



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



Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2020 in celebration of Memorial Day.

COVID 19 UPDATE: See the Governor’s new Stay At Home 2.0 Order: <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/press-2020/20200501-stay-at-home.htm>

Upcoming Meetings:

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Zoom virtual meeting Monday, May 4th at 5pm. See the town website for details to access. www.newington.nh.us

DIRECTORY:

Swept/Donor Town Issue.....	page 2
Transfer Station Report.....	page 2
2020 Census.....	page 3
Police Dept Report.....	page 4
Nimble Hill Road Gate Tips.....	page 5
Highway Report.....	page 6
Library Report	page 7
Trash Pick Up Reminder.....	page 11
Fire Dept. Report.....	page 12
Selectmen’s Bulletin Link.....	page 14

SWEPT/DONOR TOWN ISSUE

On every NH property tax bill there are two lines that fund education, the local education property tax and the statewide property education tax (SWEPT). Since 1999, every town in NH has been required to apply the SWEPT tax to eligible properties in their towns. The SWEPT is a state tax and is collected by the towns and retained by the towns. When it was first initiated in 1999, towns retained \$3,586 per student of that money and had to send the excess to the state, creating donor towns and receiver towns. Newington was a donor town sending money to the state for other towns, and had to raise the additional money needed for Newington students through the local school property tax. This raised the tax rate at the time to \$ 15.88 per thousand.

Donor towns were eliminated in 2011 and Newington now only raises what is needed for our students. Additional state funds known as Adequacy Grants and Stabilization Funds are provided to school districts from the state through lottery funds and other sources based on a variety of criteria.

Currently, the State Commission on Education Funding is studying the fate of the SWEPT.

The Superior Court found that it was constitutional in a suit by the ConVal School District and that decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

The question at the center of the matter is what the cost of an adequate education is and that the state is obligated, by the constitution, to provide an adequate education.

The state has been using the SWEPT mechanism to raise \$3,616 per student and relying on towns to fund whatever amount they choose to approve above that amount. The actual average cost for a NH student is \$18,901. Newington is staying active in monitoring this legislation and will work hard to prevent the return of donor towns. The Commission on Education Funding is meeting on May 20, 2020 and remote listening will be available at

<http://Gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/details.aspx>.

Newington Transfer Station

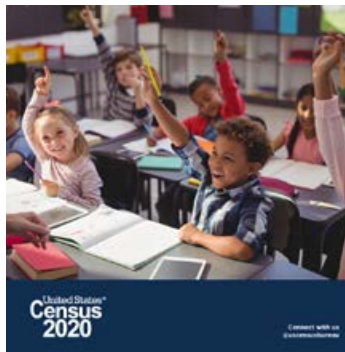
O....U....T....L....I....N....E For Success !

1. Metals Hopper : any metals and/or predominantly metal items
2. Tire box : please deposit to rear of box , if open
3. Compost Area : accepts all leaves , grasses and light garden clippings (no sticks please)
4. Brush Area : branches , light brush , clear lumber , logs (no nails , bolts , hinges or paints)
5. Single Stream Recycling : the Big no-nos are ,no plastic wrappers or films or bubble wrap
no styrofoam products
no tissues or paper towels
Instructions on every hopper

6. Demo (landfill) hoopers : most material wastes other than recyclable materials , carpeting , furniture , pallets , hoses etc.
7. Reuseable Items area : gives new life to old or unwanted items (currently closed)
8. Appliances : refrigerators , air conditioners , stoves etc.
9. Electronics : TV's and monitors , radios , printers , stereos etc.
10. Office : where you'll find a wealth of friendly advice and good wishes from myself and our charming staff !

Thanks to all, Craig Daigle
Transfer Station Superintendent

2020 Census



The once every ten year census is taking place now and Newington has partnered with US Census 2020 to help insure that our town is accurately represented. A complete count of every person has tremendous impacts for the town and state, specifically the number of representatives each state has in Congress is determined by the number of residents in those states and can result in the redrawing of congressional district boundaries. The number of people is used as the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to states.

At the local level, the state uses the census count of Newington residents in formulas to determine the amount of revenue we receive for schools, roads and from the Rooms & Meals Tax. This census is the first that can be done electronically! You should have received a notice about how and when to respond. Residents can respond online at www.2020census.gov . There will be mail and phone options as well. Residents that do not respond by June 1, 2020 will be visited by the door to door census takers in order to gather the necessary information.

The Census Bureau is looking for people in each community to work for them, and if you have an interest you can contact them at www.2020census.gov/jobs .

Police Department:

Hoping May will be better than April as we see a bright light at the end of tunnel Covid-19.

I am sure everyone is tired of being cooped up and not being able to see friends and family. Technology has helped many of us through the last few weeks, but we do miss the face to face interactions.

Your Newington Police Department has been busy during the Stay at Home Order. We have seen an increase of commercial burglaries, internet scams and responding to suspicious vehicles parked throughout town.

Detective Costin has done a great job investigating the burglaries and two groups of suspects have been identified in a short period of time. The individuals have been involved in a crime spree throughout the seacoast area. We have been working closely with area police departments, but a few things need to be corroborated before we pursue charges.

The most recent scam that has been reported to us is the "Blackmail Scam." The scammer through email or text messages will write that they know about an alleged affair, viewing of pornography, or something else embarrassing to you. The scammer will demand payments in Bitcoin or another cryptocurrency in exchange for keeping quiet. They will tell you an algorithm will choose a certain amount of people on your contact list to send explicit photographs or information to friends, family or employment, to scare you into paying. The scammers might use threats, intimidation and high-pressure tactics to get you to pay. This is not only a scam but also a criminal extortion attempt. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THE REQUESTS. REPORT THE INCIDENT TO US IMMEDIATELY.**

Be careful while using the internet and social media as not to provide personal information. Monitor your children's social media activity.

Some good news!!

Officer Burns will be attending the police academy on Monday, May 4th. This was touch and go for a short while, but the academy has decided to do virtual training for the first few weeks. Officer Burns will be provided a tablet for his courses and we set up an office space at the department for his studies.

On April 1st Keri Wareing was interviewed by the Police Commission as the candidate for the Executive Administrative Assistant and was offered the position shortly after. Keri will start with us on Monday, May 4th.

Officer Wood and Augie will complete Explosive Detection K9 training on May 8th and returning to duty on May 11th. We are extremely excited to have Officer Wood back to work and having Augie meet the community. Not sure how social distancing will apply with the dog, but we will make it work.

Thank you, Newington, for your support during these challenging times. As first responders, we appreciate all the encouragement and acts of kindness.

Look out for each other and stay safe.

If there is anything we can do for you, just let us know.

Michael Bilodeau
Chief of Police

NIMBLE HILL ROAD GATE



Due to damage incurred to our old gate, a new gate has been installed at the end of Nimble Hill Road. The new gate has lights on it to help prevent cars from running into it. **Bear these two points in mind about the new gate:**

1. It closes automatically after you go through the gate.
2. Your current clicker works on the new gate, but it does require you to get closer to the gate to receive the signal from your clicker to open.

Highway Dept

Gosling Road- Joint Project with City of Portsmouth (Milling and Paving)



Milling and paving of Gosling Road underway

Drainage Projects: A drainage study was completed in 2019 which identified 3 critical condition projects that had to be repaired immediately. One, Little Bay Extension was completed in the fall of 2019. The two remaining projects on McIntyre Road and Fox Point Road were completed this month.



McIntyre Road Drainage project- view looking towards Little Bay Road



Fox Point Drainage Repair Project by Clam Shell Pond



Due to health and safety concerns during COVID 19 the library building is closed until after Gov. Sununu's Stay at Home Order is lifted.

Ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and other digital resources are available 24/7 at www.langdonlibrary.org

You may reach us at info@langdonlibrary.org and director@langdonlibrary.org during the closure. Our voice mail at 603 436 5154 is also checked regularly.



This is an edited version of a Langdon Library National Library Week newsletter. To read the original click here: <https://conta.cc/2XMBrMH>

*The most important asset of any library
goes home at night--
The library staff.*

--Timothy Healy

April 19 - 25 was National Library Week, a perfect opportunity to spotlight everything our library staff are working on during NH's Stay at Home order. When the library first closed, we brainstormed ways to offer remotely everything we offer while open, and we came very close to meeting that ambitious goal, thanks to the hard work of these dedicated people. Even in normal times, people don't always realize how much work goes in to the day to day function of a library. It's so much more than checking books in and out and putting them away. Here are some examples of what takes place behind the scenes, both while open and now while closed! Happy National Library Week to these wonderful library employees, and to the Town of Newington. We look forward to seeing you online, and when we eventually re-open!

Lara

P.S. We are re-opening the Book Drop so that we can start quarantining returned items. Due to hundreds of items checked out to Newington residents at this time, we can't accept all at once. Patrons with last names beginning with A, B, C and D may return items they are no longer using by Saturday May 9.



Theresa is our Administrative Coordinator and Interlibrary Loan Librarian. She has been at

the library for about 5 years. She handles the majority of record keeping for the library, including a monthly compilation of usage statistics for our Board of Trustees and the IMLS state report. She works in our circulation system to keep patron records current and consistent. In addition to continuing these tasks since we closed, Theresa responds to email from multiple accounts, helps patrons get new cards, renews cards, retrieves card numbers, assists with logging in to NH Downloadables and Hoopla, searches for interesting virtual or digital opportunities for inclusion in newsletters or on social media, and helps me plan and coordinate various other projects and tasks. When the library is open, Theresa manages interlibrary loan requests to and from other libraries, including a major increase when in just the first two months of the year, the state library's new "ILL" system directed 450 requests to our library, half of the number of the entirety of 2019! Theresa worked at Town Hall for many years before coming to the library, and her knowledge of the Newington community was invaluable in orienting me as a new director. If I go away she is “acting director” and I always feel I can leave the library in good hands. She also is cross trained with Deb's responsibilities (see below) so she can process and catalog new books and movies on Deb's days off. I could say so much more but the bottom line is I feel sorry for any library that doesn't have a “Theresa!”



Amanda is our Programming Assistant, the newest of our library's “core four.” Amanda joined our staff in 2018. As her title suggests, she helps coordinate programs and publicity for all ages, however she has primary responsibility for children's programs. During spring of every year, Amanda plans Summer Reading Program activities for Newington kids, an especially difficult task this spring when so many summer plans are up in the air. She also contacts local businesses for donations of prize incentives to raffle, and helps me create a town-wide mailing and graphics to advertise the program. Amanda also plans and implements a year-round Friday Family Hour for pre-school children and their caregivers. She has continued to do so digitally by uploading story hours to our Facebook page, as well as launching a new program, Baby Lapsit, for the newest and cutest residents of Newington! Amanda has excellent technology skills and manages the majority of the library's publicity, on our website, posters and social media. Her passion for and knowledge of children's literature has enriched the children's sections at the library immensely, both in recommendations to me of what to purchase, and to young readers of what to read. Amanda

is full of innovative and fun ideas for all ages. It's exciting to see what she comes up with, both now and when the library is open.



Deb is our Cataloging Assistant, who next month will have worked at the library for sixteen years! Deb (or Debbie, she likes either one) worked just Tuesday evenings at the library for a long time, until she retired two years ago from being a full time as a paraprofessional at Little Harbour School.. In the past she was responsible for cataloging the magazines at the library, so when we expanded her hours she started cataloging the majority of new items. Before this, the library had a larger staff working shorter shifts, so cataloging was done by whoever happened to be working the day a book order came in. If you've ever searched for a title or series in our catalog and gotten incomplete information, it's because of inconsistent cataloging practices. Deb recently took a Cataloging class offered by the NH Library Association featuring best practices for classifying items in ways to make them "findable." During the current inability to order new books and movies at the library, Deb is working online in the catalog to make those older entries consistent. Deb also has a real talent for "reader's advisory," people come in specifically looking for her book recommendations, and we are utilizing that talent while we are closed as well. She is looking for must-haves so that when we re-open we'll have a great selection of new titles. Deb is also cross-trained to help Theresa with Interlibrary Loan requests. They are a great team, and often work together on book orders and interlibrary loan responsibilities. Having Deb working at the library more hours these last two years has benefited us in all of these ways and more.



This is the beginning of my sixth year as the Langdon Library director, and those years have flown by! I worked in four libraries before this one and served as a library trustee but this is my first director job. At the moment, I am reading a lot about re-opening procedure options, to safely and gradually resume services once we receive the go-ahead from Governor Sununu. Until we re-open, I'll continue sharing useful content online, holding virtual book group meetings, virtual staff meetings, doing staff reviews as they are due, and coordinating staff projects. When open or closed, I order all of the books, movies, etc for the library, and these days I am adding eBooks and audiobooks, and creating online "carts" of items to review and order when it's time to re-open. I communicate with the Board of Trustees, town department heads, and the NH Library Trustee Association, where I am a Board member. Last week I led a virtual meetup with the staff of "Small Libraries" in the state, from populations under 3,000, to discuss virtual programs and procedures for libraries re-opening.

I'd like to wish a happy National Library Week to Theresa, Amanda and Deb, as well as our library substitute assistants Paula, Kiska, Pat, Debbie, Chance and Lisa. Thank you for being the reason why our library is a pleasure to work at and visit.

(603)-436-5154 | info@langdonlibrary.org | www.langdonlibrary.org

TRASH PICK UP DURING COVID 19 EMERGENCY:

In order to better protect the health and safety of residential trash workers it is important to make sure all trash is bagged and the bags are tied shut. Thanks for your extra efforts!



Happy May to everyone. We hope that you and your families are all healthy and not going to stir crazy. I know it can seem like the movie Groundhog Day sometimes, but hopefully it just means we are closer to being able to move on and go about our days with some sense of normalcy. Even as things have been a bit of a struggle, we are still keeping busy and staying safe. We have had some fun, from a distance, with the residents with the Easter ride through Town with the help of the Police Department. We have also been able to be a part of a couple of drive by birthday celebrations too. If you've visited the recycle center in the last week or so you may have noticed that the training tower has been torn down. Several of the supporting poles were too rotten to attempt to replace. Even though the sunny days have been few and far between, the Fire Department was able to burn several overgrown fields out at Fox Point at the request of the Selectmen. It was still a little wet and really starting to green up, but everything went well.

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

E.J. Hoyt
Fire Chief
Co-Emergency Management Director
Newington Fire & Rescue

Burn Permit Guidelines

If you are in need of a burn permit to burn some brush from cleaning up the yard or just want to hang out around your commercial style fire pit, they are very simple to get. They are also available 24/7 online through the state website <https://nhdfweb.sovsportsnet.net/>. You will be required to answer some questions and the State charges a small processing fee to obtain a permit. If its easier for you, you can call the Fire Station at (603) 436-9441 and press 3 for the Duty Officer. They will be able to come to your home and write the permit at no charge.

A couple items of clarification:

1. You must be the home owner or you must have written permission in hand.
2. You must be at least 18 years of age.
3. You must have a way to extinguish the fire if an issue arises. A buried fire is not considered extinguished.
4. There are 3 different categories of permits:
 - **Category 1** is a camp or cooking fire or a controlled fire that is no greater than 2 feet in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a commercially bought fire pit and must be located at least 25 feet from any structures.

- **Category 2** is a camp or cooking fire or a controlled fire that is no greater than 4 feet in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a commercially bought fire pit and must be located at least 50 feet from any structures.
 - **Category 3** is any other fire that is not a category 1 or 2, or a fire that is greater than 4 feet in diameter or a fire that is not contained within a ring of fire resistive material and must be located at least 50 feet from any structures.
5. Category 1 & 2 can be for either 30 days or you can get a Seasonal category 1 or 2 that will be good until the end of the calendar year.
 6. Category 3 permits are only good for 7 days. If you obtain a category 3 permit online, it will show that it is only good for that day but we recognize it for 7 days in Newington.
 7. You are allowed to kindle a fire outside of the hours of 5pm to 9am if it is actively raining. Actively rain is defined as sustained precipitation that is actively occurring of sufficient intensity and duration to prevent spreading. Also, if there is decent snow cover still on the ground.
 8. You are only allowed to burn clean, untreated wood or brush that is less than 5 inches in diameter.

As always, if you have any questions or would like us to swing by to check on the location or size of your brush pile or location of your fire pit, just give us a call. We will be more than happy to swing by.





The Fire Dept volunteered to complete a controlled burn of the Fox Point fields to limit invasive plant spread and complete forestry training.

Link to Board of Selectmen's Covid-19 Bulletin:

<https://www.newington.nh.us/home/news/selectmens-covid-19-bulletin>

DUE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY: Town Hall- Closed to public visits. Please call for service-436-7640

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