



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

Bob Blonigen, Chair
 Brandon Arsenault
 Christian Wayss



Town Offices will be closed in celebration of Christmas Day on Mon., Dec 25th and New Year's Day on Mon., Jan 1st.

INDEX:

<u>Page</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
1	Meetings Schedule
2-3	Fire Department
4	Town Clerk/Tax Collector
5-6	Police Department
6	Planning Board Public Mtg. Notice
7-9	Langdon Library
9-11	Recreation
10	BONFIRE NEWS!
11-12	Buildings, Safety & Health

Upcoming Meetings:

12/4/2023	Board of Selectmen	5: 30pm	Town Hall
12/5/2023	Police Commission	4pm	Police Station
12/5/2023	Recreation Committee	5: 30pm	Library
12/6/2023	Board of Fire Engineers	5:00pm	Fire Station
12/11/2023	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall
12/13/2023	Trustees of the Trust Fund	5: 30pm	Library
12/6/2023	Budget Committee	6pm	Town Hall
12/18/2023	Board of Selectmen	5: 30pm	Town Hall
12/20/2023	Sewer Commission	9am	Wst. Water Trtmt. Facility



Newington Fire & Rescue

I swear I just finished writing the November e-newsletter yet here we are, December. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and was able to enjoy some time with family and friends. As the weather continues to cool down during the overnights, please remain aware of frosty/icy steps and sidewalks in the morning. Even though we don't have any snow yet, walking surfaces can still be slippery. Don't forget to clear all of the frost and ice from the windows on your cars or trucks as well.

Around the station things continue to be busy. We continue to be steady with calls for service and fire inspections. As of writing this, we are 75 calls ahead of the same time last year. The holidays spot inspections have begun and will continue throughout the holiday season at all of our retail stores and shops. These spot inspections are done to ensure that any holiday décor is appropriately located, powered, and secured. Any existing and extra merchandise brought in is stored properly and is not blocking/reducing any aisleways, fire exits, sprinkler heads or standpipe connections and the like. These spot inspections happen almost daily during the holidays as Newington has many retail shops and stores, both large and small. I know I mentioned the holiday spot inspections last month too, but these are vital to maintaining the safety of the patrons and employees that work and shop within our community. Also, if you are out and about and see something of concern, feel free to give us a call and let us know.

Also, as I mentioned last month too, its budget time. If you should have any questions about anything to do with the FD budget, or just the department in general, please feel free to reach out to me or stop by and grab some coffee and chat. The fire service has evolved so much over the 30 years since I first started in it here in Newington under the guidance of Chief Larry Wahl. But even back then, Newington was having to deal with unique challenges due to its industrial, commercial and retail districts. We still have to deal with those similar challenges today, along with a myriad of other challenges due to being a small community fire department with limited resources that has a lot of potential within the industrial, commercial and retail districts.

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

E.J. 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



TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!

Tax Bills have gone out and will be due on December 15, 2023

We will be closed on Tuesday December 26th, and we will be open Wed. Dec 27 and Thurs. Dec 28th

The Presidential Primary Election will be held on January 23, 2024. Please see below for information about voting absentee from the Secretary of States Office:

VOTING ABSENTEE (BY MAIL) Request your absentee ballot from your town/city clerk as early as possible. An Absentee Ballot Application can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website by clicking on www.sos.nh.gov/elections/absentee-ballots See below for how to obtain your Clerk's contact information. If you are returning your completed absentee ballot by US Mail, the clerk must receive it by 5:00 p.m. on election day. To increase the likelihood the absentee ballot arrives on time we recommend mailing it at least two weeks before the election. After 5 days, check the Voter Information lookup, Absentee Ballot link, to see if your clerk has received the ballot. Contact your clerk if your ballot has not been received. You may also deliver the marked absentee ballot in the affidavit envelope and mailing envelope, to the clerk's office in-person or by a delivery agent until 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. A delivery agent may deliver it to the clerk at the polling place until 5:00 p.m. on election day. Family members, nursing home and elder care facility administrators, and a person assisting a voter with a disability who signs the absentee ballot affidavit (limited to delivering ballots for 4 voters) may be a delivery agent. See RSA 657:17
<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/LXIII/657/657-17.htm>

Find your clerk's contact information, your party membership status, or the status of your absentee ballot request here: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/viphome>

Any Questions don't hesitate to call or email. 603-436-7640 x 1 dcaradonna@townofnewingtonh.com



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Just like the movie Groundhog Day, with Actor Bill Murray, we overindulge during Thanksgiving, lose those extra pounds we gained, repeat the steps during the month of December, and then make our New Years resolution to get in shape for 2024. Enjoy family and friends this holiday season. Let us not forget those less fortunate than us and give what you can with donations or time.



This is our second year collecting new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. Thank you to Executive Assistant Taylor Fiore for spear heading the collections for the department. This past weekend Taylor and Officers spent time at The Crossings, collecting toy donations. Last year we collected 495 toys, with this year's goal being over 500. If you are feeling generous, stop by the Police Station and donate a toy. We would love to see you!!

As I have done in years past, I want to remind you of some safety tips while you are out holiday shopping. Take your time and always be aware of your surroundings. If shopping at night, park in well lit areas. Do not park next to the white van displaying a sign, "Free puppies" or "Free Gifts." Nothing is free. Don't leave anything valuable in your car. If you are going from store to store, place the items in your trunk or hatch and cover them up. Always lock your vehicle, even if you are running into the store for a minute. Keep your purse close to your body or your wallet in your front pants pocket. When in line to purchase your items, don't take out a large wad of cash for everyone to see. Take your time, be patient, and avoid confrontation. Shopping can be stressful but also enjoyable. Have fun and be safe.

A lot of us are shopping online, which can also be dangerous with holiday scams and identity theft.

Use retailers you know and have shopped with before. If shopping with a new retailer, check the customer reviews or complaints with the Better Business Bureau. Be cautious of the deal that is too good to be true. Do not use public Wi-Fi to make a purchase or use a VPN to avoid hackers intercepting your personal information. Look closely at the webpage you are on. Scammers and hackers are extremely good at disguising their website to look legitimate. It's as simple as changing

the font of a letter in a word. An example of this would be Citibank.com or Citibank.com. Notice the slight change in the letter "a."

As always, if you fall victim to a scam, hacker, or theft, notify us immediately.

Statistics as of November 30, 2023.

Motor vehicle stops	41	Summons/warnings issued
Accidents	9	Reports taken
Incidents/calls for service	33	Reports taken
Arrests	13	Felony/Misdemeanor offences
Field Interviews	3	Suspicious person(s)
Warrants	5	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!!

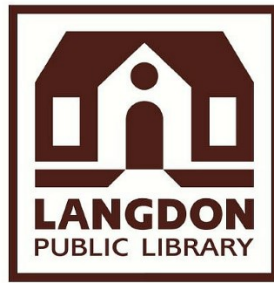
Chief Michael Bilodeau

∞ PUBLIC MEETING INVITATION ∞

The Planning Board needs your input! Tidemark, LLC has requested that the Planning Board create a Zoning Overlay District covering four parcels of land located between the Spaulding Turnpike, Shattuck Way and Nimble Hill Road (Tax Map 7, Lots 2A, 3, 24 and 25) totaling +-10 acres. This property is presently undeveloped except for Atco LanAir, an aeronautical manufacturing and engineering facility, however, there was a hotel (Riverbend Inn, Inn at Newington) and restaurant on this land for many years known as the Flagstones Restaurant. These parcels of land are currently zoned 'Office' which do not allow nursing homes, retail, restaurant and health care facilities – the proposed zoning overlay district would allow these uses. The proposal the Planning Board is being asked to consider consists of 50-175 units in a mix of independent living, assisted living and memory care units.

Since these uses are not currently allowed, the Town would need to vote to add this overlay district at Town Meeting in March 2024. **The Planning Board will not start the public hearing process until we have your input on December 11th at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall Kent Auditorium.** If you are unable to attend, please feel free to email your comments to: jkrebs@townofnewingtonnh.com

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please call John Krebs, Town Planner, at 436-7640 ext. 3.



Winter Warm Up

Seacoast
Men of Harmony:
Barbershop Quartet

Enjoy an evening of music, followed by subs,
cupcakes and seasonal refreshments at your
library!

Thurs. Dec. 14 at 6 pm

As 2023 winds to a close, the Langdon Library would like to give thanks to our amazing library users. According to the recently-released results of the NH State Library IMLS survey, Newington had the most checkouts per capita of the twenty seacoast libraries in 2022! In 2023, as of the end of October, activity trends for circulation (checkouts), program attendance and room use have already increased and rebounded to our pre-pandemic norms. For more about our library's usage trends click [here](#). The Langdon Library is proud to be one of the busiest and most resilient libraries on the seacoast!

At this time we would like to extend a special thank you to a few people who provided invaluable help this year:

Paul Pelletier, who stops by once a week to take our recycling to the transfer station, and moves our sandwich sign around as needed.

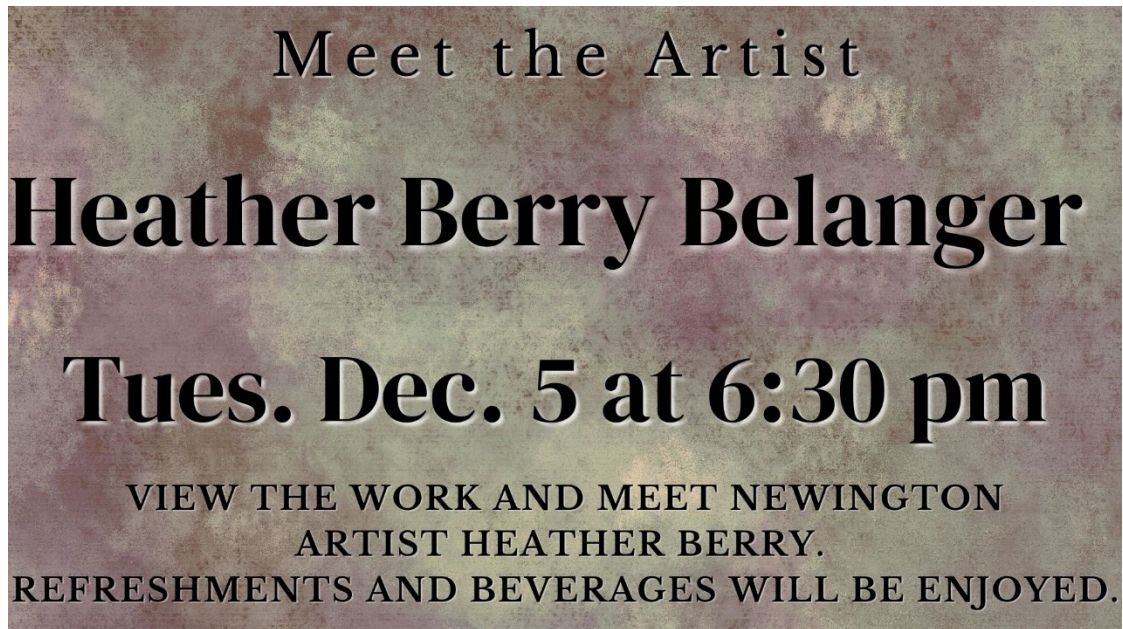
Lillian and Alan Wilson, who work hard maintaining the urn and rain garden in front of the library.

Beswick Engineering and Hauch Storage, whose donations make a big difference to what we can offer for programs and prizes for summer reading.

Natalia Jacuch, whose contributions as a teen volunteer and Teen Advisory Group leader have a hand in many successful programs at the library.

Melissa Videira Cardin, who made our day and brought joy to our patrons every time she and Norah, William or Clara came by with a floral arrangement to decorate the circulation desk.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who makes our Summer Reading Finale and Winter Warm-Up parties possible, especially trustee Chair Jack O'Reilly, who does the majority of legwork communicating with vendors, picking up refreshments, and soliciting donations for both events. Speaking of: **mark your calendars for this year's Winter Warm-Up, on Thursday, December 14 at 6 PM.** Come and listen to barbershop quartet [*Seacoast Men of Harmony*](#) for a mix of holiday and classic songs, followed by refreshments from Jersey Mike's, Stoneface Brewing Co., and much more. And don't miss our **final Meet the Artist event of the year, next Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 PM**, with Newington's own Heather Berry Belanger!



Thank you for a wonderful year. See you at the library!

December Programs:

Tech Talk with Randall Bush: Weds., Dec. 6 & 20 at 2:30 PM.

Writing Group: All ages are welcome to join us for a writing prompt and (optional) share, on Weds., Dec. 6 at 6 PM.

Story Times: There will be no Story Time on Friday, Dec. 1 or 15, but preschoolers and their caregivers are welcome to come to the library at 11 AM to play and connect with other families.

Game Night, Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 PM

Winter Warm-Up with Seacoast Men of Harmony, Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 PM

Craft Night, Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 6 PM. Bookmarks. All ages welcome.

Library Closed: Monday, Dec. 25 and Monday, Jan 1.

Lara, Theresa, Brittany and Debbie

www.langdonlibrary.org

October 2023 Library Usage Statistics

Checkouts	Visits	NH Downloadables	Hoopla Digital	Room Use	Program Attendance	Interlibrary Loan (To and From)
568	475	246	84	170	89	111

Recreation Report

Hello Newington Residents!

Let's start off with crazy weather on our Trunk or Treat night! Glad everyone came out anyway to town hall and got some treats on Table Night! Face Painter was a big hit with the kids and parents.

We made the best of a rainy Halloween Night! Here are a couple of pictures!



Holiday Party is on Saturday, December 9th from 1-5pm. The Portsmouth Chorus Group will be performing for us starting at 1pm. **Santa will arrive in his red fire engine at 2:30!** Santa says he will stay until 4:30. Families can take pictures with Santa at this time. Come for coffee, hot chocolate, snacks, and some holiday joy! We'll have music and other surprises for adults and children. Don't miss the fun! **Please don't forget to bring a gift for the toy drive for the Fire Department.**



January Activities 2024

Yoga Classes are from January 6th until March 9th. Classes are on a Saturday at 8:30AM We have Beth Grecoe a teacher at Pasada Yoga Studio in North Hampton. She is well experienced in teaching us all levels of Vinyasa. Vinyasa yoga focuses on the breath with a flow of Physical postures offering variation to suit all students. The combination of breath control and movement in Vinyasa yoga is designed to cultivate a deep mind-body connection. Practitioners often find that the practice promotes mindfulness and reduces stress.

Dance Exercise Classes are from January 9th until 12th. Classes are on Tuesday from 6:30pm until 7:30. Tia Pike is an experienced choreographer and dance instructor. Tia has coached competitive dance teams, taught dance exercise classes, created, and organized many flashmobs, and has organized dance performances for the Portsmouth Halloween parade for many years. Class description: Dance for Joy and Exercise! Get your body moving with some calorie burning dance exercise moves that are easy, safe, and fun! Learn simple dance routines that feel like mini performances to boost your energy and self-confidence. No dance experience required!

Both classes are being offered for 10 classes for \$70. The drop in cost is \$10. The location is the Old Town Hall. Offered to Newington Residents and guests only.

The 70's Dance Party will be on Saturday, January 27th! The snow date is Sunday the 28th Get a sitter, get a costume, or not but come to the Town Hall for great music played by TonyMack Band! Music

will be from the 70's and 80's Let's Boggie the night away...Bring your beverage of choice, bring a dish to share! Residents only and guests.

February Activities 2024

Cooking with Jack Lee: After all that exercise you want to learn how to make a carb meal. Jack Lee from our town of Newington will teach us about cooking pasta and sauces. Class will be limited to 12 people. The location will be at the Town Hall. The date is **Saturday, February 10th. Time is 2pm until 4pm.** The cost will be \$35 for all supplies, materials will be available.

Look out for our **CPR AED Class being offered on February 17th** 10am until 1pm. The instructor is our very own Gail Klanchesser. Gail has been teaching CPR AED, First Aid, babysitting, and safety courses for 20 yrs. She is authorized through the American Heart Associates. Cost will be \$60/pp. Which includes a student workbook.

All Activities and Events are for Newington Residents and Guests!

Pickleball nets are coming down. We had a great summer and fall season. Our Recreation Committee is working on getting a fence on the Newington Road playground, so pickleball players don't lose the ball in the tall grass!

BONFIRE AT THE OLD PARSONAGE!!!

Friday, December 22nd (5-8pm)

Bring your own beverage and potluck meal or desert to share!



We hear that Santa will be driving by!



December Building Dept Newsletter

Hello Newington residents! How can it be December already!? Get your shovels out, fuel up the snowblower and thank our Highway Dept in advance for keeping our Town roads safe and passable. In the next few days I'm sure you will start seeing salt buckets and scoops at our Town Buildings entrances. Please feel free to inform building staff or Town Hall if buckets need to be refilled or you experience slippery entrances. All Town staff try their best to keep walkways clear and salted, but if

one needs attention please feel free to reach out to building staff while you're there or Town Hall for normally unoccupied buildings. Winter safety is a priority for us. For any other questions or concerns regarding our Town Buildings please feel free to reach out to me directly and I will do my best to assist you. jboston@townofnewingtonnh.com or 603.436.7640 ext2



In the month of November Town employees attended Slips, Trips and Falls Prevention Training at Town Hall in the DeRochemont room provided by Primex. Always nice to have some refresher training!



Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Boston

Buildings, Safety and Health Officer

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

Subscribe or *Unsubscribe* at this link: <http://www.newington.nh.us/subscribe>

WOULD YOU PREFER TO GET A PRINTED COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER MAILED TO YOU?

Just call the town hall and we will put you on our mailing list (603-436-7640 ext 4)