

The Newport Times

Newport's Good News Paper

Serving the Town of Newport, NH

January/February 2024

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~ John Donne



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Photo by Beth Rexford

Local children form teams to compete in sporting events like "soccer on snow" during Winter Carnival.

Peace, Love, and Newport Newport's 108th Winter Carnival Will Continue a Historic Community Tradition

Rose Terami

1 000 words is nowhere near enough to give our readers a proper explanation of the deeply-rooted history and significance of the Newport Winter Carnival. I interviewed several Newport community members to hear their stories and memories of Winter Carnival over the years, but I could have interviewed many more! As one interviewee said, quite truthfully, I could fill a whole issue of the Newport Times (and probably more) with articles on this beloved community tradition.

What began in 1916 as a community sporting event organized

by the YMCA to encourage spending time outside during the winter, Newport's Winter Carnival has since evolved into a multi-day Town-wide celebration that honors history, amusement, and community spirit. It's now well-known as the oldest continuous town winter carnival in the nation.

Admittedly, our characteristic New England winter weather hasn't been as cooperative of late, so it's also evolved to feature less-wintery (but equally fun!) activities, said Newport's recreation director, PJ Lovely.

This year, the 108th Winter Carnival theme is "Woodstock," and will host a variety of community-wide activities celebrating

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Artist Justin Shull, a Newport native

Justin Shull: The Once and Future Artist

Mel Reed

I recently spent a mesmerizing hour or so talking with artist Justin Shull – a Newport Native now living in Traverse, Michigan.

A Professional Artist

A professional artist whose work straddles traditional landscape work and disruptive innovations, his work to date has been focused on direct observational approaches to landscape art both "en plein air" (out in the field) and in the studio. He uses a mixture of mediums including acrylics, oils, gouache, and digital sources.

Justin was born in Newport in 1982. He credits two of his teachers at Newport High School for igniting and supporting his passion about art. "Kathy Bott and Diane Driscoll created a safe and inspiring place for kids to hang out," says Shull. "I've known since I first put paint on canvas that making pictures was important to me."

"Becoming"

After high school, Shull attended Dartmouth College where he majored in Art and received a BA in Studio Art.

Shull points out that his work with 2019-2021

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

All Together Now

Happy New Year, Newport! For those of us who embrace change, it seems like 2024 will be an exciting year. While history and tradition have their rightful and valuable places in society, changing with the times in a way that benefits the greater good is a wonderful way to keep a community healthy, wealthy and wise.

For starters, keeping the Winter Carnival tradition alive and well for over 108 years is to be celebrated. With screens occupying so many of our young people's attention, it is a true testament to Newport's ability to keep traditions alive by making them fun for all ages that the Winter Carnival is still going strong.

Breaking ground for the new Community Center is another reason to celebrate change. What has been 40 years in the making will finally take shape in the new year. Talk about leveling up! The good stuff that makes Newport so special will only be enhanced and enriched by having such a valuable resource so accessible to all.

And, although this change is barely perceptible, the *Newport Times* welcomes Rose Terami to the team. Rose has been writing for Greater Good Media since February 2022 and is now taking on the roles of editor and content manager for all four of our VT and NH publications. She will work closely with Allison Browning of ECON and the many wonderful contributors from around Newport who help keep the paper full of the good news you've come to look forward to. Please reach out to Rose, Allison and me with story ideas to help us celebrate YOU!

~ Jen MacMillen

Editor's Note: Getting to Know You...

I first stepped foot on Newport soil about a year ago to get dinner with friends at the Newport Salt Hill Pub. Then, after starting a new job with Greater Good Media, (the publishing company that brings you good news in this paper), I visited again to help deliver our papers to the Town Offices and make some introductions. It became immediately clear to me that this community is full of good people, caring local businesses, and some pretty amazing history – which is a telltale sign to an editor like me that there's a lot of good news afoot to uncover and share with our readers.

As the *Newport Times'* new editor, I've spent the past few months making connections and getting to know the people of Newport. I've even had the pleasure of writing a couple of the articles for this issue, wherein I learned about the annual tradition of the Newport Winter Carnival and got to hear from some Newport residents and business owners about what makes this community special to them.

For a little background on myself: I grew up in the small town of Tunbridge, Vermont, and I graduated high school in Hanover. I've always been a passionate writer and editor, and after a year of college, I decided to leave and pursue the career that I knew was meant for me – telling stories in communities I care about. The local publishing industry has been greatly rewarding to me, and it keeps me motivated to be a force for good as I continue to share uplifting content with our Upper Valley audiences.

I've absolutely loved getting to know the community of Newport so far, but I know that I've only scratched the surface of all the good news and people to meet that are out there for me to discover. At this moment, my biggest task is *noticing*. I'm on the lookout for the behind-the-scenes good people, good places, and good things happening that keep the wonderful community of Newport beautiful and thriving. I welcome your ideas, feedback, and detective work to help me make this paper the best that it can be. ■

~ Rose Terami

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and all of the representatives of the community organizations featured

A special thanks to the wonderful Newport community for all of its support, and especially all of the contributors in each issue.

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

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Newport Warmly Welcomes The Farmer's Table Café to Our Community



Randy White, owner of the Farmer's Table Café.

Owned by Randy White, this local eatery has recently found a new home at the Newport Golf Club, promising a delightful blend of great meals and a family-friendly ambiance. Randy has been a resident of Grantham, New Hampshire for the past 15 years, where in 2020, he took over the Café and has successfully been operating it since.

Prior to this, Randy had a long career in computer IT, working as an analyst at Dartmouth Hitchcock for 13-15 years and in Manchester for about four or five years. However, with the onset of COVID-19 in the spring of 2020, he found his new 'tele-communicative' IT position unappealing and decided to pursue a different path. "I wasn't enjoying IT anymore like I had before, years ago. I wasn't enjoying the tele-community, which is what happened with so many people during COVID. People were forced home to work and telecommute. That just wasn't my thing," Randy says. "I'm more of a people person, so buying and bringing a restaurant back to life seemed like the right fit."

That's when he came across an opportunity to buy The Farmer's Table Café in Grantham, which he saw as an exciting new business venture. The Farmer's Table Café was originally established in 2012 by its former owner, Sarah Hastings, who later put the restaurant up for lease. Randy signed a three-year lease agreement soon after and took over the reins. However, fate had other plans when Newport Golf

Club – under new leadership – was in search of a new food supplier. Having remembered Randy's earlier outreach, they reached an agreement eight months later, which led to the relocation of The Farmer's Table from Grantham to the Newport Golf Club in October 2023.

Randy is more than just a restaurateur and hopes to make it clear to the Newport community of his commitment to go above and beyond. Describing himself as an extrovert, Randy's decision to shift careers and invest in a restaurant was driven by a desire for a more people-oriented profession. He is constantly striving to improve the customer experience and is utilizing the off-season at the Golf Club to 'beef up' the kitchen into a commercial-grade space. The Farmer's Table Café operates year-round and is open to the public, with no membership to the Newport Golf Club required. The restaurant is currently open Wednesday through Sunday, with plans to extend to seven days a week in the spring. Randy has invested his all into the future of this restaurant, providing the community with a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



Farmer's Table is open year-round Wednesday through Sunday.



Farmer's Table Café is now located at the Newport Golf Club.

"I hope The Farmer's Table Café stays here for 20 years," he says. His vision for the restaurant extends beyond the culinary realm. He is currently working on a complete transformation of the upstairs dining space at the Newport Golf Club into a sports-themed tavern. As a musician with over 30 years of experience playing the guitar, Randy likes to host live music events every Thursday and Saturday. The goal is to create a cozy and inviting space, with wooden furniture, antiques, large glass windows overlooking the golf course, and a dual café and tavern layout.

At Farmer's Table Café, the motto is "great food, great service, every guest, every time." Whether you're looking for a hearty lunch, a cozy family dinner, or a friendly meal with friends, the restaurant prides itself on delivering a genuine home-cooked experience.

In a nutshell, The Farmer's Table Café is an experience crafted with care and a commitment to the local community. "I want to kind of encapsulate the wide range of folks from the local area," Randy says, "I want them to enjoy our family-friendly atmosphere."

The Town of Newport is grateful to share our town with Randy and The Farmer's Table Café. Be sure to check them out, Newport – you won't want to miss this delectable addition to our local dining scene! ■

~ Allison Browning, ECON Development Coordinator

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The 2024 Presidential Primary

As 2023 closes and we usher in the new year, we will take a deep breath while we can. 2024 opens with a Presidential Primary Election on January 23, 2024, where New Hampshire voters will have the opportunity to cast their vote in the First-In-The Nation Presidential Primary Election.

Just moved to Newport and you're not yet registered to vote? No problem, you can register on the day of the Primary.

Make sure to bring government issued photo ID, proof of domicile (physical address) and proof of citizenship (birth certificate, passport or naturalization papers). If your driver's license has your correct physical address on it, that will satisfy the age, ID, and domicile requirements.

Please call the Town Clerk's office with any questions about voting or



registering to vote; we are happy to help. If you have nothing with you, or are missing something, we can still take your voter registration.

Unsure if you have registered or not sure what your current party affiliation is? Visit sos.nh.gov/elections. See you at the polls! ■

~ Liselle Dufort, Newport Town Clerk

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Exploring Futures

Newport High School Student Interns With Fire/EMS Services

Newport Middle High School has established a partnership with the high school's college career specialist and the Town of Newport to offer students the opportunity to gain practical experience in careers that interest them! These work-based learning internships are designed to pair driven, passionate students with local businesses to explore their interests and gain hands-on experience.

Our local industries offer unique and applied opportunities to our student body, allowing students to explore and experience practical scenarios in a professional setting. These extended learning opportunities, or ELOs, bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications, and play a pivotal role in readying students for their chosen career paths, providing valuable insights that can enhance their college and/or work-life journey.

With internships ranging from working with the local police department to the local florist, our goal is to expose students to a myriad of career options within Newport and help them explore their interests fully.

One standout intern currently making waves in the program is Lucas Devore, a senior at Newport High School, interning at the Newport Fire/EMS station. With a family background deeply rooted in public service – (his mother and sister are both nurses and his father is a police officer with Fire/EMS background) – Lucas discovered his calling early on. His ultimate goal? To become a combat medic for the



United States Navy. Lucas, a forward-thinker with a clear vision for his future, has already completed his ASVAB placement and signed a six-year contract to head to Chicago for boot camp this July.

"I've always been interested in the medical field, and this internship just makes sense for my future plans," Lucas explains. Lucas commends the hands-on experience he's gaining at the station, emphasizing the valuable insights into the life of a first responder. "What I'm learning now will help my response/reaction time, and how I handle intense and stressful situations as a combat medic," he adds.

In Lucas' internship, he is expected to actively participate in various aspects of fire and emergency medical services, including department overview, equipment familiarization, radio usage, and interpretation, EMS operations, and observation. In the second quarter, the focus shifts to fire-related activities, including apparatus and equipment familiarization, emergency response procedures, firefighter roles, hands-on experience, and special projects. Lucas also accompanies professionals on emergency calls, gaining firsthand experience and observing how medical and fire incidents are handled by experts in the industry. "It's very rewarding to me," Lucas describes, "especially being able to go on calls and actually being able to assist and see patient care in action is very rewarding to me." He began his internship with the Newport Fire/EMS Department in late October and plans to complete it at the end of the school year. He goes into the station every weekday for the last period, for a couple of hours a day.

This NMHS student internship is structured to provide a well-rounded experience, fostering personal growth, professional development, and a deep understanding of the vital role emergency services play in the community. Assessment and evaluation are fundamental components of the program, with students required to log their hours, maintain a reflection journal, undergo quarterly evaluations by their supervisors, and complete a final presentation or essay at the end of the internship, to reflect their experience with fellow students as well as school connections.

College career specialist, Kristie Howe, says of this opportunity: "I'm proud of Lucas for trying this



different way of learning and I'm thrilled that it is providing him with experience that will prepare him for the next steps of his life." We hope that these internship opportunities not only provide students with practical experience but also lays the foundation for future success in public safety and healthcare.

Lucas's dedication to learning and passion for public safety exemplify the success the NMHS internship program strives to achieve. As he prepares for his future in the Navy, Newport eagerly anticipates the positive impact Lucas will bring to his hometown!

Students who have extra time in their schedule and are interested in a student internship can use a class period to attend their ELO during said period, and receive course credit as opposed to the classroom alternative. We encourage all students who are interested in an internship to contact college career specialist, Kristie Howe, at khowe@sau43.org. The NMHS Extended Learning Opportunity, Work-Based Learning Internship Program stands as a testament to the commitment of the school, local businesses, and the broader community in shaping the leaders and professionals of tomorrow.

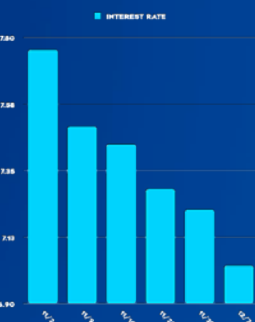
We wish Lucas and other students participating in student internships the best of luck in their future endeavors! ■

~ Allison Browning,
Newport ECON Development Coordinator

2024 OUTLOOK

The housing market is looking bright for 2024 with interest rates continuing to go down!

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Artist in Residence Stanley Lewis at Dartmouth College and Chautauqua School of Art especially broadened his horizons and taught him the importance of direct observation. He was introduced to an amazing range of potential expressions (feelings and ideas represented through art) available in Landscape work. He was hooked. He went on to earn a Master's Degree in Fine Art at Rutgers University. Following his passion for art, Shull also traveled the world painting landscapes and studying the Old Masters – artists who produced paintings in Europe before 1800.

Reality, Responsibility, and Obligations

It wasn't going to be an easy or direct path. Shull calls these interludes in his life "detours" and "hiatuses" from his passion for painting.

Initially, there were grant-funded projects for community work that helped make payments on his student loans.

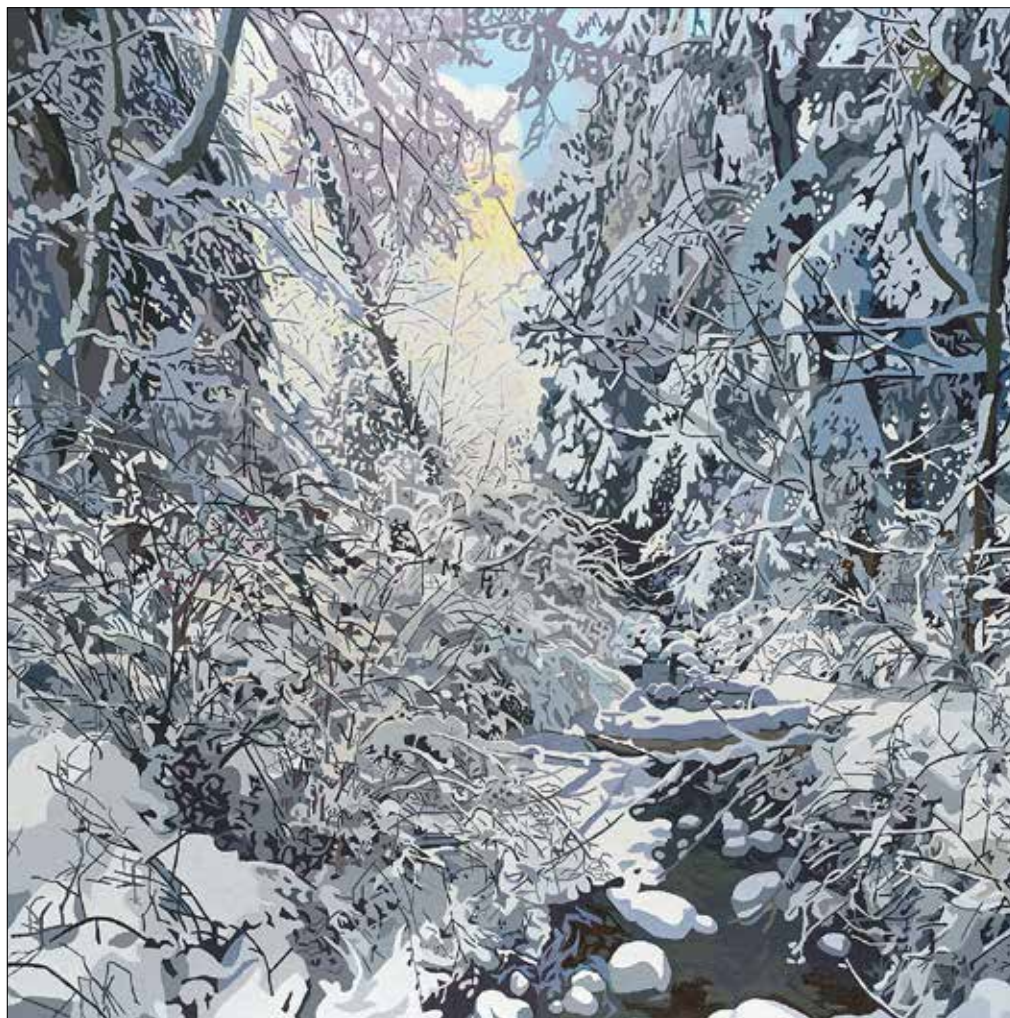
From there, Shull moved to Texas where he lived frugally while doing adjunct university teaching. "I really liked teaching, but I couldn't make a living at it," he remembers. He taught multiple classes per semester, waited on tables part-time, and picked up various other side-gigs, while waiting for the typical turnover of retirement-age faculty which would open up positions in the tenure-track job market. But an economic 'downturn' shattered that goal, as faculty decided not to retire because their retirement resources were shrinking at an alarming rate. And he was still barely able to pay his student loans, rent, and other living expenses.

Reality was beginning to settle in for Shull. The very things that informed his vision of painting – being part of, interacting with, and observing the world and people around him – made him realize that his world was not only populated by abstract people and things; it also contained responsibilities, debts, and people who depended on him.

Finally, serendipity came to his rescue. He was head-hunted into a California



Shull works on *Into the Woods*



Into the Woods

video game company. Suddenly he was a designer and builder of things, and a software development professional leading and supporting teams and product development in the video game industry. "I really loved supporting that team. They were some of the most talented developers in the country. But the truth was, by the time I got home, there was no time to work on my own art."

After nine years, Shull managed to pay off his debts and save enough money to move out of California and return to his focus on art. He looked around and decided on Traverse, Michigan. It was a small city that valued the arts, and it was a good place to raise his family.

After a series of explorations into sculpture, performance, new media, and abstraction, Shull knew it was time to return to observational painting. It is in this space that his passion for quality of light and atmosphere, the presence of a place, and an alignment with the paradox of ordinary life captured in moments – fractured and forming, abrupt but enduring – existed.

After early explorations into sculpture, performance, new media, and abstraction, Shull decided to bring his observational painting practice back into focus. "I have found this is where I am most fulfilled as an artist. These are things I find well-suited to picture making and paint," Shull explained.

Today's Working Artist

Shull writes on his website: "I aim to make direct, dynamic, and vibrant paintings of the ordinary spaces that we occupy and move through in everyday life." When he embarks on a new piece, he chooses which mediums to use and how the objects will interact with each other. He considers how people and things move through time in that space. Shull points out that as Marshall McLuhan wrote in *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, "the medium is the message". His own art often exhibits

*“I paint, see what I have painted,
and then I decide what it says about me and the world.”*

“I don’t know if my new approach will work or not, but I need to find out.”



Justin Shull's Into the Woods (second from left) on display at Cherry Capital Airport in Northern Michigan

interactions of structural elements of the man-made environment and the natural world. Shull stresses what his work is all about: “setting up a conversation between the geometries of our civilization and the organic forces that coexist in a dynamic tension.”

His work has been exhibited and collected nationally, and he has won several national awards from the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the College Art Association, and the International Sculpture Center.

“I paint,” says Shull, “because I enjoy the process and the results, but also because I enjoy the responsibility of working within this tradition and exploring where it is yet to go.”

Tomorrow’s “Disruptive” Artist

Most often referred to in terms of business management, *disruptive innovation* is a powerful tool for change. It challenges old ways of doing things which, in turn, reveal new possibilities and directions. Business disruptors have harnessed technological advances for such innovations as AI (Artificial Intelligence), self-driving vehicles, and 3D printing. Justin’s current artistic experiment falls under the category of “disruptive artist.”

The Purdue Disruptive Innovation MBA Program states that “disruptors” share some common characteristics. They must: have an *entrepreneurial* mindset; be a *risk-taker*, willing to both fail or succeed; have a passionate vision that informs and sets goals; have the *agility* to navigate a chaotic business environment; possess a high level of *persistence*; display exceptional *creativity* that transcends traditional ideas, rules, patterns, and relationships; and, perhaps most important of all – see *patterns and connections* where none have previously been seen.

That’s pretty much Shull all over.

It is a new way of thinking, doing, feeling, and seeing. While productive market achievement

remains a primary goal, *success* becomes a secondary one. What matters most is the process and outcome. Shull says: “I paint, see what I have painted, and then I decide what it says about me and the world.” His new – as yet unpublished works – combine elements and media in ways that have rarely, if ever, been put in juxtaposition. They are wonderful, frightening, amusing, and evocative. They invite the onlooker to immerse themselves in the symbols, colors, and images, rather than just see them. They seem to encourage the viewer to experience the movement and contradictions implied by each piece.

“I don’t know if my new approach will work or not,” says Shull. “But I need to find out.”

Looking Ahead

Shull is fully aware that this new venture may not be a marketable success. His existing works are selling. They are receiving awards, they are accepted and desired by the public. They are hanging in art galleries, and on view in exhibitions. One of them (*Into the Woods*) – a magnificent winter scene – is now on view at Cherry Capital Airport.

And although Shull knows the fragility of something as intangible as art appreciation, he is determined to move ahead with it. He will need to ignore current market trends and use exquisitely new and untested ideas, but that is where his vision is currently taking him.

“I could just forget it and keep doing what I have been doing,” Shull says. “Thomas Kinkaid showed us how to paint the same thing over and over and over again...and make millions doing it.” But I am not interested in becoming a KinKaid Clone. I need to change and move with my art.”

Benjamin Franklin once said: “Energy and persistence conquer all things.”

Justin Shull has both. ■



Sirens on the Shore



River Birch, 2017



Constellations Inside, 2022

Micah Studios Awarded Vela Grant

Micah Studios was honored to be a recipient of a 2023 grant awarded by the Vela Education Fund. Vela is an organization that supports individuals operating unconventional learning environments by allowing them to quickly put their ideas into practice to create educational options for learners' and families' needs.

The dream of two local women – Jessica Rothbart and Stacey Hammerlind – Micah Studios is a new learning center in Newport. Its doors opened in September with eleven enrolled youth aging from 7 to 18. Some of the learners had been previously homeschooled, while others came from public schools. The mission of Micah Studios is to provide an educational alternative for local youth that may not be thriving in their current educational setting. A foundational belief of our center is that learning occurs in all settings;

our learners can often be found outside or on field trips around town. Enrollment fees are paid through New Hampshire Education Freedom Accounts, allowing access to families regardless of income.

Jessica is no stranger to supporting Newport youth. A substitute teacher in the Newport school system for many years, she co-leads and supports many local 4-H groups including the Sharp Shooter club, the local rabbit, horse clubs as well as the high school group. She is also the Sullivan county representative to the state 4-H council and can be seen staffing the Ice Hut on the Common. To find out more about Micah Studios please reach out to info@micahstudios or by calling or texting 802-222-0865. To find out more about local 4-H groups and events, you can contact program manager Laurie Field at laurie.field@unh.org or 603-863-9200. ■



CELEBRATING THE ARTS

More Murals Coming to Downtown Newport



Dozens of artists – including Kathy Hanson (left), Jennifer Stark (center), and Ben Cote (right) – were engaged in the reproduction of the “Train Mural” on Newport Fitness two years ago, and will be invited to help create the future murals in town which will be created and installed over the next few years.

Year one of the five-year partnership between the Library Arts Center and the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce has brought the gorgeous vintage style postcard inspired “Welcome to Newport” mural viewed as people enter downtown from Sunapee Street.

This mural, painted by local artist Heidi Lorenz, encapsulates the type of artwork this partnership plans to bring to downtown. The colors, design, and style of each mural will be designed to represent the historic nature of our downtown while representing the places and things that make Newport and this region such a wonderful place to call home.

The Library Arts Center has been seeking input from community members on just what makes this such a special place. Community-led ideas and public voting began this past summer at the Apple Pie Crafts Fair where people were asked to share their ideas and vote on each others' ideas. Community input will be requested again early this winter through social media and at community events such as Winter Carnival.

Most voted on ideas so far include ideas for murals based on things like Winter Carnival, our parades (Lepin' Lena), concerts on the common, Pollards Mills, blueberry picking, and skating on the common to name a few. If you have an idea that you think would make a great mural, make sure to share it with the Library Arts Center, and keep your eyes out for opportunities to vote on mural themes this winter.

The next mural site has been selected and will be a little different than the first. Instead of doing one large mural, several smaller murals will be done by several local artists. These murals will be installed in late spring on either side of what is historically known as “Corn Alley”. This is the space between Bar Harbor Bank and the Gomash building, which houses WCNL Radio. This plan was developed by learning about several such “alleyway” mural spaces in New England. The idea is to create a space that can be enjoyed by foot while making opportunities for more small murals to be added in future years. This space was selected as it is a beautiful and overlooked space right downtown, with deep historic value. Also, the space leads right down to the Depot Building which is now the new Chamber of Commerce headquarters. This space will be designed to help bridge between our Main Street area to the Depot and the new Rec Center area by foot.

Later this winter, local artists will start painting their murals on wooden panels, just as we have done the other murals in Newport. These murals will receive a UV Ray protective spray coat and will be installed later this spring.

This winter the Library Arts Center and Newport Chamber of Commerce will also embark on a fundraising campaign to fund this project, as well as the remaining years of this partnership. Grants, as well as appeals to local businesses and individuals will all go out this winter, in order to help make it possible to continue this transformative work, one community mural at a time. ■

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A Year in Review

Conservation at Work in the Community

Night falls pretty early this time of year and I never seem to get accustomed to the dark. But the time around the solstice is well suited for taking an inventory of the past year's accomplishments and making resolutions for the coming year.

The Conservation Commission's major initiative in 2023 was to have a natural resources inventory (NRI) prepared for Newport. The Board of Selectmen contracted with Moosewood Ecological LLC of Chesterfield to produce the NRI. It is expected to be delivered by the fall of 2024. The completed document will provide Newport with a reasonably complete accounting of the various natural and cultural resources of the Town. These would normally include ground and surface water resources, wildlife habitat and migration corridors, prime agricultural land, scenic and recreational resources to name some. The NRI can then be used as a resource to help in the formation of the Town's master plan.

Chief among this coming year's goals is to assist in the amending of the master plan. The master plan preparation and its periodic amendment is a duty of the planning board. This is established in law (RSA 674:1). Section 2 states the purpose of the master plan is "to set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the planning board, to aid the board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of New Hampshire, and to guide the board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection." While the planning board is the responsible agent in amending the master plan, the

conservation commission should provide significant input and the NRI will be a crucial tool for that work.

Newport's last master plan was revised and adopted in 2012 for a 10 year period. A glance at the calendar will tell you that the latest revision is just a bit behind schedule. It is incumbent upon us to do this work this year. The planning board will naturally look to the commission for critical input and the NRI will be our source of detailed data informing the preparation of this newest version. Public input is also critical. The Town did distribute a "Community Attitudes" survey last summer. Due to a clerical error, the hard copy surveys were lost, so Town residents are encouraged to participate in a new survey online. The survey is quick to take (took me five minutes) and you can access the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/M7B6KYF. You can also go to the Town website and search "master plan survey" in the search bar.

If you can, please take the online survey. The voice of the citizens is important in shaping the trajectory of future growth and development in Newport. It is a good winter's day activity even if it takes only five minutes; after all, the days are dark and winter is long; but only 170 or so days until the next solstice.

Let me close by thanking Linda and Ken Denis for many years of service to Newport as members of the Conservation Commission. They resigned from the commission in November to pursue other interests. If you would like to serve the community on this important commission please consider volunteering to fill a seat. Happy New Year to you all from the Newport Conservation Commission. ■

~ Larry Schissel

Newport Conservation Commission



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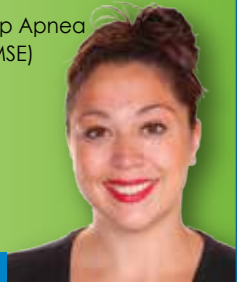
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MEET YOUR NEIGHORLY ROTARIANS



John Lunn

Which vacation spot would you like to visit?

I'd like to travel to the Moon. It is undeveloped, some might say 'unspoiled.'

Do you collect anything? If so, what?

Cartoon Art Humor

comic strips like Blondie, Doonesbury, Peanuts, etc. and cartoons from magazines like *The New Yorker*. I donated all my originals to the cartoon school in White River Junction last year.

What's your go-to karaoke song?

I wouldn't sing in public for a price. Maybe 'Hey, Jude', if there was enough beer involved.

If you could time travel, which era would you visit?

Renaissance Italy, but only with indoor plumbing.

What is your ideal way to spend a weekend in Newport?

Reading, writing stories, creating metal art, and enjoying the weather, snow or shine.

What is the best way to start the day?

Waking up. Followed by caffeine and the newspaper. Then a nap.

To which organization or person/group do you donate your time or other resources regularly?

Rotary, Got Lunch, teaching high school kids video and television sciences.

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

Some Like It Hot. Not one line of dialogue is out of place.

What is your motto in life?

I like the Newport Rotary motto "Service above Self" which I learned recently. I've been living that for years whether for family or community without putting it in such a concise phrase. My favorite saying is "Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana" by Groucho Marx.

If you could only eat at one local restaurant for the rest of your life, which one would it be?

As a vegetarian, that's a tough one. I'd have to travel a bit further for Asian and Middle Eastern foods that create more interesting non-meat dishes.

What one super human power would you want?

Sleeping through the night.

If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be?

Leonardo da Vinci. But I doubt I'd get a vegetarian meal at his table.

In general, do you follow or break the rules?

I stick to the straight path. There is a lot of leeway to be creative and interested within the lines.

What's your biggest fear/phobia?

The older I get, the fewer the fears. I accept things that might cause distress and leave them be.



Jane Rastallis

Which vacation spot would you like to visit?

Back to the Outer Banks, NC.

Do you collect anything? If so, what?

Angels on my Christmas trees.

What's your go-to karaoke song?

I can't sing so I've never tried Karaoke.

If you could time travel, which era would you visit?

To the future to see where AI takes us.

What is your ideal way to spend a weekend in Newport?

Sleep in, visit the North Newport covered bridge, lunch at the Pub, shop at LAC Gallery of Gifts and dinner at The Old Courthouse (of course!).

What is the best way to start the day?

With coffee, and anything with protein.

To which organization or person/group do you donate your time or other resources regularly?

Hard to single out one, but the Library Arts Center, Wiley Petra Christmas Fund and Newport Health Center (NLH) get a lot of my attention.

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

Wow, that was sooooo long ago! I do remember going to the movies on Saturday mornings, seeing a brief news clip (totally boring to a kid) and the westerns with Roy Rogers and Hopalong Cassidy (Lil).

What is your motto in life?

"If the minimum required is your maximum, the end result is mediocrity."

If you had to eat only one dish for the rest of your life, what would it be?

I get bored easily so no one dish would satisfy me for the rest of my life.

If you could only eat at one local restaurant for the rest of your life, which one would it be?

I'd get bored. I need them all!

What one super human power would you want?

To create peace in the world.

If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be?

The Obamas to learn more about how they went from ordinary to extraordinary.

In general, do you follow or break the rules?

If the rule makes sense, I am a follower. For rules that are ridiculous, I will probably break them.

What's your biggest fear/phobia?

Bats terrify me.



Charen Urban

Which vacation spot would you like to visit?

I have been to 49 states and 42 countries, but have never touched South America. I would really like to visit Machu Picchu in Peru, followed by a

wine tour of Chile and Argentina.

Do you collect anything? If so, what?

I am a scrap quilter and enjoy collecting fabric from different places I visit.

What's your go-to karaoke song?

Nope, you don't want to hear me sing!

If you could time travel, which era would you visit?

I would go back to the early 20th century; I want to dress like they did in Downton Abbey.

What is your ideal way to spend a weekend in Newport?

Saturday walk on the Sugar River Trails, Sunday attend South Church, then relax at home with my husband of 50+ years.

What is the best way to start the day?

I start with prayers of gratitude, coffee, and fitness class at Newport Rec.

To which organization or person/group do you donate your time or other resources regularly?

South Congregational Church, Got Lunch! Newport, and Richards Free Library are all important to me.

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

The Wizard of Oz – do you know it was one of the first movies in color? Next would be *The Beatles Help!*

What is your motto in life?

"Say yes if you think you can do a good job."

If you had to eat only one dish for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Chili.

If you could only eat at one local restaurant for the rest of your life, which one would it be?

The Old Courthouse because it has variety and the quality is always good.

What one super human power would you want?

Mind reading.

If you could have dinner with anyone who would it be?

Eleanor Roosevelt.

In general, do you follow or break the rules?

I follow reasonable rules, but there are times when I "ask forgiveness, not permission."

What's your biggest fear/phobia?

Large growling dogs.

A Polished Leader

Zach Dole, a lifelong resident of Sullivan county and current Sr. Value Stream Manager in the Newport Ruger facility, started at Ruger in 1997 as a polisher. Ruger had been calling Zach since his father, a lead in cutter grind, brought him on a tour of the factory when he was a young boy. He fondly recalls being captivated as he walked by racks of firearms and developed a fascination with the manufacturing process.

"Although he told me I would never want to work where he worked, looking back on it, it's become my life's passion for the next parent to not tell their kid that," Zach says.

Zach's dad, Chris, passed away unexpectedly when Zach was about thirteen years old. Chris had been a Ruger employee for 18 years at the time of his passing. Zach very clearly remembers how the community of Ruger associates supported his family as they navigated the grief of Chris' passing. Zach says, "it's an interesting perspective to realize that food has been put on my table by Ruger for every year of my life except for six," referring to the exception regarding the time between his father's passing and when Zach became an employee. Zach's son now also works for Ruger, carrying on the family tradition.

When asked what is most rewarding about being a boss, Zach had a telling reply, "What I like about being a leader is the impact I can make on people's lives,



both personally and professionally."

One of the people he has had an impact on is Facilities Group Leader, Brenda DeCelle. "I have known Zach for many years," she says. "I have worked for several different managers in my 34-year career at Ruger, and Zach has been an encouraging force behind my growth."

Zach remarks, "I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the tremendous opportunity here (at Ruger). Somehow, here I am a polisher grown up to be a Value Stream Manager. It's important for my son to see that working hard through challenging times will allow you to grow personally and within your career path."

While he dedicates himself as a leader and mentor while at work, he is also deeply devoted to his family life. "Life isn't about the things you collect along the way, life is about the impacts you can make on other people's lives," he says. "I am very aware of my own mortality and that's probably from losing my father at a young age." The legacy Zach hopes to leave behind, for his family – including his Ruger family – is that "when you commit to continually improving yourself, hardship will not define who you are or limit where you can go, but rather will make you a stronger, better person."

-Contributed by Zach's "Ruger Family"



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ANIMALS RULE

Home for the Holidays

Kyro arrived at Wags and Wiggles Rescue in the early Winter of 2021 – an unruly and handsome 10-month-old pup. We realized that, despite our efforts, Kyro needed training beyond our knowledge, so off he went to Paws in Motion. When Kyro returned from training, a star was born and we set things into motion.

We educated the public about dogs like Kyro by bringing him into local businesses, children's library events, and fundraisers. He sat, loved and surrounded by our staff, for another year.

In the early winter of 2023, after the Winter Carnival parade, we noticed that something was very wrong with Kyro. Our vet found that Kyro had ruptured his spleen and an emergency surgery was performed. Our community rallied and we raised the money overnight for this life saving procedure.

In the fall of 2023, a family came into his life. They took him to



training classes, fostered him, and fell head over heels for this gentle guy. Kyro was officially adopted in December and continues to enjoy his forever home.

Our volunteers spend countless hours with each of our dogs and Kyro was no exception. If he wasn't climbing a mountain with a volunteer, he was often seen swinging through the drive thru for a pup cup.

We thank our community for always supporting our belief in saving one more set of paws. Have a wonderful life, Kyro! ■

*~ Christiane Dionne, Exec. Dir.
Wags and Wiggles Rescue*



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all things "Peace, Love, and Newport". It will begin on Wednesday, February 7th and run through Sunday, February 11.

Newport's Robert E. Gould is credited as the "father" of the Winter Carnival, and he served on one of the first Carnival committees beginning when he was 23 years old. An annual town report from 1996 (marking the 80th anniversary of Winter Carnival) said this of Gould: "Through his efforts, our carnivals had outstanding skaters, skiers, snowshoe-ers; and movie makers, and heard a radio show, 'Vox Pop,' broadcast nationwide from Newport."

After the first carnival proved an enormous success (it drew in 600 people), local businessmen – led by the Newport House and B&M Railroad – met to plan a bigger and better event for the following year. It's continued to grow and gain attention both near and far as time goes on.

In 1939, Life Magazine spent a week in Newport photographing the "Original Winter Carnival Town". In 2011, Newport made it into the Guinness World Record Book for hosting the largest beard and mustache championship at Winter Carnival, which

involved 462 participants and was won by Steve Lucas, who was chosen by judges as having the "grand stache".

"I remember just a few years ago, this guy had heard about our Winter Carnival parade and he had a Doodlebug that he wanted to bring to our parade from Connecticut," said Beth Rexford, Rec. Department administrative assistant. "He came up just to be in the parade with his Doodlebug and spent the day and loved our Winter Carnival."

Newport native Ann Stout told me, "My earliest memories [of Winter Carnival] were going to...watch the dog sled races."

As a young adult, Stout competed in the women's snowshoe races, and in 1975, she was crowned Winter Carnival Queen; her daughter, Maria Stout, was crowned Queen in 1998. Three of Stout's daughters have participated in the Pageant over the years, and her sons have always enjoyed participating in the golf-on-ice event.

"It's definitely inclusive and family-friendly," Stout said. In recent years, the Carnival has featured a series of daily events – both indoor and outdoor



A Doodlebug came all the way from Connecticut to enjoy the Winter Carnival parade one year.

– that are appealing to a variety of age groups, like a youth basketball free throw contest, pickleball and table tennis tournaments, pizza parties, nighttime skating, a Rotary Club pancake breakfast, a murder mystery dinner, horse-drawn wagon rides, and more games and fun.

Many aspects of Winter Carnival – like the parade and skating on the Common – remain the same today, and certain new traditions have weaved their way into the mix over the years. One prominent tradition, the Queens Pageant, began as an initiative to help raise money to keep the carnival going, and it's still running strong today. The crowning of the first "Carnival Queen," Anna Kennedy, was recorded in 1925, when the Newport Outing Club "was offering \$25 in gold to the girl receiving the greatest number of votes," the annual report said.

The Queens pageant is not only a successful fundraiser, but also a valuable coming-of-age moment for a group of high school junior and senior young women that participate each year.

Contestants participate in four areas of competition: a private interview with the judges before the public event, on-stage questions, talent, and evening wear. The Pageant is an opportunity for young, local women to grow, learn life skills, meet new people, and take part in carrying on an important tradition in the community.

Newport native Kristie Howe told me, "When I was little, my Mom always used to take me to the Winter Carnival pageant...I'd really just look up to the



2023 Queens contestants compete during the "Aloha from Newport" themed Winter Carnival last February.

Highlights From Winter Carnivals of the Past (Excerpts from *History of the Newport Winter Carnival*)

1917: "Austin Corbin has promised two deer and two wild boar for prizes to be used as the committee desire. A deer drive was planned in the park and Dartmouth was scheduled to meet New Hampshire State in a hockey game."

1921: "Despite lack of snow and poor ice, this was the most successful carnival to date. The riding was pretty but the ponies would not jump the hurdles. No one showed up for the parade, but when the crowd arrived at the grounds on the intervals there was fun enough to make up."

1923: "Horse races on Main St. were added to the carnival. Other events included a tug of war between a team of oxen and a team of men; boxing

on snow shoes, motorcycle ski-joring, scooter and tray races, ski tilting contest and pole and snow shoe races for the girls."

1942: "A live radio broadcast from Newport will be made for the first time. Ex-Gov. Francis P. Murphy of Nashua, a former Newport resident, arranged for the half-hour broadcast over WMUR, Manchester to be broadcast direct from the town hall... Miss Smith beat out Miss Leavitt for queen...She was awarded an expense-paid trip to Boston as her prize."

1943: "Chairman Gould announced that proceeds of the carnival will go to the American Red Cross and the Newport Citizens Club for the benefit

of the boys and girls in town who are serving their country. Each will receive a third of the profit with the other third being retained to help defray the costs of future carnivals... Because of the war, this carnival has had to be streamlined. Six of the committee members now serving in the armed forces are Capt. Leslie Pike, Lt. George Dorr, Jr., Lt. William Tracey, Major J. Richard Kelly, Lt. Addison Roe and Pvt. Roy Billings and it is expected that two more will be going before the Carnival."

1947: "Speculation is heavy regarding the advisability of crowning a carnival king to reign along with the queen. A new event will be canoe racing down the hill."

1951: "Over 70,000 pounds of ice blocks donated by Herbert Martin were cut and formed into a solid wall at the north end of the Common to serve as a backdrop. Yale Joel, staff photographer for Life Magazine will be one of the queen judges."

1960: "It was announced that two greased pigs would be turned loose on the Common during the 44th annual carnival scheduled for Washington's birthday weekend. Buker Airways has agreed to fly a plane over the area on the weekend, dropping balloons from a high altitude. Some of the missiles will contain currency."



Newport residents Glenn and Connie take on Rec director PJ Lovely (pink shirt) during a Winter Carnival Ping Pong Tournament.



A "greased pig" (Glenn Halleck) skates alongside other locals at the ice rink on the Common.



girls that were on stage." Fast forward to now, Howe is the Pageant director and spends twice a week from January leading up to the pageant practicing with the Queens contestants, developing and fine-tuning skills such as public speaking, interviewing, fundraising, on-stage presence, town pride, and more.

Howe also prepares another group of pageant participants – Newport's second-grade "Princes and Princesses" – who don't compete but get to learn dances and show off their talents on the Newport Opera House stage.

"Seeing the kids learn and grow confidence and develop all these skills is really cool," Howe said. "It's really neat to see them walk out on stage on the night of the show and see nervousness, but they have a confidence that's very different than it was at the beginning of January."

This year, eleven young women will compete for the title of Winter Carnival Queen. "They have some interesting talents planned for us so it's bound to be a good show," said Howe.

Since 1993, the Newport Rec. Department and the Newport

Area Chamber of Commerce have been collaborating to organize the Winter Carnival. They've kept the tradition going by "having events that are weird, wacky, and winter-related," PJ Lovely said – like bringing back the mustache contest, or the greased pig competition (not a real greased pig anymore, fyi!).

For many, the Newport Winter Carnival means having fun, enjoying the outdoors, and experiencing the feeling of community.

"I think that Winter Carnival is our favorite time of year," Rexford said.

It's "a positive outlet in a time of year when sometimes it's hard to drag yourself outside," Howe added.

"It was our forefathers who created the Winter Carnival and they did so for a reason; our legacy is to keep that reason going, and it's to highlight New Hampshire – specifically Newport – in the wintertime, get people out of the house, and become a community," said Lovely. "Our job is to keep that tradition alive." ■

NEWPORT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Nurturing Young Minds The Integral Role of Technology in Children's Lives and Education

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement, children are growing up in a world vastly different from that of previous generations. The pervasive influence of technology has transformed the way young minds interact with the world around them, making it imperative to examine the role of technology in the lives of children and its place in education.

From the advent of the internet to the proliferation of smartphones and tablets, technology has become an integral part of children's daily experiences. These digital tools offer unprecedented access to information, entertainment, and communication. As children navigate this digital landscape, they develop new skills and perspectives that shape their understanding of the world.

Technology has opened up innovative avenues for education, creating a dynamic and engaging learning environment for children. Interactive educational apps, online resources, and multimedia content provide diverse ways for children to absorb information. Gamified learning platforms leverage technology to make education more enjoyable, fostering a love for learning from an early age.

Technology also plays a significant role in shaping children's social lives. Social media platforms, online gaming communities, and virtual spaces provide avenues for social interaction and connection. While these digital connections can enhance communication skills and broaden perspectives, it is essential to strike a balance with face-to-face interactions to ensure holistic social development.

Despite the numerous benefits, the integration of technology in children's lives and education poses challenges that require careful consideration. Issues such as screen time, online safety, and the potential for addiction necessitate thoughtful guidance from parents, educators, and policymakers. Striking a balance between technology use and other forms of play and learning is crucial to ensure a well-rounded childhood.

Educators and parents play pivotal roles in guiding children's interactions with technology. It is essential to foster a healthy digital diet, emphasizing the importance of purposeful and mindful technology use. Open communication about online safety, responsible digital citizenship, and setting boundaries helps children navigate the digital landscape responsibly. ■



NEWPORT MONTESSORI SCHOOL
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Richards Free Library

A Note From the Library Director

The roof work is done! We're so happy with the great workmanship and communication from GDC Slate & Copper. We did have a new leak in the one section of roofing they did not repair, and they quickly took care of that on Black Friday. It will be nice to continue working with them on roofing maintenance so we don't need to do a big roofing project again for years! Thank you, thank you, thank you to you all for helping us secure funding for the roofing project with a warrant article. The library contributed \$21,600 and we received a grant from GDC for \$5,000 but without the warrant article for the remainder, it would have been a very different project. Here's to dry libraries and art centers!

~ Justine Fafara

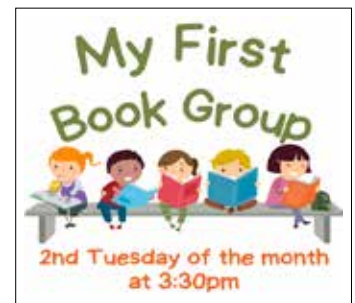
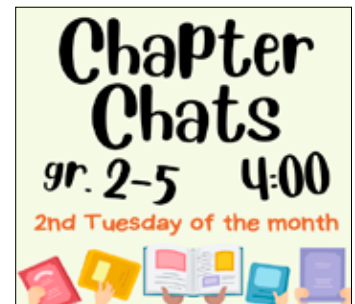
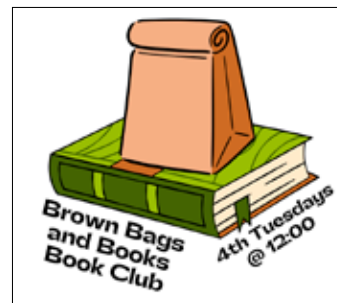
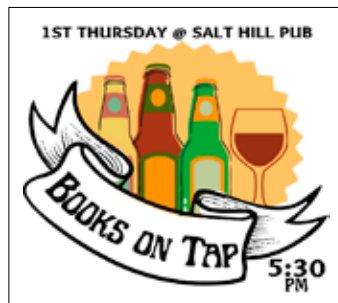
Save the Date

We're planning a Local Author Celebration for Saturday, March 16th. More details to come soon! Keep an eye on our website, richardsfreelib.org.

Online donations: If you'd like to make a monetary donation to the library we can now accept credit cards on our website! Whether it's a general donation, a donation in memory of a loved one, or a donation to support Minnie & Dexter (the famous library cats), we'd love your support. I hope the ease of being able to donate on the website by credit card at your convenience is helpful.

2024 Book Clubs

- Books on Tap is a book club for adults that meets at Salt Hill Pub the first Thursday of each month at 5:30pm. Join us for book discussion and treat yourself to a meal out with a great group of friends! This group tends towards popular fiction and will be reading a variety of adult, young adult, and middle grade fiction in 2024.
- Brown Bags and Books is a book club for adults that meets at lunch time (12pm) and discusses great books over treats in the library's ballroom on the third floor. This group tends towards literary fiction.
- BookTok is a book club for tweens and teens (ages 11-18) that meets monthly in the Hale Room at the library. This group discusses mostly fiction for teens that are popular titles on TikTok. Teens are also encouraged to



participate in TikTok videos for the library's account. A permission slip from parents is required before we film your teens!

- Pages & Panels is a book club for tweens and teens (ages 11-18) that meets monthly to discuss graphic novels. This group also meets in the Hale Room at the library.
- Chapter Chats is a book club for kids in grades 2-5, roughly ages 7-10, to discuss wonderful novels at their reading level. This group meets with Ms. Mo monthly.
- My First Book Group is a club for kids in grades K-2, roughly ages 5-8, to discuss early reader books at their reading level. This group meets with Ms. Mo monthly.

Upcoming special events:

- January 25th from 1-6pm drop in: Buddy Builders
- January 29th at 4pm: The Elaine Frank Award for Volunteerism Tea
- January 30th at 4pm: Family Read Aloud & Craft: The Snow Day
- February 1st at 1pm: Lotus Lantern Making for homeschool students (Registration required)
- February 15th at 4:30pm: New England Quilts & Stories They Tell in partnership with New Hampshire Humanities
- February 20th from 1-5pm drop in: Try Out Old Fashioned Skills

We would love to have adults who know an old-fashioned skill volunteer to help with this! If you are interested, please contact Mo at mchurchill@newport.lib.nh.us.

For more information, visit our website richardsfreelib.org and view the calendar. ■

"Bite Size Entertainment" on NCTV

This fall, NCTV has seen an interesting shift in our intern program. I have a group of students working in collaboration to create and broadcast their own TV show. Calling the show "Bite Size Entertainment," it will be made up of several different segments that the group has created from political opinion, news and interviews, to sketch comedy, game shows and chat. The core team is made up of Noel Beauchaine, Tom Griggs, Evah Hodge, and Carter White, along with guests and other friends helping out from time to time. My role as executive producer and mentor is to teach them the skills and keep the show on track. But from ideas to screen, producing, writing, and editing, it's all up to them. We've produced two episodes so far and it shows promise.

I believe this is an absolute first for NCTV and has been a dream of mine since I took this job six-and-a-half years ago. Being connected to the school has been an underutilized asset for NCTV for decades. Creating 'Tiger TV' programming has great potential for students to express themselves, engage with the community, and learn,

share, and teach each other new skills as they develop a new cross generational brand for NMHS news and entertainment.

Of course, these things take time and I don't want to jump ahead while we are just getting started. It will be spotty at first while they find their legs and make enough time to allow their creativity and variety of material to grow. Some viewers might feel that personal or political opinions are not subject matter for students to

share on TV. But these are young developing minds that need to be heard, whether through humor or serious debate. Public Access TV is one of the last spaces, outside of the morass of internet trash talk, where the first amendment has free reign. There is no place for slander, lies, or obscenity here. However, free expression of ideas is the rule.

These four young people are all Newport honor roll students and conscientious, deep thinking and feeling young adults. Let's give them a hand and welcome them with "Bite Size Entertainment" on NCTV, Tiger Television. Tune in on NCTV channel 10, and online on video on demand (VOD) at nctv10.org. ■

~ John Lunn



What's Onstage at the Newport Opera House in January & February?



Dancing with the Newport Stars: All-Stars January 26 & 27

The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce and Newport Opera House Association are thrilled to announce the 2024 Dancing with the Newport Stars: on January 26th and 27th at 7pm at the Newport Opera House.

To get "the best seats in the house," purchase your tickets now for this popular show before it sells out by visiting newportoperahouse.com (premium seating – \$30.00; adults – \$25.00; ages 2 to 18 – \$15.00)!

Join us as the Opera House stage sparkles with Newport's finest All-Star dancing contestants, each vying for the winner's trophy! Vote for your favorite couple; the 2024 All-Star cast includes: Fran Huot (Library Arts Center) with pro Robert Steele; Christine Smith (New London Hospital) with pro Gary Stanhope; Ben Holobowicz (Newport Health Center) with pro Renee Patten; Shannon MacMichael (Noise "R" Us Fireworks) with pro Steve Patten; and John Proper (Crown Point Cabinetry) with pro Aggie Proper.



Newport Winter Carnival Pageant February 9

With pageant director Kristie Howe at the helm for her tenth year, the Newport Opera House Association is gearing up to host the Winter Carnival Pageant, which is part of the longest running annual winter carnival in the country. Join us at the historic Newport Opera House on Friday, February 9, 2024 at 7pm, as these eleven young women: Myah Borcuk, Lauren Brewer, Violet Cameron, Amelia Caravan, Shayla Tom Griggs, Melody Heacock, Evah Hodge, Hailey Michaud, Emily Peckham, Bailey Truman, and Kayla Zullo, compete for the title of Winter Carnival Queen!

In addition, the following second graders will be sparkle on the stage as princes and princesses: Emery



King, Avery Bevilacqua, Bryanna Benoit, Lilah Bangrazi, Leigha Brown, Gauge Roberts, Skylar Davenport, Paisley Young, Aurora Porter, Corbin Bailey, Willa Swenson, and Harper Nelson.

The 2024 Newport Winter Carnival Pageant, which embraces the Winter Carnival theme of "Woodstock – Peace, Love & Music," is certain to be a very popular event! Buy your tickets today for \$20.00 per person online at newportoperahouse.com.

The Conniption Fits: "A Tribute to Party Rock Across the Decades" February 10

Get ready to have some fun and dance the night away as the popular tribute rock band, the Conniption Fits, take the stage at the Newport Opera House on Saturday, February 10th at 8pm, for this 21+ event – "a tribute to party rock across the decades!"

This event is certain to be a sellout...don't wait, purchase tickets in advance at newportoperahouse.com (\$20.00 per person). If tickets are still available the day of the event, they will be sold at the door for \$25.00 per person.

"The Conniption Fits – A Tribute to Party Rock Across the Decades" is sponsored through the generosity of Eastern Propane & Oil!

K-8 Music Theatre Workshop February 17

The Newport Opera House Association is proud to partner with the New London Barn Playhouse, for its second annual K-8 Music Theatre Workshop, which will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024, from 9am – 3pm at the Newport Opera House! Learn basic singing, dancing, and acting techniques with theater professionals! This is a great opportunity for first-time theater students and students who want to brush up on the basics and have fun performing familiar shows and music. The registration fee for this workshop is \$35.00. Please sign up online at nlbarn.org/classes. Join us for this engaging music theater workshop where you will be performing on the stage of the Newport Opera House. ■



The Conniption Fits

Happy New Year, Newport

Well, 2023 has come and gone, and at the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, we ended 2023 with a bang! We kicked off the Christmas season with our first ever Ella Casey Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony. Ella was always a bright spot in Newport, and we couldn't think of a better way to remember her decades of service to our community this Christmas season than to light a tree in her honor outside our brand new Depot building – the future permanent home of the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce. Ella's presence was alive and well in spirit with our beautiful tree and dozens of community members who all joined us for a night of cookies, hot cocoa, Christmas music, and fellowship.

The Christmas season kicked into high gear with our most successful 'Twas Just Before Christmas event on December 9th. We partnered with the Newport Recreation Department, as they joyfully executed their 25th Chili event with the highly successful Chili Walk in downtown Newport. Hundreds sampled 18 different chilis, and over 400 children had an opportunity to see Santa Claus inside the picturesque Newport Opera House. The reindeer needed to rest as they geared up for their journey on Christmas Eve, so instead Santa arrived via helicopter on the Newport Town Common thanks to his friends at DHART. It was quite a sight to see the helicopter fly into town, meet up with Mrs. Claus, and then greet all the good boys and

girls this Christmas season. Main Street was bustling that mild Saturday evening, and 'Twas Just Before Christmas was a marque, quintessential Norman Rockwell style event. If you missed, we certainly hope you attend next year!

The events just keep coming this winter as we at the Chamber are proud, once again, to partner up with our friends at the Newport Opera House Association and present this year's edition of Dancing With The Newport Stars. After the past five years – as we have done in the past – our 6th year in this cycle is an "All-Stars" edition. Past winners and top finishers return to the Charles Massey Stage at the Opera House for two nights, January 26th and 27th. Stars John Proper, Christine Smith, Shannon MacMichael, Ben Holobowicz and Fran Huot will each be dancing two numbers, and returning alumni from past shows, dancers from Dance Arts Academy, the Newport Ballroom Ladies Troupe, as well as various other dancers will all grace the Opera House for this highly anticipated show. We can not thank the Newport Ballroom enough for their dedication to this annual show. Megan Mavor goes above and beyond to make this performance a top-notch, family-friendly event. At printing of this, tickets are still available, and proceeds benefit both non-profits – the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce and the Newport Opera House Association.

Once February rolls around, Newport's premier event kicks off. The 108th Newport Winter Carnival will take place February 7 - 11, 2024. Break out your tie dye shirts, and get ready for some peace, love, and flowers, as this year's theme is "Woodstock". It may be cold and snowy, but we will feel the "summer of love" all over town. You can expect returning favorites like the parade, Queens Pageant, events on the Common, and lots more this year for Winter Carnival. We are hoping Mother Nature treats us well and graces us with lots of snow and perfect weather so we can have our historic large ice skating rink up and running this year. Follow us and the Newport Recreation Department on Facebook for updates on Winter Carnival.

We hope you had a great Holiday season and your 2023 was fantastic. As we enter 2024, we can not be more grateful for the support of our business community and local residents. We have great things planned for 2024 and encourage you to always shop local, frequent our Chamber business members who believe in the benefit of the Chamber. Our business community relies on you. So keep your money local and shop with those who support and love the Newport area. ■

~ Steve Smith, Vice President
Newport Area Chamber of Commerce



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at Dartmouth

WINTER TERM 2024

Registration is open!

Photo by Osher at Dartmouth member Laney Sammons

Take time to explore!

Osher at Dartmouth's winter term offers an exciting selection of dozens of courses! Whether you're a history buff, a botany enthusiast, a food lover, or just love learning, you're sure to find something appealing!

Visit osher.dartmouth.edu to view our catalog.



Thanks to our program sponsor, the Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation.

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Keeping It Local

How One Newport Restaurateur Supports His Community

Rose Terami

If you've ever been to one of the three Salt hill Pub locations in the Upper Valley, chances are you might have been served by one of the owners themselves! The Tuohy family – including co-owners and brothers Joe and Josh, their brother Matt, and sister, Lynne – are the life source behind this successful Irish pub-style local food chain. In Newport, Joe Tuohy goes above and beyond in his commitment to serving the community, keeping it alive by supporting the local economy, supporting local organizations, and of course – through providing good food, drinks, and atmosphere at Salt hill Pub.

"When you own a place, you kind of have to do every job in the place," Joe said. "If somebody calls out, [I'm] cooking."

Between scheduling, business paperwork, guest contact, and front-of-house management, Joe also makes an effort to visit each Salt hill Pub location at least once a week to make sure things are running smoothly and to pitch in wherever help is needed.

"I'm parked in Newport now, and I'm going in to either cook for somebody that called out or didn't show up for a shift, or I'll wash dishes or do something to make the restaurant run smoother today," Joe told me over the phone during our interview on a weeknight in between Christmas and New Year's. "Because I want to make sure whoever's coming out to dinner tonight...that we value the guest's hard earned dollar when they're buying a burger or having a beer with us."

This kind of involvement is what defines Joe as a business owner, and as a member of the Newport community. When it comes to serving others, Joe is not only thinking about the food he puts in front of customers, but the whole experience of what it means to dine locally and support a local business.

"We're very proud to be in the restaurant business," he said. "It's a noble business where you invite people into your business and they trust you with good food, drink, and service. There's a lot of trust and commitment that we give to the community that the community in turn gives to us."

In 2003, when Joe and his brothers opened their first location in Lebanon, they came up with a business plan. "We had a mission statement," Joe said. "And



Joe Tuohy working a shift at Salt hill Pub in Newport



Salt hill Pub co-owners and brothers, Joe Tuohy (right) and Josh Tuohy (left)

the goal was to be an essential element in the communities we do business in."

Today, they continue that mission in a number of ways, from sponsoring local sports teams and supporting the community arts to employing local people at their restaurants and buying local for their other business needs.

In their new catering facility adjacent to Salt hill Pub in Newport, the Tuohys hired local contractors to get the job done. "It's better to eat and drink local, in my opinion, and buy local...I think that's what makes towns work," Joe said.

At the restaurant, Joe's hard work and commitment don't go unrewarded. "Most days don't feel like a day of work," he said. "They feel like a chance to talk with locals and regulars, a chance to create or work with a recipe or work with some food, and do something that's fun."

Since opening the Newport pub location in 2007, Joe has also been given a unique window into people's lives. "We're a place where people come to celebrate great things with us: they come to cry on days that there's funerals, they celebrate sports victories, teams, their kids..." he said.

Joe and his family pride themselves in taking care of people in the community and looking out for one another. Commitment to family and commitment to the town are at the forefront of their minds and business model.

"That pride in trying to make sure that people are taken care of and that they're respected, and that their paycheck is respected when they come and spend some of it with us, that's why I'm here," Joe said. ■



RUGER is the proud sponsor of the Hometown Hero page

Built for the Community, by the Community

On December 21, 2023, the Newport Board of Selectman and interim town manager, Paul Brown, hosted a ground-breaking ceremony signifying the beginning of the construction of the Newport Community Center. This 40-year dream is finally coming to life through the visions of bustling multi-purpose rooms filled with the sounds of squeaking sneakers echoing through the ears of those who have put so much thought and care into this impactful endeavor.

Dedicated community members from numerous committees persevered to see this project finally come to life. Generous donations from local businesses and federal grants ensured that zero tax dollars would be utilized in the building of this facility.

Beyond supplying a safe space to focus on health and wellness, the center will also be available for other community functions. Voting, sports competitions, school events, as well as providing an



Beth Rexford

Ground breaking ceremony with members representing the following: The Newport Board of Selectmen, Newport Community Center Committee, Newport Service Organization, NH Executive Council, Bar Harbor Bank, Newport Recreation Department, and the LaValley Family.



Bar Harbor Bank management team and staff from the Newport branch donating to the Newport Community Center.

emergency shelter for the Town of Newport, will now be possible on a significantly larger scale.

The effort poured into such an aim communicates the true heart behind our town. Such an endeavor has required determination, conviction, and a belief that the people of Newport deserve to feel the positive impacts of safety, health, and wellness. The new community center hopes to ensure that the residents of Newport will continue to share new experiences and form community ties for generations to come. ■

*This 40-year dream
is finally coming to life.*

Newport Rec Happenings

Youth Programs

Basketball

- Coed, 1st & 2nd grade
Four-week program, starts Jan. 5

Winter 2024 Weekly Activities

Mondays

- 5-6am Bootcamp
- 8:30-9:30am Morning Exercise (Older Adults)
- 2:30-5pm After School Program
- 4-5pm Youth Basketball Practice
- 5:30-6:30pm Youth Wrestling Practice
- 7-9pm Mens Drop-in Basketball

Tuesdays

- 9-10:30am Infant and Toddler playgroup (Kidzone)
- 11-1am Table Tennis
- 5-6:30pm Youth Basketball practice
- 7pm Men's Volleyball League

Wednesdays

- 5-6am Bootcamp
- 8:30-9:30am Morning Exercise (Older Adults)
- 2:30-5pm After School Program
- 4-5:30pm Youth Basketball Practice
- 7-9pm Intermediate Line Dancing (ends Jan. 17)

Thursdays

- 11-1am Table Tennis
- 5-6:30pm Youth Basketball practice
- 6:30pm Women's Volleyball

Fridays

- 5-6am Bootcamp
- 8:30-9:30am Morning Exercise (Older Adults)
- 10-11:30am Infant and Toddler playgroup (Kidzone)
- 2:30-5pm After School Program
- 5-6:30pm Youth Basketball practice

Saturdays

- 9am Youth Basketball League Games (Towle School)
- Private Party Rentals
- 7pm Teen Drop-in Basketball

Sundays

- 8am Pickleball League (Towle School)
- Private Party Rentals
- 3pm Girl Scout meetings

25th Annual Chili Walk

On Dec. 9, 2023, as part of the 'Twas Just Before Christmas Festival, Newport Recreation held its annual Chili Cook-Off to benefit the Newport Food Pantry and the Willey-Perra Christmas Giving Program. Eighteen chefs (professional and personal) volunteered to compete in this year's contest to be voted "Newport's Best Chili".

Approximately 200 people came out on this unseasonably warm evening to walk around the shops

on Main Street, sample the chili recipes, and vote on their favorite. We would also like to thank the local businesses that hosted the chili makers this year.

In the Individual Division, we had: Michaela Bevilacqua (located at Full Circle Human Resources office), Kraig Gonyo (located at Guild Family Haircuts), Nikki Murphy (located at Petal Patch Florist), Peter Greenwood (located at Sugar River Bank), Ashley Whitehead (also located at Sugar River Bank), Christine Smith (located at WCNL Radio), Bryan Hennessey (representing Millie's Place, located at Paws & Dogs Pet Wash), Myrtle McCullagh (at Universal Physical Therapy), Dan and Lindsay Huot (located at 31 Mane Street), and Allison Browning (located at Harrington Jewelers), Irene Ayer (located at Endless Treasures), and Jessica Crease (located at Newton-Bartlett Funeral Home. Our Business division included Sullivan County Health Care Dietary Department (located at Sullivan County



Winning chefs from Sullivan County Health Care

Courthouse), Patten's Auto (Greg Marsh and Charlie Brown, located at Twin State Realty), Salt Hill Pub (located at Sugar River Bank), The Old Courthouse Restaurant (located at Newport Fitness), The Farmers Table & Cafe (located at 31 Mane Street), and Breaking Bread Diner (located at 63 Main Street).

Thank you to all who participated, volunteered, and voted.

Congratulations to the Individual Division winners!

- 1st Place – Nikki Murphy
- 2nd Place – Jessica Crease
- 3rd Place – Peter Greenwood

Congratulations to the Business Division winners!

- 1st Place – Sullivan County Health Care Dietary Dept.
- 2nd Place – Breaking Bread
- 3rd Place – Patten's Auto

~ Becky Merrow, Rec Supervisor
Newport Recreation Department

GOOD PEOPLE • GOOD PLACES • GOOD THINGS HAPPENING

Creating our Future Workforce and Leaders One Opportunity at a Time



FBLA students at the State Conference in Manchester NH in 2023

Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center of Newport (SRVRTC) is a vibrant career and technical education (CTE) center which the community should be proud of. Even under significant renovation with construction ongoing, the opportunities for students are seemingly endless. SRVRTC embraces the motto 'Your Career Starts Here' and the students who attend SRVRTC live that motto each and every day.

One of the areas of CTE that some are unfamiliar with are the career and technical student organizations (CTSO) aligned with the programs at the SRVRTC. In 2022, with a new CTE director holding the reins, there was a goal to ensure that each program SRVRTC had an industry-relevant CTSO that offered meaningful opportunities to grow as a student, in a career, and as a leader. At the start of the 2023-2024 school year, this goal was fulfilled. Students enrolled in each program have a CTSO that aligns with their program.

Why is this important? CTOS encourage learning beyond the classroom through statewide and national events. Students are inspired to compete against their peers from other schools in leadership and career-related events. Students are encouraged to serve their school and community at a higher level through service projects. Students reach outside of their comfort zone, where the learning truly begins, and attend professional development sessions from industry experts at fall and spring conferences. The CTOS are student-led organizations, learning how to be a leader amongst peers, coordinate meetings and activities, and participate in fundraising campaigns. The opportunities for student growth are nearly endless.

Last spring, a new CTSO local chapter emerged from SRVRTC's Engineering Program. Technology Student Association (TSA) was established to provide Engineering students with

opportunities to work with and compete against other like-passionate students. This fall, the leaders of each CTSO kicked off the school year at a leadership retreat where all student leaders were empowered to create the goals and priorities for the school year. Through collaborative activities coordinated by three CTE teachers, students had the opportunity to directly impact their respective CTOS. There is no greater lesson than experience and these students were provided with a leadership experience that will carry with them beyond the end of high school.

Which organizations are aligned with SRVRTC? Below is a list of the CTE programs and their aligned CTSO. For more information about the programs visit the Newport School District website at www.sau43.org.

- Animal & Plant Sciences | Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Automotive Technology | Skills USA
- Business & Marketing | Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- Cosmetology | Skills USA
- Education & Behavioral Science | Educators Rising
- Engineering | Technology Student Association (TSA)
- Forestry & Natural Resources | Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Health Science Technology | Healthcare Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
- Welding Technology | American Welding Society (AWS)
- All CTE Programs (by nomination) | National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) ■



Newport's HOSA students at the 2023 HOSA State Conference

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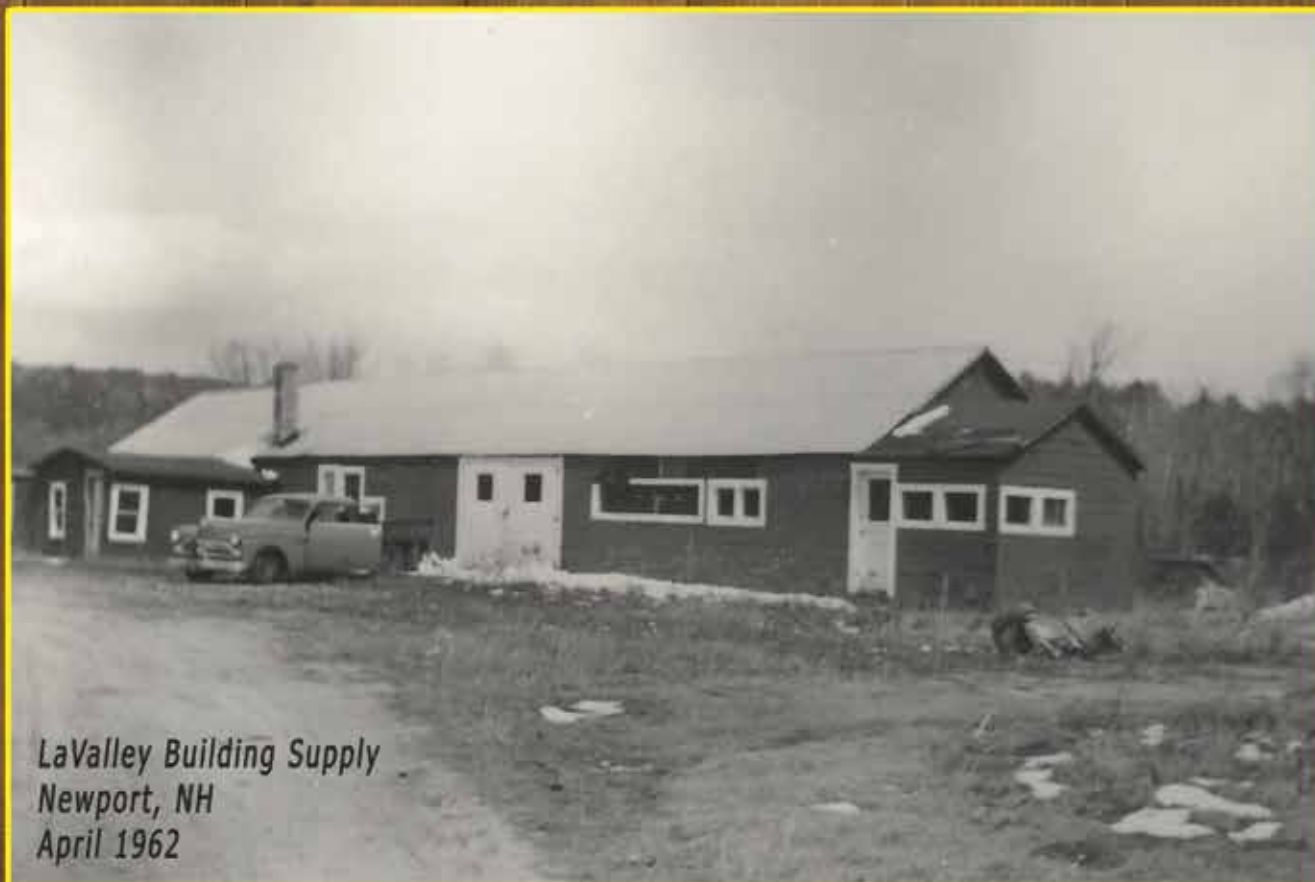
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