



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, October 12th in celebration
 of Columbus Day.

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Upcoming Meetings:

10/5/2020	Board of Selectmen	4:30pm	Old Town Hall
10/5/2020	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall
10/6/2020	Police Commission	4pm	Police Station
10/7/2020	Board of Fire Engineers	5:30pm	Fire Station
10/8/2020	Conservation Commission	6:30pm	Town Hall
10/15/2020	Library Trustees	1:30pm	Town Hall
10/15/2020	Zoning Board of Adjustment	6:30pm	Town Hall
10/19/2020	Board of Selectmen	6pm	Old Town Hall
10/19/2020	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall
10/21/2020	Sewer Commission	9am	Waste Water Treatment Plant
10/26/2020	Board of Selectmen	5pm	Town Hall

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE IN!!!!

How To Obtain an Absentee Ballot



1. Fill out the attached [Absentee Ballot Form](#)(2 pages) to request an absentee ballot.

You can return your form either by mail, scanning and email, in person or put it in the Town Clerk's Drop Box at the end of the walkway at town hall.

2. You may pick up and return your ballot by any of these three ways:

- * In person during the Town Clerk's Hours
- * By Mail
- * Put it in the Town Clerk's Drop Box out in front of town hall.

TOWN CLERK'S HOURS: Tues & Wed, 9am to 1pm, Thurs, 12:00 to 4:30pm

Private Wells and PFAS

After a year of legal challenges, the strict PFAS standards that were adopted for New Hampshire in July, 2019 are now effective. This action results in some additional private wells (less than 6) in Newington exceeding the state's standards. For simplification purposes, this article is going to highlight just one of the numerous PFAS chemicals - PFOA. The current EPA limit of PFOS in drinking water is 70 ppt.; New Hampshire's approved and now effective limit is 12 ppt. Newington's Board of Selectmen sent letters in October, 2019 to the Air Force requesting immediate connection to the City of Portsmouth's water system or installation of filtration systems

for the newly effected residents. The Board of Selectmen will continue to advocate for Newington's residents now that the legal challenges that held up the effective enforcement date of the new regulations has been resolved. The Board of Selectmen is very appreciative of the advocacy that Pease Restoration Board is taking on our resident's behalf.

The Air Force, through the ASTDR recently conducted a health consultation for PFAS in Newington's private wells and the individual homeowners have received copies of the report and have had opportunities to discuss them with ASTDR. The report was open for public comments and included in the town's comments was the request that the standards applied be the most current NH DES standards rather than the EPA's guidelines.

The new standards also impact Newington's wastewater treatment plant. An initial screening effort was recently done by NHDES in July and the results did not exceed the strict drinking water standards.

PFAS is an acronym for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a class of thousands of industrial chemicals used for decades in products like Teflon, Gore-Tex, stain resistant carpeting, food wrappers and military-grade firefighting foam. Studies have linked very low levels of PFAS exposure in drinking water to health effects, including kidney and liver disease; immune, reproductive and developmental problems; high cholesterol; and potentially certain cancers. PFAS has turned up in water supplies in every county in New Hampshire.

To read a recent letter sent to the US Airforce by our senators and congressman click on this link:

<https://www.newington.nh.us/home/news/letter-from-us-senators-and-congressman-to-usaf-about-contamination-of-newington-wells>



The best fall colors are seen after a series of warm summer days followed by cold (but not freezing) nights. Dropping leaves give trees a chance to take a break from the energy intensive work of photosynthesis. Fallen leaves are an essential part of a forest's ecosystem, providing protection for tree seeds to germinate over the course of the winter.

HALLOWEEN



The Board of Selectmen have approved holding Trick or Treat on Saturday, October 31st from 5-7pm.

Towns around the Seacoast are having trick or treat at the same time to lessen out of town visitors.

GUIDELINES:

Homes who participate in Trick or Treat

- Only give out wrapped items
- Wear a mask when handing out treats.
- Give out items outside or in a way to keep 6 ft. distance, or behind storm glass door, replace treats before each visit of kids
- Do not hand treats directly to kids
- Put out sanitizer and sanitizing wipes

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE TURN YOUR OUTSIDE LIGHTS OFF SO CHILDREN WON'T APPROACH YOUR HOUSE.

Trick or Treaters who are participating should:

- Parents and kids should be in small groups, preferably family members only and within your neighborhood
- Avoid large groups and going inside homes
- Maintain social distancing while Trick or Treating
- Carry hand sanitizer, gloves are NOT recommended for cross contamination concerns
- Wear protective masks (this maybe part of a costume if its cloth)

Newington's Business Visitation Program

While attracting new business to Newington is important, the Town's Economic Development Committee (EDC) recognizes the importance of existing businesses and the vital role they play in the State and regional economy. In today's world, the large majority of economic growth comes from existing companies.

The Town, through the Board of Selectmen and EDC, created a Business Visitation Program (BVP) designed to reach out to existing businesses and to identify concerns and issues before they become serious. Many New Hampshire communities engage in a similar effort. Typical issues tend to be local permitting, workforce training and housing, state and local environmental regulations and financing. In addition, the BVP provides an opportunity to discuss potential expansion plans and incentives, and to learn more about the business community. The BVP allows the Town to hear and understand what the business owners think and what they may need as they plan their growth. The process also demonstrates that Newington is interested in the prosperity of its existing businesses; this results in better communications and stronger relationships. Oftentimes, in their due diligence, a prospective business will contact existing businesses to get a "read" on the Town and its overall business climate. If your business would like to participate in a BVP, or you know of a local business which would benefit by participation in the Program, please contact Martha Roy, Town Manager at the Town office at 436 - 7640 or by email at mroy@townofnewingtonnh.com.

By design and foresight most of the business activity in Newington appropriately occurs in the industrial and commercial zones east of the Spaulding Turnpike. In the case of the maritime dependent uses off Shattuck Way sited on or adjacent to the Piscataqua River, they largely operate out of the view of the Town's residents, though their contribution to the economy and the Town's tax base is significant. Below are two brief profiles of participating companies that take advantage of Newington's unique deep-water waterfront and major highway access.

GP Gypsum, 170 Shattuck Way, Newington, NH

In April, 2019, the town conducted a BVP with GP Gypsum, its former plant manager and Jose Valdez, the company's long time reliability manager. A manufacturer of wallboard, roofing and sheathing products, GP Gypsum Newington is one the company's 200 North American facilities and has been in town for a few decades.

Regarding the state's regulatory environment, GP considers it "good" when compared to tougher environmental regulations in other states. GP is very concerned with environmental compliance matters. Finding qualified employees who "show up for work" is the most significant workforce issue. The advantage for doing business in Newington is geography: "easy access to highway" and good neighbors. The company noted the need for additional land and space problems associated with trucks lining up for delivery or transport of its products. GP is planning an expansion.

Concerns:

1. Need to continually maintain local road roads; potholes can crack the boards;
2. Provide for a smooth transition from Shattuck Way to Wilcox Way and onward;
3. Affordable housing: employees cannot find affordable housing in the seacoast area.
4. Overall, GP is pleased with the business environment in Newington.

Regarding future expansion, GP Newington is currently working with corporate engineering to develop an overall project scope to increase the size of the plant to accommodate additional equipment and indoor storage

Little Bay Lobster, 158 Shattuck Way, Newington, NH

Little Bay Lobster, a wholesale off-shore lobster business, has been in Newington for 33 years and has 35 full time employees. Due to tariffs on the export of lobsters, sales have decreased. The company considers state and local environmental regulations to be adequate. Finding suitable employees is a significant workforce problem. The company notes that location on the waterfront area is a major advantage and factors that affect future growth include regulation, transportation and energy costs. The company’s plan to add a 6,000 square foot cold wet storage area to its facility is currently before the Planning Board.



Newington Fire & Rescue

It’s crazy to think that summer is over and fall is here already. I will welcome a break to the hot and humid weather, but I will miss the sun being up later in the evening. As we welcome October, we would like to remind residents of a couple safety topics:

- With fall here and the trees dropping their leaves, use caution when walking and driving on wet leaves to prevent accidents. Also, if cleaning your gutters, be smart about ladder safety and ask for help. Don’t try to do it by yourself.

- Get your furnace serviced before winter arrives. It's a good idea to call a professional to do your annual furnace servicing now. Your furnace is by far the most important appliance in your home. Make sure to have the filters cleaned or replaced.
- Get your chimney inspected every fall. Hire a chimney sweep to clean out your chimney of debris, nests, etc. If you use a fireplace, use the fireplace screens to protect from flying sparks and embers. Never pour lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline on a fireplace, and never leave a fireplace unattended.
- When we change our clocks for daylight savings time on November 1st, it's also the time when everyone should replace the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. It's also a good idea to have a working fire extinguisher in the house, and everyone who lives there should be familiar with how it works. Hold a Fire Safety Meeting with family members and go over the steps. Do not do any outdoor burning when fire dangers are high. Flying embers can travel and start fires.

As a reminder, if you are interested or have any questions about the residential Knox Box system, feel free to reach out to Assistant Chief Pat Moynihan at 436-9441 x5 or pmoynihan@newingtonfire.org. We also have several loaners that can be placed over the door while you are out of town or on vacation.

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

EJ Hoyt
Fire Chief
436-9441 x6
ehoyt@newingtonfire.org

Donor Towns/Education Funding:

The State legislature has developed an Education Funding Commission reviewing how to address the state's method of funding New Hampshire's public schools. There is a concern that without our involvement the Commission could reach a decision that could return us to a State full of "receiver" and "donor" towns.

The Coalition Communities (Newington, Portsmouth and Rye among others) fought hard and successfully in the past to repeal legislation that created what was commonly referred to as “negative aid” or “donor towns”, an education funding mechanism that forced “donor” towns to pay for the education of children in “receiver” towns. This form of funding was divisive, pitting “donor” town against “receiver” towns, neighbor against neighbor. This is an era in our State’s history that we do not want to revisit. If we were to revert to donor and receiver towns Newington would have to add over 1 million dollars to our budget.

The same argument used regarding the disproportionality of the tax over a decade ago can be used today. It is fundamentally unfair for some to towns to pay for others, in essence taking away from one school district to pay for another.

Property value and tax rates do not tell the whole story in any town. The “donor” towns are rich in property value but many of these communities have modest and low income populations. Tax rates would be raised or educational services will be cut given the loss of money that would be sent to the general fund under HB 1802. This is unfair to residents of “donor” communities that may be riding the current wave of high priced real estate, but struggle to pay their bills.

The donor town method is NOT based on education policy. It is only based on budget policy. We all agree that every school child in New Hampshire deserves an equal education opportunity.

If you are willing to send a letter or make a statement to the Education Funding Commission to support Newington there are a series of upcoming opportunities. Please contact Martha Roy mroy@townofnewingtonnh.com if you can help.



Pumpkins-NH’s Official Fruit

In 2006, the General Court adopted the pumpkin as the official fruit of New Hampshire. Botanically speaking, a fruit is a seed-bearing structure that develops from the ovary of a flowering plant, whereas vegetables are all other plant parts, such as roots, leaves and stems. Pumpkins are classified as a fruit, but they are generally regarded as a vegetable. Pumpkins are an \$8 million crop in NH. They are produced on trailing annual plants that have large 5-pointed leaves. Pumpkins require a long, warm growing season. In 2010 the world record pumpkin weighed 1,810 pounds. Keene, NH, holds the world record for the most split (carved) pumpkins at almost 30,000.

Library News:

Saturday Hours

Starting October 17th, Saturday appointments at the library will now be available! Due to a decrease in demand for curbside appointments, October 8 will be our last curbside Thursday. However, curbside appointments will still be an option in place of in library appointments, on any day we are offering appointments. The hours of operation will be:

Tuesday, 1 to 7 PM

Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM

Saturday, 10 to 3 PM

These hours will expand further based on patron demand and staff availability, barring local COVID surges. For information about the procedure for in library appointments, click here:

<https://www.langdonlibrary.org/library-reopening-by-appointment-starting-tuesday-august-4/>

Programs

After the popularity of Tuesday night virtual Ladybug Bedtime Stories during Summer Reading, Amanda is continuing the bedtime story option on Wednesday nights at 6:30 with “Out Loud with Amanda” on our Facebook page. <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/out-loud/>

Halloween in a Bag (Gr K - 6) Make an appointment with the library to pick up a bag of ghoulish goodies, a craft, and activity ideas for Halloween family fun at home. We would love to see student creations! E-mail photos to programs@langdonlibrary.org for a chance to be featured on our website and social media. Halloween in a Bag will be available for pickup at appointments beginning **Tuesday, October 13.**

Fall Coloring Activity Raffle (Age 3 – 12) Pick up a pumpkin patch coloring page at the library during a browsing or curbside appointment and use whatever creative materials you like to color it in. Then, write a few sentences about an adventure at a pumpkin patch! What do you see, hear, smell, taste, touch, and feel? Have an adult take a photo and e-mail your work to programs@langdonlibrary.org by **October 30** to be entered into a raffle for some fall books & treats.

Last week I enjoyed discussing *The Queen’s Secret* by Karen Harper with our virtual book group members. In October, we are reading ***The Last Stargazers* by Emily Levesque** Copies are available as eBooks and audiobooks on www.hoopladigital.com. We will meet virtually on **Thursday October 15 at 10:30 AM** and **Tuesday October 20th at 6:30 PM**. You may find the access information for this event at <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/programs/book-groups/> New members are always welcome!

See you online, and at the library!

Lara Berry, Langdon Library Director
director@langdonlibrary.org

Cities and towns will need help to survive financial impact of COVID-19

Written by Margaret Byrnes, New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) Executive Director and Shaun Mullholland, Chair, NHMA Board of Directors

THE COVID-19 financial impact on towns and cities across New Hampshire continues to cause concern for the entire state, particularly as municipalities begin next year's budgeting process facing unknown expenses and uncertain revenue.

To make matters worse, as the state also begins its next biennial budget process and determines how to respond to its own significant losses, customary state aid to municipalities is vulnerable. Cuts in this funding could send shockwaves throughout the state as it impacts municipal budgets and services to Granite Staters.

Because New Hampshire relies on property taxes as a primary revenue source, the financial impact of a crisis is felt here later in many cases than it is in other states that rely instead on taxes on sales and services.

With property tax revenue being the largest source of municipal revenue in New Hampshire, the federal stimulus funding and loan programs provided directly to taxpayers, the unemployed, businesses, and non-profit organizations, have all contributed to stabilizing immediate local property tax collections, as evidenced this past July with a delinquency level reported that was not significantly greater than previous years.

As reported by 52 municipalities in a recent NHMA Financial Impact Survey, future declines in property tax revenue are more concerning than any losses seen to date.

Further, while motor vehicle fees — the second largest revenue source for most municipalities — have not been significantly affected so far, this was due largely to those federal stimulus programs and the continued trend of new vehicle purchases over the past 6 months.

Towns and cities are also reporting major revenue losses in fees generated by a myriad of other services, such as parking fees and fines, recreation programs, building and planning applications and permits, electrical and plumbing permit fees, among others.

Reports from municipal water and sewer utilities demonstrate a wide array of financial impact, with utilities in Plymouth and Conway reporting large decreases in consumption and resulting revenue and other utilities reporting increases due to their residents, who normally are away during the work-day week, working remotely from home. Most utilities surveyed reported an increase in payment delinquencies, which is projected to increase just as property tax collection delinquencies are projected to increase. This will lead to further cash flow issues.

The \$32 million allocated to municipalities by the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) for COVID-related expense reimbursement has significantly helped to offset the large unanticipated costs of responding to the health emergency. However, based on NHMA's recent

survey, the total amount allocated will fall well below the total expenses incurred. As a result, municipalities have reported many delays, reductions, and even cancellations of capital projects, the closure of municipal facilities and an end to some services. There have been hiring freezes, employee furloughs and layoffs.

At the same time, the demand for local welfare assistance has increased significantly in some communities. In some cases, towns that are located in the areas of our state with high seasonal tourist populations and second home properties have reported large percentages of second home owners establishing permanent residency, which has increased student enrollment and added to increased public assistance and welfare applications. These municipal expenses will likely only increase when the new federal eviction moratorium expires on Dec. 31, when tenants must pay all previously unpaid rent.

Overall, the municipalities responding to the NHMA survey registered strong concerns about the December tax billing collection period, COVID-related expenses, and unknown revenue levels as the pandemic continues and if the federal stimulus money dries up for residents, taxpayers, the unemployed, businesses, and local and state governments.

Further, the impact on each municipality's property tax base is unknown. Many fear, particularly the larger towns and cities, that as businesses and buildings remain closed, commercial values may decrease significantly, potentially shifting the tax burden within the municipality disproportionately to residential taxpayers.

It is clear the severity of the COVID-related impact varies greatly across the state for many different socio-economic reasons. With the December 30 deadline fast approaching for the "use it or lose it" of CARES Act funding, and with the impacts of the pandemic continuing to unfold and be felt by increasing populations in our state, we strongly urge the U.S. Senate to pass a funding bill to provide much needed additional aid to the state and local governments, which will include flexibility to ensure funds can be targeted to areas of greatest need, along with including an extension of the current CARES Act funding deadline.

Margaret M.L. Byrnes is executive director of the New Hampshire Municipal Association. She lives in Bow. Shaun Mulholland is city manager of Lebanon, where he lives.

Police Department:

Fall is definitely here, and I don't think we will be having an Indian summer. Take the time to enjoy the natural beauty autumn brings us.

For the last three years, your officers have been participating in "Beards for Bucks" in support of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Male officers will be growing facial hair and female officers will either dye a portion of their hair blue or don blue nail polish for the month of October. The Rockingham County CAC is dedicated to "pursuing the truth in child abuse cases" by coordinating a team, focused on the wellbeing of children in child abuse, neglect or sexual assault cases and

prosecution. The team is comprised of law enforcement, county attorneys, protective services, victim advocacy agencies and health professions.

The Rockingham County CAC is a nonprofit organization that relies on grants and donations to continue their fight against child abuse. For more information on the Rockingham County CAC, visit their web site at; CACNH.org/rockinghamcounty.

If interested in supporting your officers in their endeavor, please visit;

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/newingtonpd> and donate. Thank you in advance for your support.

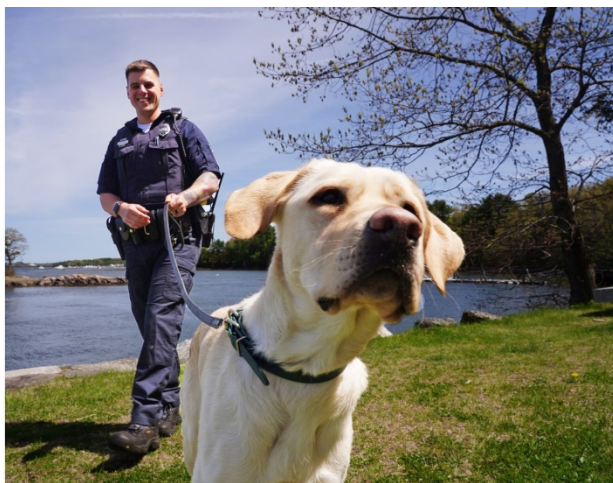
We have been fielding a lot of questions regarding hunting season and what hunters can and cannot do. Hunters are not allowed to hunt on town property or private property that is posted properly.

For further guidance, visit NH Fish and Game website at; <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us>

October 12 - October 18 in ONLY the following WMUs: D2, G, H1, H2, I1, I2, J1, J2, K, L, M	Fall turkey/shotgun (in certain WMUs only)
September - March	Small game and furbearers/dates vary by species and region
October 1 - December 31	Pheasant
October 17 - October 25, 2020	Moose (by permit only)
October 24 - 25, 2020	Youth deer-hunting weekend
October 31 - November 10, 2020	Deer/muzzleloader

The Great Bay Wildlife refuge lottery hunt will be held between Saturday, November 21st and Sunday, November 22nd.

While traveling north on route 95 in Greenland, take a quick glance on the electronic billboard at Blue Bird Storage. You may see two familiar faces. I will give you a hint, one of them has four legs.



K-9 Officer Andrew Woods with Explosives Detection K-9, Augie

Be safe and kind to each other!!!
Michael Bilodeau, Chief of Police

Power Plant Disputes

Half of the town's assessed valuation is made up of utility/fossil-fired power plant value. The demand for and value of fossil-fired power plants is declining nationally as solar and wind energy become more prevalent due to regional incentives and mandates. Newington's two power plants- EP Newington and Newington Station have been disputing their assessed values for several years due to this trend. The Newington Station plant has just been assessed at \$55,000,000 for 2020 which is a decrease of \$17 million. The EP Newington plant, assessed at approximately \$330,000,000 in 2019, is decreasing to a value of \$290 million in 2020. The Selectmen have been working hard to establish fair and just values for these facilities in response to the changing energy markets in New England, but the owners of these facilities continue to push for lower assessments in response to the lower value of fossil-fired plants in the region. Therefore, the Selectman and Town staff are doing everything they can to minimize the fiscal impact on the Town of lower values, including looking at upcoming spending and setting aside funds to safeguard our finances in the event a court judgement finds in favor of the power plant owners. However, despite our best efforts the lower value of these power plants will likely impact our tax rate in the years to come.

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

NEW HOURS: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Tuesday and Wednesday 9am-1pm, Thursday: 12noon-4:30pm

Building Dept. - Mon - Thurs 6:30am- 4:30pm

Planning Dept. - Monday & Thursday 9 - 4:30pm (Planner by appointment)

Langdon Library - **COVID HOURS** - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: **Tuesday 1-7pm and Friday 9-3pm and starting Saturday, Oct. 17th -Saturday appointments from 10-3pm**

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

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Newington Town Hall 603-436-7640