

# The Newport Times

Newport's Good News Paper

Serving the Town of Newport, NH

January/February 2022

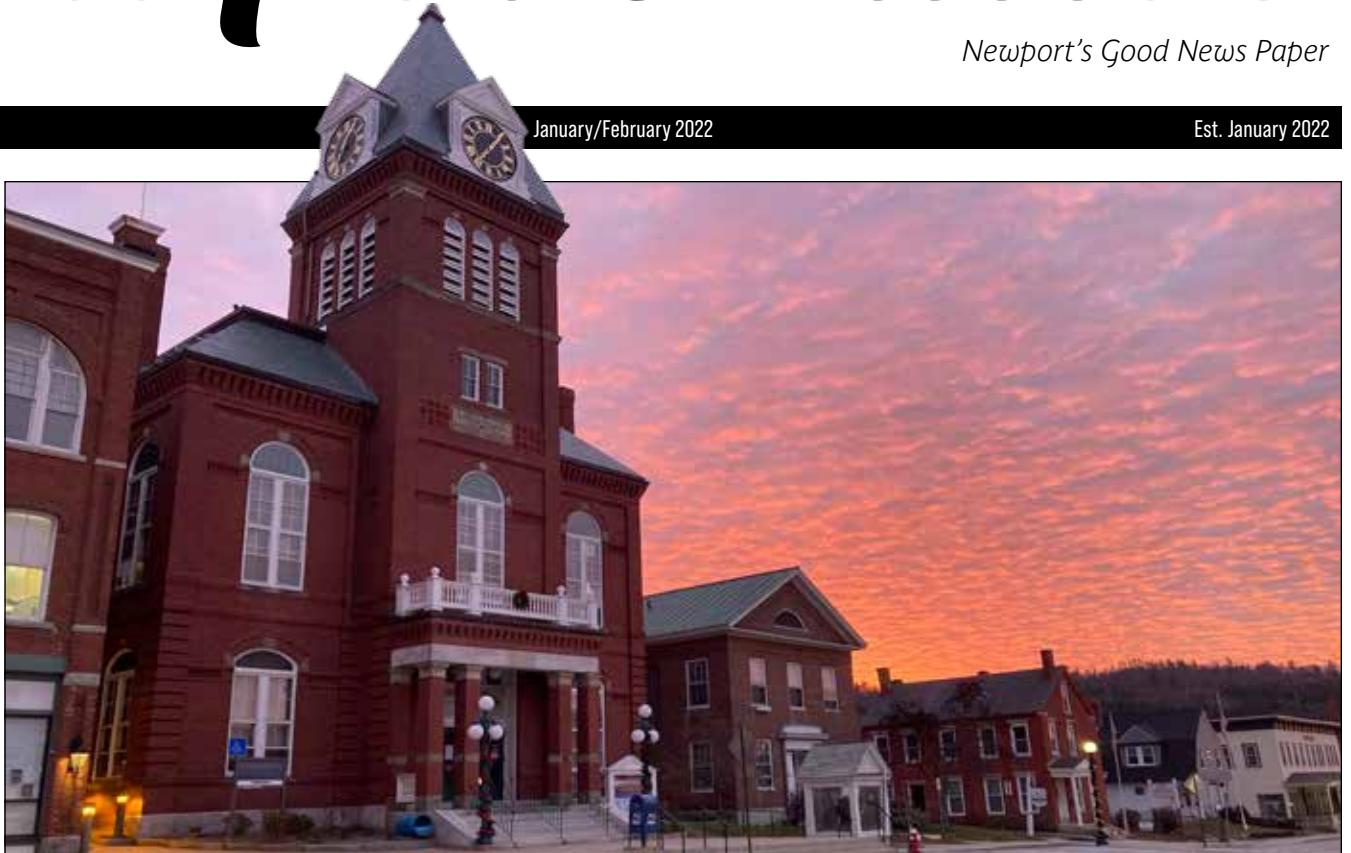
Est. January 2022

**"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."**

**~ Coretta Scott King**



*The community of Newport is a prime example of the saying "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." When all of the people and organizations get together to support all that is good in Newport, the result is a community with heart and soul that cares for all of its members and that is something to celebrate!*



Newport's Main Street at sunrise. Photo by Steve Smith of WCNL.

## Here Comes the Sun: Look What's Rising in Sunshine Town

Christine Benner and Jennifer MacMillen

Can you feel it? There is a renaissance that has been taking shape for well over a decade in Newport and it's palpable in every sector of the community. What was once a thriving mill town and then a humming economic hub for manufacturing, Newport became a little sleepy for a period of time. There was a sense of stagnancy and apathy as jobs left and residents left. But, the sun also rises on the Sunshine Town and all of the behind-the-scenes efforts by and foundational caring spirit of its citizens has culminated in a reawakening that is happening as we speak. Townspeople of all ages are wiping the sleep from their eyes, dusting off their personal dreams and those for their beloved

community, and are silently and energetically creating a movement that's catapulting Newport beyond what it was even in its heyday.

For a seemingly sleepy town in the middle of New Hampshire, Newport lays claim to many 'firsts' and amazingly influential and pioneering individuals and industries. It's worth reminding oneself that it's 'cool' to have people like Sarah Josepha Hale and Billy B. Van among its early and famous citizens. It's 'cool' to have an incredibly beautiful downtown with a village green to serve as a community gathering space. It's 'cool' to have the many splendors of natural areas in and around and accessible to all residents. It's 'cool' to have such rich history and citizens who put their heart and soul into making and maintaining Newport as the spirited, caring and resilient community it truly is.

*Continued on page 22*



Roy and his wife Eeva are both dedicated advocates for the Town of Newport.

## Roy Malool: A Newport Icon

Jen MacMillen

"I'm an entrepreneur," said Roy Malool, Newport community benefactor and 95-year-old icon, when asked about which one character trait would best define who he is.

As an entrepreneur, Roy has spent his adult life seeing problems or gaps in a system and quickly finding solutions to bring about positive change. Sometimes Roy has seemingly been incredibly lucky, but as they say, most successful people create their own good fortune by seizing a moment and making it great! And that is just

what Roy has done in his business and for his beloved town of Newport.

"I'm a flatlander," Roy said with great shock and appeal! True, Roy spent his youth in New Jersey but was greatly influenced by his summers spent in Lempster, NH. His family had an old farmhouse there and "...from the minute school let out in June until the day we had to go back in September right after Labor Day, we spent every moment of every summer at the farm," reminisced Roy. "We played baseball against other local town teams every Sunday. This is where I got acquainted with the 'real world.'"

*Continued on page 20*



# The Willey-Perra Community Giving Program

While the majority of people are saying “see you later” to the Christmas spirit, the “Willey-Perra Community Giving Program” crew is already gearing up for next year’s children in need.

This past holiday season, the program served roughly 295 kids in the Newport area with winter clothes, boots, and of course toys to ensure that every child wakes up on Christmas morning with at least a couple of gifts waiting for them to open.

Years ago, starting in 1981, Jimmy Willey and his boys would go up and down Main Street on Christmas Eve, giving gifts to families and kids he knew who were in need. The money for these gifts came from soliciting local businesses. Willey tragically died in 1989 due to an unexpected heart attack just before the gift-giving season. It was at his funeral, Jimmy’s sister, Gina Willey Hutchinson, of Newport, took up the mantle and rallied her co-worker, Ron Perra, to get involved.

Gina and Ron breathed new life into the original Christmas giving idea; they gathered gifts and placed them under the tree at what used to be Dartmouth Motors for families to pick out for their child/children. Similarly, not long after that, Ron Perra’s wife passed away after battling cancer, and the name “Willey-Perra Community Giving Program” was adopted.

The dedication of the Newport community is inspiring as residents collectively donate gifts, money, supplies, and time, through which this program continues to thrive. Donna Mahair, the president of the “Willey-Perra” program for the last 18 years, claims, “This is my absolute joy. I can honestly tell you that on Christmas morning when I open my eyes, knowing children in need will be waking up to Christmas gifts, brings tears to my eyes.” The basement of Mahair’s florist shop, Petal Patch, is the hub of it all. Year-round, the strategically organized space acts as storage for the gifts, clothing, boxes, and other supplies for the upcoming Christmas season.

There is no better helping hand than the town of Newport. The “Willey-Perra” board members rely on other families, groups, and businesses to help donate in order to serve the community. There is a set system with a tag for each anonymous child listing their wants and needs. Local businesses, schools, groups, families, and individuals can pick tags up at Petal Patch, then they purchase items and return all items and money to Petal Patch. When the time comes to wrap over 1,400 gifts, groups of volunteers go to the basement of Petal Patch to help. “Everybody builds on top of everyone else,” says Donna Mahair.

The most valuable donation to this organization is the Red Star Twirlers, a talented group of baton twirlers who travel internationally, coached by Jimmy’s sister, Gina Hutchinson, of Derry, NH. The Newport Opera House annually hosts the Red Star Twirlers every December; the money raised from ticket sales



*The Red Star Twirlers annual performance is one of the program’s largest fundraisers.*

is donated directly to the “Willey-Perra Christmas Giving Program.”

There are many ways to get involved with this program. Whether through donating, wrapping, or something as simple as spreading the word; anything is appreciated. It is not what you receive, it is what and how you give that defines who you are. Applications to receive gifts are available starting in September at Petal Patch, 2 Main St., Newport, NH., and can also be found on the “Willey-Perra” Facebook page. The application process makes it easy for the volunteers and board members to stay organized and ensure that what the child is receiving is what they want. Within the application, the child lists wants and needs, their age, and gender. Each child will then receive two articles of clothing as well as two toys.

And while you shop the post Christmas sale shelves, be sure to think of the “Willey-Perra Christmas Giving Program!” Wrapping paper, gift tissue, boxes, tape, and bows are a hot commodity come time for the wrapping of these many gifts and it’s a great way to get involved. If you have any further questions, contact Donna Mahair at (603) 863-3833 or email [willeyperraprogram@gmail.com](mailto:willeyperraprogram@gmail.com). ■

*~ Riely Skarin, Newport High School Senior and Sturm Ruger & Co. Inc. Work Based Learning Intern*



*The Willey-Perra Community Giving Program provides each child enrolled in the program two articles of clothing and two toys. Pictured above are just a sampling of the hand knit hats and toys generously donated by community members and groups this past year.*



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# 106th Newport Winter Carnival February 10-13, 2022

“Out of the Woods” (or at least we thought we would be by now) is the theme for this year’s 106th Annual Winter Carnival. ...and in an effort to maintain our status as the “oldest continuous town winter carnival in the nation,” we have put together a pandemic-friendly list of activities for the community to come out and enjoy. Just like the original Newport Winter Carnival, there will be ice skating on the common, a Queens Pageant at the Opera House and sledding at the Newport Moose hill. Additionally, there will be a carnival parade, a town-wide scavenger hunt and the pancake breakfast.

While the Newport Winter Carnival offers a mid-winter break for the citizens of Newport (and their friends and families) to get out and enjoy the natural winter wonders of the community, traditions are also a big part of the carnival. Many past and present Newport residents will come with their children and take part in the same events they did as a child.

The Newport Town Common is the hub for much of the carnival, featuring food, music and games (as well as the Axeman Challenge). This is also the primary gathering place for friends and families to meet to watch the parade. As the carnival has grown throughout the years, so has the number of things to do. We now have events spread throughout the community. Golf and softball down at Meadow (Horsey) Park, orienteering at the Newport Town Forest and co-ed volleyball and adult dodgeball at the Newport Recreation Dept. If none of these

things appeals to you, we also have places to grab a meal. There will be a themed dinner at The Old Courthouse Restaurant, a grab-and-go breakfast from the Newport Senior Center and a mac-and-cheese challenge if you would like to take part in something a little less competitive. Indoors or out, if you can’t find something to do, you aren’t looking hard enough.

Don’t forget your Winter Carnival button!

Collected by many, these treasures are hard to find by the time the carnival begins. Buttons can be purchased from a sponsoring business or from the queens themselves, so make sure you get yours before they are gone.

The most current schedule can be found online on the Newport Rec Facebook page and locally at the businesses in town who are sponsoring a queen contestant.

Last but not least, none of these events would be taking place if not for the efforts and hard work of the Winter Carnival Committee and local organizations. It takes many volunteers to make these programs possible, and the hard work and dedication of these folks are part of what makes the town of Newport, and events like the Newport Winter Carnival, so special. ■



## Hidden Gems Newport Skating Rink

At least since the 1930s, Newport has proudly flooded the historic common for ice skating. The tradition still continues in Newport to this day. We still have three ice huts kicking around town which have served as the warming huts for the kids on cold days, to warm up, or have a hot chocolate before their next trip around the rink. The present ice hut was built and donated in 2013 by Howe Builders. It is the largest hut we have to date, and it can seat upwards of 24 kiddos on a cold and blustery day. Resting in the

middle of the warming hut, is a stoked fire, adding to the charm. The hut is maintained by the Newport Recreation Department which, with the help of the town, transports it to its historic resting spot for three months on the north end of the common. The First Baptist Church sits just behind it which makes an incredible backdrop for a Norman Rockwell painting of a picturesque New England town with old-world traditions.

Speaking of traditions, the rink is hand-flooded by volunteers and Rec staff.

This tradition is approaching a century old with hopes of it continuing in the future. Recently, with our strange weathered winters, it has become a challenge to keep ice on the common as warmer days seem to sneak in more often than in “the old days.” One of the reasons we like the big rink to be hand-flooded is because it is big, I mean *big*. We self-describe our rink as the “biggest man-made rink in NH” as it boasts an average of about 25,000 square feet of skating. Some years we have the rink over 100 yards long (as

long as a football field). Other local rinks, which have self-contained boards to keep the water in, are great for skating but they usually only provide about 4000-5000 square feet of skating to our 25,000.

The rink remains open most of the day, provided the temperatures are ice-friendly. The ice hut has open hours which are usually after school and on weekends. Another feature of the ice hut is that we provide skates for those who do not have any. At the present time, we have over 150 pair of skates in the hut ready to be used by kids and families who want to come down for a day of fun. It is often that we have over 100 skaters on a weekend day in our peak season. The ice skates are free to use while the ice hut is open. The skates have been donated by Newport families for generations to allow others to partake in this family tradition.

So, if you are looking for some exercise, or family fun, consider swinging down to “the hut,” strapping on some blades, and see how many smiles you can produce by taking a few laps around our legendary and historic common. ■



## PJ's Pointers Fitness Tips to Keep You Smiling This Winter

Get outside. That is it. The easiest fitness tip of the winter. When you go outside in the winter, you automatically start burning more calories regardless of the exercise you choose. Your body is working already to keep it warm, and a little bit of exercise is icing on the proverbial cake. Winter activities are amazingly good for your soul and mental well-being. Winters can be hard on you mentally, but the cold, crisp air of the outdoors will provide you with the right medicine to get through the long winter. So, whether it be snowmobiling, skiing, skating, or just going for a walk, try to make a point to go be “in the winter,” rather than watch it from the inside. ■







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## KATHAN GARDENS

### Employee Spotlight: David Beauchaine, Facilities Manager



David was born and raised in Newport and has been here for 33 years – his whole life! He is married to Justine and has four kids ages 7, 10, 11 and 14.

He believes in staying local and the importance of keeping businesses in the community. Being able to count on your neighbors and small-town values are what keeps him happily raising his family in Newport.

"My co-workers are like family to me," said David.

David began his career at Kathan Gardens as a part-time, seasonal employee four years ago and worked his way up to Facilities Manager. With 15 greenhouses and other facilities to oversee and maintain, he has his hands full!

"The next 10 years could really make a difference in turning Newport around to what it could be." He believes that if everyone gets involved in community decisions, it will make a big difference. ■



Kathan Gardens  
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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

### Good News Abounds in Newport!

I received a call out of the blue. It was like a blast from the past when Hunter Reiseberg – former town manager to Hartford, VT – was on the other end.

"Are you still publishing good news newspapers?" Hunter inquired. "I am now the Town Manager for Newport, NH and I've never seen a community with as much spirit as this one!"

The timing was perfect! It just so happened that I was ready to start helping other communities spread the good news in their towns.

Welcome *The Newport Times*!

When I first met with Hunter and his associate, Christine Benner, Economic Development Coordinator for the Town, I could feel the excitement and absolute certainty that a vehicle like this could bring to light all the good that already exists here. And once that happens, the ripple effect begins and uplifts us all.

Negative news is toxic. If we only read/hear the negative messages, then we start to believe them subconsciously. If you haven't already noticed, Newport is filled with good people doing good things every day, and they can serve as inspirations to us all as we read about their stories and motivations. Just watch... soon everyone will want to hop on the goodness train.

While it sounds a bit Pollyanna-ish, no one can deny that hearing good news uplifts the spirits. Please read *The Newport Times* and notice how good and proud you feel about this – your – remarkably resilient and vibrant community!

~ Jen MacMillen

## The Newport Times

is published bi-monthly by  
GREATER GOOD MEDIA, INC.

A special thanks to all of the time and energy that a group of dedicated citizens expended to make this good news publication happen!  
Christine Benner (Economic Development Coordinator), Hunter Rieseberg (Town Manager), and Roy Malool (Good Samaritan) deserve special recognition for seeing this through.

To contribute story ideas or to submit your organization's content, please contact  
Christine Benner ([cbenner@newportnh.gov](mailto:cbenner@newportnh.gov)) or  
Jen MacMillen of Greater Good Media ([publisher@gretergoodmedia.net](mailto:publisher@gretergoodmedia.net))  
Coming soon: [www.newporttimes.net](http://www.newporttimes.net)

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## GOOD THINGS HAPPEN HERE



### January 27

**Thursday, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

#### **Pasta Dinner & Tech Center Tour**

Join us for a fun, interactive tour of the Tech Center and all of the incredible programs offered with a delicious pasta dinner to follow! All residents and families are encouraged to attend, free of charge! Email Kristie Howe to learn more [khowe@sau43.org](mailto:khowe@sau43.org).



### February 3

**Thursday**

#### **Newport Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting**

For more information, please call 603.863.1510 or visit [www.newportchamber.org](http://www.newportchamber.org).



### February 5

**Saturday, 9:00 am**

#### **School Deliberative Session**



### February 10

**Thursday**

#### **Opening of 106th Winter Carnival**

For full list of events, times and locations, visit the Newport Recreation Facebook page, or visit the Rec or a sponsoring business for a paper copy.

### February 11

**Friday, 7 pm**

#### **Winter Carnival Queen's Pageant**

At the newly renovated Newport Opera House. Visit [newportoperahouse.com](http://newportoperahouse.com) for more info!



### February 17

**Thursday 4 pm – 6 pm**

#### **Tech Center Renovation Social**

Join us at the Salt Hill Pub, 3rd floor, for a fun (and delicious) information session on the upcoming potential renovation of our community's Tech Center! Please email Kristie Howe ([khowe@sau43.org](mailto:khowe@sau43.org)) to RSVP. All residents and families are invited to this FREE event!



### February 21- 25

**Monday-Friday**

#### **SAU 43 Schools Winter Break**

*We know there's lots of great stuff going on in our community!  
And we would love to list your event for free in the next edition  
of the Newport Times Community Calendar.  
Email the publisher at [newportnhtimes@gmail.com](mailto:newportnhtimes@gmail.com).*



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# A Message from Your Board of Selectmen

Jeffrey F. Kessler, Chairman

Welcome to the first edition of Newport's new community newspaper! After much effort by several people to make this happen it is exciting to finally have the newspaper in our hands.

Your Board of Selectmen consists of myself, Jeff Kessler, along with John Hooper II, Barry Connell, Herbert Tellor, and Keith Sayer. Based upon the input we receive at Town Meeting each spring from the voters and residents of Newport, we set policy and financial direction for the town. Our Town Manager, Hunter Rieseberg, will then carry out our directions and oversee the daily operations of our town government and resources. Contact information for all of us is on the town's website at [www.newportnh.gov/board-selectmen](http://www.newportnh.gov/board-selectmen), or by calling the Town Manager's office at 603-863-1877.

The Board of Selectmen meet the first and third Mondays of each month in the Town Office at 15 Sunapee Street at 6:30 pm. Members of our community are encouraged to attend, observe, and contribute to our meetings. We do our best work when we can hear from our community. We have met in person throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and hope to continue to do so. If you do not feel comfortable meeting in person or if you cannot otherwise attend in person, you may connect through Zoom and still contribute to our meetings. Zoom links are on our agendas posted on the town web site. Meetings may also be watched on NCTV.

The Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager have managed to keep our town's budget and tax burden relatively flat and we work to keep our tax rate increases small. Since 2016, our town tax rate has increased from \$11.26/\$1000 to \$12.02/\$1000, including a \$.10 decrease this year. This works out to less than a 1.5% increase per year over the last 5 years while paying raises to our staff, covering increases in health insurance and retirement contributions.

As the road map for keeping our town tax rate stable, the Board of Selectmen is finalizing the Capital Improvement Plan to help us organize capital expenses. We are also utilizing grant monies to fund capital expenses. In 2020 over \$1 million of grant monies were obtained by the town. At the November 1st, 2021 Selectmen meeting, \$2.8 million of grants were announced and listed for this year. Details on these awards can be found in the minutes of that meeting. That list included \$665,617 for a new sewer pump station on Sunapee Street and development of a new water well north of the airport and \$600,000 for water mains work on Unity Road, funds that will not need to be raised from the water and sewer users. That list also included \$574,400 for replacement of 2,800 feet of sidewalks along Sunapee Street and \$430,730 for work on the back of the Opera House including improving the handicap access.

Since the November 1st, 2021 meeting, the town received notice that we could be receiving several congressional earmarks, including \$1,936,000 toward the cost of the EPA required upgrade of our wastewater treatment plant and an additional \$870,000 for additional water mains work.

These grants are due to the hard work of our Town Manager, Hunter Rieseberg, and our Economic

Development Coordinator, Christine Benner.

This year we are also presented with two bonds to support major investments in our community that will benefit all of us.

In March, the Newport School Board will ask us to approve a bond for \$1.9 million to cover our share of the \$15 million cost to renovate the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center at Newport Middle and High School. The technical center opened its doors in 1993 and for close to 30 years has provided Newport students the skills and opportunities to let them excel in their chosen vocations. Committees of community members, school staff, and business leaders, under the direction of the technical center director, Jennifer Opalinski, developed a renovation plan to serve the next generations of Newport students. Using the once in a generation funding from the state and available federal funds, the technical center's \$15 million renovation will require Newport residents to contribute less than \$2 million as our share.



Members of the Board of Selectmen and Town Officials touring the community's sole water source with Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

The other bond will be for a community center at town voting in May.

In 2017 the Community Center Committee of community members was reinstated and worked with an architect to develop a feasibility study that looked at our community center needs and the three possible locations in downtown Newport, locations that students can walk to after school. The three locations were Towle School, expanding the existing 80 year old recreation center, and building a new center on Meadow Road. A new center was found to be the least expensive option to meet our community needs.

At the May 2018 town voting, the Board of Selectmen was authorized to invest up to \$200,000 for the development of a new community center for our town at a location on Meadow Road. The Community Center Committee interviewed firms and hired BreadLoaf of Vermont to work with them to develop a firm design and costs for a new community center. The committee and Breadloaf came up with a proposed community center twice the size of the current recreation center, with a \$6.5 million cost. The bond vote to raise \$3 million through donations and bond \$3.5 million failed at the May 2019 town voting.

However, the need for a new community center has not gone away. The existing 80 year old recreation center is in serious disrepair. The cost of renovating the existing center is \$3 million. This does not



Potential Community Center building. Visit [www.newportnh.gov](http://www.newportnh.gov) for info.



Chairman Jeff Kessler at Gov. Chris Sununu's April 9th visit, accepting a \$430,730 Community Development Block Grant for improvements to the Newport Opera House, just one of many grants won by the Town in 2021.

increase its size, which today cannot support all the children that want and need a place to go after school or for summer camp.

In the past two years the cost of the new community center has increased to \$7 million. The new bond will require at least \$3 million to be raised by grants and donations with no more than \$4 million to be raised from the bond. Currently, there is about \$2.5 million of pledges for the new community center. Cost of the new center includes removal of the old recreation center and building a new ambulance/storage garage in its place. Community center details are at <https://www.newportnh.gov/home/pages/proposed-community-center>.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Newport has become a destination for families moving from urban areas. We have seen a sharp increase in the market value of our homes that have sold, and we have seen more new homes built in Newport than in a long time. By next fall we should know the results of the state-required property reevaluation here in Newport. Hopefully, the market increases in our home values will translate into higher assessed values for our homes. This could lead to lower property tax rates and improve the equity of our homes and confidence in our community. Investing that confidence in the technical center renovations and in our new community center will only improve our community's appeal and value that much more. ■



## Fire Department

Greetings from the Newport Fire Department. For this first edition of the *Newport Times*, we would like to give you an overview of the Newport Fire Department and some exciting things that have been happening.

The Newport Fire Department is a combination department that is staffed 24 hours a day. A combination department has both full time staff and paid on call/per diem staff. We staff four people a day between full time employees and on-call/per-diem personnel. The department roster consists of seven full time personnel. The full-time staff is trained to Firefighter 2 certification, one is a paramedic, four advanced EMTs and two at the basic EMT level. The on call/per diem staff consists of 33 personnel ranging from Firefighter 1 certification up to paramedic level. The department provides fire suppression activities, fire code enforcement, all hazard emergency response, and EMS services. As of the writing of this article, the department has responded to 1,453 emergency calls for service just this past year.

The department operates two engines, a tanker, a ladder truck, and two Advanced Life Support ambulances out of the fire station located at 11 Sunapee Street. The department's third ambulance along with the incident management trailer are stored at 15 Meadow Road.

As with most area communities, we have been dealing with the pandemic. The department has provided support in the form of vaccinators at vaccination clinics held in Newport and early on at the state vaccination sites. The department continues to support the state's vaccination efforts. During the past year, the department has received donations from Ocean State Job Lot which donated over \$50,000 of personnel protective equipment and sanitizing products to support our pandemic response. We are grateful for their support.

The department has received over \$149,000 in grants in 2021 alone.

A federal grant of \$118,082 was used to upgrade the department's three ambulances with powerlift stretcher systems. These systems reduce manually lifting by department members of patients into the ambulance, reducing risk of injury to department personnel. The department also received a \$23,940 federal fire prevention grant to



NFD at the COVID vaccination clinic at the Sugar River Bank Community Room

expand the department's reflective 911 address sign program. These reflective signs are available to all residents and building owners in Newport at no cost. The link to apply for a sign can be found at [www.newportnh.gov/home/webforms/911-reflective-address-sign-program](http://www.newportnh.gov/home/webforms/911-reflective-address-sign-program) or by calling the fire station 603-863-1416. Another grant received was a \$6,424 Covid federal grant for advanced N95 masks for all members of the department.

The department also received a grant from Anheuser-Busch through the National Volunteer Fire Council for a pallet of drinking water.

The department has current applications for federal grants to replace the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus refill station and a grant to replace the 1994 Spartan 3D fire engine that is at its end of service life cycle.

The Newport Fire Department is a progressive, dynamic organization dedicated to a culture of safety and transparency. We strive to provide the highest level of care, service and professionalism to the citizens and visitors of the Town of Newport and the surrounding communities.

Our mission is to help people during their time of need by protecting life, property, and the environment.

The members of the Newport Fire Department believe in *pride and commitment to excellence* in training, education, performance of duties and community service.

We value *professionalism and a good work ethic*, utilizing effective work habits through working productively with others in a professional manner.

We commit to an approach of *honesty and integrity* in all internal and external interactions requiring both personal and organizational accountability.

We promote a culture of transparency, *humility and forgiveness* with one another.

Central to these values is open communication at all levels of the organization and courage to always move the department forward in a safe and professional manner. ■



## Town Clerk: Dog Licensing



Ezra - 1st Place winner, 2021 Top Dog



Jake - 2nd Place, 2021 Top Dog



Leavitt - 3rd Place, 2021 Top Dog

We bring you news and reminders from the Town Clerk's Office. As we welcome in the new year we kick off our 8th Annual TOP DOG Contest. This is a fun contest for resident dog owners that we use as encouragement to get dogs licensed by the State mandated deadline of April 30. We have already begun issuing 2022 dog tags to those owners who want to get a jump on licensing. Every owner that licenses their dogs by April 30 has the opportunity to enter their dog in our contest.

We select three winners by random drawing and those winners get their pup's photo showcased in our office until the next Top Dog contest begins and they get showered with amazing gifts.

We have some very generous sponsors that continue to give to our contest year after year. In 2021 we gave away over \$700 in prizes! For an application and to check out our sponsor list, prize packages and the 2022 Pup Parade, go to our web page at [www.newportnh.gov/town-clerk](http://www.newportnh.gov/town-clerk) and click

on "DOGS DOGS Everything DOGS".

While you are there, make sure to bookmark it for fast access. Did you know you can license your dogs online AND even register a new furry family member and upload paperwork? We offer so many online options to make things easier including vehicle registration, duplicate registrations, vital records, access to DMV forms, absentee ballot requests and much more. We are adding new features all the time. Check out our page today! ■

**Thanks everyone for  
licensing your beloved  
Top Dogs!**



# Newport Police Department Welcomes Two New Officers

## Meet Officer Rachel Stark



Officer Stark is a 2018 graduate of Newport High School. She joined the National Guard in 2020, and in 2021 she graduated from Military Police training in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. In addition to being a full-time police officer, and a soldier in the NH Army National Guard, Rachel is also a full-time student at Granite State College working toward her degree in Psychology with a minor in Addiction Studies.

In her free time, Rachel enjoys running, hiking, and traveling. Officer Stark will be attending the NH Police Academy in January and will be assigned to the Patrol Division upon her graduation in April.



## Meet Officer Matthew Twining



Officer Twining graduated from Cherokee High School in Marlton, New Jersey. Shortly thereafter, Matt joined the United States Marine Corps and was a member of the Security Forces Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), stationed in Kings Bay Georgia. Matt was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 2017, and then attended Rowan University where he graduated with a degree in Health Sciences. Officer Twining worked part time for the

Avalon New Jersey Police before relocating to New Hampshire in the late summer of 2021. Officer Twining enjoys hiking with his dog Southpaw, fishing, shooting, football and baseball. Officer Twining will also be attending the New Hampshire Police Academy in January and will be assigned to the Patrol Division upon his graduation in April. ■



# Department of Public Works: Winter Weather Reminder

## Shoveling Safety

As many of you know, winter sidewalk safety can be a challenge, but keeping our sidewalks clear might help prevent accidents, and trouble.

Whether you're a homeowner, a landlord, a business or a tenant, snow removal safety go hand-in-hand; and someone is ultimately responsible for getting it done.

When shoveling, be sure to use proper form: Push, don't lift snow. If you have to lift, squat down with your legs apart, back up straight and heels grounded. Never throw snow to the side or behind you. Remember always to work slowly and take breaks!

## Winter Parking Ban

Please do not park on, obstruct or block sidewalks. This forces pedestrians to walk into traffic and prevents our sidewalk tractors from plowing. Please also remember to not push snow onto the sidewalks or into the streets, as this also can be a safety obstruction.

The Parking Ban remains in effect from November 1st to May 1st, every year. Thank you for your understanding during this "wintery bliss!"

## What Is a Community and Why Is It Important?

A community is a group of individuals connected to each other by one or more attributes. The element that links them together is at the core, and is the essence of the group. Just as denoted by the root and suffix of the word (common-unity), a certain segment of the population is united by a familiar thread. ■

*"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much."*

~ Helen Keller





# The Great Things That Happen in Newport After School Gets Out



Did you know that the Sullivan County 4H office is located right here in Newport? With the addition of their new Youth and Family Program Manager, Laurie Fields, things are really happening! As well as a new shooting club, the office is hosted a gingerbread making competition in December and will host an ice fishing event in January.

Richards Elementary School supports two 4H groups. Both are part of the "Sunshine Makers" club with one group being for kindergarten through 3rd grade and the other for 4th and 5th grades. These groups focus on arts and crafts and community service activities.

So far, the Sunshine Makers have explored making play-dough and slime papier-mâché, jewelry making, mosaics, Christmas decorations and basic sewing. They are hoping to try wood burning, candle making, cooking, and basically any other craft you can think of! In January, they will have a guest instructor, local artisan Blake of Blake Inc., who will talk about her creative process and running her own craft business as well as the gingerbread house making competition and their official swearing in as 4H members by Laurie Fields.

Meanwhile at the middle school, there is the Community Service Club, run by Rachel Lowesby, the SAP (Student Assistance Person) coordinator, and a Kindness Club and Drop-in Group overseen by Miranda Collins, the middle school Family and Community Coordinator.

The Community Service Club has spent the last three meetings cooking. They have made apple pies, sugar cookies that were delivered to Maple Manor Residents and gingerbread cookies that were made for the Senior Center "To Go" lunch program. Pizza is next on the agenda!

Miranda Collins' Kindness group will start off the New Year by creating and mailing postcards to thank people for their kindness as well as offer a supervised space for middle schoolers who want to do homework or just be with friends after school.

To truly see the impact of these programs, we think it is important that the kids speak for themselves:

*"I love the arts and crafts!" (4th grade)*

*"My dad likes that I have somewhere to go after school. He doesn't like me being home alone because I am only in 3rd grade" (3rd grade)*



*"When we get back in January, can I teach a Jewelry Making Class? I think each kid should teach something one week" (5th grade)*

*"This is the best day ever! This is even better than when we went to StoryLand" (Second grade)* ■

~ Stacey Hammerlind

To find out more about 4H or to volunteer, please contact Laurie Fields at [laurie.fields@unh.edu](mailto:laurie.fields@unh.edu) or (603) 863-9200

Stacey Hammerlind is the Family and Community Coordinator for the Newport School District. Her job is to help families connect with resources. She can be reached at [SHammerlind@SAU43.org](mailto:SHammerlind@SAU43.org) or 802-222-0865

Miranda Collins, Middle School Family Coordinator can be reached at [Mcollins@sau43.org](mailto:Mcollins@sau43.org) or cell phone- 802-232-2026

Rachel Loseby the SAP (Student Assistance Person) for the High School can be reached at [Rloseby@sau43.org](mailto:Rloseby@sau43.org).





# Newport's Own Super Hero



Recently, we at the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce made the announcement that our longtime Executive Director Ella Casey has retired. At the age of 91, Ella has served the Newport community for decades. Her dedication to Newport is not exclusively linked to her years as our Executive Director; Ella's professional work

catapulted her forward. Starting as Proof Operator at First National Bank, she transitioned to First Citizens Bank, to Bank East as a Loan Officer and eventually retiring in 1996 as Operations Officer from First New Hampshire Bank. She has given so much year after year, including her time on the Newport Booster Club, Newport Planning Board, The Red Hats, Newport Senior Center, Supervisor of the Checklist, Newport Economic Development Corporation, the Newport Business & Professional Women's Club, Community Alliance, Newport Historical Society, Newport Rotary Club, and so much more! She was even the first female Little League Coach in Newport.

She and her late husband, Jim, moved to Newport in 1966 raising two daughters, Patricia and Jamie. Though she grew up in Worcester, MA, she considered Newport her home. She has been a wealth of knowledge for so many in our community, and whenever you need to know how something is done, we all "go to Ella."

We have been lucky to have Ella Casey as our Executive Director for many years now, and been even more lucky to have her in our town. It was with great honor, and sadness, that we announced her retirement this past Fall from the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce. We love you, Ella, and can not thank you enough for everything.

~ Steve Smith, Secretary,  
Newport Area Chamber of Commerce

# Greetings from the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce



Newport Chamber keeps things fun, even in the toughest of times. The Wings and Wheels Car Show, Brew Fest, and 'Twas Just Before Christmas Festival brought smiles to thousands of residents and visitors faces in 2021.

First and foremost, we'd like to congratulate everyone on the launch of the new *Newport Times*. Speaking of new, improved, and unequivocally positive, it's a New Year and the Chamber is ready to make this our best year yet! 2021 was the year of re-opening and we were able to re-open safely and successfully because we are Newport Strong!

To recap 2021, the Newport Area Chamber held our 1st Annual Wings & Wheels Car Show (formerly the Sunapee Lions Club Car Show) at the Parlin Field Airport, with a turn out of around 200 vehicles, as well as many airplanes on display! We hosted our Newport Nano Brewfest, Block Party, Concerts on the Common, Tri-chamber Job Fair, Fireworks Event and 'Twas Just Before Christmas, where over 300 children went through the North Pole Express for a picture with Santa. These events not only brought our citizen and business communities together, but it welcomed people from all over New England to enjoy all that the Sunshine Town has to offer!

This community never ceases to amaze us and 2022 is off to a great start! We are hosting our Dancing with the Newport Stars at the Newport

Opera House on January 28th & 29th. Our Annual Awards and Dinner will be February 3rd at the Opera House, where we will award the prestigious Citizen of the Year, Non Profit of the Year, and Business of the Year awards. For more information about membership and events, please visit our website [newportnhchamber.org](http://newportnhchamber.org) or call (603) 863-1510. From all of us at the Chamber, we wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year and look forward to keeping you all updated on everything Chamber in upcoming editions of the *Newport Times*. ■

~ Shannon MacMichael, President  
Newport Area Chamber of Commerce



# COLLABORATING FOR COMMUNITY

## What Exactly Is ECON?

Established in 1992, the Economic Corporation of Newport was established by the Board of Selectmen to make a plan for economic development in Newport, to provide the foundation for strengthening our local economy and to promote a favorable climate for economic growth over an extended period of time.

Made up of town executives, business owners, managers, residents, and/or other stakeholders from the many industries throughout town, ECON has undertaken many projects over the years to help our beautiful community flourish. Some projects include:



New benches will adorn Main Street and the Town Common this spring, thanks to the joint efforts of ECON and the Town of Newport.



ECON was integral in the preservation and renovation of the Eagle Block (now Salt Hill Pub) making this building a focal point of our Main Street once again.

- Taking on the ownership of the Newport Ash Landfill, on behalf of the town, to prevent the facility from ever accepting trash in the future
- Spearheaded the Mural Project in the 1990s which incorporated citizens to do the painting and helped beautify our community

- Completed the preservation and renovation of the Eagle Block (now the Salt Hill Pub) and sold it to a private company, thereby bringing a major business to town and saving a landmark building on Main Street
  - Recruited Ocean State Job Lot to Newport
  - Supported the creation of the Economic Development Coordinator position for the Town of Newport which has resulted in millions of dollars being brought to our community through various grant sources and projects
- And that's just a small sampling. Through the volunteer efforts of its 16 Board members, ECON continues to make a positive impact on all of our lives. In fact, this newspaper was partially funded by a donation from ECON and, coming this Spring, brand new benches will be placed up and down Main Street and on the Town Common thanks to the joint efforts of ECON and the Town of Newport. Stay tuned to future issues of the *Newport Times* to see what ECON tackles next! ■



## Good Idea!

### A New Team Approach to Learning

At the start of the twentieth century, one-room schoolhouses were the cornerstone for public education throughout the country. One teacher taught students in grades one to eight on everything from language arts to mathematics. While education has come a long way since the traditional, white-painted, one-room schoolhouses, new teaching practices at Richards School are rooted in these beginnings.

The Vertical Learning Teams (VLTs) at Richards School regroup students based on their level of understanding and specific academic needs to provide a personalized learning experience that meets them as they are. Each VLT is made up of three classroom teachers and a special education teacher with approximately 45 students. These teachers work together to develop learning plans for each student that is in line with their learning progression. During Language Arts and Mathematics, students from the three different homerooms combine to create small groups developed by the teachers that focus on similar learning targets. Instruction is shifted from being defined by age to that of proficiency so students can progress accordingly.

While this may sound unconventional to us, for the students it's just part of the routine. Students move in and out of the three homerooms with their learning materials and interact with their peers. At the start, teachers

expected a bit of chaos. If you've ever worked with elementary school students, it's not hard to imagine. Surprisingly, this new way has not been chaotic at all. Now, it's just how we do learning.

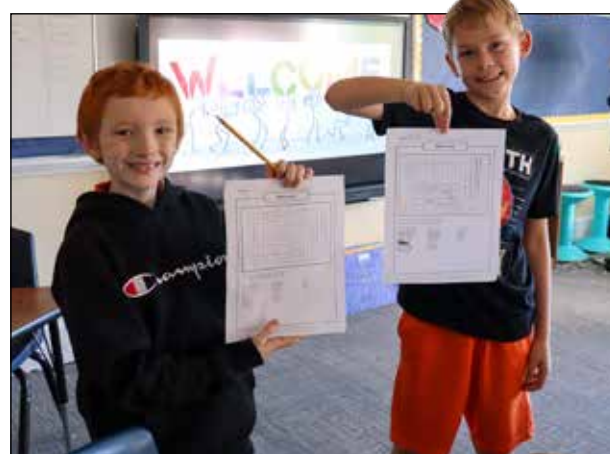
The students in the VLT are part of the learning community with their teachers and it shows from their ability to transition easily between classrooms and learning spaces to working with different teachers. "I love going to work with Miss Haynes," one third grade student explains about her Language Arts time.

"It's cool because instead of having one teacher to work with, we have three."

And that social emotional piece is another benefit of the learning teams. Coming off of the last couple years of the pandemic, students need more than just academic support. Teachers throughout the building are rethinking their instruction and including a greater focus on creating a strong culture and climate. Teachers work together to plan different activities for their teams to help promote the twenty-first century skills necessary for the future.

Richards School may be much bigger than those one-room schoolhouses of the past, but the experience on the vertical learning team is just as connected. We are building on the foundations of education and expanding to meet the needs of our students where they are, as they are. ■

~ Patrice Glancey,  
Interim Principal Richards School



Jacob and Alex show off their back to school morning work.



Members of the upper VLT show off their Tiger Nation pride during team time

# BRIGHT FUTURES: NEWPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Some Exciting Things Are Happening at Newport Middle School

To support our community, for Thanksgiving we held a food drive competition between the three grades and were able to collect over six hundred items for the local food bank.

- Our music program hosted two concerts, Choir and Band
- Teachers are working diligently to provide regular classroom instruction and help students who have been absent acquire the missed information.
- We've just completed a Toys for Tots drive to help our community during the holiday season.
- Winter sports have started and our student athletes are working hard to excel in the classroom and in their sports.
- We've been increasing our extracurricular activities.



Sullivan County 4H has been sponsoring a baking group after school every other Thursday with the goodies being donated to local senior citizens.

After the holiday break, 4H is partnering with Finding Our Stride, and will be having a daily walking group from 7-7:20am in the gym each morning. If students meet the goal of walking 50 miles they will get a voucher for new sneakers at Hubert's.

The Family and Community Coordinators will be holding a drop in Kindness Club after school every other Thursday starting January 13th. During club meetings, we will be doing Random Acts of Kindness for the school and community. Staff will also be available to provide homework assistance to students, if needed.

The Wellness Committee has been going into classes and providing education on bullying, vaping prevention, the difference between "snitching" and "reporting," empathy, and becoming an "upstander."

The Wellness Committee has also been supporting Community Circles in 6th grade.

YMCA Coniston is also partnering with NMHS to provide virtual tutoring for students free of charge. The tutors are all Coniston graduates. Last year the middle school students loved this program. ■

*The NMS Staff hopes the new year, 2022, brings joy and happiness into your lives.*

~ Miranda Collins; Family and Community Coordinator,  
mcollins@sau43.org or 865-9685.



## Student Spotlight: Annie Renner



Newport High School Sophomore, Annie Renner, not only excels in classes, but has a creative touch provided with their style and hobbies. Usually accompanied by a collection of pens and markers throughout the school day, Annie is usually drawing in a sketchbook during free time between classwork; their sketchbook(s) is filled with detailed sketches and collages, some that they finish in a matter of minutes.

Despite their quiet demeanor, Annie has a wonderful stage personality as a colorful and expressive dancer at Dance Arts Academy (DAA) in Sunapee, NH. This fall, Annie auditioned and was cast as the Nutcracker for the studio's performance of The Nutcracker that will be showing this winter at the Claremont Opera House. One of their dance instructors at DAA said that if she could describe them in three words it would be unique, talented and compassionate. Annie does a number of different styles including jazz, tap, pointe and more.

With a sense of style that stands out, Annie displays lots of layers, textures and patterns in all their outfits, and even makes jewelry. Their most recent addition to their newest jewelry making is pendants and charms that look like bread that they add to necklaces or earrings; all of which are made out of recycled plastics.

Annie is a unique addition to the NHS student body; their artistic personality brings color to the halls.

~ Bella Osgood, Junior at Newport High School



Front Row: Bella Osgood, Zeta Morris, Caydon Forand, Connor Johnson, Amelia ("Mia") Fischer, Mason O'Leary, and Violet Cameron. Second Row: Peyton Blackington, Lela Trot, Taylor Fellows, Jazmyn McNamara, Third Row: Maddox Lovely, Rachel LeFrancois, Tanya Sanchez, Katie Sharron

## Life of a Tiger

In the week before Halloween, NHS Life of a Tiger worked on spreading positivity in a festive way. Life of a Tiger (LOAT) is a high school club that aims to spread positive school culture (such as raising awareness about unhealthy relationships, etc.). Kaitlynn Porter, a social studies teacher and varsity field hockey coach at the high school is the advisor of this group, and meets once a week with students from any high school grade.

For a fall activity, members met to make notecards decorated for Halloween to pass out to all the high school advisories. Each student was asked to write an anonymous, positive message to a peer, and once collected, the group reads over every message to ensure they are respectful and school appropriate.

The final task is attaching a Halloween candy to the notes and distributing the positive messages to the students they were intended for.

This is the second year Ms. Porter has been the advisor of the group, along with the second time Life of a Tiger has done this Halloween treat activity; it is hoped that it becomes a fall tradition, and is also looking to do something similar to this during the holiday season with candy canes. Small activities such as these is what Life of a Tiger takes on in search of a healthier school environment. ■

~ Bella Osgood, Junior at Newport High School

## What's New at Newport High?



Last year, the Library (now referred to as the 'Learning Commons') began to go through various changes, renovations on its make-up. From reorganized shelves to new flooring, the very structure of the library itself was rearranged, improved upon, and sparkling new, waiting for us after the long summer. Although these changes may not have been obvious to all of us, for constant visitors, these renovations gave a completely new outlook on the library as a whole, for teachers and students alike. Brianna Wilkinson and Evelyn Marina both helped reshelve the non-fiction books earlier this fall. "The facelift the library has received makes the space so much more inviting to all," commented Brianna recently when discussing the changes. Paraprofessional Iris Nemeth worked tirelessly to get the library back in working order, too!

Specifically, the books were reorganized to different shelves and sectioned off to easy-to-access areas, and given new organizational codes. Meanwhile, a new space for visitors was set up, stocked with beanbags, new chairs, and shelving for graphic novels, a reading nook, for anyone who wants to get comfy while reading a Diary of a Wimpy Kid book for the hundredth time, right next to the shelf of newly organized movies for educational use.



Brianna Wilkinson, Evelyn Marina and Iris Nemeth

Mrs. Riley also has various music playlists running throughout the day to add ambiance to the inviting space. The bulletin boards add a touch of color and humor throughout the space and draw your attention to the new circulation desk, situated so Mrs. Riley can see the entire library easily. "While I admire the new feel of the learning commons, my favorite part of the library is still Mrs. Riley's ability to give book talks and draw students into reading. She's got some wonderful ideas to create a culture of reading in our school," replied Mrs. Cullison, English teacher, when asked about the changes made to the learning commons.



Cathy Riley, librarian

Not too far away is the newly revamped non-fiction section, where all non-fiction can finally be found, rather than scattered throughout the library itself, ordered from 92-1000.

For both students and teachers to nurture their creativity, a MakerSpace has been provided. Stacked with markers, hole punchers, colored paper, pens, pencil sharpeners, crayons, and a whole assortment of other utilities, this area is commonly being used to house the resident's freedom of creativity and structure of the classroom's curriculum.

Along with it comes a whiteboard, free of charge for teachers to aid their students and for students to annoy their teachers.

Something one may notice, however, is the empty shelves that lie not too far away, where the non-fiction was originally housed, alongside a peculiar U-shaped organization system. There, the fiction section of the library has performed a complete takeover, ordered from A-Z.

With these changes, the very foundation of the library has changed. With newly painted walls, new flooring, and a complete overhaul of the organization, these changes created a need for adjustment among the students, yet, the essence of the Learning Commons itself hasn't changed. Although it's no longer the same silent library we all remember, with its lively, collaborative environment, it still houses all the knowledge, entertainment, and utility it had to offer previously, tenfold. Especially in the bean bags. ■

~ Wesley Maynard, Senior at Newport High School



# A Message From Ms. Martin

*Principal Shannon Martin*



*NHS principal Shannon Martin*

Newport High School is an example of resilience in the face of adversity. In less than two years, the district has shifted from fully in-person instruction to fully remote, a choice of in-person or remote, and back to in-person instruction.

Along the way, our staff and families have had a crash course in technology and navigated new challenges pertaining to safety and the welfare of our students. In the face of these challenges, our community continues to find ways to celebrate, share, and learn. I am proud to work with highly educated and caring staff. I am inspired by the students who find their own way and reach heights that even they didn't know were possible, and I am proud to be part of Tiger Nation.

During these transitional years, one thing has remained the same: we are here for our students.

Our school community as a whole has demonstrated an incredible amount of flexibility and creativity to continue to open doors and offer our students a wide variety of opportunities in a world where things have been shut down and canceled.

Here are some of the great examples of the positive things students are doing in Newport since beginning in the fall:

In October we hosted our fourth annual expo. This event showcased interactive displays of our core

academic classrooms, Sugar River Valley Regional Technology Center experiences, band and chorus entertainment, creative displays from our art department, and athletic and co-curricular groups. Woven through the fair were many of our community resource programs. These are available to all families within the district and seek to assist students in bridging the gap as they transition from high school to young adulthood by delivering content and resources to help them make positive connections for planning their future.

Veterans Day is a beloved tradition at Newport. This morning event, organized by members of the National Honor Society, celebrates and honors our veterans. It included a breakfast cooked by our students, a musical performance, and speakers. We were pleased to be able to host this event in person. Each year we look forward to celebrating our local heroes.

Most recently, our music department hosted their annual holiday concerts. These events, held at the Newport Opera House, included a variety of musical performances from the middle and high school. One of the highlights was at the band concert at which one of our students arranged their own rendition of "Zombie" originally by The Cranberries. If you get a chance, watch the video on NCTV or online—it brought down the house.

This community spirit, this Tiger Pride, persists despite the circumstances we've faced. Thank you to our families, to our teachers, administrators and staff for inspiring, challenging and preparing our students to thrive in an ever-changing world. ■

*Note: Photos are a collection of mask-optional and mask-mandatory days.*

***Thank you to our families, to our teachers, administrators and staff for inspiring, challenging and preparing our students to thrive in an ever-changing world.***





# Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center



SRVRTC teacher Deb Stevens shows her class how to start a boxwood tree arrangement in floral foam.

## Building the Local Workforce to Fuel Economic Development

When you think back on the school courses you took, what do you remember? Many of us remember the wood working, robotics or other hands-on courses that made us feel empowered. We remember the teachers who believed in us and the classes that changed our life trajectory. At SRVRTC we do just that. We empower young people through our eight diverse programs and amazing, supportive teachers. We offer students the choice of animal and plant science, automotive technology, business, cosmetology, engineering, EMT, health science, natural resources/ forestry, and welding technology. Students find their passion at our school and, over their two to three year journey, they become confident, capable and ready to thrive in any college or career. The top 10% of our completers graduate with two full programs under their belts, and the top 1% with three! Cam Maynard will earn the triple crown this year as a completer in natural resources, welding and EMT.

Our graduation rate is 95% for CTE completers, well above regular high school averages. Students also earn industry recognized credentials such as OSHA-10 training and ASE certificates and typically join a leadership organization such as FFA, FBLA, SKILLS USA, HOSA or NTHS.

CTE brings grant money into Newport, too. \$44,000 in Perkins federal grant funding this year allowed SRVRTC to buy a used skid-steer this year for our agriculture programs to provide students with valuable equipment operation skills needed in landscaping, building construction, manufacturing, paving, town road crews, etc.

SRVRTC is also building a strong work-based learning pipeline with local businesses who want to mentor high school interns. Lakes Sunapee Plumbing and Heating, Eichenauer Inc., Sturm Ruger, Newport Fire Department,



Exceptional welding teacher Heather Wells prepares students for high skill, high wage jobs in our area.

Newport Police Department, LaValley Building Supply, Kathan Gardens, Whelen Engineering, Canam Bridges, Woodlawn Care Center, Summercrest, Valley Regional Health Care, Golden Cross Ambulance, and Wags n' Wiggles are just a few local business who are partnering with SRVRTC. If you'd like to fuel your work force pipeline by starting an internship program, give Mrs. Opalinski a call at the school at 603-865-9612.

## Renovation Is Coming

The tech center originally opened its doors in 1993 nearly 30 years ago. Every industry that we prepare students for has changed significantly since then. Staying current is essential. The automotive industry with EV technology is just one example of how our existing programs will not prepare students for the automotive jobs of the future. 13.1 million in state and federal funds are set aside for Newport's tech center renovation in 2022. The facility is just worn out and the equipment, roof, ventilation, windows, greenhouse and flooring are past their life expectancy. Rodney Page, the school district's facilities director, calculated nearly 1 million dollars would be needed to address the current facility needs without touching program upgrades. Jennifer Opalinski, the

Director of the Sugar River Tech Center, is applying right now for the state funding of \$11 million which can be available for Newport when a .9 million dollar bond is passed on March 8th. When Newport taxpayers vote to approve the tech center project, they will be paving the way for \$13.1 million in state and federal funds to pour in. Newport will receive a 15.4 million dollar tech center renovation for a 1.9 million dollar bond. That's a great return on investment.

## Classes for the Community at the Tech Center

The famous Mrs. Stevens, our gifted horticulture teacher, welcomed nearly 100 people into the tech center over the holidays. She offered three different classes on boxwood designs and floral arrangements for Thanksgiving, and Christmas. In January, our cosmetology students will open the salon to the public for hair styling and other services chosen by the students. In the spring of 2022, we will offer our second adult welding course, in the evening, thanks to a grant from Sullivan County Workforce Development and the Sullivan County Commissioners. More information to follow. ■

~ Jennifer Opalinski,  
Director of Sugar River Valley  
Regional Tech Center



Happy attendees leave the tech center with their beautiful boxwood trees. Proceeds from holiday classes go to support FFA student leadership events.



After two years of site assessments and planning Lavallee Brensinger Architects has designed solutions for current challenges. LBA designed the original SRVRTC in the early 1990's and are back at work in 2021-2022 to revitalize the facility. We thank them for their forward thinking, flexible design.



Promoting a strong work ethic. Students in level I and level II tech classes are recognized for their exceptional attendance.



# Newport: A Leader in the Press

For the first issue of the *Newport Times*, what could be more appropriate than a review of Newport's 1839 first-in-the-country introduction of the illustrated newspaper? The *Whip and Spur* was a politically-driven newspaper, published here in Newport. Beginning as a weekly series in the lead-up to the state elections of 1839, it was thereafter published weekly in the months prior to presidential elections in 1840 through 1860.

The publishers of the paper were sympathetic to the early Democratic Party in this country, and poked fun at the Whigs, a party which was dissolved in 1856 and succeeded by the Republican Party. The name "Whip and Spur" came from a speech at Faneuil Hall in Boston by Gen. James Wilson of Keene, New Hampshire in which he said that the Whigs of New Hampshire would need "the whip and spur" to set them upon the trot. This inspired Col. Henry E. Baldwin, a printer of Newport, to draw a comical cartoon depicting this, of which he made a larger wood engraving that he and his brother Samuel published along with some other woodcuts in the first newspaper of its type in this country, and possibly the world.

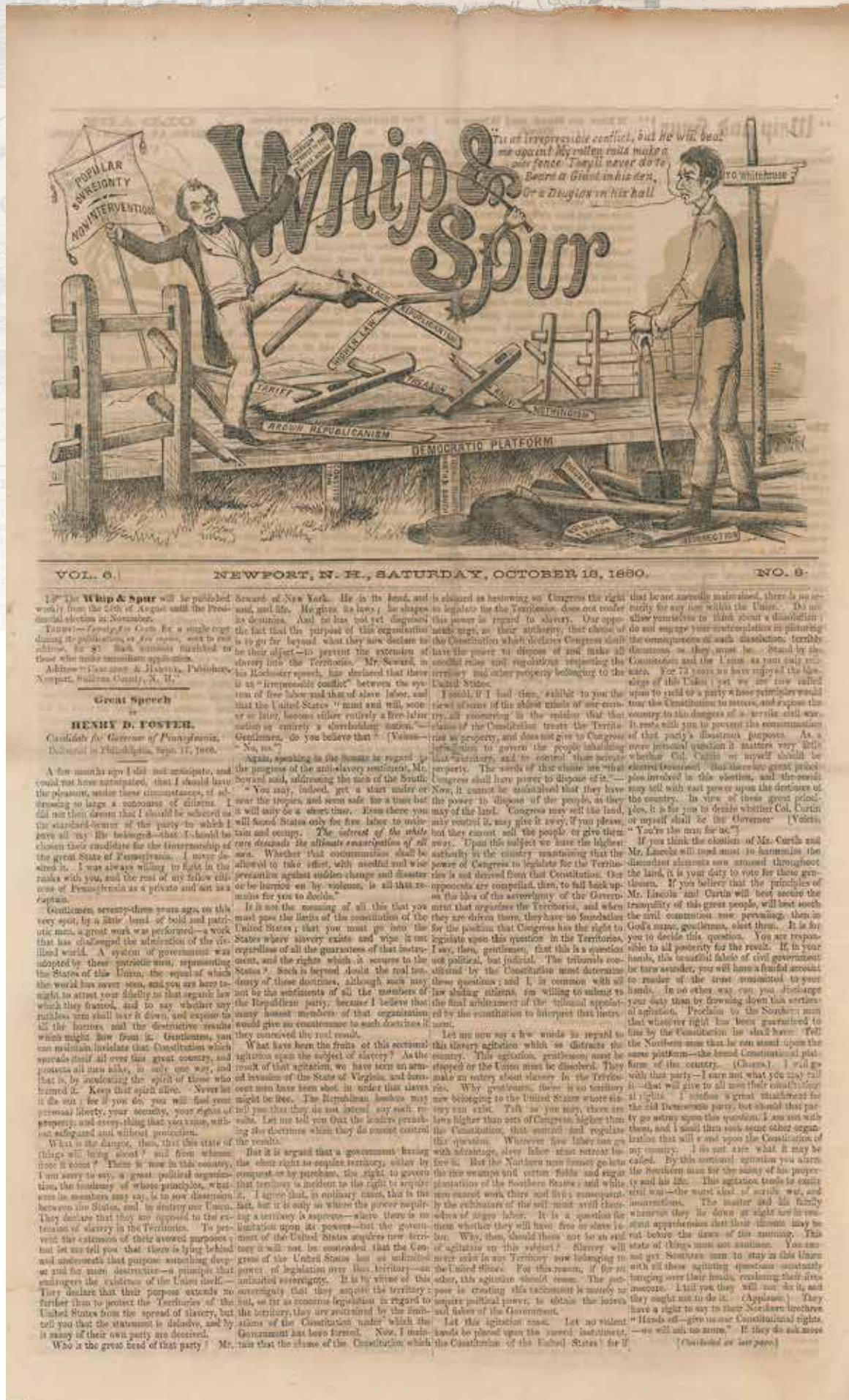
The 1840s and 1850s, the era in which this groundbreaking paper was published, was the period when the issue of slavery had begun dividing the country.

Reproduced here is the cartoon topping the first page of the October 13, 1860 issue – a scan made of an original in the archives of the Newport Historical Society. In this political cartoon, Stephen Douglas, the publishers' favorite, is standing on the strong planks of a "Democratic Platform" while waving a "Through Ticket to the White House" in one hand and a banner stating "Popular Sovereignty" in the other as he kicks down the split rail fence which a rather sad-looking Abraham Lincoln had been working on, as Abe says, "He will beat me again!"

The first political cartoon to appear in an American newspaper was done by Benjamin Franklin in 1754, depicting a snake divided into eight pieces representing colonies – he labeled it "Join or Die." What appears to be a first in this four-page Newport newspaper of 1839 is that it was illustrated with more than one woodcut, according to an article which appeared in *Granite State Magazine* in November, 1906. It was not until the 1850s that improvements in printing and engraving technology enabled a proliferation of well-illustrated newspapers, such as *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* and, later, *Harper's Weekly*.

Who would have thought that the first illustrated newspaper would have sprung from the capable hands of imaginative, talented, and politically-minded individuals here in the town of Newport? What else can they inspire us to do? Stop by the Newport Historical Society on a Sunday to learn about so many others in our town! ■

~ Arthur Walsh,  
President of the Newport Historical Society





# Newport Montessori School



The Newport Montessori School (NMS) is an approved, non-public, non-profit private school located at 96 Pine Street in Newport, NH. The school, established in 2005, is now in its 16th year of operation. NMS currently enrolls 106 students, prekindergarten through 8th grade, with a staff of 18. Students follow the Montessori method at all grade levels with specialty classes including: Music, Spanish, Art, Physical Education and Whole School Assembly.

Enrollment for our '22-'23 school year will open to new families on February 1st. Interested families may call/email to request an enrollment packet at any time. Enclosed in the packet will be a preliminary application which should be returned to the school along with the \$50 application fee at your earliest convenience. Enrollment priority is given to currently enrolled students, their siblings, alumni siblings and then is on a first come, first served basis based on available enrollment openings.

We encourage you to visit our school's website ([newportmontessori.org](http://newportmontessori.org)) and our Facebook Page, (Newport Montessori School) to learn more about our school. ■

**Want to be a part of something amazing?**

**Have a great Newport story to share with your friends and neighbors?**

**Reach out to Jennifer or Christine at [newportnhtimes@gmail.com](mailto:newportnhtimes@gmail.com).**

# Job Openings in Newport

## Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

We are looking for enthusiastic, customer focused team members who are interested in starting a career in banking. Bar Harbor Bank & Trust offers a competitive salary, medical/dental/vision/life insurance, paid holidays, 401(k) plan, paid time off, incentives, and continuing education benefits. Current local opportunities include:

- Customer Service Specialist (Call Center)
- Customer Service Representatives

Learn more about these positions and see all open positions at [www.barharbor.bank/about-us/careers](http://www.barharbor.bank/about-us/careers).

Equal Opportunity Employer, Minority/Female/Disability and Protected Veteran.

## Cinnamon Street Early Education & Childcare Center

### Full Time Toddler Teacher

**Part Time Into Full time Teacher for After School Program** - part time during the school year, full time in summer and vacation weeks.

These positions come with the responsibility to participate in all phases of planning and implementation of developmentally appropriate experiences for ages 6 weeks to twelve years, including working as a team player throughout the program. For more information, please contact Alicia Pepin, Director of Cinnamon Street Early Education and Child Care Center at [cinnamonst1994@gmail.com](mailto:cinnamonst1994@gmail.com) or 603.863.4543

## Dominos Pizza

### Full time or Part Time Shift Leaders, Drivers, and CSRs

Apply online at [www.nolimitdominos.efficientapply.com](http://www.nolimitdominos.efficientapply.com) and select Newport NH location!

## Eichenauer Inc.

### Assembler (All Shifts)

If you enjoy the ability to develop skill at a task, and see how your impact moves the team forward, we'd love to talk to you. Please contact Tech Needs at 603-328-1212.

### Machine Operator (All Shifts)

Help keep our wire machines running and keep our assembly line supplied with critical parts. Please contact Tech Needs at 603-328-1212.

### Quality Professional

We're looking for someone with manufacturing and quality expertise to join our team today! Please contact Tom Desrosiers at 603-863-1454 ext. 116.

## LaValley Building Supply

### Truss Assembler

### Wall Panel Framer

### Mitek Truss Designer

### Sales Counter/Cashiering

### Paint Specialist

### Outside Sales Professional

### Commercial Sales Professional

### Boom Truck Operator

### Crane Truck Operator

Flexible scheduling

Competitive pay

401k and Profit Sharing

Health Savings and Co-pay Health Insurance

For more information and to apply online visit [www.lavalleys.com](http://www.lavalleys.com) or stop by Lavalley's on Sunapee Street for a paper application.

Contact Bridget Coleman at [hr@lavalleys.com](mailto:hr@lavalleys.com) if you would like an application sent directly to you.

## Newport School District

### Math Teacher (Middle School)

### Library/Media Specialist (Middle/High School)

### Special Education Teacher (Elementary, Self Contained)

### Para Educators (All Levels, will help you become Para II certified)

### Bus Drivers (will train!)

### Substitute Teachers Needed for All Schools

To apply, please visit [sau43.org](http://sau43.org) or [schoolsprings.com](http://schoolsprings.com). For information, contact Sally Hooper at [shooper@sau43.org](mailto:shooper@sau43.org).

## Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc.

### Production Associate (1st shift, 2nd, 4th, and 5th shifts)

### Warehouse Associate (1st Shift )

### Electronics Technician (1st Shift)

### Service Technician (2nd Shift)

### Manufacturing Engineer

### Product Design Engineer

### Supplier Development Engineer

Competitive Pay

401k and Profit Sharing

Great Benefits including Medical, Dental, Vision, Flex Spending, Supplemental Long Term Disability, and Supplemental Life Insurance. Interested applicants can learn more and apply by visiting [ruger.com/careers](http://ruger.com/careers).

## Sugar River Bank

### Audit/Compliance Officer

### Sr. Retail Loan Officer

### Loan Servicing Clerk

### Float Teller

Our extensive benefit package includes:

401K

Health, dental and life insurance

Short-term and Long-term disability

PTO

Paid holidays

\*Employees may be eligible for benefits

To learn more or apply, please visit

[www.sugarriverbank.com/about/career-opportunities](http://www.sugarriverbank.com/about/career-opportunities).

## Town of Newport

### Truck Driver/Equipment Operator

(Full Time)

### Utilities Technician, Water & Sewer

(Full Time)

Interested applicants can review the full job description and application instructions by visiting [NewportNH.gov](http://NewportNH.gov) and clicking on Job Openings.

## Town of Newport Police Department

### Patrol Officer (full time - 2 openings)

Applicants can find more information about the hiring process at the following location: [www.policeapp.com/Entry-Level-Newport-NH-Police-Officer-Jobs/2556/?Preview=1](http://www.policeapp.com/Entry-Level-Newport-NH-Police-Officer-Jobs/2556/?Preview=1)

## United Construction

United Construction is looking to hire employees for the start of the Spring season: **CDL truck drivers, construction laborers, paving roller operator**. Pay aligns with experience. Interested candidates can visit: [UnitedConstruction.biz](http://UnitedConstruction.biz) to download an application or stop by the office at 250 North Main Street, Newport, NH.

*To have your job openings listed in the next edition of the Newport Times, please email Newport's Economic Development Coordinator, Christine Benner at [cbenner@newportnh.gov](mailto:cbenner@newportnh.gov).*



## GOOD COOKING

**Since The Old Courthouse Restaurant opened in 2004, their most requested recipe is Crème Brûlée French Toast...  
...which you can always find on the Sunday Brunch buffet!**

### CRÈME BRULÉE FRENCH TOAST

Melt 1 stick butter

Whisk....

Add 1 cup brown sugar

12 eggs

2 Tablespoons corn syrup  
- Karo-

2 1/2 cups half-and-half

1 1/2 tsp vanilla

Whisk together until smooth  
and bring to a boil.

1 Tbsp Grand Marnier  
-optional-

Remove from heat and pour  
into 9" x 13" pan.

Pour over bread. Refrigerate  
overnight.

You can add any sliced fruit:  
pears, apples, etc if you  
choose.

Remove from refrigerator one  
hour before baking.

Add: 1 loaf French bread cut  
into 1" cubes

Baked @ 350° for about 40  
minutes - until puffed and  
edges are golden brown

Enjoy!

### The Old Courthouse



## GOOD PIC!

### Readers' Photo Highlights



Newport's Corbin Covered Bridge in winter photographed by Chamber of Commerce President, Shannon MacMichael

### Share Your Photos

Submit your favorite photos of Newport for our next edition.

Email high-resolution photos to  
[newportnhtimes@gmail.com](mailto:newportnhtimes@gmail.com).

## GOOD UPDATES

### Catching People Doing Good

As I was driving out of town on December 13 along Route 10 heading north, I noticed a couple standing by an evergreen tree. It looked like they were decorating it for the holidays. My first thought was, "I bet they are doing it just to be nice!"

Then my rational mind set in and assumed that they had a business up the road and that was the reason, or that there must be a commercial purpose. I decided to quickly turn around and find out if my initial hunch was correct or forever wonder.

I drove back to the site and pulled over. They were about to get in their car to leave when I asked what was the occasion for decorating this tree in particular.

Immediately Cynthia and I recognized each other and then figured out it was because I used to mail stuff from the Fed Ex office in Lebanon where she worked for almost 30 years.

She said that when she used to drive home after a long day at work, it would give her joy to see this tree decorated for the holidays. So, when she noticed that it hadn't been decorated for a few years, she took it upon herself to spread the same joy she felt after all those long drives home. This truly captures the spirit of giving! And kudos to whoever started the tradition years ago.



Cynthia and Don Buehler decorating a tree for the holiday season on Route 10

~ Jen MacMillen



# The Newport Opera House

Newport's original Town Hall and Courthouse was built in the center of town in 1872 but was destroyed by fire in 1885. The building that we know today was completed in 1886 and featured many upgrades from the former structure. The crowning glory of the new building was the Opera House located on the second floor that housed a stage that, at the time, was the largest north of Boston.

The Newport Opera House soon became the center of entertainment in Sullivan County. The large hall played host to dances, boxing matches, weddings, political rallies, plays, school graduations, International Shoe Company Ladies' Minstrel shows, magic shows, dance recitals, Firemen's Annual Ball, Saturday night movies, Armelia Bloomer's suffragette rally, John Philip Sousa's Band, Winter Carnival activities, annual town meetings and elections.

Outstanding performances filled the Opera House for years. In 1892, Miss Mary Howe, Soprano, appeared in a "Grand Concert" and reported about "a beautiful hall, free from alcoves and scenery to break the sound, and with no poor seats – every one is a good one." Friday night basketball was popular in 1908 and the floor welcomed the "Leans" and the "Fats" as well as the ladies teams, the "Reds" and the "Whites."

Newport's very own, Charlie Jobes, both performed and directed community shows throughout the 1930s. Billy B. Van, a prominent entertainer of stage and screen at that time, starred in *Star Time Revue* in 1948 under the direction of Lee Collins. These performances were always sponsored by local merchants who have historically supported the community performances at the Opera House.

The '50s and the '60s were not as kind to the historic old building and it soon started to show its age. In the summer of 1967, while serving as an apprentice at the



## A Brief History: Act 1

New London Barn Playhouse, Charles H. Massey was shown the building by fellow company member, Charlie Jobes. It was this initial introduction to the "grand old hall" that stuck with Massey for years. As fate would have it, he ended up staying in New Hampshire long after his summers at the Barn Playhouse and accepted a teaching position at the Newport High School.

In 1974, Massey spearheaded an effort to restore and maintain the Newport Opera House as a center for the arts in the community. In September of 1976, the Newport Opera House Association was formed as a non-profit group dedicated to the restoration needed to bring the "grand old hall" back to its former glory. Following more than a year of cleaning, painting, floor refinishing and fundraising, the hall was ready for its unveiling. The group first produced an original revue entitled *Town Hall Tonight* with the express purpose of getting people back into the hall and getting the community involved in the ongoing restoration project.

Volunteers were the main work force involved in months ahead. Over two hundred community members became involved in the project to reclaim what was to become their pride and joy. The lobby was painted, new carpet was installed and new light fixtures were hung. The hall was painted and all of the woodwork was cleaned and polished. The dressing rooms were cleaned, painted and new electric work was installed. Stage curtains were ordered and new rigging was placed in the fly loft. Theatrical lighting was designed and installed. A beautiful chandelier was found and restored as a gift from the Sturm, Ruger Company. This became the jewel in the crown of the newly restored Opera House. ■

~ Meg Cowan, Executive Director, Newport Opera House Association  
Intermission: Act 2 opens in the next issue of the Newport Times!

# Newport Community Television Available To All Newporters

From our schools, the town office, the library, town common, and area churches, NCTV covers everything from selectmen, school and zoning meetings to the Rec and Tech Renovation committees. We broadcast live on cable channels 8 & 10, [www.nctv-nh.org](http://www.nctv-nh.org), Facebook, YouTube, Roku and Apple TV.

We show live church services and high school sports, go inside the opera house and Library Arts Center for concerts, lectures and conversations. NCTV Newport News covers exclusive stories and interviews relevant to our community, anchored and produced by Newport high school interns. Looking for something different? How about science, music, dance, cooking, exercise and more. Mornings and after school we show stories, cartoons and songs for young kids. We screen classic

movies from the 1930s to 1950s that are hard to find and great fun to watch. We also read popular classic books on a daily 'radio hour.'

NCTV isn't a typical public access TV. Our programming is diverse, fresh and relevant. If there is a program you'd like to see or create, we'll do our best to make it happen. If you don't get Comcast cable in your home, you can watch on our online TV channel at [www.nctv-nh.org](http://www.nctv-nh.org). Just click the green WATCH button in the top right corner. If you missed a program or there is a particular one you are looking for, scroll down to browse or type part of the name in the search bar at the top to watch at your convenience. Enjoy NCTV. This is your TV station. ■

~ John Lunn, Executive Director, NCTV

## Internships at NCTV

I started my internship to gain a better understanding of what being a reporter and a television personality would entail, and that is exactly what I am getting. By working with NCTV, I am acquiring skills such as newspaper writing and editing, using a teleprompter and interviewing. These skills allow me, the reporter, Jay Page, the film editor and John Lunn, the executive producer, to create a local news show that comes out weekly or biweekly.

In addition to on-screen reporting, I write a monthly paper that NCTV prints for Newport High School. The paper is called "The Tiger Report," and includes articles about local and national news. I use my study hall period during the school day to work on these projects whenever I am at school, and usually work outside of my internship on articles or do research for an upcoming segment.

Working with NCTV connects me to the community in a couple different ways. First and



Front: Interns Jay Page, Bella Osgood. Back: Susan Dutton, John Lunn.

foremost, doing articles about community events or issues involves interviews with people from around town. In addition to this, people can watch segments on the NCTV channel, on the NCTV website or even on Facebook through "Whats Up Newport." I am proud to say that John has helped me in creating a show that high school students watch on a regular basis. Having my peers ask when the next show is coming out or tell me they liked my last interview in

the hallway makes me not only grateful for the work John and Jay have put into the show as well, but also confident that I am on the right track.

Jay Page, who originally started the digital editing internship with John as a fun learning experience, has decided it is something that she is considering as a career path. The work that John has put into Jay's and my internships is just a fraction of what NCTV does. NCTV broadcasts many events that people in the community would not have otherwise seen for Covid-19 safety protocols, along with other daily shows on the channel. My internship at NCTV has opened doors for my future career in broadcast journalism, leaving me eternally grateful. ■

~ Bella Osgood

Contact Newport Community Television; 243 North Main Street, Newport NH 03773; [friends@nctv-nh.org](mailto:friends@nctv-nh.org); 603-863-8837; John Lunn, Executive Director; Susan Dutton, Program Manager.



# Library Arts Center Restoring One of Newport's Historic Murals



The Library Arts Center is excited to announce the undertaking of the restoring the community mural located on the side of Newport Fitness. This will be quite the community undertaking. The historic mural depicts the train coming through Newport, as it once did, with a myriad of Newport traditions and highlights, shown through the seasons.

The mural, created in the mid-nineties is in a state of complete disrepair. Countless people have commented on the need for repair for this community treasure. Knowing so many people care about this heritage mural and want it restored to its previous beauty gives us the vote of confidence we need to start this large undertaking.

To undertake such a large project, the Library Arts Center is partnering with mural and building owners Jeff and Heidi North as well as several community organizations, businesses, and individuals. If you would like to be involved in this project as a volunteer, or a donor, please reach out to the Library Arts Center. The more community members involved in this process, the stronger it will be.

The mural was created as a layered community event that engaged so many people from the community. The Library Arts Center is planning for the restoration to take the same shape, engaging many artists and community members in the process. The plan for restoration will include a lead builder for all the aspects of rebuilding of panels, flashing, framing and mounting. There will also be a lead artist in charge of the re-creation of this historical art piece.

In order to engage the community with the same spirit of the mural's creation, the Library Arts Center is planning a mural festival on the town common in June at which there will be live music, food trucks, and about three dozen artists and even more volunteers working on painting the mural! From this event the pieces will be finished by the lead artist over the summer, and will be reinstalled this fall.

Volunteers are working to piece together the history depicted in the mural so the heritage represented in the mural can be better preserved and presented to the greater community. This



information will be available from QR code near the mural so those viewing the mural can learn more about what is represented.

In the coming months you will see the mural removed from the building in preparation for the whole process, but know that, with the help of many community members, it will reappear this fall in its past grandeur.

## Other Arts Center News



Gallery of Gifts, an annual holiday tradition, featured around 100 local and regional artists and craftspeople in the Library Arts Center's Gallery for November and December. This program is designed to create a wonderful local and handmade shopping venue for the holidays while making meaningful

exposure and revenue for local makers. Thanks to the incredible support of so many local shoppers, the show grossed over \$70,000! That is an incredible economic impact on the local creative economy made by many people choosing to shop locally. That money stays in our community, benefits artists, and helps the Arts Center develop more community arts programming for the coming year. If you would like to learn more about the jury process to be an exhibiting artist or crafts person in next year's show, please visit [libraryartscenter.org](http://libraryartscenter.org).

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This month, the first installment of the second annual CSA ArtShare will be hitting mailboxes. This pilot program done by the Arts Center is based on the agricultural model of Community Supported Agriculture, but being the Arts Center, it is Community Supported Arts. A dozen artists from the region have each been paid, by the purchase of shares by art-share holders, to create 50 original pieces of art each. These pieces are all 4x4 inches, and uniformly mounted on wooden cradle boards making them ready to hang or display. Subscribers will receive an original piece of art in the mail for six months consecutively. This project aims to connect artists and community members in new ways while supporting and promoting local artists. To learn more about this program visit [libraryartscenter.org](http://libraryartscenter.org). ■

~ Kate N. Luppold, Executive Director

# Richards Free Library Book Nook

## Brown Bags Book Club

4th Tuesday of the month, 12:30 pm on Zoom!

## Beach Readers Book Club

2nd Wednesday of the month, 6 pm on Zoom!

Email us at [rfl@newport.lib.nh.us](mailto:rfl@newport.lib.nh.us) for more information and the meeting zoom links.

## Check out our revived youth nonfiction collection!

Thanks to a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Tetreault Family Charitable Fund and Bio X Cell Fund, we will be able to purchase \$5,000 worth of new children's nonfiction books. Some have already arrived and more are on their way! Stop by and check out the new state books with the 2020 census data included, new cookbooks, new biographies, new Lego books, and so much more!

Visit. [newport.lib.nh.us](http://newport.lib.nh.us). ■





# Newport Loves Roy Malool

*"Roy is incredibly generous and dedicated to this community. Roy has done so much for Newport, more than any one person probably knows or realizes. What is so special about how Roy works is his ability to connect people and inspire everyone to engage. When Roy supports a cause, he does it in ways that encourages everyone to join in. This approach teaches us all how to be part of our community, it teaches us all how to give and support in the ways we can."*

**Kate Luppold, Newport native and Executive Director of the Library Arts Center**

*"Throughout my career I have taken note of those people in each community that make a difference. They are people who have put their community interests ahead of their own. They are people who have not forgotten where they come from and those they have met along the way. Moreover, they seek to make the lives of others and those that will follow – better. They are often few in number and hard to find so we are grateful when we do. This is the Roy Malool that I have come to know."*

**Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager of the Town of Newport**

*"I have known Roy since we served on the Board of Newport Hospital together in the 1970s. Roy has always been a sparkplug in addressing Newport's needs! His support of local non-profits both financially and by alternately commending and scolding their leaders (when he thought that was needed) make him a tremendous asset to this town!"*

**Jane Rastallis, Newport Resident and Co-Owner of The Old Courthouse Restaurant**

*"We couldn't do it without you Roy. We love you. Thank you for helping hundreds of FFA students at the Sugar River Tech Center achieve their goals. From Mrs. Steven's, Mrs. Howe and myself we sincerely thank you for all you do for our school community. Roy supports FFA students like this group who won a national award in Indianapolis for their NH beehive project. He's always looking out for the kids and always supporting the tech center."*

**Jennifer Opalinski, Director of Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center in Newport**

**ROY MALOOL: A NEWPORT ICON – continued from page 1**

Roy later discovered that he loved the sea and would have enlisted in the Navy if not for his unknown colorblindness. No matter, he enlisted as a Merchant Marine and satisfied his love for travel and the ocean in this way. Later in his life he continued to indulge his love for the sea by becoming a 'cruiser' and went on at least one cruise per year for most of his mid- to later life. He remarked that his daughter, Melissa who had Down Syndrome, absolutely loved being on cruises with him and that the cruise ship staff, often from southeast Asia, had a special way about them and how they connected with Melissa. It's apparent that Roy treasured witnessing these moments of joy for his daughter.

His professional career began when he returned from his two-year stint with the Merchant Marines and got a job at the manufacturing company where his dad worked, Egyptian Lacquer, an industrial coatings manufacturer. Not surprisingly, this is where Roy got his hands-on training before striking out on his own. Like many young men of his generation, he started at the lowest level and worked his way up learning everything he could as he went. Ultimately he was put in charge of sales calling on companies (focusing on GE plants) in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Montreal and New York state and relocated to his family's farm in Lempster, NH, in 1950. He moved there with his then wife (whom he met on a blind date set up by his boss in NJ), Margot Lindholm with whom he went on to have three daughters, Susannah, Melissa and Shayna.

I had the privilege of meeting with Roy in his home just down the road from his manufacturing company, Roymal. It was in 1956 that he "decided that it's not for me to be working for anyone. It's time for me to start my own thing." That 'thing' was Roymal, Inc, which became one of the world's first coatings manufacturers that used water-based raw materials to cover inks for the packaging industry.

"It was the 1970s and we had the oil embargo and energy crisis," said Roy. "The industry had always relied on solvent-based raw materials. I saw the writing on the wall and wanted to get into water-based ones."

"My vision has always been the future," said Roy. And, it was his forward-looking mindset, and strange luck, that brought him the technology he needed to specialize in water-based coatings. On one of Roy's trips to Europe, he was on the lookout for the equipment he needed to apply water-based coatings. He struck out. So, when one of his suppliers in Finland sent Roy's order to the Roymal plant in Newport, they made a mistake and sent him the



*Melissa and her dad, Roy, enjoying one of their many family cruises*



*Roy and his then wife, Margot, in their Newport home*

wrong equipment. As it turns out, by sheer luck and a language barrier error, the "wrong equipment" the supplier sent him was exactly what he needed to be able to begin manufacturing the water-based coatings!

The rest is history. 1956 was a year of change for Roy and his family. Because he was on the road a lot for his business, he and his wife decided to move out of their very rural Lempster farmhouse and into the town of Newport. With his daughters starting school, they wanted to be closer to town on paved roads so day-to-day life would be easier with Roy out of town often. Roy traveled the world for his company for over 50 years while all three of his daughters went to the Newport schools. Unfortunately, his wife was ill for 25 years and passed away in 2005.

A year later, on a business trip in Finland, Roy noticed how wonderfully helpful and pleasant the police were at the airport. One policewoman was especially helpful to some special needs "customers" (that's the term the Finnish police use when referring to the citizens they serve). When Roy got back to Newport, he contacted the then chief of Newport police and said, "Your goon squad could use a little training over here!" He had it in his mind that he wanted to bring over someone from the Finnish police force to educate and train the local police in Newport in the ways of positive and service-oriented communication and policing.

They sent over the policewoman who so impressed Roy at the airport. She trained the Newport force and traveled to Manchester and Concord to work with those forces, as well. She was set to go back to Finland on September 11, 2001. We all know what happened then. She ended up staying in the area for ten more days. During that time, she and Roy



*The family farmhouse in Lempster, NH where Roy and his brother spent every summer of their childhood, and where Roy & Margot lived early in their marriage.*





The home in Newport where Roy and Margot raised their daughters



Roy with daughters Susannah and Shayna, circa 1959



Roy's mother with Roy, left, and brother Russ, circa 1928

cultivated a friendship that became a romance. They are now Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Eeva Malool and have been married for 15 years!

Roy is now essentially retired from Roymal, Inc. He is the chairman of the board but the company will be bought by two internal employees. While not surprisingly, Roy could not sit still. As an entrepreneur through and through, Roy saw a real need to help a particular population of Newport's young people that seemed to be languishing in the school system. While college is a good choice for some, many young people have other gifts that are more suited to a different educational path. Enter the Tech Center.

As a founder of a manufacturing company, Roy knows how great the need is for employees who have technical training and other trades skills. By investing heavily in Newport's Tech Center, his "future visioning" way of thinking will help Newport's young people and its manufacturing businesses and uplift the community as a result.

Finally, as a perfect full circle moment, the *Newport Times/Newport News Online* is now in your hands because of Roy's generosity and vision. Over the years, he has witnessed the good that so many wonderful individuals and organizations have done for this community, and realized that there was no vehicle to get the word out. The *Newport Times* is that vehicle. And Newport has Roy to thank!

When asked about his legacy, Roy said, "I'm old enough to know what Newport was like in the '30s and '40s. I know what works, so now it's time to get to work!" ■

## RUGER NEWPORT: PROUD TO CALL THIS HOME

### 2021: A Year For Giving

Ruger leadership and associates have been very busy helping our community be the best it can be! Take a look at some of the things they've done just in 2021:

- After Wags and Wiggles Dog Rescue suffered a building fire in the summer of 2021, Ruger graciously came to the "rescue" (no pun intended!). Ruger associates had the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for a one of a kind firearm, with their ticket sales going towards a large donation to the winner's nonprofit of choice. Through the combined efforts of the associates, Ruger leadership, and raffle winner, Mike Coleman, a check for \$6,250 was presented to WWR volunteers this past Fall.
- Thanks to Ms. Benoit and her 2nd grade class, Ruger was able to provide free water bottles for every elementary school student at Richards Elementary School. With the newly enforced Covid protocols regarding water fountains, Ms. Benoit reached out to Ruger and worked closely with Joe Blair, HR Director, and Beth McAllister, Executive Assistant, to come up with a solution. The 400 bottles donated went to every class in the school, helping to limit

the spread of the virus, and keep kids hydrated.

- Ruger's annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway is always a highlight for both Ruger associates and local food banks. To kick off the holiday season, Ruger ordered hundreds of turkeys as a way to give thanks to their associates; the leftovers were graciously donated to local food banks.
- Serving hundreds of families across the Newport community, the Willey-Perra Community Giving Program is always looking for help from the community. This past season, Ruger associates with a 50% match from Ruger leadership, donated over \$10,000 to the project to help the children in need in the area have a merrier Christmas.
- Ruger associates gear up to hand out hams every Christmas, similarly to the turkeys during Thanksgiving. Due to the shortage of hams, the first 50 people had the option to swap out a ham for a \$50 gift card to Market Basket to ensure there were still enough hams to donate to the food banks. ■

~ Riely Skarin, Newport High School Senior and  
Sturm Ruger & Co. Inc. Work Based Learning Intern



We want to know what you think!  
Take our Community Survey today!





Let's call attention to some of the most recent examples of Newport's spotlight-worthy accomplishments. Just this past year, Newport was awarded grant after grant due to its unfaltering commitment to community engagement. In April 2021, Governor Chris Sununu visited Newport to unveil a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant awarded to repair the historic Newport Opera House. While proclaiming the second week of April "Community Development Week" in New Hampshire, Governor Sununu stated that he chose Newport as the location for such a proclamation because of its tireless community spirit. Executive Councilor Joe Kenney concurred, "Newport defines what a community is."

The following is a list of additional recent awards and accolades bestowed upon Newport:

- Newport Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its first ever Wings & Wheels Car Show bringing hundreds of out-of-town visitors to Newport
- After a successful application submitted by the Town of Newport, the community became a finalist for a PetSafe Bark for Your Park Dog Park grant competing with very large cities across the country like Detroit, Kansas City, and Washington DC. Tasked with garnering the most daily votes from residents and supporters, Newport successfully beat out the "big" competition and earned a \$25,000 nationwide grant for a brand new dog park, the only small town to do so this year
- Newport Rec Department's own PJ Lovely was named NH's 2021

US Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's High School Coach of the Year

- Newport's own Bascom Road Blueberry Farm was voted the #2 Best Place to Pick Blueberries in New Hampshire
- Newport was one of only 5 communities in NH selected by AARP for their nationwide "Community Challenge Grants" allowing the Town to purchase all new trail and recreation signs and kiosks set to be installed this spring

And, to be able to proudly share all of the good news that happens in Newport, please welcome the *Newport Times*. Brought to you by generous support from Mr. Roy Malool, the Economic Corporation of Newport (ECON), and some local business sponsors, the *Newport Times* is a bimonthly community publication highlighting all and only the good that happens in Newport day in and day out. Since this is by, for and about Newport, every address will receive a copy in the mail free of charge!

This first edition has been a truly collaborative effort. You will recognize many of the contributors as your neighbors and community leaders. What is your story? Whom shall we feature next? We welcome all voices!

All too often we forget how beautiful, how strong, how truly remarkable this community is. The *Newport Times* is here to share, inspire and uplift. Our hope is that as you skim through the following pages you begin to feel a pride in where you live, begin to see the gem that is Newport.

The sun is rising on the Sunshine Town and you, fair citizens, are its rays of light. ■



Sarah Josepha Hale



Billy B. Van



Bascom Road Blueberry Farm's famed blueberries



Governor Chris Sununu visiting Newport to proclaim the 2nd week of April as "Community Development Week" in NH



# Meet the Newport Senior Center

The Newport Senior Center (NSC), home of Sullivan County Nutrition Services, sits just outside the center of town at 76 South Main Street. Part of the mission of the NSC is to provide support functions and to help older adults remain independently active and engaged in their community through a variety of alternatives.

The onset of chronic disease can be delayed when older adults participate in activities at a Senior Center which makes the NSC & SCNS the community focal point for older adults; by connecting older adults to services that help them stay healthy. The Newport Senior Center offers services in accordance with International Council on Active Aging ("ICAA") definitions of the Seven Dimensions of Wellness:

- Emotional
- Intellectual, Cognitive
- Physical
- Professional, Vocational
- Social
- Spiritual
- Environmental

## Current Services may be categorized as:

### Health Care

- Foot Care
- Eye Care
- Blood Pressure
- Blood Sugar
- Flu Shots, Covid Vaccinations etc.
- Free Eye Glass Repair
- Affordable Glasses with Prescription

### Physical Activities

- Exercise Classes
- Line Dancing
- Tai Chi
- Bowling (off-site)
- Active Mind & Social Recreation Activities
- Bingo (Every Friday)
- Pitch or "High Low Jack" (Every Tuesday)
- Cribbage (Every Thursday)
- Art Programs

### Education

- Computer Classes
- Health Education and Prevention Programs
- Discussion Groups

### Nutrition

- Congregate Meals & Grab-N-Go Meals
- "Meals-on-Wheels"
- Nutrition Education
- CSFP Commodity Supplemental Food Program Distribution Site

### Entertainment and Other Activities

- Periodic Events such as "Saints and Sinners"
- Senior Prom
- Fund Raising Events
- Trip Program
- Planned Outdoor Activities during summer months

### Other Services

- Transportation (Monday – Friday, Newport Only)
- Social Service Outreach
- Gift Shop
- Wi-Fi access
- AARP Tax Assistance (Appts. start January 1, 2022)



- Medical Equipment Loan
- Monthly Newsletter
- Emergency Shelter
- Warming & Cooling Center
- On-site AED (Automated External Defibrillator) equipped
- Employment Opportunities
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Information & assistance
- Free Adult Undergarments – while supplies last

## Other Usage

### Administrative

- Board Meetings
- Office Space

### Multi-use

- Rentals (income producing)
- Facilities, Rooms, Tables & Chairs

At the implementation of the Older Americans Act in 1972, SCNS served 25 meals per day. Now, in 2021, SCNS is serving 500 meals per day and offering a wide variety of services, leveraging resources from a variety of sources is a necessity if we want to continue to be the lifeline for so many adults.

We are fortunate to have the commitment of the community assist us in providing such a lifeline. Most recently, we held a fundraising event to help defray the cost of providing 130,000 meals per year.

Without sponsorships from Goodrich Oil, Mascoma Savings Bank, One Credit Union, LaValley's Building Supply, Sugar River Bank, Hubert's Dept. Store and Crown Point Cabinetry we could not bring awareness of the importance of preventing senior hunger in our community and raise over \$5,000.

Providing transportation for older adults to various medical treatments that allow them to remain healthy could not happen without the support and dedication from the Newport Service Organization (NSO).

Without the donation from the NSO, SCNS would not meet the cash match requirement to continue to receive state and federal funds and the transportation services would be non-existent.

We are thankful that we have been chosen to deliver kindness, safety, nutrition and peace of mind to families and older adults in Newport. ■



4th of July Grab-N-Go



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