



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

INDEX:

<u>Page</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
1	Meetings Schedule
2-6	Recreation
7	Building Department
8	Earth Day Clean Up- Thanks!
9-10	Fire Department
11-17	Police Department
18-19	Langdon Library
20	Trash Reminder

Upcoming Meetings:

5/1/2023	Board of Selectmen	5: 30pm	Town Hall
5/3/2023	Board of Fire Engineers	5:00pm	Fire Station
5/8/2023	Planning Board	6pm	Old Town Hall
5/9/2023	Police Commission	4pm	Police Station
5/10/2023	Trustees of the Trust Fund	5: 30pm	Library
5/11/2023	Conservation Commission	6:30pm	Town Hall
5/15/2023	Board of Selectmen	5: 30pm	Town Hall
5/17/2023	Sewer Commission	9am	Wst. Water Trtmt. Facility
5/17/2023	Stone School Committee	5:30pm	Town Hall
5/22/2023	Planning Board	6pm	Old Town Hall
5/23/2023	Historic District Commission	10:30am	Town Hall

Recreation Committee Newsletter

Hello Newington Residents! Thank you all for coming to the Easter Egg Hunt. We had so much fun, watching the kids find the eggs, especially the Golden Eggs!! We had 22 golden eggs this year. The kids loved picking out a gift, the highlight of the day. The committee wants to thank all the volunteers that came out to help make this day special. We had volunteers fill the eggs, placed the eggs in the field. Also, a thanks for the food that was homemade by our volunteers. Shout out to those who helped the committee set up the party and helped clean-up. Could not do it without you!! We would like to thank the fire department for driving the Easter Bunny to our party! Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate, and or hot soup. Especially coming in from a very windy, cold day. Was nice to see the kids, parents, and neighbors, chit chat with each other. Wonderful Event!!







The committee wants to remind you that we have our own YMCA Camp here in Newington for the Summer. The YMCA Camp Newington will run from June 26th until August 25th. For information to sign up contact the Camp Registrar: llarocque@graniteymca.org or call (603) 431 2334.

Another important event is our Senior Dinner on May 21st. It's a Sunday from 4pm until 7:30. Free for our seniors (60 years and up). We are having Terra Cotta Pasta catering. It will be buffet style, which will include eggplant parm., chicken marsala, and meatballs. Of course, will have bread, salad, and dessert! Don't forget to sign-up at Town Hall or email NewingtonRecreation@gmail.com.



Walking group is still on at 4:30 every Monday, starting at the Langdon Library!

Our tennis court, pickleball court, basketball court, baseball field are all set up, cleaned up, and ready for you to have fun and play. Almost forgot about our frisbee golf, go outside and enjoy our fields and playgrounds. Reminder that the frisbee golf course, and the old town hall playground will be closed during Camp Newington hours (7:30am to 5:30pm). June 26th until August 25th.



Go check out our new additions to our playground (behind old town hall) the new slides and don't forget the popular zipline...

Thank you to Brian Haberstroh and volunteers for all of your time and effort with the ice rink this year.

Save the date Newington Residents Septemberfest is September 16th!!

Building Dept May Newsletter

Hello Newington residents! I just wanted to share some helpful tips this month on Energy Savings. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to some great warm weather and BBQ's!

*Change the filters in the heating and cooling system of your home regularly. Heating and cooling use more energy than any other system in the home, accounting for approximately 43% of a year's total energy spending. Dirty filters overwork equipment which leads to early equipment failure. Replacing filters every 1–3 months saves up to \$5 each month on utility bills and results in healthier indoor air.

*Install a programmable thermostat to keep your home comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer. ENERGY STAR® estimates homeowners save, on average, \$180 each year when programmable thermostats are properly installed and customized to your household's schedule. Use the orientation of your home to reduce heating and cooling needs.

* During warmer months, close curtains and shades on the sunny side of your home to help keep the inside temperature cooler and reduce the work of your air conditioner. Open shades during cooler months to allow the sun to warm your home.

* Replace your light bulbs with LEDs. LEDs use up to 90% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. Install lighting controls such as occupancy sensors and dimmers to save electricity. Occupancy sensors automatically turn lights off when not in use and can reduce wasted energy by roughly 30%. Dimmers can reduce energy use by about 20%. For additional savings, use natural light when possible.

* Reduce the amount of air that leaks in and out of your home by caulking and weatherstripping to further reduce heating and cooling costs. The EPA estimates homeowners can save 15–20% on heating and cooling costs by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors over crawl spaces and basements.

*Turn off and unplug home electronics and other devices when not in use. Using a smart or advanced power strip to manage plug loads is an easy way to save money on your electric bills—the average household could save \$100 or more annually by reducing the standby load for game consoles alone. Choose energy efficient products—such as ENERGY STAR® certified products—when you buy or replace household appliances. Save additional energy by running your appliances at night and washing your clothes in cold water.

* Learn to effectively use the fans in your home. Spot ventilation fans—including the exhaust fans in your bathroom, laundry room and kitchen—are effective at removing moisture and indoor air pollution. Leaving these fans running longer than necessary, however, can cost you money. Ceiling fans can also increase energy savings, but it's important to turn ceiling fans off when leaving the room. Insulate your water heater to reduce heat loss and improve efficiency. Installing an insulation blanket is a simple and inexpensive way to improve the efficiency of your water heater, especially when the water heater is older or located in an unconditioned space.

Jeremy Boston
Buildings, Safety and Health Officer
603.436.7640 Ext2

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP THANKS!

Thanks to all that helped clean up the town on Earth Day weekend!



Ellie Johnson- cleaning up between Fabyan and South Newington park. Thanks Ellie!

Newington Fire & Rescue

May is one of my favorite times of the year. Temperatures are warming up; trees are budding and flowers are starting to bloom. The old adage April showers bring May flowers is right on track. Hopefully it will keep the pollen to minimal levels, fingers crossed.

We continue to be busy at the FD. Calls for service have been fairly steady, but the inspections divisions pace has been increasing as the weather gets nicer and construction projects pick up. We had the pleasure of working with the Recreation Department to deliver the Easter Bunny to the Old Town Hall in a fire truck for their annual Easter event.

Newington Fire hosted a regional training done by the NH State Fire Marshals office a couple weeks ago. We had a great turnout from all over the area. The fire boat, Marine 1, has been moved back to Great Bay Marina for the season. So, if you happen to be down there and see any of the crews performing its weekly checks swing over and say hi.

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

Newington Fire & Rescue

Spring Outdoor Safety Tips

Spring is here and it's a good time to be outside enjoying the weather. Here are some ways to help keep you and your loved ones healthy.

Beware and aware of BUGS!

Mosquitos, ticks, and fleas transmit diseases. Use appropriate insect repellent. Avoid tick infested areas such as high grass or thick brush. Shower as soon as possible after coming indoors and check your body for ticks. Check your children.

Wash and tumble dry clothing. Check pets for ticks. Consult your health care provider if you or a family member develops fever, rash, body aches, headache, stiff neck, fatigue or disorientation after a tick bite. Typically, these symptoms occur in the first three weeks after a tick bite.

Grilling out?

Use a meat thermometer to make sure meats are cooked thoroughly. Place cooked meat on a clean platter not back on the one that held raw meats. Wash hands, kitchen utensils and any surfaces that have been in contact with raw meats as soon as possible. Good rule: Keep HOT foods HOT and COLD foods COLD.

In the SUN....

Do your part to protect yourself and your family from illnesses that are transmitted when participating in recreational water activities. Do not swim if you have diarrhea, do not swallow pool water, wash your hands frequently. Avoid being directly in the sun during the hottest time of the day. Use sunscreen at least SPF 15, cover skin with clothing and wear a wide brimmed hat. Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes (UVA and UVB rays). Always be aware of signs of heat stress.

Spending time with Nature....

Drinking stream water even though it looks clear is risky business. Clear doesn't mean safe. Cryptosporidium and Giardia are parasites that inhabit water. They are not visible and can cause significant illness. Always filter or treat water to make it safe for drinking. Protect yourself from mosquitos, ticks and other insects by using an appropriate repellent. Check yourself daily for ticks. Ticks should be carefully removed. Bats enjoy the night life. Bats are a common sight at dusk when camping. Remind children to never touch a bat. Bats may be infected with rabies. If bitten, wash the area well and seek immediate medical attention.

Have a healthy and safe Spring!



POLICE DEPARTMENT

By the time you receive this, April Vacation is over, and the kids are back at school. I hope everyone enjoyed their vacation or staycation!!

On April 15th, we conducted our community SWOT exercise at the police station, with thirteen residents. I was hoping for more participation from the public and the business district but next time. From what I was told and read in the analysis, there was a lot of positive discussion on how we police the community. There were also some enhancement considerations we can make to improve our game. Thank you to those who came out and participated in the discussion. A printed copy of the Analysis will be posted at town hall and in the lobby of the police station for public viewing. See below for the full report.

I usually send out a reminder during the holidays of the current SCAMS that are costing millions of Americans their financial stability. With the increase of Artificial Intelligence, SCAMERS have enhanced their ability to deceive, by extracting a person's voice from social media videos, and using certain phrases, so the victim of the SCAM believes they are actually talking to a loved one. This SCAM is usually focused on senior citizens who are told their grandchild has been arrested or in an accident and needs money. The scammer will instruct the person to purchase gift cards, scratch the back of the card for the code numbers, and to call a specific number back to provide the codes.

This past year, there have been a total of 372 NH residents defrauded with the average loss of \$39,000.00. Over 88,000 victims are 60 years or older nationwide, with a total loss of \$3.1 billion dollars.

Please have a conversation with your loved ones about technology scams. We are more than willing to help and are just a phone call away to prevent this from occurring.

Congratulations to these two for successfully completing and graduating from the New Hampshire Police Academy; 191st class. They will be starting their 12-week field training program May 1st.



Photograph to the left: Probationary Officer Kyle Hume.

Photograph to the right: Probationary Officer Ricardo Saint-Marc.

Statistics as of March 29, 2023.

Motor vehicle stops	121	Summons/warnings issued
Accidents	4	Reports taken
Incidents/calls for service	32	Reports taken
Arrests	9	Felony/Misdemeanor offences
Field Interviews	2	Suspicious person(s)
Warrants	3	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

Newington Police Department

Community SWOT Analysis 2023

Chief Michael Bilodeau contracted to have a SWOT analysis conducted with a diverse group of Newington residents to garner insight of their perceptions regarding the functions of the Department. A SWOT is an acronym for **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats** that is designed as a mechanism that ensures a well-rounded approach to gathering relevant information designed to focus upon external dynamics exclusively and gather insight, perceptions, and expertise from residents. Additionally, it is designed to detect and develop recommendations needed to establish a framework of goals and expectations for the future of the Newington Police Department as well as a high-level review of systems and procedures for potential enhancements of efficiencies. While a SWOT is not a comprehensive review, it is intended to contribute to the coordination and alignment of Newington Police resources, activities, mission, and vision statements all designed to enhance delivery of law enforcement services to the Newington community.

A number of common themes arose from the exercise enabling a focus upon several salient points, allowing for recommendations designed to enhance these areas. While the recommendations may be accomplished in a casual fashion to allow the administration flexibility in approaching the issue, they are not designed to be a comprehensive step by step process for implementation, but rather to offer insight that may serve as an impetus for an initiative to be developed.

Affirming Strengths

Attendees were quick to articulate that the Newington Police enjoy a great reputation within the community. There was consensus from those in attendance that the Newington Police is comprised of people who are committed, compassionate and empathetic to those they serve. They believe the officers are a competent group that has a strong work ethic willing to get the job done, continuously seeking to improve their methods and take advantage of all opportunities. They recognize that the educational level of the staff is high with most officers having obtained college degrees. There was an acknowledge that there is significant community support and that in

NEWINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community SWOT Analysis 2023

return, the Town is a safe and comfortable place to live. Others articulated that there is a small- town atmosphere where the officers know community members and their families. Participants were very pleased with the level of openness, especially of Chief Bilodeau, to making policy changes and have been responsive to community requests.

Other strengths that were highlighted include:

- Good community interactions with residents.
- The officers are not intimidating and have remained very approachable.
- Many praised that the officers have a good relationship with the schools.
- Chief Bilodeau sets a good example for the staff and has hired people of the same philosophy.
- Chief Bilodeau is considered a strength for the Department.
- The Newington Police are very willing to help other town departments.
- Patrol officers are willing to assist with any task before them. One participant referenced how an officer handled several large animals that had escaped from their corral.
- The residents acknowledged the attention of the police to the business, commercial and retail entities.
- There was significant acknowledgement that the officers go above and beyond their job descriptions.
- Many noted that the officers often visit older residents of the community during storms and other natural events. Several noted that they have been known to visit a number of seniors during holidays.
- There was an awareness of a program where the Newington Police perform daily wellness checks on seniors living alone.
- It was clear to the participants that the Newington Police know the community well, both geographically and personally.
- The officers perform house checks and seem to know when something is out of place.
- There is a very constructive effort to have positive interactions with town youth.
- There was praise that the Department is fiscally responsible with the operating budget and has a plan so that residents know what the money is purchasing.

An arrest of an individual that had occurred the night before the SWOT exercise was highlighted by a participant as an example of the Department's commitment to the community. Chief Bilodeau had shared that Newington Police had set up a surveillance of a business located at the Newington Mall which had been the target of multiple thefts allegedly by one lone man. So pervasive was this culprit that the area businesses called him the "Sketchy black back-pack guy". National corporate HQ of this business had taken the tact that they did not want their employees engaged in

NEWINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community SWOT Analysis 2023

potentially dangerous or litigious activity to stop this man. Chief Bilodeau and his staff determined these thefts must stop and formulated a plan! Newington police monitored the store, observed criminal activity occurring and arrested the man for a variety of offenses. As Chief Bilodeau shared, while he does not agree with the philosophy of the business, the Newington Police understood the concern. They were determined to collaboratively address this threat impacting all the business at the mall and demonstrate the Department's commitment to ensuring a safe environment for all members of the community, residents, and businesses.

Enhancement Considerations

While the "weakness" area of this analysis implies some concern, the focus was designed to be upon those things that the Newington Police currently do but may benefit by some enhancements. There was consensus that the agency is very accommodating and strives to perform at a high level during these nationally challenging times for the police profession. The central theme that emerged during the SWOT exercise concerned traffic, specifically speeding traffic through Newington. The residents engaged in the analysis acknowledged that their community is seen by others as a "cut-through" benefiting themselves but not the residents who are fearful as they retrieve mail or newspapers. Others are issues that the residents noted as the "new reality" that may not be easily addressed if at all as they are out of the purview of the agency. These include:

- Residents would encourage officers on patrol to randomly stop when they see homeowners raking their lawns, etc. "We would love to see a patrol officer wave or stop by just to say hi."
- Speeding through the community was a common theme. "Going too fast on Nimble Hill"
- Initiate programs that engage the community. Many articulated that they would love to meet the officers, new ones especially!
- Residents are aware that the police are involved in the school but don't see the patrolmen on the street etc. when kids are outside playing.

As noted, speeding was a prevalent concern warranting discussions as to what steps may be taken to curtail the numerous incidents. There was awareness that the police cannot do it all with some suggestion of installing speed tables, purchasing speed signs and other artificial devices.

Opportunities for Consideration

A number of themes emerged during the SWOT exercise, which were forward thinking suggestions that may be considered by Chief Bilodeau and his staff for inclusion in long-range visionary discussions. These include:

NEWINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community SWOT Analysis 2023

- Additional comments about installation of any type of speed calming strategies were prevalent during the Opportunities segment. Additional ideas may be viewed at <https://www.pps.org/article/livememtraffic>
- Install a stop sign at Nimble Hill and Fox Point Roads.
- Continue using the community newsletter to share information and make connections with the community.
- Park unattended cruisers in high traffic areas.
- Engage residents in initiatives like today's exercise.
- Continue and enhance police engagement with the business district in person and possibly through Facebook.
- Consider additional signage such as "Speed Limits Strictly Enforced" while being sensitive to sign pollution.

Looming Challenges and Threats

In this area of the SWOT exercise, participants are asked to consider items or themes that may present a future challenge or threat to the organization if not anticipated and/or addressed in advance. These include:

- The national concerns commonly expressed about policing remain a concern. The Newington community widely supports the Police Department as they are viewed as professional and compassionate people.
- The residents expanded the national dialogue to Newington hoping that the negative environment regarding policing in America will soon wane and not impact recruiting and retention of the existing staff.
- There is an awareness that Chief Bilodeau will retire one day.
- One resident expressed a desire to have police patrolling the mall at closing time so that employees can walk to their cars at night.
- Corporate mentality at the mall possibly not desirous to seek assistance from police.
- Expectation for outside entities asking for our police to assist them.

Conclusion

As noted, this briefing is offered to provide the Newington Police administration with a number of relevant points that are forward looking and may offer a foundation to a much more in-depth strategic plan. While many points may be implemented with minimal disruption to the organization, others are largely out of the control of the agency. Challenging economic times and

NEWINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community SWOT Analysis 2023

the desire to be all things to all residents are not readily addressed items under the purview of the police administration. Engaging residents to set clear objectives and goals ensures that the ultimate arbitrators of what constitutes excellent policing, are heard. The Newington Police are recognized as a forward-driven organization continuously seeking input and ideas from their community. The significant energy provided to sustain this commitment is well invested.



LANGDON
PUBLIC LIBRARY



May at the Library

Our sincere thanks to the library trustees and patrons who brought us treats and goodies on National Library Week! We are truly grateful for the generosity and kindness of the Newington community.

We are delighted to host another "Meet the Artist" night for a Newington resident here at the library this month. Join Newington artist [Dave Turbide](#) this **Tuesday, May 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM** for canapes and beverages and to view his work, a variety of oils, watercolors and acrylic paintings, on display.

Tech Talks with Randall Bush resumes this month on **Wednesday, May 3 at 3:30** (note the time change) and **Wednesday, May 24 at 2:30**. Do you have a question about your phone, email, computer or tablet? We can help! Randall Bush is available for drop in questions. First come, first served.

Our May Book Group for adults and teens is **Thursday, May 18 at 10:30 AM**. Copies of [Good Kings, Bad Kings](#) by Susan Nussbaum, a PEN/ Bellwether Prize winning novel about teens with disabilities

in an institution in Chicago, are available at the desk. The eBook is available on [NH Downloadables](#) and [Hoopla](#), and the audio book is available on [Hoopla](#). You may discuss it in a digital forum at <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/may-book-group/> Contact the library for the password.

Preschool Story Times on Friday mornings, Teen Advisory Group on Thursday evenings, Game Night, Makerfest and a Paint Night on Tuesday evenings will also be enjoyed at the library in May. For dates, times and more information about May programs please browse our website www.langdonlibrary.org or sign up for our newsletter at <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/langdon-letter/>

See you at the library!

Lara, Theresa, Brittany and Debbie

Want to appreciate a library worker for National Library Workers Day? Nominate them as a "Star" here: <https://ala-apa.org/nlwd/>

New Book Bites reviews can be read and added to here: <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/book-bites/>

Next Library Trustee Meeting: **Thursday May 4, 2023 at 5:30 PM** at the library

Note: the Library will be closed **Saturday, May 27 and Monday, May 29** for Memorial Day.

March 2023 Library Usage Statistics

Checkouts	Visits	NH Downloadables	Hoopla Digital	Room Use	Program Attendance	Interlibrary Loan (To and From)
693	569	209	83	241	110	109



Reminder to place your trash containers 3 feet apart at the curb so that the truck can pick them up.
Thanks!

PLEASE SEE THE FLYER AT THE FOLLOWING LINK SHOWING HOW TO PUT OUT YOUR NEW TRASH CONTAINERS:

[Instructions on How to Put Out Your New Trash Containers. Please See Attached Document. | Newington NH](#)

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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