



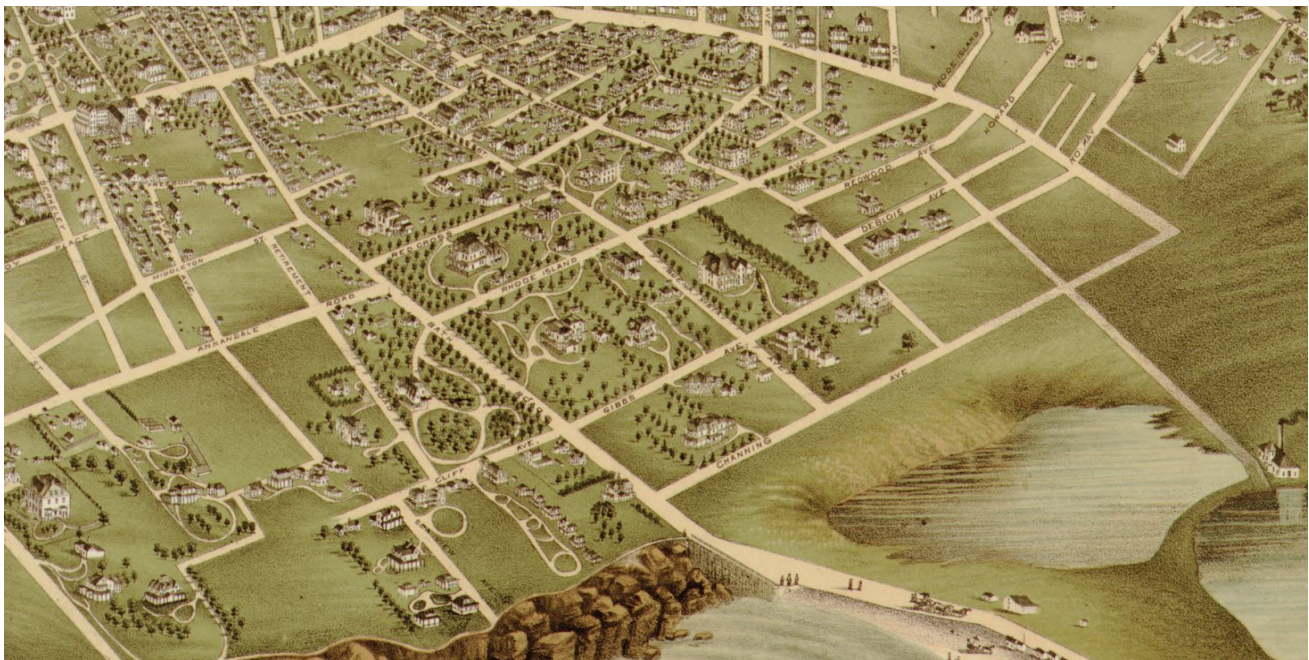
Top of the Hill Newsletter

Fall 2025

Table of Contents

PRESIDENT’S LETTER	2
BRIEF NOTE ABOUT OUR 2025 HOLIDAY PARTY CHARITY	4
TOH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE	5
MEMBERSHIP.....	6
SUPPORTING TOH’S FUTURE	7
USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS	7

TOH Website: Topofthehillnewport.org



Top of the Hill Neighborhood in 1878

President's Letter – Laurie Love

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Happy Fall and Happy New Year! On October 1, we began the 41st year of our neighborhood association. Forty years of enhancing social ties, civic engagement and cultural interaction is a wonderful milestone. As we begin our new fiscal year, it's a nice time to recognize all those who are serving on the FY 2026 Board giving their time and energy in support of our wonderful members. All Board members are listed on the "About Page" of the website for reference and you'll hear from many of them in this edition of the newsletter. A special welcome goes out to new Board member, Mary Robins (Membership Chair).

I hope everyone has had a chance to attend some events and/or participate in some group activities. We are always looking for ways to enhance our connections and encourage members to take lead within a group that they participate in so there are additional activities. All members are welcome to post – especially in the Community Group which replaces the Forum.

We have had some wonderful events over the last few months including a special "Kick Off to Summer Party" hosted by Maureen and Sandy Neville in June honoring all those who have served, as 2025 marked the 250th anniversaries for both the Army and the Navy. We honor and thank all those who have served in uniform for our nation. Our "Summer Garden Party" hosted by Bonnie Watson and James Steele saw 99 people in attendance – a new attendance figure. We tried something new this year – an auction of prizes donated by each of the Board Members - a fun addition to a beautiful afternoon.

More recently, we hosted our "Annual Membership Meeting" and "Luce Park Fall Clean Up". The membership meeting was a fun evening of socializing, being informed about the state of the association, voting for our officers and group brainstorming about increasing our membership, our events and our civic engagement. The Park now looks well cared for and is ready for the Winter. Twenty very full bags of leaves, branches and weeds were collected because of the work performed by a mighty crew of 11.

Sincere thanks to all that help keep our adopted park a place of pride and beauty for our neighborhood. We also have a new design for the front corner of the park that we will implement in the Spring thanks to our Landscape Architect member, Bruce Leish.

If you are able to attend, please remember to RSVP to our **Holiday Party** which will be held on Sunday, **December 7th** so the team may finalize the menu and everything that is needed for the evening. It's our largest, most involved event of the year and the Events Committee, led by Denise Pelle, is already working hard to ensure it's another fabulous evening.

Lastly, please also let us know if you would like to contribute or have ideas about content for the newsletter. We appreciate everyone's new ideas (especially for events) and value your support.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!
Laurie

Brief Note About our 2025 Holiday Party Charity

Martin Luther King Community Center

Did you know that the MLK Community Center supports thousands of Newport County residents every year? With more than 25 programs focused on education, hunger relief, and community support, neighbors like you help make our community stronger and more resilient.

Last year alone, thanks to generous people like you, the MLKCC served more than 8,700 individuals. Together, we provided 1.3 million meals, awarded over \$237,000 in scholarships for high-quality Pre-K education, distributed 282,650 pounds of fresh produce, and ensured that 1,320 children received holiday gifts.

We are pivoting our focus from non-perishables to the greatest need which is toys for the children in our community. What is needed most right now:

- New, unwrapped medium to large-sized toys (infants to age 11) (\$35 - \$40 range suggested if one can manage it)
- \$25 increment gift cards for older children (12+) from local retailers (Walmart, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Old Navy, and Ulta Beauty preferred).
- Financial contributions are always also welcome
 - Checks made out to the MLKCC or donations using the QR code below both work. Please mark the comments "TOH" or "Top of the Hill" to be included in our association holiday donation drive.

We'll be collecting the toys and any financial contributions at the party. Receipts will be provided for financial contributions.

In a community like ours, every child deserves access to good food, high-quality Pre-K education, and the joy of holiday gifts. Together, we can make sure families have the support they need.

Thank you!



TOH Community Committee – Hank Kniskern

In our October TOH annual meeting, we summarized the traditional community engagement initiatives and new areas of collaborative interest based on the new board's strategy. The theme was that the TOH organization is a community within a community – Newport. Individuals join TOH to engage with neighbors, to experience warmth of belonging, sharing, helping and participating in the abundance of experiences Newport offers.

You've probably noticed the speed limit sign and radar feedback screen on the west bound lane of Kay Street near Everett. This is partly a result of our May community forum safety discussion with Mayor Charlie Holder and 2nd Ward Councilor Lynn Ceglie.

There are over 25 TOH residents that serve on city boards, commissions and groups such as Trust and Investment, Energy, Cliff Walk, and Waterfront commissions. These residents provide professional expertise to the City.

The **10-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan** initiative will get underway in earnest in early 2026. It is a major effort where civic participation is essential. More information on this will be coming. This planning will certainly help us get a better understanding of the changing demographics of our neighborhood.

The TOH Spring newsletter mentioned the City's monthly online publication – **The Current**. You can sign up for it: <https://www.cityofnewport.com/en-us/city-hall/departments/communications/newsletter>

Our new TOH **police liaison is Officer Frank Pirri**. He is also the liaison officer for the Point Neighborhood. He can be reached (in non-emergency situations) at 845-5863. We will invite him to some of our upcoming meetings. In the meantime, they are collecting winter jackets, especially smaller sizes for school age children. The jackets can be dropped off at the police department.

At our annual meeting, one suggestion from the membership was to increase opportunities to informally mingle in smaller informal venues. It was also suggested that we ask participants to bring a few non-perishables or canned goods to any events. We can collect and distribute them to organizations in need.

Any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Hank Kniskern
Community Chair
hkniskern@icloud.com or tohnewport@gmail.com
401-225-2885



Membership

Welcome to our newest members who have joined since the beginning of our new fiscal year in October.

Leanne DePaul, Ryan and Katies Sonder, Melissa Bachelder, Jackie and Garrett Benton, Jane and Dennis Demers and Cheryl and Scott Langford, Karen Lloyd and Ellen Heffron.

And **thank you** to everyone who was with us last year!

We ended last fiscal year with 238 members. We always allow extra time to renew and as we are now over 8 weeks past our fiscal year end, we will be finalizing the list so may send out the membership directory in December. We hope we may include you and keep TOH the strong community organization that it has been for the last 40 years!

Payment information may be found here:

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

Checks, Cash, PayPal, Venmo and Zelle are all options.

Our FY 2026 membership goal is to top 275 so **please tell your next-door neighbors about us.**

Events

We have exciting things planned this year, in addition to our winter holiday gathering at the Edward King House, the annual Garden Party, and the many events hosted by our amazing member groups. This month, a TOH group went to see The Bit Players improvisation comedy troupe at the Firehouse Theater off Broadway (Newport's Broadway, that is). We've also started a monthly Happy Hour. We are trying different venues and different evenings to see what appeals most – perhaps we'll have multiple gatherings in the winter months. Please keep those new event ideas coming! Several photos of recent events--



Supporting TOH's Future

If you would like to become more involved with TOH, there are several volunteer opportunities available, and we are always excited to talk to members about joining the Board. Fresh perspectives and new engagement are what has kept us strong for four decades. Please consider joining one of our committees or volunteering to help develop our quarterly newsletter. For more information, please email us at tohnewport@gmail.com. Top of the Hill Board Members are found on our "About Page"

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

Newsletter Publishing Support: Sandy Neville - santiago.r.neville@icloud.com

Useful Links and Contacts

Top of the Hill Association Website – Resources Page

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

City of Newport Clean City - <https://cityofnewport.com/cleancity> Contains information about trash pickups, holiday and storm delays, recycling, scheduling trash pickups, dropping off garbage at waste management, etc.

Report It - https://seeclickfix.com/newport_2 (requires registration). You can report problems such as potholes, litter, missed or uncollected garbage, snow covered sidewalks, graffiti, unsafe sidewalks, streetlights, etc.