on members taking turns volunteering, so if you are interested in serving on the Board and/or joining a Committee, please let us know so we can connect with you.

Lastly, I wish to thank all who have renewed their membership. We hope everyone will be with us for the new year, beginning October 1. Please invite your neighbors to join as well. It's all about community!

Thank you again and hope to see you soon!
Laurie

In this newsletter:

Civic Update p. 2

Top of the Hill Trivia p. 2

Around the
Neighborhood p. 3

Welcome New Members
p. 3

Neighborhood Recipes
p. 4

TOH Pets p. 4

Hydrangea Care p. 4

Upcoming Events p. 5 & 6

Around the City p. 7

Neighborhood Trivia

Mary Robins



Newport's "Night Before Christmas" House Did you know?

At **25 Catherine Street** sits the former summer home of Clement Clarke Moore, the writer traditionally credited with *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, better known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." The City of Newport identifies the house as the Clement C. Moore House.

Was the famous poem written here?

No. Moore wrote the poem in 1822, decades before he began spending summers in Newport around 1850. The poem was first published anonymously the following year.

But the house does have an important connection.

Moore spent his later summers on Catherine Street and died at the house on July 10, 1863. His funeral was held at Trinity Church in Newport.

Look for Santa

The house is now a private residence, but it is easy to spot from the street. A Santa plaque near the entrance marks its connection to one of America's best-known Christmas poems.

So, while "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was not written in Newport, one of the city's Catherine Street homes has a special place in its story.

Civic Update

Hank Kniskern



There is a lot happening in Newport when it comes to community planning. Local elections are approaching, several major projects are underway, including the City's Charter Review Commission, and Newport's mandatory 10-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan is due to the State in two months.

Many of these topics will be discussed at our **TOH 2nd Ward Candidate Forum on September 22**. Please plan to attend if you can.

For City Council and School Committee, there are few incumbent candidates, meaning most vacancies will be filled by newcomers. That brings fresh perspectives, but these are pivotal positions with a learning curve.

The **Perrotti Park reconstruction project** is also underway. The project is driven by the urgent need to replace the corroded steel bulkhead at the water's edge and the tie rods anchored beneath the park. The work requires removing the existing harbormaster's building and replacing it with a new design that will provide more public restrooms.

The **2037 Comprehensive Land Use Plan** identifies Newport's major issues and possible solutions. For full-time residents, the stakes are significant. One challenge is separating the actual problem from its symptoms.

For example, residents consistently identify traffic as a major issue. A recent summer traffic study found that, on an average day, Bellevue Avenue carried **6,000 cars, 350 trucks, 94 motorcycles, and 85 buses**. The question is whether traffic itself is the problem or the result of something else.

Newport is a unique and beautiful place. With major planning decisions and elections underway, resident involvement is crucial.

Around the Neighborhood



Hello Neighbor!

Mary Robins

Since June 28 people have joined our neighborhood group.

Welcome to our Newest Members!

**Sandi Carney, Emily Conklin and
Patrick Barrett, Mary Alice Smith,
Barbara and Brad Drake, Joanne and
David DeGregory, Joan Andersen,
Karen Gales and Dana Savoie, Karen
Stefaney, Kathleen Russell, Melissa and
Jeff Sherman, Christopher and Laura
Yalanis, Alicia and Mathias Nurnberger,
Lorna Harmuth, Linda Ahearn, Thomas
Graham and Rosemary DiCarlo, Jim and
Angie Synder, Nicole and Rob Reilly.**

<https://www.topofthehillnewport.org/>

Time to Renew!

The new membership year starts October 1st. We hope you'll renew and stay part of the association too. Dues are designed to offset the costs of major functions, the website software and other items.

\$20 for one person household

\$35 for two person household (Children under 16 included)

Or Our Popular

Pineapple Patron Membership

Optional level of membership to help support major events - **\$25 Singles / \$50 Couples**

Recognition in the member directory and the online member listing.

Renewing takes just a few minutes: by Venmo, Paypal or by Check

Our **Venmo** Contact Name is:

@paytohnnewport

Our **PayPal** Contact Name is:

paytohnnewport@gmail.com

click "FRIENDS & FAMILY"

Check - kindly send your payment to: Kim Quental, TOH Treasurer

44 Catherine Street - Unit 5

"Top of the Hill Association"

Know a neighbor who isn't a member yet? Invite them to join. Questions?

The Board is happy to help.

Neighborhood recipes

Kim Quental

🍳 Have a recipe to share?

Send it to TOHNewport@gmail.com and we'll feature it next issue!

Homemade Black Bean Burgers



1 (15-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
1/2 green bell pepper
1/2 small onion
2 cloves garlic, peeled
1 large egg, beaten
2/3 cup whole wheat breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
4 hamburger buns
Desired toppings: lettuce, tomato, cheese, avocado, etc.
Chipotle Mayo Sauce
1 cup mayonnaise
2 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
1 tablespoon adobo sauce
2 teaspoons lime juice
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Prep: Mash the drained beans. Finely chop the pepper, onion and garlic, then press out as much moisture as possible.
2. Mix: Combine beans, vegetables, chili powder, cumin, salt, pepper, egg and breadcrumbs.
3. Shape: Form the mixture into 4 patties and press them flat.
4. Cook: Grill or skillet-cook over medium heat for 4 to 5 minutes per side, or bake at 375°F for 8 to 10 minutes per side.
5. Finish: Blend the chipotle mayo ingredients until smooth. Serve burgers on buns or lettuce wraps with mayo and your favorite toppings.

NUTRITION

Per burger patty only: 365 calories | 51 g carbs | 12 g protein | 14 g fat | 2 g saturated fat | 10 g fiber | 6 g sugar | 44 mg cholesterol | 1,603 mg sodium.

Hydrangeas in the Fall

Know what type you have

Bigleaf, lacecap and oakleaf hydrangeas bloom on old wood. Panicle and smooth hydrangeas bloom on new growth.

Stop deadheading by August

Remove faded flowers through summer, but leave blooms in place after early August. They can help protect developing buds through winter.

Prune at the right time

Prune old-wood hydrangeas after flowering and avoid fall pruning. Panicle and smooth hydrangeas can be shaped in late winter or early spring.

Feed in spring

Apply a general-purpose, slow-release fertilizer in spring if needed. Too much fertilizer can produce more leaves and fewer flowers.

Protect plants from Newport winters

Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch around the roots. In exposed locations, burlap or a simple protective cage can help shield flower buds from cold and wind.



TOH Pets

Kim Quental

Meet Roxy

Adam and Kim's Two-Year-Old Havanese

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas. Roxy moved to Newport in April and now lives on Catherine Street.

Favorite food: Whatever you happen to be eating

Favorite activities: Playing, sniffing around the neighborhood, and barking

Favorite neighborhood visitor: The FedEx truck always gets her attention

Fun fact: Roxy is a rescue and still a little shy with new people. She wants to be your friend, but appreciates some patience and space while she warms up.

We'd love to feature your neighborhood pet!

Send a photo and a few fun facts to TOHNewport@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Denise Pelle



Sept 22nd	<u>Meet our Ward 2 Candidates</u>	Newport Public Library
Sept 26th	<u>Colonial Cemeteries of Newport</u>	Hotel Viking Explore some of Newport's 17th and 18th Century cemeteries on this 90 minute walking tour. Learn about local history, art symbolism and ancestral heritage
Oct 1st	<u>Happy Hour Social</u>	Malt Bring your neighborhood friends! Fun, low key neighborhood restaurant with wonderful appetizers, drinks...and dinner if you decide to stay
Oct 14th	<u>Annual Membership Meeting</u>	Vacasa Da Gamma(Portuguese/Amer Society) Review of the past year, voting for our 2027 officers and a look to the year ahead. Mostly social time...with a little business. Light appetizers and beverages will be served.
Oct 17th	<u>Luce Park fall Clean Up</u>	Luce Park
Oct 18th	<u>Ensemble Melenge</u>	Newport Classical Recital Hall Free Fall Community Concert offered by Newport Classical
Oct 22nd	<u>Trivia Night</u>	Newport Craft
Oct 24th	<u>Pet Costume Contest</u>	Luce Park
Nov 10th	<u>Cook the Book</u>	Hosted by Kathy Kronholm Taking a page from the popular Ina Gartner, we'll gather to enjoy delicious appetizers!
Dec 6th	<u>Holiday Party</u>	Edward King House



TOP OF THE HILL
PRESENTS

HOWL-O-WEEN DOG Costume PARTY & PARADE!

SPOOKY, FUN &
TAIL-WAGGING GOOD TIMES!

COSTUME PARADE
Show off your spooky style!

PRIZES
for best costume, most creative & more!

PHOTO OPS
Capture the memories!

TREATS
For pups and people!

COMMUNITY
Connect with neighbors & their pups!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026
11 AM**
MEET AT LUCE PARK
(THE CORNER OF KAY ST. AND RHODE ISLAND AVE.)
(RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25)

ALL DOGS WELCOME!
PLEASE KEEP DOGS LEASHED & BE KIND!

PRESENTS

TRIVIA NIGHT

WHERE FRIENDLY RIVALRIES BEGIN.

TRIVIA CHAMPIONS ARE MADE HERE

**SELECTED THURSDAYS
OCTOBER-DECEMBER**

DATES AND LOCATIONS POSTED ON THE TOH EVENT PAGE

COMING IN NOVEMBER!

Cook the Book

ONE BOOK. MANY RECIPES. GREAT COMPANY.

BRING YOUR DISH. SHARE THE LOVE. ENJOY!

Everyone picks a recipe from the same cookbook, we cook, we gather,
we eat & we drink!

GOOD FOOD. GOOD DRINKS. GREAT NEIGHBORS.

Our Favorite Recipes

Pick. Cook. Connect. ♥

Around the City



Voting in Newport

October 4 - Deadline to [register to vote](#) for the General Election

October 13 - 4:00 p.m. deadline to submit application to the Canvassing Office in order to vote by mail in the General Election.

October 13 - 4:00 p.m. deadline to file affidavit of names erroneously included or omitted from the voter list with the Canvassing Office. The Canvassing Authority will review any affidavits at their 4:00 p.m. open meeting of the Final Canvass.

October 14 - Early voting begins in the second-floor conference room of Newport City Hall and emergency mail ballots are available in the Canvassing Office. Early voting and emergency mail ballots will continue until 4:00 on November 2nd.

October 28 - Extended early voting hours at City Hall until the 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

November 2 - Final day of early voting and emergency mail ballots which end at 4:00 p.m.

November 3 - Election Day - polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Voters can locate their designed polling location [here](#).

Historic District Commission

Our neighborhood is considered in the Historic District and most exterior changes to most homes must go through the [Historic District Commission](#) (HDC).

The HDC is comprised of a body of volunteers appointed by the City Council and advised by the City's Historic Preservation Planner. Together, they are responsible for overseeing development within the City's [Historic District](#). If you are interested in serving on the HDC, [please fill out an application here](#).

For more information about the City's commitment to preserving our rich architectural heritage, be sure to visit our [Historic Preservation Office](#), and [click here](#) for important [resources for historic home owners](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#), and [tips for Living in History](#).



Want to Volunteer?

Newport may be a world-renowned destination, but we're also a diverse community that depends on an actively engaged citizenry. Our City's Boards and Commissions play a vital role in our civic life and are a crucial element in our municipal government. These volunteer bodies assist in a variety of functions, from overseeing our zoning and historic preservation efforts, to ensuring that our parks and beaches remain cared for and that our elections run smoothly. [Click for Application](#)

The City is always looking for residents - no matter their experience level - who are interested in contributing positively to the community.

Thank you for reading!