

The *Newport Times*

Newport's Good News Paper

Serving the Town of Newport, NH

July/August 2022

Est. January 2022

*“When the oak
is felled, the
whole forest
echoes
with its fall;
but a hundred
acorns are
sown in silence
by an
unnoticed
breeze.”*

~ Thomas Carlyle



Jessi Ryan's *The Forest of Time* is his dream come true.

In the Forest of Time

Molly Shimko

Jessi Ryan came up with the name “The Forest of Time” for his antique shop while crawling through some underbrush near the barn that houses the creative space: “When I first got the name for the building, I was crawling through the brushes here in a section of little trees and I looked back at the building and I said, “In the forest of time.’ It’s a magical place.”

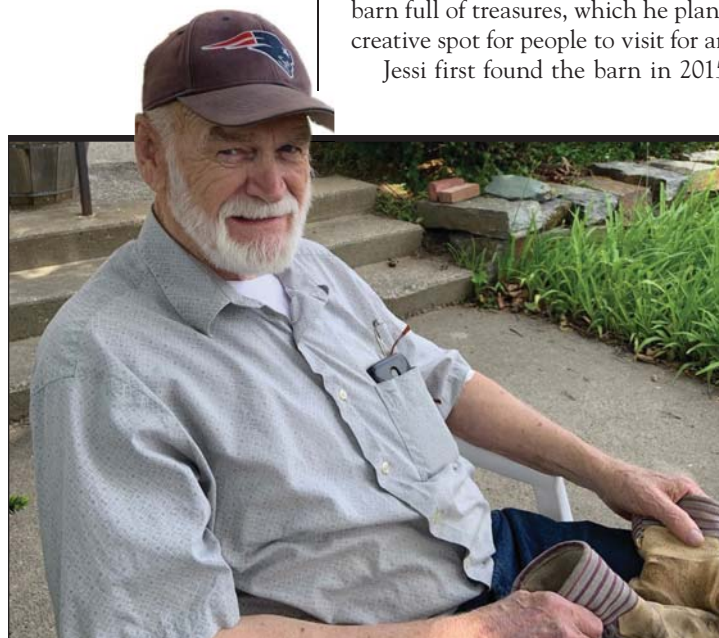
A magical place indeed. Situated on Spring Street in Newport, the Forest of Time Antiques and Vintage Memories is imbued with the poetic spirit of its owner Jessi Ryan who has turned what was recently an extremely dilapidated building destined for demolition into a warm and welcoming renovated barn full of treasures, which he plans to continue to grow into a creative spot for people to visit for art, music, and more.

Jessi first found the barn in 2015 while looking for a larger

location than his small antique shop on the rotary in Newport. He had not yet been able to find anything that suited his fancy when he came upon the old barn while driving. He had stopped there in its former life as a junk shop on his way from New York but had forgotten all about the place.

Something about the building struck him and he ventured to see what he could find out. Despite the dark and dingy state of the place, he said to himself: “This place could be home and business.” He learned that the barn – a longtime Newport fixture that had served as a dairy farm for well-known Vaudeville entertainer Billy B. Van and as a factory for The Newport Clothing Company – was about to be condemned. He got the owner’s name from the man selling items there and made it his mission to save the barn. He agreed to a five-year deal with the option to purchase from the owner and his (ad) venture began.

Continued on page 20



Chris Young helps many Newport residents through his volunteer time with PECAN.

“Who You Gonna Call!”

Mel Reed

Well – unless you actually have a need for a “supernatural elimination,” you probably don’t need to call the Ghostbusters.

On the other hand – if you live in Newport and find yourself in a financial bind and need a helping hand, you could call Chris Young who administers financial support from PECAN – the Program for Emergency Church Assistance in Newport, an arm of the Newport Community Trust. If you “Google” that, you will be lucky to find a sentence here or

there about the organization. But on the street, where the folks live who may need his help, everyone knows about Chris and how to reach him.

Chris responds to phone requests for aid 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Whether someone needs enough gas to get to work until payday; or a prescription filled when their disability check has all been spent on food and rent; or a phone card from Walmart to keep in touch with family, work, and doctors; or enough food to keep a family fed until the next assistance check comes in; or

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This Town Has a Heart of Gold



David Lantz



Phyllis and Michael Harrington, Dave's Aunt and Uncle



MJ Harrington has been a staple business in the Newport community for 74 years. The roots of the legendary jewelry store go much deeper than the store on Main Street.

MJ Harringtons is the pride and joy of Dave Lantz, who always has a welcoming smile on his face. He grew up in Brattleboro, Vermont, despite being born in Claremont. Dave graduated from high school in 1970, the same year his father, Jim Lantz, bought MJ Harrington from Phyllis and Mike Harrington, who are Dave's aunt and uncle. The jewelry and watchmaking genes are very apparent throughout this family tracing it back to the 1800s.

Shortly after, Dave found himself working for the family business learning and taking it all in, while simultaneously cleaning toilets and taking care of the mail. He later decided to pursue further education at Middlebury College where he was very focused both academically and athletically. Dave competitively skied in college as well as ran track, and also received an award for the Top 2-Sport Athlete at Middlebury College by his ski coach whom he admired dearly. In the meantime, during his senior year his Dad had asked him what he wanted to do and Dave responded, "I know one thing for sure, I will not be in the jewelry business." 46 years later... here he is.

When Dave graduated from Middlebury, he decided to give the family business another shot. "The more I was in it, the more I loved it." He started behind the scenes but then realized he wanted to learn more and do more. Ithaca, New York was Dave's next destination where he did a 4-year goldsmithing apprenticeship. In turn, he put his certification of a bench jeweler through the Jewelers of America to good use at MJ Harrington. Upon his arrival, he and one of his five brothers, Jeff, decided to take over the business from their father. Shortly after, Jeff decided to move out of state, and Dave had the opportunity to buy him out, and he did. He is now on his 30th year of ownership.

David Lantz did not stop there; he strived to gain the most education he could. He decided to join the American Gem Society of which his dad was already a member. Later, he took more classes and became a Certified Gemologist Appraiser, which is very exclusive; there are roughly 500 in the country. Dave became the only person in the country to have both the bench jeweler certification and the gemologist appraiser certification. While his whole family were watchmakers, Dave wanted to expand beyond that to create and repair jewelry.

Mr. Lantz is constantly inspired by people in Newport, the success from younger generations, and his staff, "It is

fun to watch how this community continues to thrive despite the negative commentary going around. I love to see kids fly; it inspires me every day." A few more inspirations include his eighth-grade track coach who never discouraged him, his ski coach who was a World Champion in the biggest Nordic skiing event, and, "the love for the business and community my dad had," stated Dave.

There is nothing Dave is more proud of than raising his two beautiful daughters, Katie and Megan. In more of the recent years, Dave had the honor of being inducted into the Brattleboro, VT, Athletic Hall of Fame, which he is very humbled to have received.

Dave Lantz jumps on any chance he gets to give back to the community or help in any way he can. If there is an opportunity to sponsor, 'Harringtons' is always there willing to help. "We use giving back as a way of saying thank you to our community," says Lantz. "This town has a heart of gold and it continues to amaze me every day." Dave has been a part of the Jake Maxfield Connections board since the beginning, "I love the community service, the scholarships, and what they stand for by focusing on literacy," he says with passion. Lantz looks forward to reading to children on his free time when he retires. He also serves on the Newport Chamber of Commerce board and has for many years. Lantz loves to support the arts and sports throughout the district, including the Library Arts Center and the Opera House. "Newport has a pride that I have never experienced anywhere else," says Lantz.

Newport is truly not Newport without MJ Harrington and David Lantz. ■

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



RUGER is the proud sponsor of the Hometown Hero page

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

Local Karate Teacher Promoted to Chief Grand Master

Instructor Brent Baker, the owner and lead instructor of Rising Sun Martial Arts in Newport, NH, was awarded the teaching grade of Hanshi, or Chief Grand Master Instructor, the highest teaching title in the Japanese martial arts. The promotion was announced on Sunday during the opening ceremonies of the 40th Annual Shidokan USA invitational tournament in Londonderry, NH.

In traditional karate, it can take years of teaching experience to earn the grade of Sensei (licensed instructor) – and not everyone who trains in karate chooses to teach, so teaching grades are separate from belt ranks. While belt

Mr. Baker started training in 1984, at the age of 10, under the tutelage of Richard Bernard, president of the Shidokan International Karate-do/Kobu-do Training and Research Federation. Over the years, Mr. Baker has taught hundreds of students, trained multiple tournament champions (and been one himself), and earned Black Belt ranking in four different styles of martial arts. In addition to teaching karate, he is a Science teacher in the town of Sunapee.

"I once saw an interview with Teruo Chinen, a famous karate teacher from Okinawa," said Baker. "In it,



Richie Bernard, Brent Baker, and Ron Martin

ranks (such as degrees of Black Belt) are based on one's knowledge of the art, teaching grades (which often have belt-rank prerequisites) are based on what one does to pass the knowledge on and ensure the future of the art. Beyond the level of Sensei lies Renshi (Senior Instructor), Shihan (Master Instructor), and Kyoshi (Grand Master Instructor, similar in scope to a full college professor). The Hanshi grade is the highest of the traditional teaching grades, and requires that one hold the rank of at least 8th Degree Black Belt. (There are ten degrees of Black Belt in traditional karate.)

Chinen Sensei compares the level of Renshi to that of a professional school teacher and Kyoshi to that of a professor. Hanshi, he said, meant 'good example' – living your life in such a way that you are a good example to the people around you. So, really, this promotion is a challenge: to live up to the responsibilities that go with this title." And while Sunday saw Baker being elevated to the highest teaching grade in the traditional martial arts, on Monday morning he was wiping down desks in his classroom and preparing to teach seventh graders about rocks. ■

NEWPORT WORDSEARCH

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Fridays Under the Tent

Full bar, live music, dinner menu or small plates

<p>July 29: Raw Bar! Norm Yanofsky and Billy Rosen</p> <p>August 5: Rob Oxford returns with everyone's favorites</p> <p>August 12: Second Wind returns – a local favorite</p> <p>NEW THIS SUMMER: Island Oasis Frozen Drinks!</p>	<p>August 13: SPECIAL EVENT: SATURDAY New Orleans Night! Chef Robert has created an amazing menu with assistance from Priscilla Hagebusch, long time New Orleans Resident and Caterer. Dixieland Band.</p> <p>August 19: SPECIAL EVENT: FRIDAY Henniker Brewing Company brings some favorites and some</p>	<p>surprises. Chef Robert pairs them for an amazing multi-course event.</p> <p>August 26: Raw Bar! Mitch Utell on the piano</p> <p>August 27: SPECIAL EVENT: SATURDAY Our Popular Caribbean Night with Chef Robert's Island inspired buffet and the Panhandlers Steel Drum Band. This happy ending to the Apple Pie Craft Fair Day is a benefit for the Library Arts Center.</p>
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PANHANDLERS



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Great Things Happen Behind the Scenes

Newport never ceases to amaze me! At every turn, the energy and commitment from and for every sector of society continues to be revealed as the stories unfold in the pages of the *Newport Times*. People have dreams here and make them happen.

Read about Jessi Ryan (cover story) and how he transformed a dilapidated barn set to be demolished into a treasure chest of magic. Learn about Chris Young (cover story) and the enormous responsibility he volunteers to take on when helping those who need it most. The next generation looks poised to represent Newport well out in the world. Read about the Class of 2022 outstanding students and rejoice knowing that your local youth are taking the spirit of Newport with them as they enter their next chapter. The younger classes are clearly on a path to greatness, as well! And, let's not forget to give the Town some love. Some new faces with impressive credentials are stepping into vacant roles. In fact, Newport has now hired its first full-time female Firefighter/EMT. Welcome Meg Hoppert to her new position! The Town has also been busy saving taxpayers money and helping the environment through its solar and energy-efficiency initiatives. Read about this project in the Sunshine Town section. Finally, and as always, Ruger showcases its commitment to the community through their sponsored content as they celebrate hometown heroes and the many dedicated Ruger employees. And, while we're at it, let's not forget to thank Eichenauer (celebrating 40 years in business in Newport), LaValley's, and all of the other advertisers who help to bring good news to your mailbox every other month.

Happy Summer!

~ Jen MacMillen



LIGHTING UP THE SKY SINCE 1965!

Is Proud to Welcome
Newport Times in With a BANG!

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Mel Reed

And all of the community organizations featured

A special thanks to all who made this good news publication happen!
Christine Benner (former Economic Development Coordinator),
Hunter Rieseberg (Town Manager), and Roy Malool (Good Samaritan)

To contribute story ideas or to submit your organization's content, please email to
publisher@greatergoodmedia.net. Coming soon: www.newporttimes.net

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Meet the People of Parlin Field



Parlin Field is a small municipal airport located just one mile from downtown Newport and is host to a number of community activities. From the ACE Academy for young people (see *Newport Times* May/June 2022 issue), the annual Wings and Wheels event, to the wooded picnic area at the fork of the Sugar River with some of the area's best fly fishing, Parlin Field is not your average small-town airport. What makes this venue truly special are the people involved with its operations. In this ongoing column, we are proud to profile the staff and volunteers and celebrate their efforts that make this community asset as top-notch as it is.

K. Richard (Rick) Kloeppel – Co Manager Parlin Field

Rick currently serves as co-manager at Parlin Field in Newport assisting Heath Marsden in airport operations. Rick holds a BS from Arizona State University. He has been flying for 60+ years and holds Flight Certification for F-27, DC-9, L-1011 and Boeing 747/757/767. He is a former airline pilot with Ozark, TWA and American Airlines. He is a Certified Flight Instructor of single and multi-engine aircraft. From 1966 to 1972, Rick served as First Lieutenant with the Army Transportation Corps as Forward Support Platoon Leader with the 50th



Maintenance Battalion of the New Jersey Army National Guard and Battalion Chemical, Biological & Radiological Warfare Officer. Now in retirement, Rick is a Representative with the FAA Safety Team, a Flight Instructor and Chairman of the Parlin Airport Advisory Board.

Heath H. Marsden-Co-Manager of Parlin Field

Heath serves as the Airport Manager at Parlin Field in Newport. His responsibilities include the day-to-day operations of the airport as well as promoting and developing the airport to serve the Lake Sunapee region of NH. He holds a BS in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida and is a licensed commercial pilot with multi-engine and instrument ratings. In 2016 he was responsible for bringing the ACE (Aviation Career Education) Academy to Parlin, giving young people a week-long exposure to various facets of the aviation industry. Since 2000, he has been employed by Jacobs in their Bedford, NH office as Senior Airport Planner and is experienced in all facets of Airport Master Planning. In addition, he is Secretary of the Granite State Airport Managers Association. ■

GOOD THINGS HAPPEN HERE

July 3 – Aug 21

Concerts On The Common On the Newport Common

FREE concerts! Bring your lawn chair, blanket, and your entire family every Sunday 6-8pm. In the event of rain, the concerts will be canceled.

July 3: Cruzin'
July 10: The Shawna Jackson Band
July 17: Sound Investment
July 24: The Belairs
July 31: Party Crashers
August 7: The Flames
August 14: Brian Devenger
August 21: JJ's Music

July 12-Aug 23

Family/Community Drop-in Art Projects Under the Tent

Library Arts Center, 58 N. Main Street
FREE! Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am. ALL are welcome.

*No pre-registration necessary.

Weekly drop-ins exploring a variety of mediums and creative exploration. Parents or caregivers are asked to participate alongside their children.

July 12: Painted Slates. Create a welcome sign, house address number, or art piece as you see fit.

July 19: Andy Goldsworthy-inspired Nature Art. Use leaves, sticks, stones, and flowers to create art.

July 26: Shibori Tie Dye. Japanese art form, dying flour sack dish cloths.

August 2: Alcohol Ink Light Switch Covers. Using Sharpies and rubbing alcohol to create unique art.

August 9: Mandala Rocks. Go Zen, turning smooth stones into mandala dot art using paint pens.

August 16: Bottle Garlands. Upcycle plastic bottles into colorful garlands using Sharpies, paint pens, and scissors.

August 23: Apple Print Canvas Bags. In honor of our Apple Pie Crafts Fair (Sat. August 27), stamp a canvas bag with apples cut in half to create beautiful designs.

July 21 – Aug 25

Art Camp for Grown-ups

Library Arts Center, 58 N. Main Street

Thursdays in July and August, 6-8pm. \$10/class. Designed to get adults creating, regardless of experience or perceived creative ability. Get messy, learn new techniques, and take home a finished product. libraryartscenter.org/classes-and-workshops/classes-for-adults

History Tour

The Magical History Tour of Newport is taking shape within a committee of the Newport Historical Society. Whether you've lived in Newport for one day or for your lifetime, you'll be sure to learn something new. As a small bus takes you on a familiar ride, narrators tell interesting facts and lore of Newport's history and people. Watch for dates for early Autumn tours. ■



*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.*

Sunshine Town Clean Energy Savings



Solar panels across the Sugar River from the Newport Wastewater Treatment facility provide clean local electricity for the Town of Newport.

The Town of Newport is living up to its nickname of “The SunShine Town,” by subscribing to recently completed solar projects on two Town-owned properties. The solar projects produce electricity to offset usage at all Town facilities – including Town Hall, the Library, Police Department, Wastewater treatment, Highway Department, and so on. The first project was completed in 2020 across the Sugar River from the Newport Wastewater Treatment facility. The second project was completed in 2021 on land off Rt 10. The solar projects were permitted, financed, engineered, and installed by local solar company Norwich Solar.

This public/private collaborative effort results in the construction of the solar arrays at no upfront costs for the Town. With the solar projects on Town land, Newport secures several benefits including increased local clean electricity generation, a more resilient local electric grid, and savings on the Town’s electric bills. The Town of Newport solar panels will produce nearly 1,400,000 kWh of renewable energy each year, enough to support the average annual energy use of approximately 140 households.

In addition to the comprehensive benefits created by the solar project, Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg added, “The Town has also converted all of its street and office space lighting to LEDs and high-efficiency fixtures saving the taxpayers in excess of \$60,000 annually.”

Reiseberg went on to say, “Being the ‘Sunshine Town’ we thought that it was appropriate that the Town embrace solar power as a means of offsetting our carbon footprint and saving the taxpayers money along the way.”

Norwich Solar CEO, Jim Merriam, described the solar project as a “win-win-win” with “economic benefits for the Town, continued support for local jobs and energy independence, and providing for a cleaner environment.” Merriam also stated that he “looks forward to continued work with The Sunshine Town as they look at solar power for the school and other local businesses.” ■

Tree Planting



After many years, the Town has recently taken on a tree care/maintenance program for the public trees on the Common and Main Street. This involves proper pruning and will include a feeding routine. The Town has also removed three dead or hazardous trees and have replaced them with four new, disease-resistant trees that are suitable and complementary to the existing trees. Gwyn Gallagher of Gallagher Tree has been the contractor for this project.

Women's Health is here for you.

Women seeking care at New London Hospital (NLH) and Newport Health Center have a compassionate advocate in Stephanie L. Schmidt, MSN, APRN.

She recently joined the Women’s Health Department after serving as a nurse practitioner on the Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN) team at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) since 2019.

To schedule an appointment with Schmidt, contact the Newport Health Center at (603) 863-1274.



“I can better manage women’s care working in a smaller environment, where I can build trusted relationships with my patients.”

-Stephanie L. Schmidt, MSN, APRN



New London Hospital

From the Selectboard

Thank you, Town of Newport employees! When things are going smoothly, we forget that they are even there, in the background keeping our community running. But, when the road is too icy, the road is too muddy, the grass is too tall, the pothole is too deep, we complain. While we complain, our town crews are out there at work dealing with extreme weather conditions that are stressing everybody's ability to cope.

Ice, this past winter brought more icy roads than I can remember in the past. Before this winter, I have never seen both the Town's plow trucks and the state's plow trucks having to travel our roads backwards to sand and salt the roads so they could safely travel them. Personally, I am going to consider studded tires for next winter if last winter's ice is an indication of what the future holds for us.

Mud, the Town received lots of complaints this past mud season. We are familiar with the term "100-year flood," well this mud season qualified as a 100-year mud. The mud was so bad that our highway crews could not get ahead of it despite their hard work and best effort. Newport was not alone in fighting a losing battle against mud this year. The local papers were full of stories about Mother Nature and her mud just laughing at our efforts to make our gravel roads passable. Luckily, it did not take too long for the roads to dry out enough for our town crews to repair our gravel roads.

Grass grows fast in the spring. The weeks leading up to the Memorial Day holiday saw many of us concerned about the height of the grass in our cemeteries. Weather delayed the start of cleanup of the cemeteries until the week prior to the holiday. However, by the start of the holiday weekend, our Building and Grounds crew, with assistance from other town employees, had our cemeteries ready for Memorial Day.

Last year, the condition of Barton Whitney and Blueberry Ridge Roads were a concern. This spring it was potholes on Maple Street. The town did not try to fill the potholes with cold patch, then come back the next day and refill the potholes with cold patch, then come back... etc., etc. Instead, the town contracted with Pike Industries to overlay that section of Maple Street as soon as their asphalt plant opened for the season.

Newport does not have an excess number of employees. Buildings and Ground Department is fully staffed with year-round employees. Part-time summer help is hard to find. Our Police and Fire Departments are finding qualified applicants for full-time positions that are making commitments to Newport. Newport is in a better position with manning than most of the municipal public safety departments in our region. Only in Public Works are we unable to attract enough employees. Newport is short several full-time commercial driver's licensed (CDL) employees from what we prefer. This shortage may not be noticed this summer, but come winter's snowstorms, the town may not be able to man enough snowplows to clear our roads in a timely manner. We are competing in an economy where every company running large trucks is actively looking for and hiring CDL drivers. Newport employees pay and benefits will never be the highest in our region but will be the best we believe our taxpayers can afford. In June, the Board of Selectmen approved a contract to conduct a wage and classification study. The study results shall be available this fall to assist the Selectmen in preparing next year's budget. This year, with approval of the budget and warrant articles in May, the police union members have a new contract with pay and step increases, other town employees are seeing a 3.5% increase, and fire/EMS call personal are seeing an increase in their hourly pay. Nobody is getting rich working for Newport, but we remain a good place to work.

Thank you to the voters of Newport that came out and gave us direction at the polls in May. A record number of us voted and gave the Board of Selectmen direction. We have our budget, employees' wages are going up, we are setting aside funds for our capital expenses, and we have ordered our next fire engine. We did not approve the bond for construction of a new community center. Replacement of the existing Recreation Center remains a priority. Inflation and the cost of gas and food certainly created uncertainty about a major community investment at this time. The town will continue to look for other funds that can reduce the cost of replacing the Recreation Center. We shall also hold a public design charrette to review and confirm the community needs for the community center.

Finally, let me welcome Jim Burroughs to the Board of Selectmen! Jim brings his experience and commitment to Newport to the board and will be an asset and voice for Newport going forward. 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 hear from our community. ■

~ Jeff Kessler

Town Clerk: 2022 Top Dog Winners



First Prize: LUCY

- Owner Sarah Richards
- The coveted Town of Newport 2022 number 1 dog tag
- LaValley's: Petsafe invisible pet fence kit
- Wendell Veterinary Clinic: \$100 Gift Certificate toward services or products
- Solace Massage Therapy: Gift certificate worth \$75
- Sugar River Bank: \$25 Cash Prize
- Running's: \$50 Gift Card
- Ezra Bangrazi (2021 Top Dog winner): 35lb bag Hill's Science Diet
- Tractor Supply: 4 bags 4lbs each of 4Health dog food



Second Prize: SOCKEY

- Owner Chris Allen
- The Town of Newport 2022 number 2 Dog Tag
- Pleasant Lake Veterinary Hospital: Thundershirt and leash
- Sugar River Animal Hospital: Free Exam
- Claremont Pet & Aquarium: \$25 Gift Card
- Tractor Supply: 3 bags 4lb each of 4Health dog food



Third Prize: MOWGLI

- Owner Jessie Marsh
- 2022 number The Town of Newport number 3 Dog Tag
- Aubuchon of Newport: \$25 Gift Card
- Shaw's: \$20 Gift Card
- Interware Development: Yeti tumbler, USB charger, pen
- Tractor Supply: 3 bags 4lb each of 4Health dog food

This year we were able to license over 1000 dogs by the due date of April 30. We still have some to go but this has been our most successful year yet. Great job Newport and congratulations to our winning dogs! ■

Online Options



Fire Department Newport Fire Department Hires New Full-Time Employee

Changes are happening at the Newport Fire Department. After the departure of long-time employee, Lt. Joe Attenhofer, the department was faced with having to hire a new employee. The department advertised internally and externally, conducted interviews and found that the desired employee was in the department's per diem ranks.

The department has hired Meg Hoppert as a full-time Firefighter/EMT with a starting date on June 10. Meg has been a per diem member of the department since April 19, 2021 and has worked primarily on the ambulance. Meg enrolled in Firefighter 1 certification class with the New Hampshire Fire Academy and will obtain her



Meg Hoppert

certification June 27, 2022. Meg is also the first female on the fire department's full-time roster.

Meg grew up in New Boston, NH and has relocated to Newport, NH because "she wants to be able to provide the

best possible service to the residents of Newport."

Her longterm goals include enrolling and attending Paramedic school in the fall of 2022.

So, we would like to welcome FF/EMT Meg Hoppert to "The Sunshine Town."

The Newport Fire Department provides 24-hour, 7-day a week, 365-days a year services that include fire suppression, emergency medical service, and response to all emergency and non-emergency requests in the town. The full-time staff consist of a full-time Chief, four 24-hour housemen, and two 12-hour day firefighters. The department is also staffed with 24 call/per diem members. ■

SRVTC Granted Money to Help Offset Costs



The town has recently secured a grant for the amount of \$5,000 that is being put to good use towards the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center. This grant money is in the works to help stock equipment and supplies for the career technical classes. The vision for this money is to help offset the cost of some of the career technical classes to guarantee that every student has an equal opportunity to learn about a potential career path.

The Emergency Medical Technician Program (EMT) requires uniforms as a way of symbolizing they are becoming professionals. Wearing EMT uniforms shows both their patients and co-workers they are capable of providing. They symbolize a team; whether they're doing their thirty-two hours of clinical experience in an ambulance, health care facilities, or at the emergency departments, they are always working together. These uniforms require many components which ultimately increases the price per uniform.

In other cases, classes like cosmetology, require kits and supplies at every work station with the intent to maximize hands-on learning during class



time. However, these kits are composed of more than fifty tools needed to practice correct and safe hair, skin, and nail protocols.

Safety is a necessity throughout all the CTE classes. Welding is a class where proper attire and equipment is crucial. Students are expected to come to class prepared with steel-toed boots to ensure the most protection. Because these boots are a big investment, student's do not have the resources; they alternatively are asked to buy all-leather boots which do not provide the utmost protection.

With this grant, things like EMT uniforms will be in stock, cosmetology tool kits will be at every work station, and welding students will have steel-toed boots and other safety attire provided so the students and their families do not need to front the money.

In the future, we hope to expand this grant to accommodate more classes and their needs to completely eliminate the financial burden these classes might have.

~Riely Skarin, Town of Newport
Economic Development Coordinator Intern



Public Works New Hires



John Jeacopello



David Lamontagne

Department Head

Please welcome John Jeacopello to the Public Works Water & Sewer Department after recently accepting the department's vacant Superintendent position.

John, his wife and two children relocated to Claremont, NH coming from the NH Seacoast last year after discovering a home that fit the family's needs and wants; they have enjoyed being part of this community in Western NH.

After discovering an ad on Indeed.com, John applied at the town in April 2022 and was hired on as Water & Sewer Superintendent on May 2, 2022. John came to the Public Works Department with 40-plus years in the Industrial Construction Management industry, along with knowledge of powerplants; all focusing on infrastructure construction and deconstruction.

John holds a CDL-B and brings extensive experience with heavy equipment operations including graders, dump trucks, excavators and backhoes. John is working towards his Water and Wastewater Grade II through the State of NH. He is actively engaged in overseeing daily operations to familiarize himself with the territory, the towns infrastructure, policies and routine maintenance.

So, we would like to welcome John Jeacopello to "The Sunshine Town."

This Water & Sewer subdivision, provides 24-hour, 7-day a week, 365-days a year, with services that covers over fifty miles of mains, serving more than five thousand people and commercial and industrial consumers. The full-time staff consist of a full-time Superintendent, one Foreman and one Technician, with two current Technician vacancies.

Department Manager

Also joining the team is David Lamontagne to the Public Works Cemeteries, Buildings and Grounds Department after recently accepting the departments vacant Manager position.

Dave and his wife had become residents of the area after moving from Southern NH. Both are active community supporters, to include the local food pantry. They have also been supporters of the charitable organization, United Way.

Dave came to the town with a multi-faceted background ranging from sales to laying concrete. At his last career endeavor, he filled in for many jobs as requested. These included, but not limited to, sales manager, finance manager, and general manager. Dave also has many years with the operation of heavy-duty equipment and small engine equipment.

So, we would like to welcome David Lamontagne to "The Sunshine Town."

This Cemeteries, Buildings and Grounds subdivision, provides service to a multitude of areas throughout Newport including five (5) cemeteries, Newport Opera House, Recreation Center, counties building, and all town facilities including grounds. The full-time staff consist of a full-time Manager, two Maintenance Custodians, with one part-time Custodian. ■

Foster Grandparent Program

Grammy G Giving and Receiving Through Art



The Friends Foster Grandparent Program has brought together tens of thousands of at-risk children and loving retired adults who have all been deeply enriched by new relationships. The Friends Program recruits, trains and places Foster Grandparents in schools, non-profit childcare centers and other youth service organizations to help set children on the path to a successful future. This program is supported by AmeriCorps Seniors allowing the program to pay each Foster Grandparent a tax-free stipend.

Grammy G joined the Foster Grandparent Program in 2016 when living in Milford, NH. She reached out to the Friends Foster Grandparent Program after receiving a post card in the mail. She felt a need to connect with her community after retiring and volunteered at the Jacques Memorial School.

After moving to Newport Grammy G. wanted to continue volunteering as a Foster Grandparent. Richards School in Newport was happy to welcome her to their school community. Since 2019 Grammy G. has been supporting children in the primary grades. This past school year she has been an important member of Laura Masconas' first grade. "Having Grammy G. in our classroom has been a wonderful experience. We appreciate her love and support and her sharing of her artistic talents."

The last day of this school year was an example of Grammy G.'s involvement. The children were given recycled materials and tasked with creating something. Grammy G. had made a robot as an example. The excitement in the classroom was contagious and the results fabulous!

Grammy G. also volunteers after school for the 4H Program with activities such as crafts and cooking.

Foster Grandparent volunteers serve a minimum of 5 hours a week at their school, child care or after school program. Foster Grandparent volunteers attend monthly workshops where topics relating to either child development or senior health are presented, such as educational support methods, early literacy, social issues that impact families and children, managing stress, and community supports. Every 6-8 weeks Program Coordinators visit the Foster Grandparent while they are volunteering to provide support, oversight and answer any questions the volunteer or teacher might have.

Foster Grandparents serve regular, consistent hours at the same site, so they become highly valued members of the school team. Because of their consistency, Foster Grandparents are able to have a remarkable impact on the children and young adults they serve resulting in considerable gains towards academic growth and emotional development. Foster Grandparents gain significant health benefits by staying active both physically and mentally.

The Friends Foster Grandparent Program is built to serve the needs of schools, children, and the volunteers. Participants choose the age of children they enjoy most and the times they prefer to volunteer.

In addition to the tax-free stipend, volunteers receive mileage reimbursements for their travel to and from their volunteer site, meal reimbursements, paid time off, and annual recognition events.

Foster Grandparents create relationships that improve educational outcomes and help children develop socially and emotionally. They also serve as a constant, reliable presence for children in need of positive adult role models. Connecting

generations provides both students and Foster Grandparents with a chance to learn, share, and form a bond. This program changes the lives of the children involved. It also changes the lives of the Foster Grandparents and the teachers and staff who support them. This program is about learning, but it's also about service, joy and connection.

If you would like to become a Foster Grandparent or be more involved with the Friends Program, please call 1-800-536-1193 or email us at fgp@friendsprogram.org and we would be happy to speak with you about available opportunities. ■

~ Patti Morris, Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator

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Newport Area Chamber of Commerce



Car Nutz cruise night; behind Sugar River Bank



Concerts on the Common every Sunday from 6pm to 8pm

*Together,
we can work
to build a better region.*



Shannon MacMichael, Representative Annie Kuster, and Charyl Reardon



Luca Paris (Exec. Dir., Keene Chamber), Michael Skelton (President, NH BIA), Shannon MacMichael (Exec. Dir. Newport Area Chamber), Senator Jeanne Shaheen, and John Nyhan (Exec. Dir., Hampton Chamber)

Good Things Happening in Newport

From spring to summer, things have been heating up for the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce. In June, we had two great events, our 8th Newport Nano Brewfest and our 2nd Wings & Wheels Car Show (in partnership with Parlin Field Airport). Both events were well attended and were great examples of what makes Newport great! Also at the end of June, and until the end of August, we hope you can join us on the Town Common for our annual Concerts On The Common. Bring your lawn chair, blanket, a couple grinders and something to drink, then sit back & relax (or get up and dance) and watch some great live bands perform for free. And don't forget, on July 22nd from 5-8pm we will be having our 3rd Block Party. Main Street will be filled with vendors, food trucks, many live bands, and more, plus the Common will have the Farmers Market and the Newport Recreation Department is putting on their Backyard Olympics, where you can come and play a bunch of different games for free, including cornhole, cam jam, spike ball, and more. Don't

forget, if you like classic cars and trucks, the Newport Chamber proudly sponsors the Car Nutz Cruise Night, behind Sugar River Bank, North Main Street, on Monday, July 11th at 6pm. It's their last Cruise Night in Newport for the year. We hope your summer is going great, you can attend some of our events, shop at our local businesses, and see what Newport has to offer!

Representing the Sugar River Region

Thursday, June 9th, our Executive Director Shannon MacMichael had the opportunity to not only represent the Newport community, but the entire Sugar River Region in Washington, DC at an event, hosted by Senator Jeanne Shaheen, called "Experience New Hampshire." There she rubbed shoulders with the likes of Sen. Shaheen, Sen. Elizabeth

Warren, Sen. Mitt Romney, Rep. Chris Pappas, Rep. Annie Kuster, and many more. She had the chance to network with other Chambers from around New Hampshire, talk local and regional tourism, economic opportunities and hardships different communities in the Granite State are facing, and also eat, drink and sample many New Hampshire made goods. Many guest speakers discussed infrastructure, economic concerns, New Hampshire on the rise and more. The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce was very proud to have Shannon represent our town in the nation's capitol and help build bridges with other communities both close to home, and all over our great state. Together, we can work to build a better region. ■

~ Steve Smith, Vice President,
Newport Area
Chamber of Commerce



Charyl Reardon (White Mountain Attractions Association), Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Shannon MacMichael (Executive Director, Newport Area Chamber of Commerce) at the Experience NH reception.

ANIMALS RULE



Wags and Wiggles

In this installment we celebrate the golden oldies. Senior dogs are left behind in shelters due to families moving, unstable income, or a death. Often overlooked, the senior canine population needs the help of animal rescues the most. Bandit, believed to be born in 2011, has spent his life in a shelter setting. The southern shelter, slated to close in June, needed a place for him to go. Wags and Wiggles stepped up, knowing that he could potentially meet an end that he didn't deserve. We

are in awe of this gentle giant; his goals are to eat, sleep, and connect with his caregivers.

With the assistance of Aubuchon Hardware and the generosity of Claremont Savings Bank, Wags and Wiggles Rescue will be holding a lawnmower raffle with proceeds benefiting our veterinary care for senior dogs. For more information, please visit our website at www.wagsnwiggles.org. ■

Christiane Dionne, MBA
Executive Director, Wags and Wiggles Rescue

Not All Classrooms Have Walls

It is said that an outdoor educational experience can have a lasting positive impact on the students and staff that participate. In fact, research has shown that field trips, particularly ones that are embedded in nature and outdoor learning, build community and culture, raise expectations, increase connections between participants and develop positive feelings about school. After spending four days and three nights with grade five students at Richards along with some of the funniest, most dedicated chaperones – I couldn't agree more. The lessons learned at Nature's Classroom are now part of our story.

When the coach buses arrived to take the 55 students and 10 chaperones two hours away to Freedom, NH it was the start of an adventure. Over the next several days students were challenged both physically and emotionally. In addition to being without internet or cell phones, students were away from home with no contact. This was a new experience for a lot of them, but they persevered and supported each other. Empathy towards others is a skill that these



pushed themselves to learn, they engaged in learning in exciting ways that cannot happen in the traditional classroom. "I want to learn like this all the time" was

a comment we routinely heard over our trip. Immersed in the action, students got dirty learning new skills.

When students weren't learning with the camp staff or working on leadership activities, they were spending time with their chaperones creating relationships that will last a lifetime. Whether it was hiking with Mrs. Paula and Mrs. Godwin, playing tennis with Mr. Kasel and Mr. Shane, watching Bryce serenade Mr. Clark, telling stories with Miss Haynes and Mrs. Davis or bean races with Mrs. Pickering and Ms. Glancey – students were able to connect with the adults in a new way building relationships for the future.

We returned to Newport a little sunburned and very exhausted. We built memories and learned skills that are necessary for growing up and moving on. And that's what this grade 5 will be doing next fall - onto their next adventure at middle school. I know they will take with them the confidence, collaboration, and empathy they showed at Camp Cody and that Newport will be a better place because they're in it. ■

~ Patrice Glancey Brown, Interim Principal



students exemplified. From being on their feet for over 12 hours a day, to enduring the weather when it didn't cooperate – these kids smiled through it all, embraced the opportunity, and relied on each other in new ways.

Students who learn outdoors develop a sense of self, independence, and confidence among other traits. The week away proved this many times over as different students were selected and highlighted for their leadership and collaboration skills with beaded necklaces. Camp staff worked closely with their groups to empower students to take on roles outside of their comfort zone – pushing them to be problem solvers and decision makers while leading the group forward.

During the day, students were engaged in a thoughtful curriculum outlined by the camp staff. Aligned with our content standards, students picked classes that excited them. Catamaran building, frog dissection, fire building, furniture building, and nature poetry are just a few of the sessions our students participated in during their trip. As students



Earth Day in Newport

The students and faculty members were able to get out and clean up the town a bit on Friday, April 22, the last regular school day before April vacation. While some students chose to stay at school during the afternoon festivities and participate in activities sponsored by the Student Council, the band, choir, and National Honor Society students went outside and picked up trash along North Main Street and a few of the streets that intersect Main Street. When they finished up (about 2 hours later), some students tossed a football while listening to the band and choir perform at the gazebo on the town green. It was a real bonding experience for the students and it felt good to get outside and help keep Newport “green.” We were sponsored by the Newport Recreation Department who bought us tee shirts and provided us with gloves and trash bags. It was, in all sincerity, a community effort! Thanks also to Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Cullison for sponsoring the outing. ■



Cheerleading Competition Returns to NHS

Disclaimer: OK...while it may still be called “Cheerleading” here at NHS, Mr. Miller and the NHIAA refer to it as “Spirit Team.”

While Newport has been fortunate enough to have teachers willing to help support the cheerleading squad, we now have a coach who actually teaches at the high school AND who has cheered for Newport in the past! Welcome Cyndi Stevens, our own science teacher extraordinaire, who has taken over at the helm of the squad and actually took them to their first competition in at least three years, but possibly many more. This is Cyndi’s first season as a coach here at NHS, but she cheered her junior and senior years here and is looking forward to giving our students the same positive experience she had as a student.

There were 8 members of the squad who chose to continue after basketball season to go to competition. “Out of the eight, we had 2 juniors, 3 freshman, and 3 eighth graders. None of the team had ever been to competition before and only one cheerleader had ever stunted before this season so, for the most part, we were completely new to this whole thing,” quipped Cyndi in a recent interview. “The girls have worked hard all season to learn stunting, and we worked very hard for the past month to learn the competition routine. We had three, three-hour practices during February vacation and really took advantage of the extra practice time.”

Cindy’s hopes for next year include holding a cheerleading camp this summer to learn more stunting and skills which would better prepare them



for competition in the fall. She also hopes to continue improving their skills and return to competition next year. “The biggest obstacle this year was learning what it takes to be a competition team. It takes a great deal of dedication and hard work, and the athletes that stayed on to compete really stepped up to the plate. We also had a last-minute injury and had to change our routine a week before competition. I am really proud of how the team was able to quickly adapt and persevere.”

The NHS cheerleading squad is a young team of mostly freshmen and 8th graders; there’s a lot of potential to grow in the next 3 to 4 years. ■



Newport High School Graduation

The staff and faculty at Newport High School would like to highlight some of our amazing students! In the senior class our top students include Bryce Ashley, Dylon Carpenter, Amelia Gelina, Adra Gonzalez, Annalee Hall, Reece Johnson, Evelyn Marino, Zeta Morris, Riely Skarin, and Brianna Wilkinson. Of these students, Riely Skarin was named class essayist, Bryce Ashley was named salutatorian, and Adra Gonzalez was named valedictorian. These students have worked hard over the last four years to earn great academic success and we are so proud that they represent Newport. Riely Skarin also completed an amazing internship with Ruger through our work-based learning program. Both Riely and her supervisor, Amy Benson, report a wonderful experience and Ruger cannot wait to take on more students from our work-based learning program in the future.

Also in the world of work-based learning, Sierra Bettelyoun, who is one of our juniors, has completed an internship with our very own Newport Police Department. Two juniors, Isabella Osgood and Jay Page, have had a great time

interning with John Lunn at NCTV. Mr. Lunn is always willing and excited to take on our students and is able to customize internships to fit each student's individual needs and interests. Lastly, Alicia Urista completed an internship with LaValley Building Supply's interior design department. We're so thankful to our community partners and hope to continue to expand this program next year thanks to the hard work our students put in this year.

We also have had many wonderful students complete CTE programs this year. While there are far too many to list, we wanted to highlight one student in particular. Cameron Maynard, a senior, has completed the natural resources, automotive technology, and EMT programs. Cameron is the first CTE student to complete three programs and we look forward to seeing what he does with his future.

Congratulations to all Newport High School students for another successful school year! We cannot wait to see those students who are returning in the fall and to witness the outstanding things you all accomplish next year. ■



CTE completers: Liam Almstrom, Jayden Conroy, Hunter Temple, Cameron Howard, Reece Johnson, Cam Maynard, Dom Dukette, Ashley Peckham, Liela Irwin, Bridget Livingstone and Ethan Lippincott.



The top ten seniors: Brianna Wilkinson, Zeta Morris, Adra Gonzalez, Evelyn Marino, Bryce Ashley, Reece Johnson, Riely Skarin, Annalee Hall and Amelia Gelina (not pictured: Dylon Carpenter).



The Possibilities Are Endless at RFL

Unlikely Animals by Annie Hartnett: Author's Talk

I first heard about the book *Unlikely Animals* by Annie Hartnett in the What's Up, Newport Facebook group. Someone posted saying the book takes place in Newport and so I thought I should get it for the library and maybe read it. Then it was nominated for an American Library Association award so I thought, okay I'll listen to the audio book. And then... then I was in love. The book is beautifully written with so many nods to Newport that even though the town in the novel is called Everton there is no doubt in your mind that it is Newport. The characters, especially the ghost narrator, are rich and so well written they easily come to life (pun intended! haha!).

When I got to the author's note at the end of the book and Annie started thanking people in Newport, people I know, I was giddy. It's just so fun to hear an author talk about people and places you know.

And then I got to thinking about how I could get this book into everyone's hands. And a library friend told me to reach out to the author and see if she'd come to town (why I didn't immediately think of that myself I may never know, but thank goodness for friends!). And so our Summer Community Read was born!

As of this writing, we have given out 100 copies of *Unlikely Animals* by Annie Hartnett and we have 25 remaining. They are free and for you to keep (purchase made possible by a donation from Ruger and the RFL Friends). You're more than welcome, in fact you are encouraged to come take a book. Read it. Share it with a friend (or send them here for their own copy). Then join us on July 23rd at 2pm at the Sugar River Bank Community room to hear Annie talk about researching and writing the book. We'll do a Q&A session and she'll be available to sign your book too!

I can't wait for you all to read this novel. As a relatively new person to Newport I really enjoyed all the nods to town, but maybe as someone who lives here and has lived here for a long time you'll have a different perspective. I hope this will be the talk of the town! ■

~ Justine Fafara, Director

call us or visit richardsfreelib.org/meettheauthor



RFL Website Updated

Our updated website now sports a fresh new look and feel, complete with a beautiful new photo of our historic library building!

The new menu allows easy navigation of the site and the home page provides quick access to the most recent library news. Look in the upper right corner of our home page for a link to sign into your Library

Account, along with a direct link to our Event Calendar. Each page of our website displays our Hours of Operation, Contact Information, quick access to sign up to receive our Newsletter, and a search box that allows you to use keywords to search the site. We invite you to take a few minutes to peruse our new website – a wealth of information at your fingertips!

A huge "Thank-you!" Jeff Bernier, spouse to Assistant Director Sally, whose expertise in website design has earned him a lasagna from Ali Wood, our website manager. (Sometimes it is good to know a guy...)

You can find our new website at richardsfreelib.org. ■



Summer Reading Program Kick-off

The Richards Free Library youth department holds a summer reading program every year in order to combat summer learning loss among Newport children. Studies show that when children are out of school for months and aren't maintaining and practicing their reading skills, they can lose up to 30% of their reading gains from the last school year. Children who keep reading and practicing during the summer months, however, improve their reading ability and go into the new school year ready for new material. Giving kids access to high-quality reading material that they can choose themselves, and helping them with the encouragement and motivation to read, is vital in the effort to keep kids reading. Sometimes kids have unequal access to books and encouragement- and that is where the library comes in! We're here to provide books, support, and fun programs during the summer to keep our kids reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme: Oceans of Possibility

Children sign up beginning on kickoff day and get a reading chart, bookmark, instructions, and a brag tag necklace (just like last year!).

Every 30 minutes of reading earns a bead

Every 2 hours also earns a special bead

Every 5 hours earns a Prize Book

Finished charts earn McDonalds Ice cream! ■

Summer Reading Events

June Kickoff Event

Check out the new book walk "Inky's Amazing Escape" by Sy Montgomery
June 30th: 1pm-2pm SRP registration opens with "Watershed Wildlife," a program with a visit from some scaly aquatic friends from VINS!

Dates:	July Events
July 5th, 2pm-3pm	• Bubble Abundance: Bubbles and water play (Ages 0-10 but all ages welcome)
July 6th, 11am-12pm	• Pirate Storytime and the Search for the Jewels of the Sea activity (Ages 0-8 but all ages welcome)
July 12th: 1pm-2pm	• Water, Water Everywhere: Hands-on science activities with the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (Ages 4-14)
July 13th: 11a-12pm	• Boat Float Family Storytime @Horsey Park! Storytime at Horsey Park will be followed by a chance to experiment with floating mini boats on the Sugar River. (Ages 2-8)
July 19th: 10:30am	• Mermaid Fairy Houses (All Ages)
July 21st: Drop in from 3-8pm	• Stuffed Animal Sleepover Drop-Off. Registration required! *Stuffies sleep over, not children!*
July 22nd: 11am-12pm	• Stuffed Animal Pick Up Party. Watch a slideshow of all the adventures the Stuffies had overnight at the library! (All ages)
July 27th: 6pm-7pm	• DIY Mermaid Sugar Scrub, for tweens, teens and adults
July 29th 2pm-3pm	• July 29th 2:00-3:00 Rainbow Fish Tissue Paper Painting (All ages)
<h4>August Events</h4>	
August 2nd: 10:30-11:30am	• Light House Challenge STEM Build a lighthouse strong enough to hold up a tealight (Ages 6-18)
August 3rd: 11am	• Shark Week Family Storytime (Ages 0-8)
August 4th: 3:30pm	• Frozen T-Shirt Challenge. Put on a frozen solid t-shirt as fast as you can! (All ages)
August 9th: 2-3pm	• Salt-Water Tie-Dye (All ages)
August 12th 3-4pm	• Summer Reading Ice Cream Finale and Games!

Sibley Scythe Company and “Yankee Ingenuity”

One Tooth of One Cog in the Great New England Manufacturing Juggernaut of the 19th century

New England was the manufacturing hub of the world in the latter half of the 19th century. This included hundreds of water-power driven mills ranging from tiny streamside single family mills to enormous operations such as the mile long stretch of mill buildings seen alongside the Merrimack River in Manchester. These enterprises thrived creating new and faster means to produce superior products to serve our country and the world, carrying America to prosperity and prominence as never before.

A fine example of a small mill which innovated and was almost astonishingly productive was located here in Newport on the Sugar River, an operation which grew and flourished through the late American Industrial Revolution and ended in the depression. The Sibley Scythe Company first began operation in 1842 in a small factory built by Sylvanus Larned. In 1845 Ezra T. Sibley joined with Mr. Larned and in a few years had purchased the business. The operation was continued by the Sibley family for three generations, until the 1930s.

Their main product was, of course, scythes, but they also manufactured a type of toothed hoe and, later, hatchets, amongst other implements. The company was described in *The History of Newport* by Edmund Wheeler in 1879. He wrote: “In 1870, Mr. Sibley employed 14 hands, used nearly 44,000 pounds of steel and iron, and made 30,000 scythes.” This

amount of productivity is little short of astounding. In an era of horses, wagons, and hand labor (the railroad came through in 1871), these 14 workers made 600 scythes per week, that is 100 per day, assuming working on Saturdays. Forging and finishing seven scythes per day per employee would be remarkable enough, but they also manufactured the curved wooden snaths (handles), as well as the crates, and shipped them!

This is where Yankee ingenuity and industriousness are apparent. The shop had several large trip hammers driven by a turbine fed by water from a canal originating at the dam just above Oak Street. 12-foot long steel bars were heated white hot and formed into the scythe blades by the trip hammers, then hand finishing and grinding followed. Some of the grinding was reportedly carried out using stone wheels six or seven feet in diameter. Great care was needed to keep these enormous wheels, which spun at high speed, in balance. Wheeler noted that in 1871 a worker named Sylvester Warren was instantly killed by the bursting of a grindstone. Further finishing was done on smaller stones.

The finding of several of these smaller stones (even these are 27 inches in diameter and a foot thick) on the property of the old Sibley home gives testimony to the creative ingenuity of those 19th-century mill workers in devising means of “mass production”. These stones are castellated, that is, they have

35

ADVERTISEMENTS.

EZRA T. SIBLEY,
MANUFACTURER OF
GRASS, GRAIN, LAWN AND BUSH
SCYTHES.

This Manufactory was established in 1840. Employs
fourteen hands, and has facilities for making
2500 Dozen Scythes Annually.

1870 Newport Business Directory Ad (30,000 scythes yearly!)

squared-off high ridges and valleys between them. Rather than grinding the blades one at a time, it appears they were clamped together in groups of six or more and these were ground simultaneously, slashing the time required in manufacturing. (When found, these stones had been cemented together on an iron pipe, and had probably been used as a lawn roller).

The scythes made in this factory were shipped across the United States and abroad, reports include to Germany and India. They also supplied edged tools for the clearing of brush in the building of the Panama Canal. The coming of the horse drawn mower in the late 1800s was the beginning of the end of demand for scythes. Although manufacturing hatchets and other items in the later years, the company finally closed in the 1930s, a proud little establishment which flourished for 80 years right here in Newport, contributing to the American Industrial Revolution and prosperit ■

~ Arthur Walsh,
Newport Historical Society

**“In 1870, Mr. Sibley
employed 14 hands, used
nearly 44,000 pounds of
steel and iron, and made
30,000 scythes.”**



Sibley Scythe blade (one of many styles)



Tang of Sibley Scythe



Castellated Grindstones (27 inch diameter)



Scythe Shop - Note large trip hammer (diagonal beam)

Newport Montessori School

In New Hampshire, we all look forward to the summer months for the change in seasons, weather, routines, and schedules. Summer for school administrators, teachers, and students is a time to “refill our buckets” as we move from the often-harried pace the end of each school year brings with graduations, recitals, sporting events, and other school year extracurricular activities to the lazy days of summer. What I have found over the years is that summers are far from lazy! Summer has its own way of filling up with different events and activities.

At the school, we are managing many different building and campus summer projects like interior painting, floor replacement, floor cleaning/waxing/buffing, carpet cleaning, and this year, relocation of exterior wildlife (squirrels and woodchucks). At home,



you may try some of these activities that parallel our Montessori environment and Practical Life Curriculum: pick fruit and bake something delicious with your collection, try pressing leaves into clay (or Play-Doh) to make “fossils,” have a picnic, grow a garden, paint with water (a brush, a piece of construction paper, and a cup of water), and/or water flower/plants using a spray bottle and water (to build up finger strength).

If you are interested in learning more about our school's programming and enrollment options, please call or email to request an enrollment packet. 603-863-2243 or misschristy@newportmontess.org. Our summer office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9-12 or by appointment. ■

Want to be a part of something amazing?

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

Email us at publisher@greatergoodmedia.net.

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. 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 cinnamont1994@gmail.com or 603.863.4543

Dominos Pizza

Full Time or Part Time Manager In Training, Drivers, and CSRs

Apply online at www.nolimitdominos.efficientapply.com and select Newport NH location!

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For more information and to apply online visit www.lavalleys.com or stop by Lavalley's on Sunapee Street for a paper application. Contact Bridget Coleman at hr@lavalleys.com if you would like an application sent directly to you.

Newport School District

Custodian, Para Educator (Middle, HS & K-12)

Science or English Teacher (Elem, Middle)

Special Ed Teachers (Elem, Middle, HS & Preschool)

Licensed Practical Nurse/Para Educator II

Instructional Para Educator (K), School

Counselor (HS)

Assistant Principal (Elem)

Family and Consumer Science & Health (Middle)

Math Teacher (Middle)

Classroom Teacher (Elem)

Music Teacher (Middle)

Health Science Technology Teacher

Transportation Coordinator

Physical Therapist

Speech Language Pathologist

Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Family Community Liaison

Guidance Counselor (Middle)

Para Educator (Elem, HS & K-12)

Social Studies Teacher (HS)

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Town of Newport

Police Chief (FT)

Assistant Town Clerk (PT)

Mechanic (FT)

Economic Development Coordinator

Utilities Technician (FT)

Truck Driver/Equipment Operator (FT)

Interested applicants can review the full job description and application instructions by visiting 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

United Construction

Experienced Groundskeeper

Experienced Lowbed Driver

Pay aligns with experience. Interested candidates can visit: UnitedConstruction.biz to download an application or stop by the office at 250 North Main Street, Newport.

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.

MEET YOUR SUGAR RIVER BANK NEIGHBORS



Mary Jannenga
Customer Service Rep,
Newport

Favorite hobby:

Counted cross stitching, grandchildren and great grandchildren

What fictional place and what real place would you like to visit?

Fictional: Downton Abbey
Real: Ireland

What skill would you like to master?

Memory retention

What is the best way to start the day?

A good breakfast with a good cup of coffee

Name a book you'd recommend?

James Herriot series

What was cool when you were younger, not now?

Bell bottom pants, phonograph records

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

As a child, *Snow White*; as a teen, *Titanic* and *Gone with the Wind*.

What is your life motto?

Live, love, laugh, and be happy

What is your theme song?

The Rose

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

Penguins/maple trees/Antartica

What superhuman power, would you like to have?

Healing

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

Princess Diana



Terri G. Spanos
Universal Banker and
Business Development
Specialist

Favorite hobby:

Decorating (inside and out). However, I can overdo it so I have to be aware.

What fictional place and what real place would you like to visit?

Fictional: Neverland
Real: Greece

What skill would you like to master?

Technology. I'm the first to admit that I am technically challenged... it's no secret.

What is the best way to start the day?

Waking up with a positive attitude.

Name a book you'd recommend?

The Best Is Yet To Come by Debbie Macomber

What was cool when you were younger, not now?

Chinos (I owned every color).

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

Sound of Music

What is your life motto?

I have a couple: "It is what it is;" "Don't sweat the small stuff;" "You can't change what you can't change."

What is your theme song?

Eye of the Tiger (1980 Newport High School "Tiger" basketball state champs-undefeated)

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

The ocean

What superhuman power, would you like to have?

Superhuman stamina

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

Princess Diana



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GOOD COOKING

Always a treat, try this with a grilled cheese sandwich...

HOME-MADE TOMATO BISQUE

Spray oil a cookie sheet

Place 12 Roma tomatoes on it with tops sliced off

Push a fresh basil leaf and a clove of garlic into each

Drizzle with olive oil, salt and pepper, Italian seasoning and 1 T brown sugar

Bake at 425° until soft (time depends on size of tomatoes)

When cool, blend and add 1 cup half + half.

Heat to serve.

Enjoy this Old Courthouse favorite!



KATHAN GARDENS

Employee Spotlight: Shirley Cartier



How long have you and your family lived in Newport?

I moved here from Massachusetts when I was two; I'm a towny! Mom (Becky) from Arizona and Dad (Chris) from Massachusetts met in Germany. My husband Dylan and his parents Gail and Kirk also grew up here.

What is it about Newport that keeps you here? I love the small town love... everyone knows everyone! I'm a small town girl and I like it that way! I love how we can

explore the woods and the streams and in my opinion never get bored with all this beauty around us. "We will forever be home."

How long have you been with Kathan Gardens? I started last September.

I needed and wanted joy in my life, especially at work. I'm so happy to be learning about plants and the gift shop business. Chris and Jill are awesome!

If you could do one thing to help improve Newport, what would it be? I'd love to help the elderly, maybe going to homes and making food, or doing a small planting class or something. They need us the most now during Covid and a lot of them are alone and are feeling it so hard.

Do you volunteer for a local organization? I volunteered last summer for Bloomin' Acres and I loved it! I'd would love to volunteer at Woodlawn and at the soup kitchen because it would be nice to exchange smiles with those who need it the most. Laughter is the best medicine! ■



Kathan Gardens
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good news of Newport!

146 Elm Street, Newport, NH // kathangardens.com
603-863-1089 // Mon-Sat 9am-5pm Sun 10am-3pm

Summer at the Library Arts Center

There is hardly a quiet day at the Library Arts Center, especially in the summer months. With a multitude of summer programs, there is truly something for everyone, of every age in our community, scheduled at the Library Arts Center this summer.

For our youngest community members, there is Music with Friends. This music class, for babies and toddlers with their caregivers, has become a mainstay of our summer programming. Music teacher Julie Love fills the outdoor event tent on our side lawn with instruments, and singing and dancing children each Wednesday of the program. Space is limited in this popular class, so register quickly to participate.

Family Yoga with Willow is a new offering this summer. Infants six months through all ages of children, are encouraged to sign up with their caregivers for these fun, imaginative, family yoga sessions in the gallery with instructor Willow MacDonald. To register your family for this yoga series, visit libraryartscenter.org.

Each week, July 13–August 17, there is a free drop-in style art project for families led by artist and teacher Heidi Lorenz under our event tent on the side lawn. These sessions encourage families to create art together and cover a range of really neat topics ranging from Shibori tie-dye, to apple stamped canvas bags, to nature art installation to name a few. Weekly projects will be announced on social media for families who want to know in advance, but all families can be guaranteed an amazing free drop-in arts experience each session in this series.



Art Projects Under the Tent

The perennial favorite Summer Performances for Kids will return to our side lawn this summer! This free performance series offers engaging entertainment for the whole family each Thursday morning in July at 10:30am. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to enjoy the event. July 7th the series starts with Mime Chris Yerling; July 14 brings Songs from Around the World with musician Kathy Lowe to the side lawn; July 21 is an incredible magic show with magician Andrew Pinard, and July 28 brings Stories of Sea Monsters with storyteller Simon Brooks. This series is made possible in part by a grant from the Friends of the Richards Free Library.

For kids who want to delve deeper into art study, we have a weekly program in the studio on Wednesday

mornings July 13–August 17. These classes are led by several different art teachers and give kids a chance to be in the studio working on more in-depth projects ranging from landscape painting on canvas, to tie dye sneakers. These sessions, for 7-12 year olds, require pre-registration and are sessions that children attend without caregivers.

With all these programs for children, you might wonder why kids get all the fun! With this in mind, the Library Arts Center created an amazing series called “Art Camp for Grown-Ups.” This Thursday evening series runs through summer and covers lots

*Get creative
while building community*



Art Camp for Grown-Ups

of fun “art camp-style” sessions from batik, to Zentangle, to collage. Visit the website for a full listing of the series, and to register.

Basket Weaving classes with League of NH Craftsman Ray Lagasse are ever-popular and always fill at the Library Arts Center. There are monthly sessions of these one-day weekend workshops in which all participants leave with a completely finished, heirloom quality basket. Participants may choose from over 20 options of baskets for the class ranging from pack baskets, laundry baskets, handled baskets and even stair baskets. For a full list of options and to register, visit libraryartscenter.org.

Through July and August, Heidi Lorenz offers an incredible series of Plein Air painting sessions in which artists of all levels and styles gather in different beautiful outdoor locations weekly to paint. Painting locations are listed on social media, and posted the week of each session. This drop-in group is a great way to build community and inspiration while making time and priority for your own creative work in a welcoming community.

This painting series is not the only outdoor Arts Center series this summer for adults. Brianna Renner will host her Friday morning Yoga class (which typically takes place year round in the gallery) at Sunapee State Beach! This group meets at 8:30am on the beach to practice before the beach opens, giving participants a serene and totally inspiring setting for yoga. Friday yoga continues through the summer in the gallery for the weekly



Music with Friends

Friday morning Chair yoga class.

Additionally, the Library Arts Center will be at the Newport Farmers' Market with free make-and-take art projects on select dates: July 15, 29, August 12 and 26, and September 9. These projects are designed to engage children and adults alike.

The Apple Pie Crafts Fair, now in its 48th year, is a treasured annual community tradition put on by the Library Arts Center. This large event, taking place on Saturday, August 27th, is fully booked, and has been for months, with over 120 craft vendors who will fill the Common. Thousands of community members come to enjoy the day, which is complete with live music and a variety of excellent food vendors. The highlight of the Fair is the apple pie contest and sale. Hundreds of pies, which sell out



Summer Performances for Kids

quickly, are made by generous community members, and all sales benefit Arts Center programs. We need YOUR pie! Every pie makes an impact for the arts. If you would like to bake a pie (apple pie, or all types of pies are welcome), plan to drop off Friday, August 26, from 1-4pm in the gallery, or between 8-10am at the big striped tent on the Common the morning of the Fair.

To find out more information about all these programs, visit libraryartscenter.org, or stop in the gallery any time. The Library Arts Center, situated on the Newport Town Common behind the Library is an active and inviting community resource that welcomes all and encourages everyone to get creative while building community. ■

NCTV Connects With the CTE

I had a terrible time in school where I grew up. Shy, introverted, and totally disengaged, I didn't connect with teachers, other kids, or my courses. Ironically, now in my 60s, for the past 4 years I've been working in the Newport school with students and administrators developing a video intern program so kids can learn broadcasting, movie making, and video production.

In the 25 years prior to my tenure here, NCTV had limited success connecting to the tech school for a variety of reasons. I took over a station with no direction or ambition. The volunteer base had shrunk and programming was reduced to town government & school meetings, repeats of old programs, and a rotating bulletin board of local services. The relationship with students was minimal with the exception of a 2-week, sparsely-attended summer camp.

One of the major goals I set when I took the director's job was to offer internships integrated with school curriculum so students could learn video and television production. I knew it would take time and perseverance before it showed results and now, finishing up

my fourth year, we have made significant progress.

In just the past 12 months alone I have taught video editing, advertising promotion, broadcast journalism, and creating 'how to' videos to four interns and mentored a Sunapee senior creating a music video for college entrance. More interns have earned course credit with NCTV in the past year than during the entire 23 years prior to my tenure here. Two have plans to continue their education and careers in video broadcasting, the Sunapee student will be studying music production and I am hoping that my newest candidate may 'catch the bug' to consider a career in video arts. This increase in participation is an indication that there are many more students interested in video production.

I didn't achieve this result without help in large part from a good working relationship with the CTE director Jennifer Opalinski who shares my vision of integrating video and broadcasting in the CTE. We participated in the middle school career rotation in 2018 so that every grade 8 student could create and edit a news program. We increased our

live school sports and events exponentially. During COVID, NCTV produced and broadcast concerts and student celebrations, both live and in the studio that in other years parents and friends would have attended. This created awareness of the essential role NCTV plays in Newport. The other change that has helped our connection to the school is being able to broadcast online on nctv-nh.org, Facebook, and YouTube.

With our student reporter, Bella Osgood, and student interns editing and producing content, a next step is to create a real student TV station where part of the broadcast day can be operated entirely by students who create, produce and direct their own programs.

The overwhelming positive town vote to renovate the CTE building proved that citizens of Newport believe in the power of vocational and work based education. The challenge for me as director, and a civically engaged Newport resident, will be to make sure NCTV has a place at the table. To that end, also with Jennifer's help, I made sure NCTV was included as part of the CTE renovation project to solidify our connection with students into the



future. Keeping in mind that the renovation is meant to serve for at least the next 30 years, the Thompson Room/NCTV redesign will give us a bit more space for studio and a room to use for meetings, filming interviews, and classroom study while not taking any space away from the important uses of the Thompson meeting room.

Collaborating with all these students and teachers has helped me appreciate how having diversity of choice is key to a successful education. I wish I'd had the vocational options and guidance during my own school years that the Newport High School offers. ■

~ John Lunn, NCTV Executive Director

The Newport Opera House Association Reports a Great Year!



The 2021-2022 season for the Newport Opera House Association was a successful one and was especially noteworthy in that it was a return to relative normalcy after an 18-month shutdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Audiences once again filled the beautiful, historic Newport Opera House with laughter and applause, "the lifeblood of every theater," exclaimed Executive Director, Meg Cowan.

Along with favorite annual events, such as the Halloween Masquerade Dance, *Dancing with the Newport Stars* and the Winter Carnival Pageant, many "newcomers" were presented by the NOHA. Paranormal investigator/TV personality, Adam Berry, kicked off the season in September with his *Real Ghost Stories* production that included an investigation of the Opera House (yes, there are a few friendly resident spirits!) *Santa! The Musical*, a community-theater production, got the holiday season off to a great start in mid-December. Comedian, Bob Marley, and Ventriloquist/Magician/Musician, Todd Oliver, entertained theater-goers later in the year as did

Vermont Comedian/Storyteller, Rusty Dewees, on his second visit to Newport, this time bringing fellow Musician and accomplished fiddler player, Patrick Ross.

"We are in the planning stages for the 2022-2023 season," Meg Cowan explained. "Livingston Taylor performed on our stage many years ago and he may be joining us again sometime this fall and we're also considering bringing back a murder mystery dinner theater event," she continued. The NOHA is partnering with Sunapee-Kearsarge Intercommunity Theatre (SKIT) to produce *43rd Street*, an original community-theater musical written by Tom Lowe who called South Sutton home. The musical-comedy, set in the 1920s during the age of prohibition, is a story about the goings-on of a speakeasy located in the basement of a church's soup kitchen and features a cast of colorful characters and toe-tapping jazz that is original to the show. "We also hope to have Symphony NH here in December to present their Holiday Pops Concert" continued Cowan, "but it all depends on whether or not we can find a corporate

sponsor who will help us with funding." A spring play in April of 2023 featuring community-theater actors is being discussed to round out the new season.

The Newport Opera House Association was formed in 1976 with a mission to provide affordable quality entertainment, diverse cultural events, and a sustainable creative outlet for the whole community within the historic Newport Opera House. As a 501 C 3 nonprofit organization, membership from annual donors and sponsorship from local businesses remains crucial for the NOHA to continue to grow and to present exceptional entertainment. Ticket sales cover less than one-third of operating expenses which is why financial support from the community is essential. Their Spring Membership Drive is underway now and requests for corporate sponsorship will soon follow during the summer months. ■

To help support the NOHA, information is available on their website, www.newportoperahouse.com where you can donate online, or email your contact information to info@newportoperahouse.com. ■

"At the time I didn't have a penny in my pocket," Jessi recalls, "But I never let what I don't have stop me from what I'm pursuing. That's just always been my nature. You're stronger sometimes when you supposedly don't have anything because you think outside of the box and make things work."

This ethos has always been a part of Jessi. Raised in Charleston, South Carolina by his grandparents from whom he began to learn who he wanted to be in the world, Jessi made the move to New York City by himself at age 16. His "first time in the big city," Jessi spent his days writing, determined to make things work on his own.

"I remember when I left from down South, my grandmother said to me, 'Once you go to New York, you're not going to want to come back.' And I said, 'No, ma'am, I'm coming back,'" Jessi said, "But then I got to New York, and like she said, I didn't want to come back. I needed to prove to myself that I could make it on my own." With his grandfather passing away before he left for the city, Jessi felt he needed to learn to be strong and learn and live for himself.

It was in New York, while writing his own songs and working in a recording studio, Jessi fell in love with a woman from New Hampshire. This love is what first brought him up to our neck of the woods in the 1990s. While the marriage did not last, Jessi kept his journey in New Hampshire, landing in Newport. Jessi had gotten into the antique business in New York and continued to do so here in New Hampshire, attracted to the stories these items hold. "I've always enjoyed decorating. I like making things better," Jessi says, "I like staging things



Jessi has done all of the renovations himself including the loft space.

and letting the items speak for themselves 'cause each object has something to say."

This love for being creative and sharing stories is what drew Jessi to build The Forest of Time. "I want this

to be a place where people walk through these doors and feel touched," Jessi says, hoping that visiting his shop will spark feeling and emotion in customers, "That's what I'm all about."

Jessi collects pieces from all around

New Hampshire and finds many local gems to share. "If I connect with it, it goes with me. It's all about the connection." He aims for customers to feel the same, "I don't have to tell anyone anything. It speaks. If they connect with something, it's found its home. I always say, the heart knows where it belongs."

Jessi's path to create The Forest of Time did have its streams to ford and boulders to climb. In 2021, Jessi was looking for financing in order to fully pay off the previous owner and was struggling to find the right resource. He became connected with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund and, upon building a relationship with the team, the Fund offered him a mortgage to purchase the property. Zachery Palmer of The New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, with whom Jessi now works, was inspired by Jessi's perseverance and drive. "You feel a certain type of presence when you're able to connect with him and get to know him and what he's all about," Palmer says, "He's not trying to push anything onto his customers. He's all about the storytelling, and he does have a story."

Jessi worked with Palmer through the NH Community Loan Fund's reimagined state-wide Minority-Owned Business Lending Program, aimed at assisting black and brown entrepreneurs in New Hampshire, providing technical assistance, training, and loans. "There are many people of color all over the state in the more rural parts, just like Jessi, and they all provide a special purpose, service, or product that they're contributing to their community," Palmer says.



Jessi plans to have an outdoor arts space here as well.



Interior before



Exterior before



The community response to Jessi's fantastical renovation of the location has been overwhelmingly positive. One of Jessi's neighbors, who has lived in the Newport neighborhood for 43 years, called the transformation incredible and spoke of how Jessi was really bringing this place back to life. Jessi has had community members stopping by in awe of the change that has come over the barn.

The love from the community is reciprocated by Jessi. "I like the community," he says, "I like the folks here." He feels accepted and appreciated here, "It's a good place. It's a nice environment to be in, and it's peaceful." Jessi, with his signature poetic style, says, "I always say you can live in the big world, but you don't need to be a part of the big world. You can create your own little world, and that's what I'm doing."

Jessi's dream for the Forest of Time is to be more than an antique shop. "I want it to be a creative center, a place for creativity," he says. He imagines the front yard as an outdoor open art gallery where artists can come display or sell their work. He intends to have live music performances, a cafe, and even create a place people could come to stay on vacation or host weddings or other events. "I'm not monotone," Jessi says, "I'm open-minded to all different things and that's what I would like to do."

The next steps in the immediate future for Jessi – who has done the lion's share of restorations and renovations himself – include painting the interior and exterior

and getting a new roof put on. "I do it all," Jessi says, "Doing the work with the build, moving inventory, and setting everything up. Every hat there is – if there's a hat, it's my hat," he laughs.

Jessi has been floored by the overwhelmingly positive reception he's received in the past year. "I'm just a guy here in a little barn," he says. Palmer notes the widespread impact of Jessi's passion and creative drive, "He's a unique person and the vibe and culture he's bringing to the whole Sunapee region out there is great to have."

Jessi is thrilled to continue building The Forest of Time and looking forward to soon hosting a grand opening. "We're still putting it together every day," he says, "It's not even finished yet. When I'm finished, it's going to be magical." ■

The Forest of Time Antiques and Vintage Memories is located at 35 Spring Street in Newport, NH and open Tuesday-Friday 11 AM-4 PM and Saturday 10 AM-4 PM.

The NH Community Loan Fund has been around since 1983, working with resident communities in the state to create resources to enable traditionally underserved people to participate more fully in New Hampshire's economy. They do this by providing loans, capital, and technical assistance; complementing and extending the reach of conventional lenders; and public institutions; and bringing people and institutions together to solve problems. "We're an impact investor," Palmer says, "where your dollars that you invest are going to stay in New Hampshire. There's most likely a project that we've been involved with or are involved with in your town." You can check out more about the Community Loan Fund and its work at www.communityloandfund.org.

RUGER NEWPORT: PROUD TO CALL THIS HOME

Ruger Newport: Proud to Call This Home

Ruger has had the privilege to be involved in our community in various ways, including donations and volunteer hours, and recently, some Ruger associates had the unique opportunity to use their craftsmanship to collaborate with the Town of Newport on a project. The project created a number of beautiful teak wood benches inlaid with commemorative plaques of various meanings like in memoriam and in honor of folks with lasting legacy or impact for our local community.

The project was presented to Jack Tibbitts, the group leader for Ruger's woodworking department. Jack started his career with Ruger at 18 years of age, beginning as a sander for gun stocks. He moved on to a team leader role for small parts, and then eventually the group leader for woodworking, so his tenure provides experience and a honed skillset.

He selected an associate, Dana Bacon, to create a program for the CNC machine to mill the rectangular cut out where the plaque would be affixed. Dana has been with Ruger for 8 years and has a background in manufacturing engineering for products for the military and communications satellites. At Ruger, he has taken on the role of toolmaker in the woodworking department, making fixtures and gauges.

Jack felt that it was "awesome that we got the opportunity to help out the town on something that means so much to the people who sponsored the benches." To Dana it was "another job well done." He described the gorgeous teak wood the benches are being made from as rare and unique to work with. He found another interesting aspect of the project was the customization of each inlet size for the different plaques.



One of the benches is sponsored by a Newport local business, Pinnacle Sports LLC, which sells firearms as well as hunting and fishing gear. Ruger and Pinnacle work closely together, especially with owner, John Hooper, and newly elected town selectmen and general manager, Jim Burroughs. This project tied together Ruger's manufacturing craftsmanship, a well-known local business and the Town of Newport. It is a source of pride for all involved! ■



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enough money to buy a pair of boots for a grandchild who is walking to school in the snow in sneakers – it is Chris who jumps in his car with his PECAN checkbook and heads out to get it done.

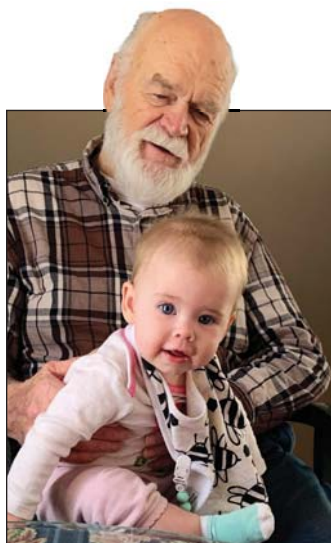
He is not compensated in any way for his work. He is not reimbursed when he spends his own money because the food pantry or Walmart is closed but help is needed NOW. He gets no gas money. He is just there when people need him. "Helping someone is my compensation," he insists. But there are limits to what one eighty-year-old retired gentleman on a fixed income can do in the face of an overwhelming need fueled by a pandemic and inflation.

However, when asked about the challenges he faces, it is not the lack of compensation or finances or aching bones that he mentions. When a request comes to Chris, he must talk with the person requesting help, explore options and other possible avenues, and make a personal decision whether to provide the requested help or not.

The first hurdle he faces are the rules of eligibility for the Newport Community Trust. Recipients must be residents of Newport. "I get calls from all over – Croyden, Claremont, Grantham – but I can't help them if they don't live in Newport," he explains with great sorrow. In addition, he does have a budget which he must stay within. The trust is administered in such a way to guarantee its viability in future years, so the amount he can spend each year is limited. And in the final moment, Chris must decide if the person on the other end of the conversation should get money from his limited funds or not. It is a huge responsibility for one man. One that he does not take lightly.

"The most difficult thing I do," says Chris, "is having to say 'No' when I can't help someone who truly needs my help."

Through his work for PECAN, Chris has distributed



Chris became a grandfather at age 79



Chris with his sister, Jane Rastallis, and his daughter, Sarah Fisher

between \$30,000 and \$35,000 a year in financial help in the past 8 years for a total of over \$250,000.

So, who is this man to whom those in need from Newport turn? Chris moved to Newport in 1976, started a business selling used restaurant equipment, and raised his daughter here. She graduated from Newport High School and went on to become a teacher in the Fall Mountain School System. When the economy, and his business, took a nose-dive during the "Great Recession" of 2008, he decided it was time and retired. These days he refers to himself as just a normal guy doing what he can to help out his fellow man. "I try to do the 'right' thing," he says. His sister, Jane, is a little more forthright. "Chris is a man of deep faith, and he lives the principles of that faith every single day." She goes on to explain that Chris gives all he has to give, and then gives a little more.

And his commitment to helping where help is needed goes beyond PECAN and Newport. He volunteers with Kairos, a ministry whose mission is to develop a Christian community inside prisons. He sits on the board of Dismas House New Hampshire, a residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation treatment and re-entry program for previously incarcerated women.

Jane says, "You and I may make snap decisions about someone we see on the street. They may look disheveled, or dirty, or they may wear old, worn-out clothes. And we may decide that is someone we don't want to be associated with – we may even experience a moment's fear of them. But not Chris. He makes no assumptions about people. He doesn't have it in him to judge a person by his looks or by his dress."

That sentiment is immediately evident when you talk with Chris. "I am blessed," he says, "to be able to help where and when I can."

While that certainly may be true, Newport and the hundreds of Newport residents he has helped are equally blessed. ■

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Volunteers Making a Difference

The Newport Senior Center (NSC) has a strong foundation that is key to long-lasting, dependable services and acts as a safety net for adults as they age. Volunteers are needed to help keep the lights on and the doors open to deliver vital programs, resources, and services.

Obtaining valuable volunteers has become a competition for one's time and attention. The NSC has been fortunate that Sandy Cornish believes in the mission to provide exemplary services that allows individuals to live independently at home with dignity for as long as possible.

Sandy has served as a volunteer board member and treasurer for the NSC since 2015. Despite the many challenges over the past few years to raise funds to keep the center solvent,



Sandy did not allow these challenges to deter her from the mission and the work that still needed to be accomplished.

Despite Covid, Sandy powered through and kept the importance of fundraising at the forefront. Sandy was instrumental in organizing Grab-N-Go dinners for community members to enjoy while earning enough money to help defray the ever-increasing cost of operating the center.

She has worked with the big man himself, Santa Claus, to establish intergenerational opportunities for all ages in the community. Sandy and her elves prepared "Brunch with Santa." Families were able to bring children to the center to see Santa as he passed out gifts for each child as they enjoyed brunch.

Sandy also created the opportunity for others to show off their artistic abilities at the NSC as vendors rented space during a first-ever Bake and Craft Sale.

If Sandy is not organizing a specific fundraising event, she is participating in events organized by other volunteer board members. She has a very important task ahead of her as the cashier during our annual yard sale events held Memorial & Labor Day weekend each year.

When planning and organizing fundraisers is not enough, Sandy can be found answering phones or planning

activities to keep individuals active and healthy. Sandy participated in an Alzheimer's discussion and learned about different resources available to help keep the mind active as one ages.

After learning about different memory improving programs, Sandy wasted no time requesting approval to purchase computer programs that would provide memory strengthening skills for members to utilize, and also searched for alternative means for individuals to keep the brain active.

Sandy knows memory is a sensitive and important topic and concern for so many people that she gathered enough players to play Pitch and Cribbage. Another fun way to keep the mind active and healthy.

Sandy introduced a new exercise



program to the center and its participants, Cardio Drumming. Sandy tracked down an instructor and made it happen. With the music playing loudly, participants yelling with excitement and drum sticks drumming, everyone wants to go downstairs to see what all the excitement is all about.

One would think Sandy would be tired after all of her treasury responsibilities, fundraising efforts, answering phones, planning and organizing exercise and health opportunities but no, Sandy still finds time to volunteer at the Newport Thrift Shop each Friday.

Although the board of directors' work as a team, it has been Sandy who has continued to always encourage and motivate others as we navigate uncertain times.

They say that the best way to feel good is to give to others. Sandy has given numerous hours of herself, without asking for anything in return, to ensure older adults of Sullivan County can live healthy, safe lives as they age.

It is for these reasons, the NSC was proud and honored to nominate Sandy Cornish for the 2022 Older Adult Award. It is with great pleasure to announce that the NH Commission on Aging and EngAging NH chose Sandy Cornish to receive this prestigious award to recognize the significant contribution she has made to the community. ■

Hidden Gems

Volunteer Trail at Corbin Covered Bridge

Located at the Corbin Covered Bridge (one of Newport's most historic landmarks) is an obscure trail that not many locals know about. This trail starts at the bridge and follows the river in a southerly direction. This lollipop type trail is about 1.5 miles long and is a perfect, flat, getaway if you want some peace, solace, and beauty at the same time. This trail has the unofficial name "volunteer trail" as it was put in place in 2012 by a slew of volunteers, under the direction of local trail guru Ryan O'Brien, that the Jake Maxfield Connection organized on their "community connection days." The trail gets only sporadic use throughout the year, but really is a gem that should get more use, and hopefully will with this article. Once you check it out, you will want to go back for exercise, solace and peace.

In the fall for the past three seasons, we have been using the trail as Newport High School's cross country race course and, in August of this year, it will be used as part of a race course for a 5k race called "Strut your Mutts" benefiting



Wags and Wiggles (a rescue dog service). Cross Country teams from around the state have all taken their team photos after the race with the backdrop that is Corbin Covered Bridge and always leave with a smile on their faces after spending time in this special place.

Anglers tend to cast their line in the water at the park adjacent to the trail. Wildlife abounds, and kayakers and picnickers alike are seen throughout the summer months in and out of the area. If you haven't done so, take a trip down the trail. You will be glad you did. ■



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