

Town of Newington, NH E-Newsletter

April 2020



The Town of Newington E-Newsletter includes information about Town-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Visit www.newington.nh.us to join the distribution list, or to be removed.

Board of Selectmen

Timothy "Ted" Connors, Chair
Kenneth Latchaw
Michael Marconi

COVID-19 CDC Guidelines

- Clean your hands often for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a face cover when around others
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

To learn more, follow this link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

COVID-19 Questions or Concerns?. Feel free to contact one of the Town Emergency Management Directors: Police Chief, Michael Bilodeau- 431-5461 or Fire Chief, EJ Hoyt- 436-9441. Also available to answer questions is Town Health Officer, Kevin Kelley 436-7640

Upcoming Meetings: NOTE Due to the Covid-19 Guidance many Town Board and Committee Meetings have been Postponed or Cancelled

Date	Board	Time	Location
4/6/20	Board of Selectmen	3:00pm	Remote via Zoom-Audio Only
4/27/20	Planning Board	6pm	Details forthcoming

Covid-19 Update:

**STAY AT HOME.
SAVE LIVES.**

DO:

- Stay at home, only leaving for the essentials
- Exercise outdoors, practicing social distancing
- Check in on your neighbors, bringing supplies like groceries to those who can't go out

DON'T:

- Gather in large groups or get together with friends
- Have play dates for kids
- Travel unnecessarily
- Stop practicing healthy social distancing

OPEN:

- Grocery and convenience stores
- Pharmacies
- Doctor's offices and hospitals
- Gas stations
- Banks and credit unions
- Takeout & delivery from restaurants
- School lunch program deliveries
- Essential businesses

CLOSED:

- Non-essential retail stores and malls
- Barbershops, hair salons, cosmetic stores, and tattoo parlors
- Movie theaters, bowling alleys, and arcades
- Concerts, sporting events, and festivals
- All State beaches along the Seacoast

@GOVCHRISUNUNU

#GraniteTough

Governor Sununu has issued a Stay At Home order, effective at 11:59 pm, March 27 through May 4, 2020.

See the following links with COVID-19-related documents and resources:

- [Gov Sununu's Stay-At-Home Order](#)
- [Gov. Sununu's detailed definition of "Essential Businesses"](#)
- Governor's Emergency Orders: <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/index.htm>

REMINDER: Keep looking out for each other! Our social-distancing efforts seem to be helping, so far.

FOOD RESOURCES

Meals on Wheels: Starting on April 2nd, meal delivery will be reduced to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. There will not be meal delivery on Tuesdays and Thursdays. An extra meal will be included on Monday for Tuesday and on Wednesday for Thursday. Additionally, they will continue to deliver extra shelf-stable food and frozen meals, just in case. New customers are still being accepted, so please call 603-431-0561 to complete an application over the phone.

Back to Single-Use Plastic Bags -- Gov. Chris Sununu on Saturday ordered all grocery and retail stores to temporarily transition to the use of single-use paper or plastic bags only - no reusable customer bags -- due to the threat of the spread of the coronavirus. Customers' use of reusable bags is banned. The purpose of the order is to avoid the unintentional spread of the virus from home environments.

GROCERY STORES

- **Wal-Mart- Newington**
Food Stores & Online Resources:
Wal-Mart: 2200 Woodbury Ave, Newington (603)-430-9985
<https://www.walmart.com/store/2398/newington-nh/details>

- Offers online grocery shopping for pick up
 - Delivery within 8-mile radius of the store
- Pick-up/delivery options may be fully booked – customers should check webpage for details and options
 - Store hours: 7am -10pm Pharmacy: 9am-7pm weekdays,
 - **Market Basket** stores now closed at 6 pm.

Seniors-Only (age 60+) Shopping Hours

McKinnons -- Daily 7-8am

Market Basket, Tues-Thurs mornings, 5:30-7 am

- **Hannaford**, Tues-Thurs mornings, 6-7 am
-
- All municipal buildings and facilities, schools and the Langdon Library remain closed to the public. Police, Fire and Town Hall are still staffed during regular work hours. Feel free to email or call.
- NH DMV has extended the expiration date for temporary motor vehicle plates and licenses. All temporary plates issued after March 1, 2020 are now valid through April 30, 2020. For information about how vehicle registration works in NH, click here. Town residents can renew their registrations online at www.newington.nh.us . State drivers' licenses and ID cards set to expire can be extended by phone for 6 months. Call 603-227-4020 to pay for and complete the extension.
- Town Board, Commission and Committee meetings have been postponed. Check the town website for virtual meeting schedules. They are in the process of being scheduled remotely.
- The IRS has announced that the deadline for filing Federal income taxes is now July 15, 2020.
- Feeling anxious? Seacoast Mental Health has geared up for exactly these challenges call 603-431-6703 or click here. <https://smhc-nh.org/covid-19-updates/>

GARBAGE COLLECTION/TRANSFER STATION

- Trash pickup is on the normal schedule as is the Transfer Station although the Swap Shop area needed to be cordoned off to avoid spread of the Covid-19 virus.

PARKS

Fox Point and the Federal Wildlife Reserve are great places to walk but are not designated off-leash for dogs. NH State Parks and trails including the Little Harbor Loop Trail are also open.

NH Employment Security (NHES)

- Filing for unemployment. You are assigned a day and time to file based on the first letter of your last name. The unemployment system hotline is 603-271-7700.
- Payments are made beginning eight days from when the claim is filed. Those filing claims must log in again for each week of continued eligibility and file a continued claim.
- If you're Self Employed and have filed for unemployment benefits, ignore the Denial Message you receive. Your unemployment claim requires time to process as a result of your being Self Employed. You will receive a telephone call from NHES to obtain wage information to process and complete your unemployment claim.

QUARANTINED?

- Tell first responders if anyone in your household is quarantined due to COVID-19 and if you need contact with the Fire Department, Police Department or other emergency services. If they are not wearing personal protective equipment when they were exposed, they must self-quarantine for 14 days. No exceptions. That reduces the force available to respond to emergencies.
- Remember to wipe down your cell phones when you're sanitizing surfaces. They're in constant use, connecting hands and face.

Newington Fire & Rescue

Happy Spring to everyone. We hope that you and your family members are safe and healthy. March was a very busy month with the Federal, State and Local response to COVID-19. And in the last week the addition of the voluntary stay at home orders until May 4th. With all of the perceived chaos that surrounds this pandemic it is easy to lose sight of the reasons that the orders and rules are put into place. We would just like to reiterate that these precautions are for the safety of you, your family and your neighbors. And don't forget that this it is only temporary. The members of the Fire Department stand ready to assist residents with any needs even though we have taken measures to limit the possible exposures to them and their families. As these measures that have been taken have closed the Town buildings to the public, you are still able to reach any Department by phone or email.

On the good news side, Town Meeting was held and considering the climate, it was pretty well attended. I would like to thank all of the residents that came out to vote and have their voices heard. I would also like to thank the various Board members for their time and dedication to the Town and its respective Departments. I would also like to thank the various businesses in Town that have supported the Fire Department and I would encourage residents to continue to be patrons of local businesses. A special thanks goes out to the Savinelli family for providing a wonderful lunch last week to both the Police and Fire Departments, which was also from a local business.

In closing this month, I would just like to remind residents to be safe, be respectful and be responsible during the current state of our country and the world. It can be easy to get sidetracked, but just stay focused on the end goal. As I said before, this is only temporary. Again, we are here for you for any reason, just reach out. Stay safe.

Spring Yard Cleanup Safety Tips

Blue skies, chirping birds, warming temperatures – April is prime time for getting home exteriors, yards, and gardens back into shape. But before you get started on your outdoor to-do list, make sure you take appropriate safety precautions.

Dress for the job

- Wear shoes or boots, not sandals, to protect your toes.

- Properly fitting gloves can not only improve your grip on tools but also help keep skin safe from blisters, sunburn, bug bites, poisonous plants, and chemicals.
- Hearing protection is a must-have when using loud equipment.
- Safety glasses keep flying objects out of your eyes.
- Bug spray keeps the pests away. Shower after use to remove the chemicals from your skin. And while you're at it, take a minute to look for ticks. If you find one, gently pull it out with tweezers.
- Apply SPF to any exposed skin. Don't be fooled by cloudy days; you can still get a sunburn.

Work smart

- Take time to stretch and warm up before the work begins. Weeding, trimming, and raking are repetitive motions – change your posture or stance every few minutes and switch activities every 30 minutes.
- Lift properly by bending at the knees and hips and using leg power rather than bending at the waist and putting the strain on your back. Instead of carrying heavy or unwieldy loads, employ a cart or wheelbarrow.
- Drink water and take breaks in the shade. Even if it's not hot or humid, yard work is exercise, and staying hydrated is important to avoid heat-related illness.
- Don't drink and drive. Don't text and drive. The same rules that apply to vehicles apply to power tools, including lawn mowers. Say no to distractions and anything that might cloud judgment.

Ready the tools

- Familiarize yourself with power tools and how they work. Read owner's manuals (many are available online) and know about various switches, modes, and required maintenance.
- Check cords on tools and extension cords for cuts, cracks, and frayed wires – and do not use them if damaged. Also check the label to make sure you don't use an indoor extension cord outside.
- Make sure tools are in the "off" position before plugging them in or unplugging.
- Use ladders safely: Set on a firm, level surface; never stand on one of the top three rungs; and use a utility belt to hold tools so you can properly climb facing the ladder.
- Call 811 before you dig. This notifies local utilities to check your property before you plant a tree, dig a trench, or set fence posts.

Protect loved ones

- Be sure children and pets are inside (or well supervised if out) while you work.

- Store sharp tools, weed killer, fertilizer, and other dangerous items in a locked cabinet out of reach of curious hands and mouths.
- Before allowing any child to operate a mower, sound judgment, strength, coordination, and maturity are necessary. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children should have these characteristics and be at least 12 years old before operating any type of mower – and at least 16 years old to operate a riding mower. Be sure to educate and supervise kids as they learn how to safely use the equipment.

E.J. Hoyt,
Fire Chief

Police Department

“Hard times don’t create heroes. It is during the hard times when the hero within us is revealed.”
– Bob Riley

I like this quote because it is the epitome of the community with no reservations. Each and everyone one of us, including the children, are reaching out to make sure everyone is safe and healthy. I want to express my sincere appreciation for all you do as we go through and get through this together. Thank you.

There have been some minor changes at the police department with daily operations. The front lobby is closed for walk in reports, report requests, and employee fingerprinting. We are continuing with regular patrols, directed patrols and responding to emergency calls for service. Our calls for minor incidents have gone down but we are seeing an increase in serious incidents with mental health and violent offences, within all seacoast communities.

Sadly, with quarantines and isolation, survivors of domestic violence or child abuse will be on the rise. This is when law enforcement needs the help from our communities to report any suspected incident of abuse. The State of New Hampshire has put out the following hot lines for services and support.

Department of Children Youth and Family

1-800-894-5533

Domestic Violence

1-800-277-5577

In any emergency, dial 911.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 431-5461 or email: mbilodeau@newingtonnhpd.com

Be safe and stay healthy.

Michael Bilodeau, Police Chief

Transfer Station Report:

Hello Patrons, the Transfer Station is adopting a " lite " approach in an effort to reduce both materials and human contact to reduce any possible health issues. Frank, Victor and myself will also be adopting a less is more work ethic which means we'll be there for you but only if you need us. If you can't see us, we're in the office. And remember, if you do need us, we're there for you.

Remember to keep your spacing, be patient, and positive!

And cross your fingers for an early summer, I'm done with this mud stuff!

Craig Daigle, Transfer Station Superintendant

Saturday- Deliberative Session-Town Meeting Results:

See your town report or go to www.newington.nh.us to see the on-line town report and detailed warrant.

ARTICLE 7: Town General Budget- \$8,132,929 was amended to increase an additional \$140,000 (20%) match for a Nimble Hill Road Safety Lane project. New total: \$8,272,929. Amendment Passed.

ARTICLE 8: Major Road Work Capital Reserve Article- \$132,000. Passed

ARTICLE 9: Fire Station Addition- \$125,000 Passed

ARTICLE 10: Change Purpose of Replacement and/or Repair of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund to the Replacement of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund - Passed

ARTICLE 11: Replacement of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. \$100,000- Passed

ARTICLE 12: Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. \$50,000- Passed

ARTICLE 13: Severance to Town Employees Expendable Trust Fund. \$30,000- Passed

ARTICLE 14: Purchase of a Fire Boat. \$28,250. Passed

ARTICLE 15: Fire Department Vehicle Major Repair Capital Reserve Fund \$25,000 Passed

ARTICLE 16: Change the purpose of the existing Replacement and/or Repair of Vehicles Operated by the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund to the Replacement of Vehicles Operated by the Highway Department -Passed

ARTICLE 17: Replacement of Vehicles Operated by the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund. \$25,000 -Passed

ARTICLE 18: Establish a Major Repairs of Vehicles Operated by the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund - No funds appropriated at this time-Passed

ARTICLE 19: Town Wide Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. \$25,000 -Passed

ARTICLE 20: Historic District Buildings Renovation \$20,000 Passed

ARTICLE 21: Conservation Fund \$20,000 and amended to \$75,000. Amendment passed.

ARTICLE 22: Langdon Library Building Capital Reserve Fund \$10,000 -Passed.

ARTICLE 23: Petition- Expansion of the current Langdon Library parking lot. \$80,000 -Passed

ARTICLE 24: Town Recreational Facilities and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. \$10,000- Amended to \$18,000. -Amendment passed

ARTICLE 25: Town Generators Capital Reserve Fund. \$10,000. Passed

ARTICLE 26: Fire Department Communications Capital Reserve Fund. \$10,000. Passed

ARTICLE 27: Police Department Radio/Electronics Capital Reserve Fund. \$5,000 Passed

ARTICLE 28: Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund \$4,000 Passed

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town adopt RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? Passed

ARTICLE 30: Prohibition of Smoking and Use of All Tobacco Products including all Electronic Smoking Devices on Town Property - Ordinance- Passed

CALL OR EMAIL ONLY FOR ASSISTANCE-

Hours of Operation: Town Offices - Mon - Fri. 9 - 4:30pm

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Tues 2 - 6pm, Wed and Thurs 9 - 1pm,
Building Dept. - Mon - Thurs 8 - 4pm,

Planning Dept. - Mon - Fri 9 - 4:30pm (Planner by appointment)

Langdon Library - Tues 3 - 8pm, Wed 12 - 7pm, Thurs 10 - 5pm, Fri 10 - 5pm, Sat 10 - 4pm,

Transfer Station Wed 5 - 7pm, Sat 9 - 3pm

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Newington Town Hall 603-436-7640