



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
 Michael Marconi
 Robert Blonigen

Town Hall will be closed in celebration of New Year’s Day on Friday, December 31st



Town Hall will be closed in celebration of Christmas Day on Friday, December 24th

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Upcoming Meetings:

12/1/2021	Board of Fire Engineers	5:00pm	Fire Station
12/1/2012	Budget Committee	6:30pm	Town Hall
12/6/2021	Board of Selectmen	5: 00pm	Town Hall
12/7/2021	Police Commission	4pm	Police Station
12/8/2021	Budget Committee	6:30pm	Town Hall
12/9/2021	Conservation Commission	6:30pm	Town Hall
12/13/2021	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall
12/15/2021	Sewer Commission	9am	Wst. Water Trtmt. Facility
12/20/2021	Board of Selectmen	5: 00pm	Town Hall
12/27/2021	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall

[Please check the town calendar at www.Newington.nh.us to confirm the meeting times, just prior to the date, as these may change]

Newington Fire & Rescue

We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday as we were able to see our friends and loved ones a little easier than last year. With another new variant of COVID being announced, I just want to remind everyone to remain vigilant and continue to follow safety measures. We, as a community, are doing a great job at preventing the spread, so let's keep up the good work.

December is here and so are the chilly temperatures. With winter weather nearly here, please remember to take the extra time to make it to your destination safely. Don't forget to help out your neighbors that may need the extra hand. As the Thanksgiving holiday has come and gone, Christmas



season is coming into full swing as evident by our delivery of Santa to the Mall at Fox Run last week. We will be starting our annual toy drive at various businesses throughout Town. As this has been a very tough year for many people, I would like to encourage you to help out in any way possible, even if it's to another drive if you are able to. Though many of the toys and donations we get don't go to Newington residents, we use the excess items to assist other communities that are in much greater need.

December is also when the budget season in Town comes into full swing. I would encourage any residents that have any questions or would like to better understand your Fire Department to please reach out to me or stop in.

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

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Holiday decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

Holiday entertaining


- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.




Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

 More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.

 More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

PUT A THERMOMETER ON **FREEZE** WINTER FIRES

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, **be fire smart!**

Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of



Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your home.**

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least **once a month.**



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

Heating equipment is involved in **1** in every **7** reported **home fires** and **1** in every **5** home fire deaths.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least **10** feet from your home and any nearby buildings.



Keep anything that can burn at least

3 feet from any **heat source** like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.



Plug only **1** **heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.



TOWN FOREST SOIL GOING TO SPACE!!!



Our 5th and 6th grade students have entered a soil sample from the Town Forest into a contest to send the sample to space, and won! The soil proposal was chosen as the winner of the UNH-Manchester contest to send a sample of New Hampshire soil into space.

The contest was open to all middle schools in New Hampshire and the Newington 5th & 6th grade team's proposal won! The purpose of the mission is to send soil into space to test a hypothesis to see if bacteria in soil will grow faster in zero gravity. The hope is that these experiments can help scientists develop better antibiotics to combat infections.

The UNH-Manchester team said the Newington School chose a great location and that the Newington Town Forest was significant as it was the oldest town forest in the country. They said the Newington School's proposal was well-organized, their soil sample contained excellent amounts of moisture and silt, and their description of the site was detailed. They admired that the Newington School collected the sample even though it was raining and it looked like they had fun with the project (they did!!). They also said they were impressed that the 6th graders made their own soap last year so they know how to keep things clean and free of contamination.

The 5th and 6th grade class was thrilled with the news of the contest results. They all worked hard and collaborated to put the proposal together. Special thanks to Nels Tooker, 5th & 6th grade teacher!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 5th & 6th GRADERS!



5th & 6th grade students collecting soil samples in Newington Town Forest

RSA 72:80-83 Commercial and Industrial New Construction Exemption

Several local business owners have approached the Selectmen about the possible adoption by the Town of a Commercial and Industrial Construction Property Tax Exemption described by state law under RSA 72:81. The Board is considering the request with input from the Economic Development Committee (EDC). To assist the Board in deciding on whether or not to present the exemption to the voters on the 2022 Town Warrant, a public forum is planned in early January to inform the public about this option and to provide the opportunity for public input on the matter.

In preparation for this forum, the following is a synopsis of the state law:

1. The intent of this exemption is to provide incentives to businesses to build, rebuild, modernize, and/or enlarge their business properties within Town, thus generating additional property tax revenue in the future and other public benefits.
2. The exemption will only apply to the municipal and local school property taxes.
3. Any exemption as granted by the Board of Selectman shall be a specific percentage on an annual basis related to the increased value of the new property improvements.
4. The maximum percentage allowed is 50% per year.
5. The maximum number of years the exemption can be granted is 10 years.
6. The exemption can apply to all property located in town, or only to specific areas or parcels designated by the voters at the time of adoption.
7. The voters at the time of adoption would define the criteria for what would constitute a public benefit and in granting any exemption the BOS must make a specific finding that one or more of those criteria are met by the proposed
8. The exemption authority for the BOS, if adopted, is only available for 5 tax years after adoption, at which time it would have to be reauthorized by Town Meeting to continue.
9. The property owner needs to apply for the exemption prior to starting construction.

All these points are determined and defined in the warrant article presented at Town Meeting and approved by voters. This is why public input on these specifics is important before drafting a warrant article.

THE SELECTMEN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ARE SOLICITING INTERESTED CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORUM. Please contact Paul Deschaine @ pdeschaine@townofnewingtonnh.com if you have interest. Additional details of when and where this forum will occur will be forthcoming. Please plan on attending when these details are available.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

I hope everyone had a safe and healthy Thanksgiving and you were able to spend it with family and friends.

Last month I hit on many shopping safety tips for the holiday season, which I hope you continue to use. This newsletter, I want to write about wellness for you, your family, friends, and your neighbors. Not everyone finds this time of year joyous with celebration. This is the time of year first responders deal with individuals with depression. Millions of Americans suffer from depression over the holidays due to isolation or the loss of loved ones.

If you or a family member are suffering from Holiday Depression, take the time to talk to someone. Make that phone call or make the impromptu visit to the person you know who is alone. Make that personal connection we often throw to the side because our faces are buried in our phones on social media.

The Newington Police Department is here for you. If you need help, give us a call. If you are seeking help for someone else, give us a call. No judgement here! We can provide the resources needed. We are great listeners if you want to talk.

National suicide Hotline 1800-273-8255.

On November 19th, we successfully became a Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency through CALEA. We could not have made this achievement without the support of so many from the community. During our commission hearing, one of the commissioners highlighted our community involvement and comments made from residents during our assessment. I was able to talk about our relationships with not only the residents but also the business, industrial, and NHANG sections of town. It was clear the commissioners were impressed of how we are policing in Newington. I would get into a "It takes a village" speech, but you know where I am going. Thank you!!

We will be posting our assessment on our website; newingtonnhpd.com shortly, for all to see.

Statistics as of November 29, 2021.

Motor vehicle stops	244	Summons/warnings issued
Accidents	5	Reports taken
Incidents/calls for service	23	Reports taken
Arrests	11	Felony/Misdemeanor offences
Field Interviews	3	Suspicious person(s)
Warrants	2	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; mbilodeau@newingtonhpd.com

Be safe and healthy!!

Chief Michael Bilodeau

Highway Department Update:

Paving: Paving has been completed on Nimble Hill Road, Little Bay Road and Shattuck Way. Gravel shoulders along these sections (and McIntyre Road by the Airport viewing area) will be laid over the next week.

Catch Basin and Culvert Cleaning will begin in the next week along Shattuck Way, Dumping Cove and Nimble Hill Road (northerly portion) .

Reminder: During these icy months there is sand and salt at the Town Garage salt shed for your use. Just bring a shovel and bucket!



\$25.6M MAJOR NAVIGATION & SAFETY PROJECT FOR THE WIDENING OF THE UPPER TURNING BASIN IN THE PISCATAQUA RIVER IS UNDERWAY

Tankers carrying petroleum products, including liquified propane gas, along with bulk and special purpose cargo ships calling at Newington's marine terminals and industries on the Piscataqua River, utilize the Upper Turning Basin to reverse direction to return to sea after discharging or loading their cargos. It's been long recognized that the narrow diameter of the existing Turning Basin presents a significant safety risk with resulting navigation restrictions that impact the ships calling in Newington.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Project involves the removal of 728,000 cu yds of dredged material as well as an anticipated 25,000 cu yds of ledge from the river bottom so as to widen the existing Turning Basin. The widening from 800 ft to 1200 ft will greatly improve navigation safety and allow the lifting of transit restrictions which will potentially increase the competitive efficiency and capacity of Newington's up-river marine terminals, including the two Sprague facilities, Sea-3, and the Subcom undersea cable loading facility, which recently committed to a major expansion that will increase the Town's tax base.

Great Lakes Dredge and Dock (GLDD) was awarded the contract by the ACOE in September and began the project in November with a large dredge and two scows and tugboats deployed. The work is visible from the Town Boat Ramp area at the end of Patterson Lane. A second dredge with scows will be deployed by GLDD to expedite the Project as the environmental permits for the work require it to be completed by the end of March 2022.

The scows and tugs will transfer the dredged materials, (rock and sand), to the federally designated disposal site north of the Isles of Shoals and sand only to two designated Essex County Massachusetts beach replenishment sites, off Salisbury and Plum Island. The additional cost of transit will be borne by Massachusetts.

The Board of Selectmen and the Town's Economic Development Committee supported the effort to obtain funding for the Project from both Federal and State sources and worked closely with the Pease Development Authority's Division of Ports and Harbors and its Director Geno Marconi, who has worked tirelessly to bring the Project to fruition. Newington's PDA representative Peggy Lamson also strongly advocated for the Project when last minute additional funds were needed for the State's cost share of the Project after the bids were opened.

Any resident with interest in, or questions about, this Project should contact Geno Marconi at the Port, 603-436-8500 or g.marconi@peasedev.org or Mike Donahue, 603-501-0571 (donahue.m.j@comcast.net), a Newington resident who serves on both the Division of Ports and Harbors Advisory Council and the Town's Economic Development Committee.

December News from the Langdon Library

LIBRARY HOURS

Mon & Tues 12 to 8 PM

Weds 1 to 7 PM

Thurs & Fri 9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM

Holiday Hours

Closed December 24 & 25

Open 9 AM to 2 PM Friday, December 31

Closed Saturday, January 1

Reminder:

Masks and hand sanitizer remain required when using the library.



December Imagination Bags: Water Bottle Snowman craft

December Imagination Bags are available for pickup in the library lobby from December 1 to December 31! Get ready to ring in the New Year and celebrate old (and new!) winter traditions with this month's Imagination Bag. Inside, you'll find a special treat, a winter activities list, a coloring page, and supplies to make a water bottle snowman craft!

Teen Advisory Group and Escape Room Planning

Teen Advisory Group meets every Monday at 6:30 PM in the library. This weekly group of 5-10 dedicated teens ages 13 to 19 plan library programs for themselves as well as the Newington community. The group is currently developing a Pirates and Mermaids themed Escape Room for kids which will take place in February 2022; a Reading Buddies program in which teens are paired with younger readers; and more! New attendees are welcome.

Morning & Evening Book Group (Adult)

Copies of [*Children of Blood and Bone*](#) by Tomi Adeyemi will be available for pickup the week of December 13, to discuss Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30 PM and Thursday, January 13 at 10:30 AM. Copies of the audiobook are also available on the library's Hoopla account at <https://www.hoopladigital.com/> and limited copies of the audiobook and eBook are available from NH Downloadables here <https://nh.overdrive.com/> Book Group meetings are open to the public and meet in the large programming room in the old library. We welcome new members!

Read-Alouds with Miss Amanda

Bedtime stories are back! A new reading recording by Miss Amanda will be posted on our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/langdonlibrary>) at 7:30 PM every Friday in December. Picture books are read with permission from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Penguin Random House.

12/3: The Gruffalo's Child by Julia Donaldson/Axel Scheffler
12/10: Dear Treefrog by Joyce Sidman/Diana Sudyka
12/17: Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
12/24: The Polar Express by Chris van Allsburg
12/31: Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog by Pamela S. Turner

Wishing all of you a happy and healthy holiday season!

See you at the library,

Lara, Theresa, Amanda and Deb

Hours of Operation: Town Offices - Mon - Fri. 9 - 4:30pm (436-7640)
Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Tuesday through Thursday 9am-2pm
Building Dept. - Mon - Friday 7:30am- 3:30pm
Planning Dept. - Monday & Thursday 9 - 4:30pm (Planner by appointment)
Transfer Station: Wed 5 - 7pm, Sat 9 - 3pm
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