

The Newport Times

Newport's Good News Paper

Serving the Town of Newport, NH

March/April 2023

Est. January 2022

"Simple old-fashioned values that come from a sense of community are the key to a great society. I believe we all have that sense from childhood memories, when life was simple. It's those memories that should drive us to reflect on our values"

~ Lindsay Fox



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Left: Little Pantry. Center: "The Stone Church." Right: Reverend Susan Langle, Newport's Church of the Epiphany Priest-in-Partnership.

The Stone Church A Solid Foundation for Community Caring

Jacqueline Cote

Reverend Susan Langle, Newport's Church of the Epiphany Priest-in-Partnership, has served part-time since September 2022. In this role she coordinates and collaborates with members of the congregation and community at large looking for opportunities to enhance the lives of Newporters. She has lived in Sullivan County since 2008 serving a congregation in Claremont and as a Hospice Chaplain for Bayada Hospice in Norwich VT. Susan studied at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge,

MA and the Chaplaincy Program at Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven CT. Her prior work was as a lawyer in the NH Mental Health System. When she is not knitting, she walks her black and white canine, Abby, or rescues a ball of yarn from Mr. Cat!

The Church of the Epiphany, or Stone Church as it is sometimes called, was a gift of Mrs. George S. Edgell and Austin Corbin with land purchased and building started in 1907. Note the postcard accompanying this article from 1907/1908 that shows what the original church looked like. The building style is of Gothic

type with field stone and concrete. The Undercroft-basement was hand dug by women of the Church with wheelbarrows and shovels. According to a letter from Arlene Bennett Storie from the January 10, 1957 *Argus Champion*, many loads of stone were donated by her uncle, Bela Cutting, and came from his pasture and upper field on the road to Claremont. The church has long been a home for community gatherings and AA meetings.

One such community-enhancing offering is The Sunshine Diner which was founded at the church by the late Rich Chappell, who enjoyed his duties as "chef"

Continued on page 13



The old Depot Building will soon be a hub of activity again

Chamber of Commerce Has a New Home

Ann St. Martin Stout

In early February of this year, Newport Area Chamber of Commerce received the gift of the Newport Depot Building at 19 Depot Street from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. The Depot, an historic building currently valued on the tax rolls at \$217,000, was constructed in 1897. It served rail passengers on the Claremont and Concord lines, though originally part of the Boston and Maine Line. Freight was also carried on this line.

The building served passengers for 58 years until 1955. Freight service lasted until 1977. The building ended its use with the last scheduled passenger run

in 1955, and was sold in 1958, and would eventually house various small businesses.

The 1600 square feet of the main floor of the new chamber building will serve as offices, a conference room, and a Welcome center, according to Shannon MacMichael, Executive Director. The full, unfinished basement will provide dry storage for event signs, supplies and other items. In recent years, the offices the Chamber occupied required off-site storage.

The Depot building sits on about 1/3 of an acre, abutted by land owned by Newport's two banks and the Town of Newport. A sloped embankment behind the building leads to the town's recreational facilities,

Continued on page 11

Mark Pitkin: A Man About Town

This month's Hometown Hero is Mark Pitkin, CEO and President of Sugar River Bank, a 127-year-old mutual institution, based right here in Newport. In 2009 Mark accepted the position of President & CEO making him the youngest bank president in New Hampshire's history. Before which, he served in several other positions including, Senior Loan Officer, Senior Commercial Loan Officer, and Credit Officer. Prior to joining Sugar River Bank in January 1995, Mark was a bank examiner for the FDIC.

He has served and continues to serve on numerous boards and associations such as his appointment by the Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to serve on the Washington, DC based FDIC Advisory Committee on Community Banking. He also serves as a member of the American Bankers Association's Government Relations Committee and the Administrative Committee of the Mutual Institutions Council, Chairman of the Housing for the Elderly in Newport, Inc., is president of the Economic Corporation of Newport, NH and is trustee of New London Hospital among many others.

Born and raised in Newport, NH, he graduated as the co-valedictorian of his high school class ('87) and excelled in math. He received both his B.S. in Business Administration ('91) and his MBA ('04) from the University of New Hampshire, graduating each at the top of his class. Mark went on to serve as an alumni advisor to the First-year Innovation and Research Experience (FIRE) program at the Paul School of Business. He has completed the Graduate School of Bank Investments and Financial Management at the University of South Carolina and the Graduate School of Commercial Lending at Babson College.

Although Mark's professional and academic successes are noteworthy, those aren't the primary attributes that make him a hometown hero. Mark wholeheartedly lives out what it means to be "hometown." His deeply held hometown-values of security, love, and family support are demonstrated daily in his personal and professional lives. Mark married his high school sweetheart, Lisa, whom he says is his "rock" and has "supported him in every step of his career and continues to be a source of inspiration." He and Lisa have two children, Brittany and Bryan who are the "lights of his [their] life and continue to remain devoted to their family." If anyone knows Donna Pitkin, Mark's mother, you know for certain she continues to be his number-one cheerleader.

Dave Lantz, owner and operator of MJ Harrington Jewelers of Newport and Sugar River Bank board member had this to say about Mark. "Mark Pitkin is the perfect choice for Ruger's Hometown Hero. He is genuinely proud of his family, his roots and is humble about his success. His love and devotion to the bank and community runs deep. He uses his talents and skills to advance the bank but, moreover he applies his passion for community in greater service to the public."

His strong leadership and giving spirit are felt throughout the bank and are perhaps a little obscured



Mark Pitkin at Sugar River Bank's customer appreciation day

in public due to Mark's humility. Ann O'Clair, retired CFO of Sugar River Bank and present board member says, "He has appealed to Senators and Representatives at both levels, to consider how proposed legislation will impact families and the community. He has built compromise through communicating the first-hand experiences he and his family have had, as well as first-hand experiences he has witnessed in the community, to help those in power relate to the realities of living in rural NH. This drives his service attitude at all levels. Routinely, he asks how or what will be the impact of changes and decisions to our loyal customers, while he serves as President and CEO of Sugar River Bank.

His generosity extends to his banking family as well. Annually, through the Bank's summer outing, he strives to provide an opportunity for employees and their families to participate in an event that they may otherwise not be able to, such as taking in a Red Sox game, cruising Boston Harbor or Lake Winnepesaukee, to name a few. This generosity also is what inspires him to remain engaged in the community as it navigates the challenges rural New Hampshire poses."

When asked about what "hometown" means to him he reflected and said, "Selflessly helping others makes a hometown strong. Imagine if everyone helped everyone else, expecting nothing in return. What a great world this would be. Newport is a great hometown with great people. I couldn't imagine growing up and living anywhere different. A town is as good as you make it and there are so many Newporters that make Newport so special." ■



Mark in the dunk tank



Mark on vacation with family

 **RUGER** is the proud sponsor of the Hometown Hero page

By focusing on our associates, our neighbors, and the town we all love, Ruger is committed to building a future Newport can be proud of.

Crafts, Conversations, and Camaraderie

Stacey Hammerlind

Sugar River Women's Connection, formerly known as Newport Women's Group, is a community-based women's group focused on providing a safe, supportive and creative environment. Women from all local areas are invited to participate in monthly gatherings where they can meet new people and share their ideas, attitudes and individual life experiences in an accepting, non-judgemental atmosphere. Originally established in pre-Covid times with a strong attendance, the group has recently resurfaced and is working to regenerate and strengthen its core recurring membership.

Current gatherings, appealing to women's creativity, have included designing individual vision boards, mandala dot painting, holiday pop-up cards, hanging gift boxes, paper flower making and, most recently, still life painting with acrylics. While the group encourages women of all skill levels to participate in the hands-on crafts suggested, the primary focus is to provide a supportive environment in which participants can engage in conversations around topics or issues they are experiencing in their daily lives. If nothing else, perhaps a few hours out of the house and away from the daily routines and sometimes hectic family life will provide some much-needed respite.



In early 2020, the group met to establish their vision and mission statement. Skillfully led by Kim Brassor, founder of Life By Design LLC, a fluid outline was formed. The overall Vision is to welcome new people, ideas and attitudes, while the Mission is to form a compassionate alliance dedicated to helping women to 1) connect and find their authentic voice; 2) embrace their unique path; and, 3) move effectively in the world. Shortly after this statement was conceived, Covid restrictions essentially shut down the group's meetings and they were quiet for a time. Happily, in late 2022, gatherings were restarted and the plan is to broaden the group's activities to take action in social, community and philanthropic-driven events.

Ideas for future gatherings include working as a group to create or collect hats, mittens, or blankets to be donated to a charitable cause; make a quilt joining individual efforts; invite a special guest speaker to address a topic of mutual interest; organize a book club around timely issues; or any other activity collectively supported by the group. This is meant to be a collaborative effort; input and suggestions from all attendees is encouraged. If membership continues

to grow, perhaps childcare can be provided to facilitate single moms' participation in the evening events as well.

Gatherings are currently planned for the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 in the evening and events are posted via Facebook at www.facebook.com/SugarRiverWomensConnection. The group has most recently been meeting at Richards Free Library as time and the library calendar allows, although they would love to find a more permanent home that would provide for flexibility and a consistent sense of place. They look forward to exploring how to better support local women and the surrounding community. For additional information or to contact existing group members, please reach out via direct messaging to Facebook page, email to srwomensconnection@gmail.com or telephone at 802-222-0865. ■

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Pride in Place

I'm sure it's not lost on you readers that I do not live in Newport. One might argue, then, that I couldn't possibly have enough knowledge and understanding to know what is relevant and important to include in these uplifting pages. While it can make my job easier to know some of the 'inside scoop' that certainly does influence a community's personality and what it holds dear, I would argue that having an outsider's perspective, while holding true to our mission of "uplifting humanity through the power of positive press," can help elevate how a community views itself.

Since I have publications in four other very different communities – from Newport and from each other – it has been fascinating to see what works and what doesn't work in each. Surprisingly – and not so surprisingly – the core issues and behaviors are essentially the same.

1. Being united in shared pride in one's community
2. Keeping the community's best interest as top priority
3. How people treat each other

I truly believe that when a community of people unite in what is wonderful about where they live and raise their families, the issues where people diverge are given less weight and can be addressed with more civility. When everyone is on the same page about putting 'community first,' the rest can and does get sorted out because people can trust that the only 'special interest' in the room is that of the community.

When people are proud of where they live/come from, they have a shared foundation that provides the feeling of safety and security we all need as humans. Based on what I've seen in my 28 years of publishing community good-news papers, I would say that Newport has this quality in spades! Just read this issue. Every article talks about people volunteering to help others connect, to help enliven the community, to help maintain its public lands, to help secure resources for its future (see cover story about the new Chamber office and Sunshine Town pages), to help its kids, its seniors and its animals. Everyone helps everyone and it's amazing!

While I don't live in Newport (or in any of the communities in which I have publications), I am proud to be part of this community through these pages. I am grateful to all who continue to provide ideas and articles, and to those who sponsor pages and advertise their ongoing commitment to the community through their businesses. All come from you and celebrate you and all the good that happened, is happening and will continue to happen in this incredible Sunshine Town!

~ Jen MacMillen



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The Newport Times

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And all of the representatives of the community organizations featured

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and especially all of the contributors in each issue.

To contribute story ideas or submit your organization's content, email publisher@greatergoodmedia.net.

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June Gould: Still Cooking After 32 Years of Service



options in life, Sullivan County Nutrition Services (SCNS) is fortunate to have June Gould as an important ingredient to our recipe for success.

June Gould started employment with SCNS on April 19, 1991. Prior to her 32 years of employment, June volunteered for a year through the Green Thumb program. During June's time with SCNS, she has made more than a baker's dozen of deep friendships tied to her love for the kitchen and has helped prepare over 3 million meals for others to enjoy over the years.

At 89 years young, in June, June continues to enrich the lives of others by the fruits of her labor. Whether she is baking her homemade donuts for friends and family or helping prepare 500 meals a day for residents of Sullivan County, nurturing others comes easy to June, and she never expects anything in return.

When she is not whipping something up in the kitchen or keeping the dishwasher flowing, June enjoys gambling and spending time with her large family. June's zest and passion for life is an example that anything is possible when you make the choice to persevere through adversity.

June is a perfect example of what makes life magical and SCNS is grateful for her 32 years of dedication. One cannot help but to be inspired by and to admire June as she continues to meet her goal to work until the age of 90.



George Jones sang it best when he sang, 'who is going to fill their shoes?' If you have as much stamina as June, with a fleeting desire to connect with others and want to feel you truly belong to a community, consider sharing your culinary expertise with others who sincerely appreciate receiving the necessity in life – a daily nutritious meal.

If you are in "knead" of a sense of improving the lives of others, challenge yourself to prepare and serve over 3 million nutritious meals to older adults who may not otherwise have the means to obtain at least one daily meal. Applications are available at your fun, friendly Newport Senior Center. ■

~ Brenda Burns

Small, positive actions that you take moment by moment add up to something worthwhile. We all know that every recipe needs a special rising agent if it is going to be savored by others. With so many



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Rec Program Spotlight

Basketball Clinic hosted by NMHS

Another year is in the books for the Newport Rec Youth Basketball program, one of our longest-running winter sports. This year we had 60 kids in grades 1-6 sign up for our twelve-week program which concluded the first week in February.

Our first and second graders were introduced to the sport with a five-week program highlighting the basic skills needed to play the game of basketball. They caught on quickly and were ready to play real games by the last week.

For the older kids, we had both girls' and boys' teams for grades 3 and 4 combined as well as grades 5 and 6 combined. All four of these teams played in the Sugar River Youth Basketball League which included Newport Recreation, Grantham Recreation, Sunapee Recreation, Mount Royal Academy, and Unity Elementary School. Teams got to travel to different schools or host a home game at Towle School on Saturday mornings this winter. For some, this is their first time on a traveling team, and provides a great opportunity for them to play at other local gyms.

The 3rd/4th-grade girls' team was coached by Tanya and Ron Perry. Their team had a very successful season and hopes to carry on their winning ways in the Claremont TSV Tournament in March. Tanya is also our sports team photographer and not only volunteers to coach, but also provides our families with player and team photos. Thanks, Tanya!

Our 3rd/4th-grade boys team was coached by Anthony DiPaola and Dave Bunker, both dads are familiar with our youth basketball program having coached for us in the past. There were twelve dedicated boys on the team who showed up for every game. This was both a blessing and a curse for the coaches who tried to get quality playing time for each player. They saw some tough competition from the Unity and Sunapee 1 teams but were able to hold their own against the Sunapee 2 team.

The 5th/6th-grade boys' showed a lot of improvement throughout the year, but unfortunately, they ended the season with a tough loss in Grantham. Coaches Gabby Scanlon and Becky Merrow were pleased with their great sportsmanship and never-give-up attitude during all of their games.

Lastly, our girls' 5th/6th-grade team, who was coached by Pj Lovely, finished the season on a high note when they pulled off a win against Sunapee. These girls worked hard all season and learned a lot about the game but were also able to have some fun while doing it.

The Youth Basketball Season concluded with an awards ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of the 5th and 6th-grade athletes. Jacob Fellows and Lucia Merrigan earned the Sportsmanship Awards and Taylor Russell, Drew Borcuk, and Kellan Zullo were all chosen to receive The Coaches Award. Congratulations to all for a great season! ■



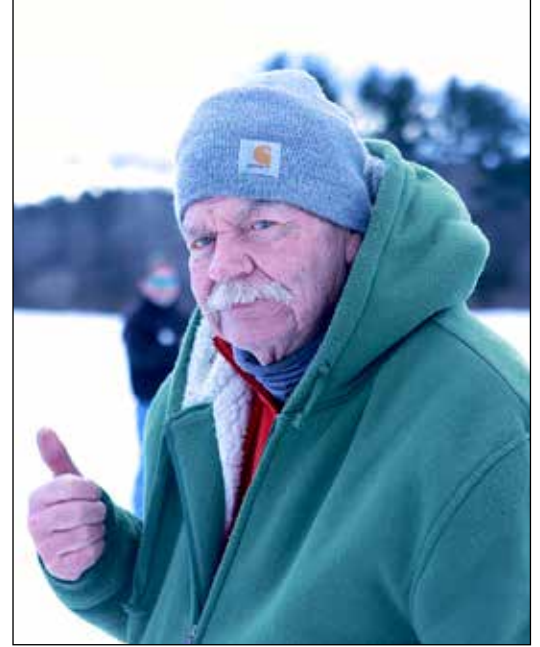
Photos courtesy of Tanya Perry Photography

Hidden Gems

Small Town, Big Heart

The Town of Newport finished its 107th Winter Carnival and as I sat down to write this article on the Hidden Gems of Newport, I looked back at all the fun that was had. Then, I started to add up how many people came out to celebrate Sunshine Town. Once I lost count, it occurred to me, what I have always known, not only do we have the oldest, continuous, town winter carnival in the nation, but we also have the best, most dedicated, spirited volunteer force as well.

Newport has a long tradition of dedicated individuals and groups who come together year after year to "live" Newport. This past weekend, the Winter



Eddie Karr volunteers at the Froze Open



SPRING 2023 65 Belknap Avenue, Newport NH 03773 ~ 603.863.1332

<p>KIDZONE Toddler time in the gym with balls, mats and friends. Tue; 9-10:30am and Fridays 10-11:30am</p> <p>FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH EASTER EGG HUNT (60+) Friday, April 7th at 10:00am...hunt for eggs Newport Common. Who says you have to be a kid to still have fun!!? You must be 60+</p> <p>KIDS EASTER HUNT on the Common Friday, April 7th at 11:00am, Egg Hunt for toddlers & preschoolers. Look for the Easter Bunny & bring your basket.</p> <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK Starts Monday, March 27 for grades 6-8. \$35.00 resident/\$45.00 non-resident, Practice will be held Mon/Wed/Fri @ 5pm Coach: Jenny Smith</p> <p>GRANITE STATE TRACK Ages 9-14 Starts in May! Practice TBA, Regional & State Meets; dates to be announced. \$10 resident/\$20 non-resident</p> <p>AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM Reminder: The last day of After School Program will be Friday, May 26th.</p> <p>GREEN UP/CLEAN UP Sunday, April 30 @ 9:00am, Newport Common volunteer & beautify our town! We've got blue bags, rubber gloves & town map.. we just need volunteers to help! Volunteer & Community service hours!! Take pride in our community.</p>	<p>DAY CAMP Aloha Summer! 8.5 weeks this year! June 21-August 11, 2023 for ages 6-12, 8:30-4:30. Register; April 1/residents, April 8/non-residents. \$125 res/\$145 non-res. Check out our website for registration and more information.</p> <p>TEEN TRIPS Teen Trips with P.J...Ages 12-16 Prices vary. Registration starts April 1st for residents (April 8 for non-res. Trip list to follow.</p> <p>TEEN CANOE TRIP (South Church) (register by May 5) Ages 14-19, July 28-Aug 5. Spend a week in Canada on the water! Paddle and camp in the wilderness of the Provincial Park LaVerendrye in Quebec Canada. \$500.00 Contact Kevin Corliss at 603.863.1425 or kevincorliss@comcast.net</p> <p>SUNSHINE 5K & Lilian Wright Memorial Walk Saturday, May 6th, the Annual Sunshine 5K will be held at the Corbin Covered Bridge. Race starts at 10:00 am (Kids race at 9:30 am) register at pinnaclestrive.com</p>	<p>COED ADULT VOLLEYBALL DROP-IN Thursdays in May/June; 5:00-7:00pm. Come and play for fun its only a \$1.00!</p> <p>Senior MORNING EXERCISE Mon/Wed/Fri @ 8:30am, stretching and moving your body! \$1.00</p> <p>PICKLEBALL @ Wheeler Gym Tue/Thur, 9:00-11:00 Sundays, \$20 March/April Call for details, 603.863.1332</p> <p>TABLE TENNIS Tue/Thur, 11:00-1:00pm at the Rec, \$1.00</p> <p>2023 UPCOMING EVENTS Pickleball Sundays; March-May Choose Love/Recycled Percussion; April 20 @ Opera House Green Up; April 30 Sunshine 5k; May 6 Disc Golf League; June & July Six in the Stix; June 17, 2023 Brewfest; June 17, 2023 Curse of the Pinnacle; June 24 Wings & Wheels; June 24</p>
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Register online at www.newportrec.com

<p>Our mission is to provide a wide range of leisure activities for people of all ages to enjoy.</p> <p>Our aim is to focus on participation, fun and fitness while enhancing the mind, body and spirit!</p>	<p>Go VOTE!</p> <p>Tuesday, May 9th @ Newport High School</p>	<p>Newport Recreation 65 Belknap Avenue Newport NH 03773 603.863.1332</p>
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Carnival highlighted that fact. However, the volunteers don't just come out for the Carnival, they give back all year long, decade after decade.

Today, as I sat on a park bench (50 degrees in February) with Cliff Richer, a local resident who has volunteered for decades with his wife Betty Richer, we looked out at the melting ice and talked about the numerous people who have helped flood the ice rink in the past, including himself. He and Nellie Aldrich flooded the common back in the '70s and then moved down to the high school when the hockey rink was put in, and flooded that, too. Countless others before them worked diligently to create ice and relished in the pleasure of watching the kids skate on it. Ed Karr took the reins for 20+ years after that at the hockey rink, as well as Wayne Weed, Jimmy Petrin, and Rick Thomas who took over the flooding duties on the Common. These guys and so many others have selflessly donated their time as volunteers for the community.

Speaking of the Winter Carnival, we had over 65 entrants in the parade. Most of these groups were volunteers! Each group puts together its float or fleet of trucks and grabs people to help, all for a walk down Main Street. It really is amazing. Meanwhile, other volunteers are peddling their food and wares on the Common to raise a few bucks for their respective organizations. The Newport Winter Carnival has a long tradition of volunteerism dating back decades. The Jaycees, The Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and The Chamber of Commerce are all volunteer groups that have organized the carnival in the past. We, at the Newport Rec, while not a volunteer organization, also rely on volunteers to help run the Carnival every year. There are no events in the Winter Carnival that don't have volunteers attached to them.

Your Newport Recreation Department has a volunteer pool that helps us run our programs all year. Soccer coaches, Flag Football coaches and the like return year after year to give back to the community by offering sports and events for kids and adults. Rec events throughout the year like Green up Clean-up, Sunshine 5k, Pinnacle Bike race, Six in the Stix, trail maintenance in the Town Forest for hiking and biking, and disc golf, all rely on the volunteers of the Sunshine Town. We are forever grateful for the residents who volunteer and dedicate their time to us. We could not do the things we do without them.

Other organizations in town also rely on the same volunteerism to help them produce high-quality events, fun festivals, and some fantastic FUNdraisers throughout the year. The Newport Chamber of Commerce has produced amazing events these past few years as their volunteer base keeps putting out one event after another. The Newport NSO (our local, all-volunteer thrift shop) runs a business that has dedicated all the proceeds to the health and wellness of the community. (A whole business full of volunteers? Wow!!) Where else but the Sunshine Town... The Newport Moose club puts on family events for the community, functioning on volunteers as do the area churches with events for the public like Easter Egg Hunts and The Area Choir. These and other groups all function on volunteers, and Newport folks always step up to fill the need to keep the Sunshine town flourishing. If you see a volunteer, thank them for their time and for making Newport a better place. A couple I would like to thank from the past is Gary Lafountain, Dean Smith, Ella Casey and Lilyan Wright. Modern day volunteer warriors include Dorianne Lescord, Larry Flint, Stephanie Gilson and countless others. They have given and keep on giving to this wonderful town. Volunteer today, you really do make a difference, and we appreciate you. ■

~ PJ Lovely, Executive Director
Newport Rec Dept.

ECON: Recap of Newport's Winter Festivities

Newport just held its 107th Winter Carnival event. From February 8-12th 2023, the week was filled with some amazing events and even more amazing people! From the torch lighting, the historic Queen's Pageant, to the Hawaiian Splash Belly Flop contest, Newport was filled with laughter, history and abounding love for our close-knit community.

On February 9th, 2023, Newport Recreation center hosted its annual Table Tennis Tournament. In attendance was a world champion of table tennis, **Tim Kelly**! Tim moved to Newport in 1986, residing in North Newport, where he began cultivating his passion for table tennis. He began his career in his 30s (now 70), currently trains professionally in



Boston, MA and has won 5 national championships in New Hampshire before moving into world championship status. Kelly is quoted saying "the game became too easy, so I moved into competitions competing against highly ranked Indian, and Chinese teams." Training with professional Chinese coaches, Kelly began training for the World Table Tennis championship held in Houston, Texas in 2021. After experiencing a hamstring injury that kept him from competing, Tim Kelly is now gearing up for the next championship competition this spring!

The historic Queen's Pageant was a stellar, sold out event at the Opera House. The Winter Carnival Queen's Pageant is one of this small town's most beloved traditions! Six wonderful contestants, Annalise Renner, Elizabeth Surrall, Madyson Norris, Aura Parker, Ashley Cybruch and Jessica McGuire, took to the stage to perform their various talents, showcase their exceptional



interviewing skills, and show off their winning personalities. The event brought out not only the queens, princes and princesses, but different sponsors, surprise hula hoop competitor, Lindsay Huot, and cartwheel competition from Pageant director Kristie Howe and her husband Buddy Howe as well! Congratulations to **Jessica McGuire**, the 107th Winter Carnival Queen! Her dance show talent, combined with her interview questions, and formal wear portion led the judges, including current Miss New Hampshire Sarah White, to determine that McGuire was in fact this year's queen!

Saturday was the big day for all Winter Carnival activities! Kicking the morning off with the **Rotary Club's Pancake Breakfast**, the community happily welcomed this well-attended event after years of it being out of commission



due to the pandemic. Held at the Episcopal Church, the Newport Rotary members diligently served over 150-175 community guests!

After breakfast, the **festive parade** began and commemorated the 107th celebration. Filled with many community leaders, we caught glimpses of our wonderful Fire/EMS, Police Department, our local dog rescue Wags and Wiggles, Ruger, Coldwell Banker, 4-H, our high school cheer squad and many more! Richards School was seen passing out free books to our youth, and Beth Rexford was seen proudly representing the Newport Recreation Center.

Now that the festivities have come to an end, I am reminded of how strong the community spirit is here in our Sunshine Town. ■

~ Allison Browning, Economic Dev. Coordinator

Could Your Dog Be the Next Newport Top Dog?

It's dog licensing season once again. Each year dog owners or keepers are tasked with licensing their fur babies with the Town Clerk by April 30. This law has been on the books for decades as a public health initiative. Town Clerk's all across the United States and around the world work hard to make sure all dogs in their jurisdiction get their tags.

Back in 2015, Newport kicked off the 1st Annual Newport Top Dog Contest as a bonus for Newport & Guild dog owners that license their pets before the deadline. We started off small as can be expected with 1 winner and two sponsors; LaValley Building & Supply and Pleasant Lake Vet Hospital.

For year two of Top Dog, Jennifer our now Deputy Town Clerk took over the program and through her incredible effort brought this contest to life. We are currently at 13 sponsors for 2023 that have either pledged or already donated.

Since 2016 we have had enough prizes to select three lucky pups as Top Dog Royalty. This year's prizes are now closing in on \$2300 worth of goods, services and gift cards.

Once we have confirmation from the last few businesses, the prizes will be divided up into prize packages and listed on our web page www.newportnh.gov/town-clerk. We will select the lucky winners by a random drawing during the first week in May, winners will be contacted by phone and once we have photos of the winning pups, we will post it all on our web page.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors. This would not be possible without you!

LaValley Building Supply Co	Petsafe fence \$150	9th Year Donating
Pleasant Lake Veterinary Hospital	Free Exam worth \$54.	9th Year Donating
Aubuchon Hardware Store # 055	\$20 Gift Card.	8th Year Donating
Shaw's	\$25 Gift Card.	8th Year Donating
Claremont Pet and Aquarium	\$25 Gift Card.	8th Year Donating
Tractor Supply.	18 Bags Dog Food/ \$1200 value	8th Year Donating
Running's	Two \$50 Gift Cards	8th Year Donating
Sugar River Animal Hospital	Free Exam worth \$50.	8th Year Donating
Sugar River Bank	2 boxes dog toys / \$25 Gift Card.	8th Year Donating
Wendell Veterinary Clinic	\$100.00 Gift Card	7th Year Donating
Claremont Animal Hospital.	35lb Bag of Dog Food / \$55 value	7th Year Donating
Sanctuary Dairy Farm.	3 Dog Dishes (Pup Cup)	5th Year Donating
Interware Development Co.	Prizes coming in the mail	3rd Year Donating
Solace Massage Therapy.	\$75 Gift Certificate	2nd Year Donating
Radford K-9.	\$150 Training Gift Card	1st Year Donating
One Credit Union	Working on Prize Package.	1st Year Donating

~ Liselle Dufort, Town Clerk

For details on our Top Dog program, entry form, rules & regulations please visit our website (www.newportnh.gov/town-clerk) and click on "DOGS DOGS Everything DOGS."

When Mud Season Arrives, Life Bogs Down



'Mud Season'; a time of year (such as early spring) that is characterized by excessively muddy ground. Defined and added to the Merriam-Webster dictionary in September 2022, along with other commonly used words like Pumpkin-Spice!

While most states struggle along with just four seasons, some of our New England states enjoy five: spring, summer, fall, winter, and mud. Being marked by wild temperature fluctuations, rapid alternations of sunshine and snow, can create a quick onset of a dreaded 'Mud Season' and challenging driving conditions on many dirt roads. The onset of deepened ruts during the warmer climate, then having cooler nights and making washboard scenarios just in time for that morning drive to work. We get it! We understand, and we are here to do our best to keep roads passable.

In rural areas, such as ours, many roads are still unpaved; Newport has a combined total of 24 miles of dirt/unpaved roads. While muddy roads can be frustrating to many homeowners or visitors entering into these areas, we ask for patience while the Highway Department works on these problematic routes.

Frequently asked questions:

Q: Why does mud season happen?

A: Mud season occurs in places where the ground freezes in winter and thaws in spring. Dirt roads and paths become

muddy because the deeply frozen ground thaws from the surface down as the air temperature warms above freezing.

Q: Does rain help mud season?

A: Heavy rain can help shorten mud season because it helps the ground thaw more quickly.

Q: If I live on a dirt road, what can I do to help?

A: If possible, try to limit trips in and out. Coming and going in the early morning or late evening when the ground is frozen helps too. Postpone or delay deliveries until such a time that the road is in better condition.

'Mud Season' is not just a nuisance for motorized vehicles, it can also be for recreational uses like hiking or biking. For recreational tips while the springtime temperatures rise, visit NH 'Mud Season' Tips at www.visitnh.gov/blog/nh-mud-season-tips.

Please be aware of the 6-Ton Load Limit signs posted and enforced on all town roads, including paved roads. These are generally posted on road sign posts until the ground has become solid and will not negatively impact the roads structural condition. Heavy equipment can compromise both dirt and paved roads due to the ground movement underneath its surface. ■

If you have any concerns about any town road condition, call the Public Works Department at (603) 863-3650 Mon-Fri 7am-3:30pm. We thank you for your patience during this springtime thaw.

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Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades: Striving to Keep Our Waters Clean

The Town of Newport continues moving ahead with the design phase of the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) upgrade. In January 2023, the Town completed the Preliminary Design (30% completion) which included a comprehensive review by the State of New Hampshire, in addition to potential future funding agencies including USDA Rural Development. The proposed facility improvements will bring the WWTF into compliance with its current regulatory permit requirements and position the Town to comply with anticipated future nutrient limits.

WWTF Background

The WWTF has been in operation since 1971 and provides treatment of up to 1,300,000 gallons per day (gpd) of wastewater collected from residential, commercial, and industrial customers throughout the Town of Newport. Over the last 50 years, the WWTF has undergone several facility upgrades to allow the facility to continue providing suitable treatment of the Town's wastewater.

The WWTF discharges treated wastewater to the Sugar River. This discharge is regulated under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The goal of the NPDES permit is to protect human health, aquatic life, and the environment by restricting the level of pollutants that enter the Sugar River from the treated wastewater discharge. The NPDES permit issued in 2020 includes effluent requirements for ammonia, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and various metals. The EPA and State Agencies develop these limits through water quality analysis which stipulate the level of certain pollutants which can be discharged to the Sugar River to maintain a healthy waterbody and watershed.

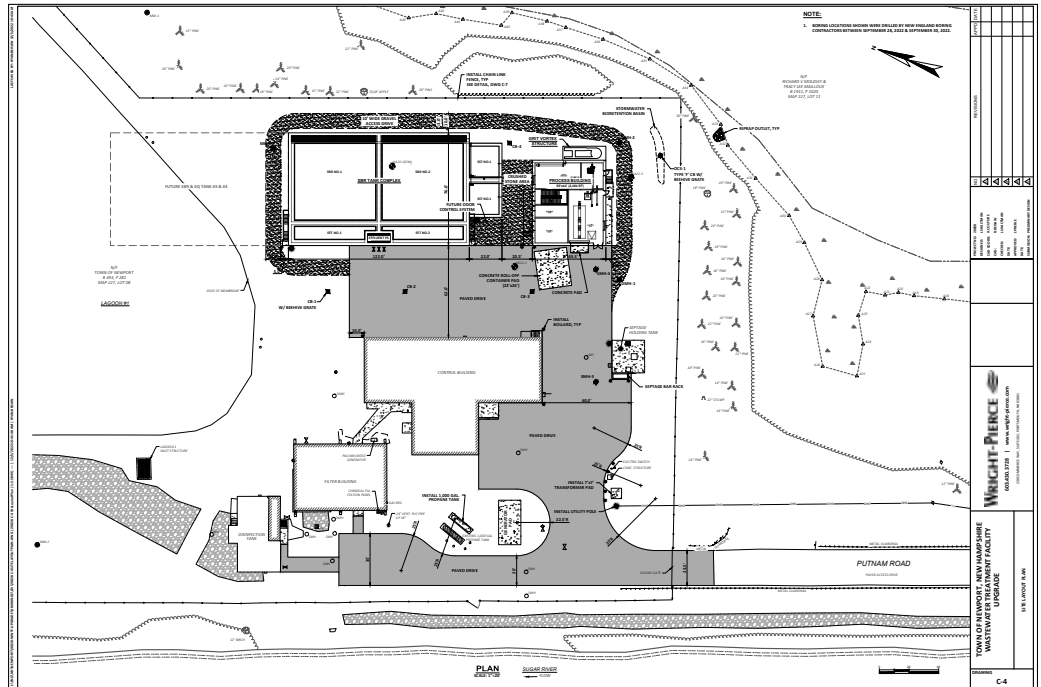
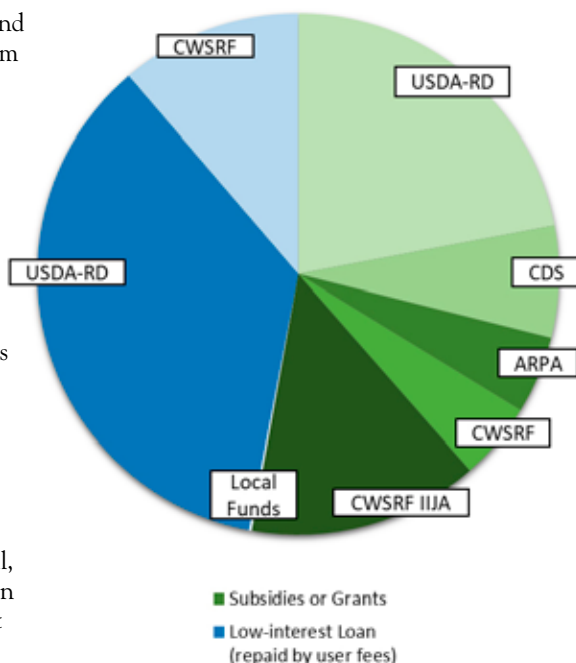
The Town's existing WWTF process is not able to reliably meet the Town's effluent discharge limits and requires a facility upgrade to meet the NPDES permit limits.

Proposed WWTF Upgrades

In order to comply with the WWTF permit, the Town is actively working with consulting engineers and regulatory agencies towards a long-term solution to satisfy the WWTF's permit requirements. The preliminary phase of a new WWTF was completed in January 2023 with the design phase of the project anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023. The proposed WWTF includes the following major system upgrades:

- New WWTF Site plan
- Upgraded influent pumping station
- New grit removal and grit treatment system
- New biological treatment process (sequencing batch reactors) for ammonia and total nitrogen removal
- Upgraded tertiary filtration system for total phosphorus removal
- New ultraviolet disinfection system
- New solids dewatering system
- Architectural, structural, electrical, and instrumentation upgrades to support the new WWTF

Funding Breakdown
\$28M TOTAL VALUE



Funding Strategy

The estimated total project cost for the proposed WWTF project cost is \$28 million including engineering services and construction. The Town has aggressively pursued many different funding avenues through both state and federal funding agencies to position the community to take advantage of the current infrastructure improvement funds which have been made available.



From these efforts, the Town was able to secure a favorable combination of grants and low-interest loans for the proposed WWTF upgrade which would subsidize the project by over 50% by leveraging funding from USDA Rural Development (RD), Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), and CWSRF Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IJJA). This is equal to project subsidies (grant) of up to \$14.8M out of the \$28M project. The remaining \$13.2M will consist of a long-term, low interest loan. This magnitude of federal and state subsidy is significant and may not be available in future years if the proposed project is deferred. ■

For more information: Selectboard "Bond Hearing" is scheduled to be part of the Selectboard meeting on 3/20/23 beginning at 6:30 pm at the Town Offices. The Town's Deliberative Session is scheduled for April 4th, 2023 beginning at 6:00 pm at the High School. Town Meeting/Voting day will be May 9th from 8 am to 7 pm at the High School. The full informational presentation for both the WWTP and now the proposed new well can also be viewed on the Town's website. Anyone with additional questions is invited to visit or call the Town Manager's Office at 603-863-1877.

The North Newport Well has been a project on the Town's radar for years now, and has been actively pursuing implementation and incorporation of the proposed well since the initial source exploration efforts started in 2018. Now, on the behalf of Governor Sununu and the Northern Border Regional Commission, the Town of Newport was chosen to receive a 2022 State Economic and Infrastructure Development grant award of \$1,000,000. NHDES also issued a letter to the town, committing \$948,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for this project.

We feel strongly that the loss or disruption of either water supply sources or our distribution system would constitute a catastrophic risk to the integrity and security of the Town's water system. Accordingly, we view improvements to the existing delivery system and the development of new water sources to provide redundancy as critical to the community's water security and resiliency, as well as helping to meet future growth and/or system upgrade needs. Working with the acclaimed engineering firm of Weston & Sampson, its hydrogeologists and engineers will be tasked with the design, permitting, testing, and system integration that goes into developing a new groundwater source in Town. Senior Technical Leader for Weston & Sampson's water resources division, Frank Getchell PG, supported the Town's water-supply resiliency goals, stating "A second well will provide as far as the water-supply resources go, a really good security blanket for the Town."

The expansion of Newport's water supply sources into the northern portion of town is critical, as the Town's existing groundwater and surface water supplies are both located at the southern end of the Town and connected to the distribution system through a single water main which runs along Unity Road. The water main and related infrastructure are old, and in need of replacement. Because both supplies rely on a common water main to connect to the overall distribution system, a water main break or related disruption would cause a significant impact to the overall water supply. Adding an additional supply well which is geographically separated from the existing supplies at the opposite end of the system would greatly increase the resiliency of the Town's water supply and lower the criticality of the water main which connects the existing supplies to the distribution system.

Previous studies indicated that the selected location on the north side of Town - north of Corbin Bridge road - was an ideal site, as there is a large extensive sand and gravel aquifer that extends all the way from the northern end of Parlin Field, all the way up into Croydon center and beyond, as well as southward towards Town. Relatively thick and high yielding, the aquifer underlying the North Newport location makes for the perfect type of a groundwater source to develop for a public community water supply. We are looking to develop around 400 gallons per minute or about .6 million gallons per day, which places the proposed well into the “Large Groundwater Withdrawal” category as far as the State is concerned. Besides looking to locate the well in a place where the aquifer and the adjoining groundwater resources can support that demand, the Town, with input from Weston & Sampson, has based its selection of the proposed well site relative to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) permitting requirements. “Right now, we are at the point where we’ve done all the background studies and we’ve submitted an application to the State on behalf of the Town justifying why we’re selecting this location and what we anticipate the hydrogeologic conditions to be, along with proposing the applicable future testing measures believed to be necessary for the permitting of the well by the NHDES” says Getchell.

The additional supply well will increase the water system's supply capacity and allow Newport to provide a more stable and resilient water service for its existing and future customers. Because of the necessity of clean water for meeting both daily drinking water and sanitary needs, along with the needs of local business activities, we believe this project is critical to ensuring an optimal quality of life for the Town's citizens as well as maintaining the Town's economic sustainability. After speaking with Getchell about the plans to develop a new alternate groundwater supply source, he stated that the Town's current intent for the North Newport Well "is not to meet

A detailed preliminary hydrogeologic report with a testing program and Large Groundwater Withdrawal Permit application was prepared by Weston & Sampson with assistance from the Town. After the NHDES reviewed our application, it scheduled a public information meeting at the request of the Town of Croydon to the north of Newport, at which the Weston & Sampson hydrogeologist presented an overview of the project. The State also presented at this meeting an overview of the regulations that would have to be looked at and addressed by the Town for permitting of the new, large groundwater withdrawal source. After the presentation, comments were voiced and/or submitted by residents of Croydon as well as some of the members of the public from Newport, and those comments and concerns were incorporated into a letter that the State sent to the Town indicating actions that they would like to have incorporated and addressed going forward into the testing. The next step in the process will be to install a small diameter “test well” at the proposed location since currently there is no existing well and related aquifer samples for this location. “There are some small ‘exploration wells’ in the vicinity

of the proposed well but they're not the size and construction that can yield 400 gallons per minute," Getchell noted. Now, Weston & Sampson will be overseeing a contractor to install a small diameter test well followed by a large diameter well that can be pumped and later permitted at 400 gallon a minute. Both the small diameter and large diameter wells will be used to evaluate the potential yield of the aquifer, and then conduct a full testing program. Getchell stresses the importance of these tests, stating, "once that test is over I'm going to review the data, we'll summarize the results, look at those results with respect to how much water we can pump safely out of the aquifer, evaluate if pumping the well adversely impacts the aquifer or any nearby

groundwater supplies such as residential or farm wells in the area, and if pumping the well will impact any of the nearby wetlands or the flow of the Sugar River.” During testing, Weston & Sampson will also look at the quality of the groundwater that comes out of the well and determine if it meets current standards for drinking water as per the state of New Hampshire regulations. All testing results will be summarized in a report that will be submitted to the NHDES, who will in turn, after reviewing the results for completeness, announce that if stakeholders like the Town of Croydon, and members of the public in the Town of Newport wish to be heard regarding the application and possibly pending permit, that Weston & Sampson can publicly present their findings with accompaniment by the NHDES, and answer any questions. Alternatively, members of the stakeholder groups can discuss the results and express their concerns directly with the NHDES. The NHDES will complete its review process by considering the received comments and input from the stakeholder groups, and where warranted incorporating them into its review letter along with a listing of appropriate actions to be implemented by the Town in connection with the future use of the well as part of its permitted use. After receiving approval from the State, the next thing will be to physically connect the well to the Newport water supply system, including the provision of rudimentary type treatment such as chlorination, and the installation of piping, valves and connections to the existing service area.

The Town anticipates completion of the design of the Unity Road water main improvements and construction process to be completed in 2024. Additional information will be given in a public hearing session on March 20th, with a following deliberative session on April 4th for the community to voice any questions, comments, and concerns. Additionally, to receive any clarification regarding the North Newport Well project, please contact the Town Offices to speak with Town Manager, Hunter Rieseberg, at 603-863-1877. ■





The Depot Building will house the Newport Chamber of Commerce



Photos courtesy of Ann St. Martin Stout



including the site of the future Recreation Center and Little League Field. Improvement of this passageway will be addressed after the building renovation is underway. On the surrounding grounds, the Chamber plans to have a memorial planting in honor of long-time Chamber Director Ella Casey.

The Chamber is grateful to Bar Harbor Bank for the donation, including the installation of new windows previously broken due to vandalism.

The exterior of the Depot Building will see little change as it is in sound condition. The inside, however, needs a complete makeover. It is currently divided into very small rooms, possibly because of its previous uses as a medical office and a day care center. It also housed a laundromat and Newport Hospital Thrift Shoppe early in its post-railroad use.

One room is filled with office furniture from the former office of McCrillis and Eldredge Insurance and donated to the Chamber by the Insurance Center of Newport. Also, a fine, period railroad brochure rack awaits among the furnishings. This was donated to the Chamber by Tony Zullo of Newport. It is appropriate that this authentic display rack, from a local railroad station, has found its way back to familiar ground.

The style of the building, Richardsonian Romanesque, was inspired by the work of Boston architect H.H. Richardson. It contains these characteristics of the style: **mixed masonry walls of brick and stone, asymmetrical front, hipped roof, slate roofing with a decorative roofline, and an eyebrow window.** It is a block-shaped building with rough stone faces exposed, granite lintels over the windows, all giving it a feeling of weight.

The Richardsonian Romanesque style was a popular style in the construction of railroad stations throughout New England. This fine building, which will soon be in use once again, replaced (in 1897) a ramshackle wooden depot which was destroyed by fire.

The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce organization was registered with the State of NH in 1964. It is led by an executive board including Shannon MacMichael, Brandy Waterman, Steve Smith, Paul Brown, Kathy Campbell, Jeannine Everitt, and assisted by eleven board members. Together, they have a vision for the property, but the realization of that vision is more than a year away. The organization is registered as a 501 C (6) and will pay property taxes on the land and building.

So far, Board members have begun pulling down suspended ceilings, identifying load-bearing walls, revealing wainscoting and ceilings made of original (1897) beadboard.

Of course, much of the improvement and restoration will require money and volunteers, though the cost has not yet been determined. Grant writing and fundraising will soon be in progress. Guidance and assistance has been sought from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, with whom the Chamber Board is already conferring. Donations and volunteer hands-on work will be sought. As of this writing, a call for bids for professional contracting work is being prepared by Paul Brown, the Board's vice president.

Over the years, the Chamber has operated out of donated spaces including McCrillis and Eldredge Insurance office, and the Library Arts Center Annex on Main Street, through the courtesy of the building owners Jeff and Heidi North. The latter remains the current location of the Chamber office.

The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, which supports businesses in Newport and the area, is a busy organization. In the past few years, the Chamber has overseen annual events such as 'Twas Just Before Christmas, Dancing with the Stars, Annual Nano Brewfest, Wings and Wheels Car Show (in conjunction with Parlin Field airport), weekly Summer Concerts on the Common, Winter Carnival, Main Street Block Party, and its Annual Meeting and Award Ceremony honoring an individual, an organization, and a business.

The months when there is no event planned, one of the member businesses hosts Business After Hours – a two-hour social gathering at the business or organization's location.

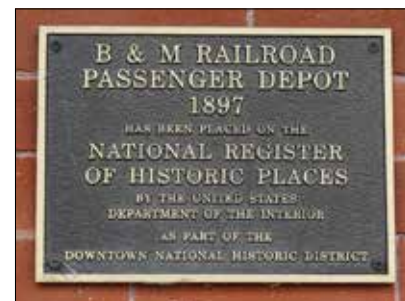
The VP Director of Community Giving for Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Jack Frost, says, "We are proud to donate the Depot Building to the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce and look forward to the amazing work they will do there."

Shannon MacMichael, speaking for the Chamber, writes: We are so grateful to Bar Harbor Bank & Trust for this donation that will serve Newport Area Chamber of Commerce not just for today, but for years to come. We look forward to restoring the beautiful building, having a permanent place to operate out of, and filling an open spot in our downtown.

As the Chamber of Commerce celebrates its 60th anniversary next year (2024) and the Depot building celebrates its 127th anniversary, the town of Newport will have even one more reason to appreciate the hard-working people, the generosity of businesses, and the historic downtown of the Sunshine Town. ■



Jeannine Everitt, treasurer; Shannon MacMichael, executive director; Terry Spanos, board member; Steve Smith, VP; Brandy Waterman, president; Paul Brown, second VP



The Montessori Peace Curriculum

The week of February 12th-18th is the State of New Hampshire's Random Acts of Kindness week. Since this edition of the Newport Times coincides with that state initiative, we thought this would be a great opportunity to share with you a bit about the Montessori Peace Curriculum.

Dr. Maria Montessori's teaching philosophy laid the groundwork for something far beyond academic success: She wanted it to impact all of mankind. Peace education is inherent in every level of the Montessori curriculum. Generally defined, peace education is the process of acquiring the values, the knowledge, and developing attitudes, skills, and behaviors to live in harmony with oneself, others and with the natural environment.

"An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live."
~ Dr Maria Montessori

Peace Education aims to equip students with the interpersonal skills needed to be a good member of a thriving community. Teachers encourage self-reflection, conflict resolution, and problem solving. They model ways to communicate, offer positive language choices, and steer children in the direction



they need to go in order to reach the best conclusion. As children learn to navigate conflict, they also discover their innate capability to lead themselves and others through hardship.

For younger children, Peace Education manifests itself through a calm classroom environment where students can learn sharing, effective communication, and healthy ways to work through conflict. While the entire classroom is designed to promote peaceful learning, most classrooms have a designated space

(often a peace corner or peace table) to allow children a controlled space to work through their emotions. Teachers and older children in mixed-age classrooms model productive ways to work through negative or overwhelming emotions. Older children are ready to tackle more complex topics of peace and how to be a productive global citizen such as our school's monthly community service projects including collecting non-perishable items for the Newport Food Pantry, collecting gently used winter clothing items for the Sullivan County United Way, and putting together Valentine's for Veterans-care packages sent to soldiers serving our country on deployment.

Montessori classrooms run as autonomously as possible, and resolving conflict is no different. After students have been shown how to effectively communicate their needs, it is not unusual for Upper Elementary or Middle Schoolers to hold student-led meetings to discuss, brainstorm, and resolve conflicts. As they learn about the issues facing their local and broader communities, they often brainstorm their own ways to make systems more equitable. Maria Montessori believed that, by raising generations of children who embrace living respectful, peaceful lives, they would contribute to future world peace. We continue to have hope that this ideal is sound.

~ Miss Christy, Executive Director

RUGER NEWPORT: PROUD TO CALL THIS HOME

Pets of Ruger

Here at Ruger in Newport, we love our pets! We regularly feature "Pet Profiles" in our internal newsletter and, for the month of February, we chose to donate to local animal shelters and rescue organizations. We even get some four-legged furry visitors at the office from time to time!

One regular visitor is Value Stream Manager, Nick Hamilton's pup, Scarlett. She is a well-behaved yet playful bundle of puppy love. At a little over a year old, her energy level is perfect to put a smile on Ruger associates' faces during her trips to work with her human! On her last visit, she ran the show at one of Nick's meetings, and ensured naps were on the agenda!

Another frequent visitor is Nurse Beckie's adorable 7-year-old Shih Tzu, Miles. He's a little guy, weighing in at



Scarlett rocking some Ruger gear and leading a meeting about naps



Miles hard at work



Jojo sports a Ruger badge and safety goggles



5 1/2 pounds. He started coming to work one day a week and has been making people smile and cuddle ever since. Miles enjoys people, being held, car rides, and cheese. All Ruger Associates are welcome to reach out to Nurse Beckie to schedule snuggles.

We have also had visits from Bill Bailey's dog, JoJo. Bill is Director of EHS Operations (Environmental, Health & Safety). JoJo was adopted

from Animal Rescue of Rhode Island. She likes to chew on things, so no slippers are safe!

Since we love our pets so much, we asked Ruger associates to bring in donations as a way to give back to pets in need in our local community. We collected dog and cat food, toys, cleaning supplies like unscented detergent, and even chocolate for the humans that work around the clock to

care for these beloved animals who are searching for their fur-ever homes! Donations were given to Wags & Wiggles and the Claremont & Upper Valley Humane Societies.

~ Elise Letizia

Thanks to Beckie Bethel, Nick Hamilton and Bill Bailey for sharing their four legged pals with our Ruger community!



www.ruger.com

After a Covid hiatus, the Diner reopened in May 2022 serving a community meal at 4pm on the last Sunday of every month. The February menu included a chicken and rice casserole. It's a wonderful way to get out of the house and enjoy a meal with fellow community members. Neighbors are invited to eat in or take out a meal, as they wish.

Church members are active in the Newport Area Association of Churches that operates the Newport Food Pantry. The Church also offers

gift items at Christmastime for children who otherwise might not have a present under their Christmas tree. The Crop Walk is an interfaith effort led by the South Congregational Church. On a fall Sunday afternoon, walkers gather on the Common and walk together along a prescribed route. Sponsors support the walkers. All the funds raised go to hunger programs, half locally to the Newport Area Food Pantry and the other half addresses hunger on a national basis.

For another way to connect with your fellow community members, the Wednesday Morning Stone Church Café has been recently added to the Church's offerings. Every Wednesday morning from 8:30 to 9:30am, parents and caregivers meet at the 'café' to take a breath and offer each other encouragement and mutual support. I recently met with some women at the Church Café who told me of the importance of being able to meet, discuss their issues, look for guidance and possible solutions. One statement provided anonymously said, "The group is so helpful to vent and is a safe place to talk, also to get and share helpful tips and to have time for yourself." Another attendee, Darci Johnson stated, "This is a great way to connect with others in our community and share ideas and experiences."

In the coming months, renovations will begin in the Church's adjacent building to add decent places for families to live. Plans are being made for a summer music camp/drum circle for area youth. Additionally, located along church property on Cedar Street, is an inspiring book titled The Little Book of Joy that children can read when passing by. The pages have been taken from the book and displayed on church property along the street as a whimsical way to spread messages of joy as people walk by.

The Church of the Epiphany welcomes Newport to participate in their wonderful programs. For more information, please contact Reverend Susan Langle at epiphanynewport@gmail.com. ■



Joy Book pages

a Little Free Pantry on its property – a cupboard with food, books, hats and sometimes baby formula. These items are there for the taking. I find this offering inspiring and certainly a much-needed community resource, and will personally donate food items to this cause. If you wish to join me in donating items, simply put your food, books or other donations in the box! People may take what they need and donate what they wish. It's a wonderful symbol of what community is all about!

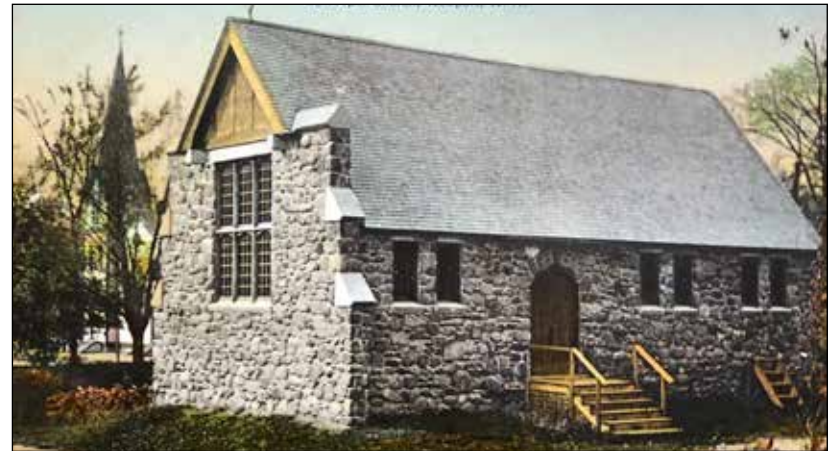
The Church hosts 4-H gatherings, supports the Crop Walk, participates in the Willey-Perra Gift program and organizes a collection of new socks for the Food Pantry. For those who are unfamiliar with the Willey-Perra Gift Program, people from Newport donate



The Little Book of Joy



Little Free Pantry



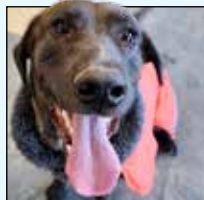
Original Church 1907-1908

ANIMALS RULE

Wags and Wiggles Hopeful & Homeless

Bentley has been returned to us twice. Dogs like Bentley are rarely given a chance, the expectation of automatic perfection within a home space overshadows the knowledge that transitions take time.

A great forever home for Bentley would be a family with another dog, preferably cat-free, and someone who enjoys nature walks as much as he does. Please check out his bio on our website at www.wagsnwiggles.org. ■



~ Christiane Dionne, Executive Director



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Library Arts Center Happenings

The Peeps Dioramas Are Returning to Newport

Now in its 12th year, the Library Arts Center is hosting the annual favorite Peeps Diorama Contest. During Easter weekend and the weeks following, the gallery is filled with the iconic marshmallow candies as the stars of dozens of unique dioramas on display. The Arts Center's Peeps contest boasts the title of the first and longest-running Peeps Diorama Competition in New Hampshire, and the draw of seeing the dioramas in person in the Arts Center's beautiful gallery space typically draws 100+ entries each year. This fun, springtime tradition welcomes community members of all ages, businesses, school classrooms, groups and organizations to enter this light-hearted creative contest.

The gist of the competition is to find a cardboard box and turn it into a diorama on any theme. Past years' entries have ranged from themes of puns on the word "peep," pop culture, politics, representation of local landmarks and businesses, books, movies, plays, bands, history and more. The possibilities are endless! Last year's top prize – appropriately titled "Best in Peeps" went to Grantham resident, Lee Carey. Carey created an elaborate beehive out of all

shapes and colors of Peeps. The hive, flowers, birds, and rotating bees in the diorama were all cleverly crafted of the marshmallow candies.

The contest's only rule is that Peeps must be used in the creation of the diorama. Submissions to the contest may be dropped off the week of April 4 before the contest entry deadline of Thursday, April 6 at 4:00pm. There is no entry fee.

Winners will be announced at the Peeps Party "Opening Reception" on Friday, April 7, 5:00-6:30 pm. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes will be awarded, as well as a "Best in Peeps" award. Visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite diorama for the "Peep-les Choice Award." Party-goers will also enjoy seeing the dioramas unveiled, along with Peeps-themed refreshments. The Peeps Party is FREE & open to all.

Dioramas on Display: Saturday, April 8 through Saturday, April 22, during regular gallery hours (Tue-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-2pm).

The Peeps Diorama Contest is generously sponsored by Eastern Propane, DBA Goodrich Oil.

For info, contest rules, and entry forms, visit libraryartscenter.org/peeps.



Governor Chris Sununu visited the Library Arts Center in April 2022 to view the Peeps Dioramas. He is shown here with Newport students, proudly showing their dioramas.

Exhibits and Programs

Next up in the Gallery: The Black & White Exhibit is on display April 1 – May 31, with an opening reception Friday, March 31, 5-7pm. The exhibit is sponsored by Dorr Fabrics and LaValley Building Supply. Application is open for the annual Juried Regional Art Exhibit, which opens in June.

This show features the artwork of around 70 local and regional artists. Everyone is invited to see the "Call for Entries" at libraryartscenter.org.

In the Studio

The Library Arts Center studio has a robust schedule of classes, including a weekly drop-in group for adults (Wed. mornings), and a collage and mixed-media open studio (3rd Tue). Other popular offerings include Saturday artisan basket-making workshops with instructor Ray Lagasse, and a series of needle-felting classes with artist Jennifer Boyd. The Arts Center is planning free weekly family drop-ins under the tent, our Summer Performances for Kids (Thur. mornings in July), and a series of art classes in the studio for both children and adults. ■



Prize-winning Dioramas from the 2022 Competition: Best in PEEPS - "Peep Kind" by Lee Carey of Grantham



1st Prize Children's Category - "Battle of Peepsburg" by Max Huot of Newport



1st Prize Adult Category - "Mount Sunapee Adventure Park" by Susanne Stillson of New London



Staff Pick - "Peep Skating on the Common" by Kathy Hanson of Goshen

CHAMBER: GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Greetings from the Chamber Office

Speaking of office, did you read the cover story!? Once again, we'd like to thank Bar Harbor Bank and Trust for their generous donation of the Railroad Depot Building to the Chamber. We are honored to be able to preserve this historic gem in our community. There is a ton of work to be done, but we are eternally grateful to eventually have a place to call home!

This year has been off to a great start. Dancing with the Newport Stars was a huge success. The Newport Opera House was just about sold out both Friday and Saturday night. Congratulations to the dancers and thank you to all involved. We received feedback from several first timers who absolutely loved the show. Next year we have the all-star cast returning to the stage to compete for the trophy.

Shortly after Dancing with the Stars was the 107th Newport Winter Carnival which was a blast! Thank you to the organizers and organizations who helped make the weekend so spectacular. It was wonderful to see the town packed with so many faces. The community spirit in Newport is always second to none and this year was better than ever!

In February, we honored our Students, Citizen, Non-Profit and Business of the Year Awards at our Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. The evening was full of networking, laughter, and recognition of those who have made a difference in the Newport Community this year. Congratulations to CTE Students Owen Beaulieu and Aura Parker, High School Students Eric Wilkinson and Madyson

Richards Free Library

Upcoming Book Clubs

Spotlight on New York Times

The New York Times Did you know you have free access to the *New York Times* online via the library's website? Just go to richardsfreelib.org/services/new-york-times/ and you'll be able to redeem a coupon with the click of your mouse! You can redeem a coupon every day if you like. Our subscription gives you access to all articles, plus this year we've added access to games and cooking. If you love the *New York Times* Wordcross, you can do it for free through the library! Looking for a new recipe to try? Access all of the *New York Times* recipes through our link! If you have questions, give us a call at 603-863-3430. You can even set up a one-on-one tech appointment with a staff member so we can guide you through using the library's *New York Times* subscription.

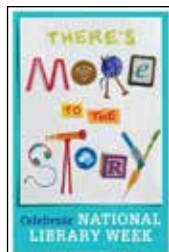


Puzzle Frenzy

Grab some friends or family members and join us for a friendly puzzle competition at the library on Saturday March 25th. We'll provide the puzzles and snacks!

National Library Week

National Library Week is April 23-29, 2023! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and our website for exciting events happening throughout the week. We'll have a



special book discussion event for the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer sponsored by the Friends of the Library and New Hampshire Humanities. We have a fun collaboration planned with 4H as well. More events are in the works! ■

Something for everyone!

Norris, Citizen of the Year Marty Lovely, Non-Profit of the Year Road to Independence/Aurora Bakery, and Business of the year Sugar River Bank. Very well deserved by all. We thank you for going above and beyond for the Newport community.

Spring is here and we are preparing for a busy summer season. Concerts on the Common, the Newport Nano Brewfest, Wings and Wheels Car Show, Block Party and more will return to Newport this summer! Thank you for your continued support. For a complete list of our Chamber members, or to become a member, please visit www.NewportNhChamber.org.

~ Shannon MacMichael, Executive Director

NCTV It Has Been Quite a Ride



Thirty years ago, in May 1993, NCTV was created by a town meeting vote with an agreement between Twin Valley Cable company and the town granting the use of three channels (8, 10 & 13) for local content broadcast according to 1988 FCC public access rules. Twin Valley was then bought by Adelphia which was subsequently absorbed by Comcast.

My first connection with NCTV was early in 1994 when I was a freshman selectman and cameras were installed in the town office for the first time. The board was already familiar with being on film as Bert Spaulding had been taping meetings for a couple years by then. But this was different. We were going out live to all the cable viewers in town and it subtly changed the tone of the meetings. Prior to that, business was compact and to the point, often blunt and unfiltered. Suddenly, board members were a bit more cautious in their remarks, started thanking public organizations and making congratulatory statements like amateur politicians.

My personal connection with NCTV started shortly after. The studio had just moved into the Lou Thompson Room at the high school, where it stayed for 28 years, and the video cameras, editors, amplifiers and, well, everything took up a lot of space. Everything was on VHS videotape. I was creating stop motion animation in my home and came into NCTV to use their editing splicer. Jeff Nintzel, the first executive director, showed me how to use the splicer as well as the cameras and broadcast equipment.

I was hooked. I started filming and editing meetings that I attended and watched as videotape turned to digital tape to DVD and now streaming. I upgraded my own studio to use computer editing and even started doing live online author visits across the globe years before webcams and streaming were available. Watching Jeff trying to keep up with technology for NCTV was interesting. Every time there was a new change to the environment, he had to adapt his existing equipment to keep up. It was a patchwork of old and new right up through the digital age. Computers became obsolete, wiring connectors were incompatible, digital files worked on one system and crashed on another and the broadcast computers were connected to timers to start old VHS and DVD machines when it was their turn to play. It was a real nightmare at times, but Jeff kept it functioning. Kind of like some hybrid science fiction spaceship where the crew is constantly swapping out parts and kicking the boiler to keep the thing from breaking down.

When I took over in 2017, the internet and digital age were in full swing and it was time to completely overhaul NCTV. I stripped the studio down to the walls to make more room and replaced all the incompatible machinery with more compact and efficient technology. Same thing at the selectmen's office. I upgraded the broadcast stack and converted all usable VHS & DVDs to digital files so they could be readily accessed and played, and created a live streaming connection so we could broadcast from anywhere in town to everyone.

As with the earlier days, there were headaches and growing pains along the way. Many will recall the months of crappy audio from the town office 5 years ago. What I learned about this "so-called simplified digital age" is that with so many layers of different soft- and hardware that come from different manufacturers, and need each other to function, there isn't one expert who understands it all. Like doctors with their specialties and no GP anymore, all these companies know what their equipment should do but haven't got a clue about what it connects to. Not like the good old days when you plugged two stereo wires into the back of your amp and *poof* you had sound! Nope. I had to become the IT guy, the video guy, the software guy, the computer guy... you get the idea. Just ask Chad Howe, the tech wizard at the high school. We are brothers under the same techno flag and it has been quite a ride.

But now, as we step forward into our fourth decade at NCTV, we are located in the center of town, with intercompatible equipment and the know-how to move forward with fresh adventures.

~ John Lunn, NCTV, Executive Director, (603)863-8837, www.nctv-nh.org

Town of Newport Greenup/Cleanup Day

Save the Date!

The Newport Recreation Department and Conservation Commission are jointly planning the annual Newport Greenup/Cleanup Day for Sunday, April 30th, 2023. As in past years, disposable gloves, high visibility T-shirts and plastic bags will be provided (blue plastic bags for trash and clear bags for aluminum cans to be recycled). The event is planned for 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Start on the Town Common around 8:45 AM, get your supplies and head out!

By helping to remove roadside trash, you can help beautify our town & protect our environment!

Roadside trash is not only an eyesore but contributes significantly to the garbage that collects along our streams and rivers, and ends up accumulating in the world's oceans and killing wildlife.

Pick your favorite street to clean up or choose a new one to get to know other parts of your town better. Pre-registration is desirable to help us plan coverage for as much of the town as possible.

Food will be provided at noon at the Newport Rec Center for those who participate.

Please note, this event qualifies for Community Service hours for those who need them – just ask!

To pre-register or for more information, call the Rec Center at 603-863-1332.

So put the date on your calendar to come join us, help protect our environment and help make Newport the SunSHINE Town! ■

~ Don Schrafer

NEWPORT GREEN UP CLEAN UP

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE &
NEWPORT RECREATION
INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR
EFFORTS IN A TOWNWIDE
CLEAN UP DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023
9:00AM
NEWPORT COMMON

Grab your friends, family, coworkers, and help
clean up our neighborhoods!

We will supply: rubber gloves & blue bags and
pick up bags roadside.

Thank you for your continued support!

CALL US WITH QUESTIONS, 603.863.1332

Newport RECREATION



Monitoring Our Common Lands

On Tuesday October 25, 2022, four members of the Newport Conservation Commission took a hike into the Town Forest. It was a beautiful autumn day perfect for hiking; but for the commissioners this was not just recreational but to conduct business to which they are obligated. This was the annual monitoring and inspection of the two conservation parcels which are part of the Town Forest. The members present for this pleasant walk were Ken Dennis, Linda Dennis, Guenter Hubert and Don Schagen. They were accompanied by Ms. Charlotte Harding, stewardship specialist, from the Conservation Land Stewardship Program. Ms. Harding has the responsibility of overseeing the monitoring of hundreds of conservation land parcels throughout the state of New Hampshire. Her visit to Newport this fine autumn day was welcomed and informative.

The Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP) evolved from the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP). In the 1980s, the state legislature passed bills which created the LCIP. In an era when lots of open land was being lost to development, the legislators felt a program was needed to help municipalities and the state identify and acquire key land parcels for protection. The state legislature voted to establish an endowment with ongoing funding to be used for grants for conservation land acquisition and protection. Today there are two offshoots of the LCIP: the CLSP which monitors existing conservation lands and the Land Conservation and Heritage Program (LCHIP) which manages the endowment and aids in the purchase of parcels designated for conservation.

In 1991, Newport was able to use grant monies from the LCIP endowment to purchase land and a conservation easement on the hills behind the middle-high school and far up Summer Street. The Barton parcel was a sale of 76 acres to the Town. This lot contains the iconic Pinnacle overlook. The Johnson lot is a conservation easement which straddles upper Summer Street just below the summit of Coit Mountain. At the same time in 1991, the LCIP helped facilitate the conveyance of two conservation easements donated to the town by the Wells and the Yeomans families. These easements comprise approximately 76 acres of conservation land on lower Blueberry Ridge Road between Hurd and Satterlee Roads.

In October, we had at least two purposes for the monitoring walk. The first was to re-mark boundaries and place new tags to identify the parcels as protected land.



From top right clockwise: Guenter Hubert, Charlotte Harding, Ken Dennis, and Don Schagen

This involves a bit of orienteering and a basic ability to read maps. Identifying blazes on trees and iron pins in the ground can be challenging. Trees and limbs fall, ground shifts, stone walls get covered in moss and organic debris. But we were successful in marking out the territories. Our second task was to see that the parcels are being used solely for the purposes stated in the deeds. The

Barton and Johnson properties are contiguous with other land that makes up the Town Forest. This land is restricted by covenant to public recreational use and sustainable agriculture and forestry. Private uses of the land and other forms of degradation are not permitted. An annual report to the CLSP is a requirement that the Town agreed to when the grant monies were extended in 1991. Don Schagen prepared these reports and they were filed with the state. We'll be back in the woods next year to walk about again. We extend our gratitude to Charlotte Harding for her expertise and assistance in this required monitoring.

With the winter slowly receding and outdoor activities ramping up, look for the Newport Conservation Commission to be participating in town-wide activities. We will again this year be involved in the annual Green Up day which is slated for Saturday, April 30 at 9:00 am on the Town Common. We also hope to sponsor some educational activities such as guided walks in the Town Forest. As always, we have a public meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We always appreciate input from the public on matters of land use and conservation. ■

~ Larry Schissel

MEET YOUR SUGAR RIVER BANK NEIGHBORS



Terry Beaulieu
Asst. Branch Manager/
Collection Officer

Favorite hobby:
Motorcycling,
vacationing, my view

**What fictional place and
what real place would
you like to visit?**
Fictional: OZ
Real: Travel the USA

**What skill would you like
to master?**
Relaxation

**What is the best way to
start the day?**
Ocean therapy

**Name a book you'd
recommend?**
Charlotte's Web

**What was cool when you
were younger, not now?**
Dr. Scholls and
telephone booths

**What is your favorite
movie from childhood?**
Snow White (Disney)

What is your life motto?
Live~Laugh~Love

What is your theme song?
"I Don't Want to Miss a
Thing"

**What one animal/plant/
part of our earth would
you save or protect?**
Whales

**What superhuman power
would you like to have?**
To be able to fly

**What famous person
would you have dinner
with (alive or dead)?**
Elvis

**What's your favorite
thing about Newport?**
Community
involvement



Teresa Fazio
Mortgage Loan Processor

Favorite hobby:
Reading

**What fictional place and
what real place would
you like to visit?**
Fictional: I'll have to
think about that
Real: Croatia

**What skill would you like
to master?**
Self care

**What is the best way to
start the day?**
Dachshund cheek kisses

**Name a book you'd
recommend.**
Anything by James
Patterson

**What was cool when you
were younger, not now?**
A banana seat on my
Schwin bike

**What is your favorite
movie from childhood?**
The Wizard of Oz

What is your life motto?
If it ain't broke, don't
fix it.

**What one animal/plant/
part of our earth would
you save or protect?**
The whales and the
ocean

**What superhuman power
would you like to have?**
Animal communicator

**What famous person
would you have dinner
with (alive or dead)?**
Kelly Clarkson

**What's your favorite
thing about Newport?**
The strong sense of
community



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Who is Eichenauer?

Over the past year, the *Newport Times* has helped us share our story and highlight our company.
This year we would also like to introduce you to some of the people who work here.

Meet STEVE HEBERT, Systems Administrator

Steve began his career with Eichenauer Inc. in November, 1997 as an Engineer. At the time, we were known as Hartford Eichenauer and had only 1 division, the Industrial Products Group, IPG. Steve remembers his first day on the job when someone from Customer Service asked him to take a customer call after having been onsite for 10 minutes. Talk about getting thrown into the fire quickly!

At the time, Hartford Eichenauer only had one dial-up internet connection and one email address shared by all employees. Steve had an interest and background in computers and computer programming, so he developed the network to share CAD files with his fellow Engineers. Thus began his integral journey into IT management.



Steve has seen a lot of changes at Eichenauer Inc... Not only the name, but the growth of a new semi-automated product division, new product lines in IPG, new ERP systems, and upgrades to the computer system.

He has witnessed the growth in workforce as well as the growth of the company sales. Steve has been able to travel to the corporate



headquarters in Germany multiple times and has earned a Microsoft MVP award for 6 consecutive years.

Steve travels to work from Springfield, Vermont and has gotten used to the travel time. He continues to do this because he loves what he does and where he does it. "In the beginning, it was fun because it felt like family. As we have grown, it still feels like we are small enough so everyone is willing to pitch in to help wherever needed." It is a group of friends who watch out for each other, while watching out for the continued success of Eichenauer Inc.

If you would like to join Eichenauer Inc., send an email to hr@eichenauerusa.com.

Ice Boxes: Preserving Food in the Home



Blocks of ice are sawed



Packed in ice house [note sawdust insulation]



Home ice box

Having a refrigerator in our homes is so common that we rarely think of what a problem people had in keeping food fresh before this modern convenience appeared. Years ago, an elderly Aunt of mine who grew up in the Azores told me that to preserve milk from day to day they would heat it up to just below the boiling point, then moisten the rim of the pot and put a smooth plate over it. As the milk cooled the plate would suck down tightly on the pot and seal it, and they would do the same thing after using milk the next day.

Those in more rural areas who had the luxury of a spring house could leave food, especially dairy

products, in crocks or pots partially immersed in the cold flowing water from the spring.

As people migrated to more urban areas they turned to ice boxes, cooled by blocks of ice separated from the food compartment. As the ice melted the runoff water would trickle down into a drain or a tray at the bottom of the icebox, which would be emptied daily.

Originally, the ice was harvested from lakes and ponds, sawn into very large blocks and packed into ice houses, layer after layer of these blocks, usually insulated with sawdust. The ice houses were effective at keeping the ice even until the following autumn.

At its peak, the American ice industry in the 1800s employed 90,000 people harvesting the ice in winter, storing it in the extensive commercial ice houses, transporting and even exporting it. Reportedly, in the year 1847, 347 ships left the port of Boston laden with cargoes of ice destined for not only the southern United States, but far-away places such as South America, India, and Hong Kong. Ice was imperative for preserving fish and meat in warmer climates. The exports amounted to 75,000 tons of ice that year! By the late 1800s, mechanical means of refrigeration were being developed which eventually eclipsed the harvesting of natural ice.

In most years, the volunteers of Musterfield Farm in North Sutton, NH welcome the public to ice harvesting on Kezar Lake on "Ice Day." (Pictured above left.) The large blocks are transported to the ice house at Musterfield Farm, and are used, among other things, for making ice cream at the public summer events there.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, most households had an ice box, (above right) and the ice would be delivered periodically by horse-drawn ice wagons. For convenience, to let the iceman know how much to bring in, ice companies would provide cards to be placed in the window and, depending on which side of the card was turned uppermost, they would know how much was needed.

Most homes had a relatively small ice box, but some larger homes had built-in ice boxes, often with a separate ice compartment, or bunker, above the compartment holding the perishables. These built-in

ice boxes would have thick walls and doors, typically insulated with several inches of granulated cork.

The "Large pantry built-in ice box" pictured below is one of these ice boxes in a Newport home built during the 1800s. The smaller hatch leading into the ice bunker is seen above the main ice box door. What is most ingenious and convenient is that a similar hatch is located on the outside of the building (pictured below), so that large blocks of ice could be loaded into the bunker from the outside without disturbing the family!

More than one old timer has related how, as children, they would follow the ice wagons down the street in the summer, picking up chunks of ice which fell off, sucking on them as a rare cold treat. During the 1920s, electrically powered refrigerators began to appear in people's homes and, by the second world war, they had become nearly ubiquitous and the ice wagons and true ice boxes became things of the past. ■

~ Arthur Walsh, MD, Newport Historical Society



Large pantry built-in ice box



Outdoor hatch to ice bunker

AIRPORT NEWS

Meet the People of Parlin Field

Terry Callum
Parlin Field Volunteer

Terry was in the US Navy from 1967 to 1971. He served on board the USS Saratoga during two Mediterranean tours. As Petty Officer Machinist Mate 2nd Class, he was assigned to the main engine room. After his military service, he worked for Tampax for 31 years as a Senior Mechanic. During Terry's employment, he made two trips each to the UK and China and one to Ireland. In 2004 he purchased a Cessna 152, was trained as a pilot by instructor John Merriman, and was licensed in 2006.

Terry's family has a rich history at Parlin Field. His grandfather, father, two uncles along with two friends built the original hangar at Parlin that is currently still in use and on the Historical Register. As a volunteer at Parlin, Terry wears many hats. He helps maintain all aspects of the large tractor and assists with mowing during the summer and winter plowing. He also cleans out the culvert at the end of the runway that the beavers like to clog up! Additionally, Terry builds proactive



wildlife deterrents, does painting as needed, runway crack sealing, vegetation removal, and moves airplanes. He also volunteers to fly kids and helps with the annual August ACE camp set up. Terry is a "get the job done" person and his willingness to help is much appreciated by other Parlin volunteers. ■

~ Jackie Cote

DON'T WAIT UNTIL *Spring*



All signs suggest that housing demand remains high! With fewer listings during the colder months, the winter season is a great time to sell your property!

My local expertise and connections, combined with my technology and marketing strategies will help you achieve your home buying or selling vision. Whether you're feeling overwhelmed and want someone to guide you, or you just need a second opinion and you have it covered, you can be assured that I am the right agent, in any market condition.

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