Town of Newington, NH E-Newsletter

**April 2022** 



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

#### Board of Selectmen

Timothy "Ted" Connors, Chair Bob Blonigen Brandon Arsenault

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#### **Upcoming Meetings**:

| Police Commission              | 4:00  | Police Station  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Board of Fire Engineers        | 5:30  | Fire Station  |
| Board of Selectmen             | 5:30  | Town Hall   |
| Planning Board                 | 6:00  | Town Hall   |
| Trustees of the Trust Fund     | 6:00  | Library   |
| Conservation Comission         | 6:30  | Town Hall   |
| Board of Selectmen             | 5:30  | Town Hall   |
| Sewer Commission               | 9:00  | WWTP  |
| Planning Board                 | 6:00  | Town Hall   |
| Economic Development Committee | 6:00  | Town Hall   |
|                                | Board of Fire Engineers<br>Board of Selectmen<br>Planning Board<br>Trustees of the Trust Fund<br>Conservation Comission<br>Board of Selectmen<br>Sewer Commission<br>Planning Board | Board of Fire Engineers5:30Board of Selectmen5:30Planning Board6:00Trustees of the Trust Fund6:00Conservation Comission6:30Board of Selectmen5:30Sewer Commission9:00Planning Board6:00 |



# ATTENTION DOG OWNERS! DOG LICENSES NEED TO BE RENEWED IN APRIL!

This can be done by mail, online or by stopping in the office. Please make sure your dog's rabies shot is current. If you have any questions, please call or email 603-436-7640 or <u>dcaradonna@townofnewingtonnh.com</u>

Enzo showing off his new gold star license

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Town Egg Hunt Saturday April 9th (11 AM) Old Town Hall

(Rain date Sunday April 10th)

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Town of Newington is accepting letters of application for the following volunteer positions:

The following letters of interest should be addressed to the Board of Selectmen and e-mailed or mailed to the address below:

- <u>Conservation Commission</u>: Member and alternate positions
- <u>Historic District Commission</u>: Member positions
- <u>Economic Development Committee</u>: Member positions
- <u>Recreation Committee:</u> Member positions
- <u>Zoning Board of Adjustment</u>: Member and alternate positions

# <u>The following letters of interest should be addressed to the Budget Committee and</u> <u>e-mailed or mailed the address below:</u>

• Budget Committee member

Please see or call the Town Hall for further details or e-mail: <u>selectmen@newington.nh.us</u>

Town of Newington 205 Nimble Hill Road Newington, NH 03801 603-436-7640 ext. 6





# April Programs at the Langdon Library

The library's Masking requirement ends Friday, April 1, if local Covid numbers remain low.

The library phone is only sporadically receiving incoming calls, so calls may go to voice mail during business hours. We are checking it frequently and will return your call as soon as possible. You may also email us at info@langdonlibrary.org. Our phone service is working on the problem.

# Teen Advisory Group (Mondays, 6:30 PM)

We would like to thank our amazing Teen Advisory Group (TAG) members, Natalia, Julia, Maggie, Carmen, Josh, Max and Remi (pictured above) who for the last 6 months spent most of their Monday evenings planning a "Pirates and Mermaids" themed Escape Room for Newington kids to enjoy. You can view more photos of this delightful event on our Facebook page <u>here</u>. This dedicated group of Newington and local teens designed and organized the program with creativity, enthusiasm, and skill. Our heartfelt thank you, and congratulations on a job well done!

# **Interested in TAG?**

Monday Night 6:30 TAG meetings are an opportunity for Newington teens and their friends to plan and help host events, for all ages including their own, and create other initiatives to benefit their own age group as well as the Newington community. TAG's next event is a teen Library Lock-In overnight this summer, where library staff will chaperone snacks, games, and activities for teens all night at the library.

# Morning and Evening Book Group for Adults and Teens

April's Book Group title is *To the Bright Edge of the World* by Eowyn Ivey, author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Snow Child*. In this historical novel set in the Alaskan wilderness, Ivey "recreates a river expedition by a fictitious Colonel and his crew, tracing their steps and encounters through letters, journal entries, illustrations, photographs and inventory items depicting that bright edge of a magical, natural world" (*BookBrowse Reviews*, Sept 2016). Books are available for pickup at the library; Audiobook and e-book copies are available on <u>NH Downloadables</u>. Join us for discussion in the library on **Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30 PM or Friday, April 15 at 10:30 AM**. New participants always welcome.

# April Imagination Bags (April 1 - April 30 - while supplies last!)

To celebrate National Poetry Month, April Imagination Bags include rhymes and musical activity ideas as well as supplies and instructions to make plastic egg maracas.

# Outdoor Storytimes (weather-dependent) (Fridays at 10:30 AM)

Meet us beside the library (the meetinghouse side) for stories, songs, and sillies. All family members are welcome, but activities are geared toward babies through preschool-aged children. We will have music and movement activities, fingerplays, and a read-aloud. Please bring blankets and/or chairs for your group!

April 1: April Fools Sillies April 8: Construction April 15: Outer Space April 22: Pets April 29: Cars

# Special Saturday Family Storytime: Donuts With Grown-Ups (Sat, Apr 30 at 10:30 AM)

#### Readaloud: There Are No Bears In This Bakery

Donut you want to join us for songs, stories, and a special treat? Meet Miss Amanda on the library lawn (by the meetinghouse) and we will enjoy donuts, nice weather, storytime, and playtime with our grown-ups.

#### Minecraft Night (Tue, April 19 at 6:30 PM)

Are you a creative Newington Minecrafter? Come to the library to play Minecraft with friends. LEGO and Minecraft books will also be available for additional screen-free fun.

# School Vacation Drop-In Crafting (April 23-30)

Stop in and make an airplane or two out of craft sticks, coloring supplies, and a clothespin. If you're lucky, you may hear a plane flying overhead as you craft! While you're here, take a look at the plane models created and donated by the late Newington resident Jack Adams.

#### **NEW! Sprouts Early Learning Backpacks**

Thanks to our grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the American Rescue Plan Act, we have purchased 3 Sprouts Early Learning Backpacks to check out from the library. *Words, Musical Words* (ages 3-8), *What's That Sound?* (ages 1-3) and *Get Up And Go* (ages 3-8) all include themed toys, activity ideas, and books to help children build early literacy skills through play. A caregiver must be present and sign a borrower agreement for any child who wishes to check out a kit. Kits will go out for two weeks and may be renewed once.

For more activities and information, visit our website at www.langdonlibrary.org

See you at the library!

Lara, Theresa, Amanda and Deb

# Newington Fire & Rescue

And just like that, April is here. The days are longer, the trees are starting to bud and the grass will be greening up soon. First off, I would like to thank all the residents that came out for the annual town meeting. The continued support of your Fire Department over the years is very much appreciated and I feel privileged to be a part of it.

The Department along with the NH Fire Academy sponsored a training session on forcible entry recently. Our neighbors with Pease Fire attended as well. The training was well attended and all the crews had a great time "breaking into" the props. Several members are currently enrolled in a Fire Officer II class that will be ending later this month. Classes such as these continually increase the ever-changing knowledge base, as well as, the overall readiness of the department to respond to complex or dynamic emergencies.

As it is Spring, I would like to remind residents of the burn permit process. Anyone who wishes to burn clean, ordinary combustibles such as leaves, brush or untreated lumber, or have a camp or cooking fire **MUST** have written permission from the landowner and a fire permit from the local forest fire warden or local fire department in the town or city where the fire will be kindled or you can obtain a permit online at <a href="https://nhdflweb.sovsportsnet.net/">https://nhdflweb.sovsportsnet.net/</a>. The online option does have a fee that goes to pay for the 3<sup>rd</sup> party services. You **MUST** be at least 18 years of age to obtain a written fire permit. And as always, you can either stop by the fire station or give us a call and we can come to you, to get a permit with no fee.

As always, we are here and available if you have any needs or questions. Stay safe.

EJ Hoyt Fire Chief 436-9441 x6 <u>ehoyt@newingtonfire.org</u>

# 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.

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<u>Big thanks to Laura Coleman for her many years of service as Town Clerk Tax Collector!</u> She has tirelessly served in her position working long hours for the residents.

She has stepped down to the position of Deputy Town Clerk Tax Collector and Doreen Caradonna, previous Deputy TC/TC, has been appointed to the position.



Doreen Caradonna being sworn in as Town Clerk Tax Collector by Selectman Michael Marconi

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY



Held twice a year, in May and October. <mark>Next date: May 21, 2022, 8 am to 12 noon at the Portsmouth Recycling Center, 680 Peverly Hill Road.</mark>

For residents of Portsmouth, Greenland & Newington - Proof of Residency Required.

Location: Department of Public Works, 680 Peverly Hill Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801

NO LATEX PAINT will be accepted at this collection event. Latex paint may be solidified with kitty litter, sawdust, speedy dry or by opening the can and allowing the paint to completely dry before it is disposed either at the Recycling Center or through regular trash pick-up.

Bring your unwanted household chemicals to Portsmouth's Dept of Public Works for safe disposal including:

| FROM THE<br>YARD: | FROM THE<br>GARAGE:  | FROM THE<br>HOUSE: | FROM THE<br>WORKBENCH:     |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Fertilizer        | Acids                | Bathroom cleaner   | Brush cleaner              |
| Pesticides        | Car waxes/polish     | Disinfectants      | Corrosives                 |
| Fungicides        | Creosote             | Furniture polish   | Paint (lead and oil-based) |
| Insect spray      | Driveway sealers/tar | Metal polish       | Stain/Finish               |
| Lighter fluid     | Flea powder          | Mothballs          | Rust preventative          |
| Pest strips/traps | Gasoline             | Oven cleaner       | Solvents                   |
| Poisons           | Radiator flush       | Photo chemicals    | Thinner/Turpentine         |
| Pool chemicals    | Roofing tar          | Rug cleaner        | Wood preservatives         |
|                   |                      |                    |                            |

Wood strippers

**For more information about Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW)** call DES at 271-2047 or visit our household hazardous waste web site at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/p2au/pps/hhwp/index.htm

#### Results of Town Meeting- Saturday 3/12/2022

**Article 6** – Vote on Town Budget – Original Budget total before Articles was \$7,907,366.00 – Amendment made to reduce Economic Development Committee by \$5,000.

The Amendment Passes. The new total of the Town's Budget - without any additional amounts from approved articles - \$7,902,366.00.

Article 7 – Fire Dept. Replacement of Vehicles Capital Reserve (\$200,000.) Passes with no discussion.

Article 8 – Collective Bargaining Agreement- Fire Dept. (\$181,872) Passes with a bit of discussion.

Article 9 – Major Road Work Capital Reserve \$100,000). Passes with no discussion.

**Article 10** – Replace Ambulance and Equipment Capital Reserve (\$50,000). Passes with no discussion.

Article 11 – Library Building Capital Reserve Fund (\$20,000). Passes with no of discussion.

**Article 12** – Highway Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (\$15,000). Passes with no of discussion.

**Article 13** – Petition Warrant Article for Playground Equipment at the Old Town Hall (\$25,000). Amendment by Jessica Morgan to add an additional \$5000 to the \$25,000, as prices increased over the last year.

Amendment passes by hand count: Yes 37, No 31, but Article FAILS, because Budget Committee members felt that any expenditures for recreational equipment should be added to the totals of the Capital Reserve Account previously established.

**Article 14** – Town Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Fund (\$10,000). Amendment by Jessica Morgan to add the amount of \$25,000 from the previous failed Article 13 to the original amount of \$10,000 for this article.

Amendment Passes. Article Passes.

Article 15 - Police Computer Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (10,000). Passes with no discussion.

**Article 16 –** To establish a capital reserve fund called Historic Preservation (10,000). A paper vote was requested by five registered voters and the polls were left open for one hour, while Moderator Jack O'Reilly continued with the warrant.

After one hour, the results were tallied: Yes – 49, No – 26.

**Article 17 –** To hire a seasonal Recreation Director (\$10,000). An Amendment to raise the original amount of \$10,000 to \$12,000 was submitted by William Wright.

The Amendment passes. The Article passes.

Article 18 - Police Computer Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (5,000). Passes with little discussion.

Article 19 – Replace Major Fire Department Equipment (\$5,000). Passes with little discussion.

**Article 20 –** Establish a capital reserve fund for Police Body Cams and Vehicle Equipment (2,500). Passes with little discussion.

**Article 21 –** To establish a revolving fund to assign funds collected from special **p**olice details. After much discussion, the Article Fails.

**Article 22 –** To establish a trust fund to be known as the Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund. Article passes with no discussion.

**Article 23 –** To authorize the Explosive Detection K9 Trust Fund to continue indefinitely. Amendment passes with changed wording to say that the Police Chief will expend funds when he is available, but if not, Selectmen will expend funds.

Article with amendment passes.

**Article 24 –** To authorize the Board of Selectmen to adopt RSA 31:19 trusts, for a period of time that is "indefinitely" and shall continue "until rescinded". Passes with no discussion.

Moderator read the results of the election from Tuesday, March 8, 2022 and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

See more results here: <u>https://www.newington.nh.us/home/news/town-meeting-minutes-and-</u> <u>ballot-results</u>

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT



Happy April Newington!! Effective immediately, I will be retiring after an incredible 28 years in the police profession! Thank you, Newington for all your support in my last five years serving Newington. I am not going to go out by slapping someone we all would like to slap in front of an audience of hundreds (pun from the Oscars), but silently with humbling grace. **APRIL FOOLS!!!! I am not retiring!!** 

We at the police department have made several strides in making the Newington Police Department a professional organization, that members of the department, and the public can be proud of. We will continue to work with the community to make Newington "The Jem of the Seacoast."

For the last couple of months, we have been actively seeking to fill a vacant full-time officer position. We had a solid candidate who suddenly pulled out of the process. In May, Officer Burns will be resigning and moving home to the western part of New Hampshire, with wife, Bethany, and soon to be little Burns, to be with family and friends. Officer Burns will be accepting a position with the Claremont Police Department.

What I am getting at is, **WE ARE HIRING!!** This process has been extremely competitive, with over thirty police departments hiring within the state. If you know anyone looking to make a career change or start their police career, let us know. We offer a great starting salary, benefits package, and it is obvious, Newington is the best town to work in.



With the current increases in fuel costs, criminals have been creative in a new, and costly way to steal gas from your vehicle. It has been reported throughout the country that criminals are no longer siphoning the fuel, but drilling a hole in the bottom of the gas tank, letting the gas drain out. This attempt to steal fuel is not only happening in driveways, but also in public garages and parking lots. A few things you can do to prevent this from happening to you.

-Park your car in the garage. If you do not have a garage, install sensor lighting to deter criminal activity.

-While parked in public parking, park away from a cluster of vehicles, in a well lit, high traveled area.

-If you see any suspicious activity, give us a call.

Statistics as of March 29, 2022.

| Motor vehicle stops         | 224 | Summons/warnings     |  |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------|--|
| _                           |     | issued               |  |
| Accidents                   | 4   | Reports taken        |  |
| Incidents/calls for service | 18  | Reports taken        |  |
| Arrests                     | 10  | Felony/Misdemeanor   |  |
|                             |     | offences             |  |
| Field Interviews            | 0   | Suspicious person(s) |  |
| Warrants                    | 4   | Felony/Misdemeanors  |  |

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call 431-5461 or send me an email; <u>mbilodeau@newingtonnhpd.com</u>

Be safe and healthy!!

Chief Michael Bilodeau

#### Thank you to Outgoing Selectman Michael Marconi



Selectmen Ted Connors and Bob Blonigen giving Selectman Mike Marconi a gift and proclamation for his years of service as Selectman at the March 12, 2022 Town Meeting.