

The *Newport Times*

Newport's Good News Paper

Serving the Town of Newport, NH

March/April 2024

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Kyle Harris and his dog, Cascade, hiking in NH, Summer 2023

Meet Kyle Harris, Newport's New Town Manager

Rose Terami

Newport's new Town Manager, Kyle Harris, is already getting to work since he took his oath of office in late February. Harris will take the place of Interim Town Manager, Paul Brown, after a months-long search to fill this important position.

Harris, a New Jersey native, moved to Newport last month with his dog, Cascade. Apart from settling into his new home, Harris is eagerly looking forward to getting to know the Town of Newport and its people.

"I saw the Newport [town manager] position posted early last Fall. I wasn't familiar with the town at all, but it checked a lot of boxes for me," Harris says, who was drawn to the area for its easy

access to the outdoors, small size, and rich sense of community.

Coming from New Jersey, some of the biggest differences Harris notices are the distinct personalities of Upper Valley communities. "New Jersey towns kind of run together, where you really don't know you're leaving one town and entering the next," he explains. "In this area, you clearly know when you're leaving Newport and before you get to the next town."

As for what calls Harris to the unique position in Newport's town government, he says: "My career that led me to being a town manager really started in high school."

After mowing lawns as a high school student for neighbors, Harris took an internship at a golf course in New Jersey, where he sparked an interest in turfgrass science, which ended up being

Continued on page 15



Artist in residence, Marek Bennett

A Day in the Life Kids and a Comic Book Artist

Kate Luppold

In late February and early March, Richards School hosted a multi-day Artist in Residence experience with artist Marek Bennett. Marek is a published comic book artist registered with the NH State Council of the Arts as an artist skilled in leading residencies. Residency of this magnitude has not been present at Richards School since the 1990s. The opportunity came about because of the incredible dedication and vision of Richards Elementary School Art Teacher Colleen O'Connor,

and a partnership between the Library Arts Center and the SAU to procure a grant to completely fund the experience through the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

Over his time at Richards School, Marek worked with every student in every art and library class to create individualized comics. From concept to preliminary drawing and writing, to revisions and inking, students learned the steps to tell a story through comics and were given an opportunity to learn this all from a skilled artist in the field. Marek

Continued on page 19

EDITOR'S NOTE

Good Things Happen Here

We meet again, Newport! Over the past couple of months since our last issue of this publication, my relationship with this Town continues to grow. I've met more amazing people, had a wonderful dinner at The Old Courthouse, and then proceeded to get towed out of Newport after that dinner because of a flat tire...(must have hit a pothole somewhere along the way).

In late February, I interviewed Newport's new Town Manager, Kyle Harris, to get to know him and to share his story with you. Hearing Kyle reiterate my own feelings about the rich community spirit and great people found in Newport only serves to further confirm my suspicions – that the good people, good places, and good things happening in Newport abound, and there are more good things to come.

Around town, hometown heroes continue to stand out. The Newport Fire/EMS Department works around the clock to serve and protect the community, and embodies the tight-knit community values that Newport stands for. We also mourn the loss and celebrate the life of another community hero, Bruce Jasper, who served many important roles in Newport over the years. His dedication to the Town of Newport and its people will be forever appreciated and remembered.

Other positive updates from Town organizations and committees is further proof that Newport is a great place to live, work, and play. With exciting developments coming along like the new Community Center, arts and culture programming at places like the Newport Opera House and the Library Arts Center, and a new Town Manager, the future of the Sunshine Town is surely looking bright.

With another Winter Carnival having come and gone, plans are already in the works to come up with a new theme for next year. Looking through some of the photos from this year's "Woodstock" themed carnival, you'll see happy faces, creativity, and fun – all blessings of community.




Every time I visit Newport, I find something or meet someone that makes me love this Town even a little bit more. Newport has much to be proud of and much to look forward to, and I'm so excited to have the opportunity to be a part of it all through this Good News Paper. Read on!

~ Rose Terami

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and all of the representatives of the community organizations featured

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and especially all of the contributors in each issue.

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

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The 24/7 Community Heroes

Newport Fire/EMS Department

Allison Browning

Where community bonds run deep, the Newport Fire/EMS Department is not just a group of first responders, they are our friends, leaders, and confidants. In this Hometown Hero spotlight, we highlight the daily lives, challenges, and unwavering camaraderie of the incredible individuals who make up this indispensable crew.

In Newport, where close-knit bonds define our community, the dedicated men and women of our Fire/EMS Department play a pivotal role in protecting life and property within our historic town. Yet, within our strong connections, there are times when we overlook the profound ties linking us to emergency responders, unintentionally glossing over the personal impact these relationships may have on them. Firefighter/EMT Cooper McCrillis highlights this unique nature, "When we respond to a call, we probably know 90% of the people we help. It can be very positive; recognizing a familiar face instills a sense of calm in them during chaotic situations."

To these first responders, the community is not just a group of people they serve, but rather a family they are a part of. This closeness, however, can present its own set of challenges. Fire Chief, Steve Yannuzzi, a steadying presence, acknowledges the challenges of maintaining professionalism in tight-knit communities, adding "There's always going to be that chance that 'somebody knows somebody' at a call, sometimes it's hard to separate yourself from those calls, especially if it's someone you know personally [a friend of your family]. However, you have to maintain your composure and your professionalism because we're there to do a job."

The daily life of a Newport firefighter/EMS is a testament to their resilience. It's a demanding lifestyle where every call is a new challenge, a unique situation

demanding quick thinking and adaptability. From routine station duties to sudden alarms that propel them into the heart of emergencies, their days are unpredictable, demanding a mental and physical readiness at all times. From firefighting to EMS and even playing the role of a mental health professional when needed, their versatility is proof of their mental strength and camaraderie that is taught only through experience. Firefighter/EMT Alyshya StAubin emphasizes their adaptability, saying, "Whatever part we have to play during that time, we put the act on and do what we need to do."

This dynamic role means routine is hard to come by. Cooper McCrillis, a veteran of the ever-changing landscape of emergencies, emphasizes the lively nature of their role, stating "There's no real routine. When we're in the station, sure, there's a routine, but the second we start getting calls, routine goes by the wayside."

Beyond the heroics, the Newport Fire/EMS crew is composed of incredible individuals with unique mental toughness. However, this doesn't make them immune to the mental health challenges that accompany their job. Within the walls of the Newport Fire/EMS Department, a second family emerges. Alyshya highlights their bonds, "We have a really good crew here. We know each other very well, so when things are bad, we go and talk to one another, especially after a bad call, we'll sit down and talk about what happened, what we could have done differently, how it's affecting each of us at that time, etc.," she explains. "We know we have a structure within these walls of the fire department and everyone here is very, very good about taking care of each other."

Cooper adds with a smile, "This is your second family here."

Despite the challenges they face, the Newport Fire/EMS Department is committed to serving their



community. They are always on-call, ready to respond when needed – and that means always. Firefighter/EMT StAubin, shies away when asked about the separation of personal and professional life, "It takes a community to run Newport Fire," she stresses. "Regardless if we turn our pager off and we go home, we're always 'on-call'... since we are a small town, but we run large-call volumes, it takes a community to run our department." This commitment should not be taken lightly, as few professions require such a level of commitment extended beyond scheduled working hours.

Beyond firefighting, the Newport Fire/EMS Department serves as a hub for community engagement. Hosting events, fundraisers, and educational programs, these members foster a strong sense of camaraderie among residents. From talking about fire prevention at local schools to participating in community activities like the Apple Pie Festival and Winter Carnival, they strive to connect with residents beyond their demanding duties.

Looking ahead, Chief Yannuzzi envisions a bright future for Newport. "Newport has a lot of potential. With numerous new housing projects on the horizon... people are actively looking to bring new development to Newport."

In the face of challenges and growth, the Newport Fire/EMS Department remains an integral part of the Town's fabric, providing not only emergency response but also a sense of security and community spirit. They are indeed the hometown heroes we can count on! ■



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Internship Spotlight: Hunter Jones Shines with Harvey Construction



Allison Browning

In this edition, the *Newport Times* features on Hunter Jones, a senior at Newport Middle High School, who recently completed a one-of-a-kind internship with Harvey Construction! This unique opportunity not only enriched Hunter's learning experience, but also showcased the remarkable collaboration between our local education system and unexpected partnerships.

Hunter's internship journey began through the NMHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which has undergone a significant makeover. With plans to renovate the entire CTE building and expand the programs, College & Career Specialist Kristie Howe seized a brilliant opportunity to pair Hunter with Harvey Construction, the contracted company for the renovations. "When I found out that Hunter had an interest in the world of construction and then looked around our school at all of the work that was being done through the renovation project, I realized that there was potential for a meaningful work-based learning experience within our own walls," says Kristie. With a keen interest in exploring various trades, Hunter dove straight into the opportunity. Under the supervision of Jon Kobisky, a seasoned professional at Harvey Construction, Hunter devoted 1.5 hours each day to gaining firsthand experience in a multitude of areas, including electrical work, concrete slabbing, sheetrock repair, design, and engineering.

In his final presentation, Hunter highlighted the unexpected skills he acquired during his internship, expressing surprise at developing a detail-oriented eye. Now equipped with this new perspective, he notices nuances in craftsmen's work and has become a silent critic himself.

Kristie Howe, the liaison behind this impactful internship, shared her perspective on the placement, "Jon Kobisky is the school's main point of contact at Harvey Construction and he's been great to work with since day one of the project. He's onsite every day overseeing all aspects of the renovation and expansion of SRVRTC. Even given his heavy workload, he jumped at the opportunity to give Hunter the chance to see the project from the inside out, helping explain why things were being done the way they were, and showing how the various contractors each do their part to produce a final product. It was a unique perspective that not many people just entering the construction industry would have a chance to experience." Supervisor Jon

Kobisky also reflected on the positive experience, stating, "It was a pleasure to participate in an internship with Hunter Jones. He is a bright young man with the drive to learn. He progressed in multiple facets including communication, construction knowledge, and 'real-world' processes. Hunter came to me during the start of this internship with an idea of what he would like to do following graduation. These internships allow someone like Hunter another opportunity to find what path the student would like to take following graduation. During and at the end of this experience, Hunter mentioned how seeing a construction project first-hand helps him decide what he would like to do in the future."

Hunter's internship not only exemplifies the success of Newport's revitalized CTE program but also shows the unexpected partnerships created between students and local industry leaders and how all parties benefit from such experiences that bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application. ■

Editor's note: Hunter declined to be photographed.



Hunter's supervisor and mentor Jon Kobisky.



NMHS CTE new agricultural building in the works

Remembering Bruce Jasper

Talking about loss is never easy, especially when the loss affects not only a family, but also an entire community or communities. The Newport Senior Center is just one organization that was blessed with Newport community member and philanthropist, Bruce Jasper.

Bruce started practicing law in 1973, and earned his J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law. Bruce was not only a partner in a local law firm, but also a partner in the community. Bruce had a profound impact as a member of the board of directors, for the Newport Senior Center, over the past four years.

Bruce donated the gift of his time each month by sharing his expertise and supporting fundraisers that would help the senior center blossom. Bruce could be found on the Common assisting with sausage grinder sales, greeting guests at our annual yard sales, encouraging golfers on the green, spreading his smile as he served breakfast to our valued guests, and helping wherever help was needed.

Bruce's volunteerism did not stop at just his time. Bruce has been known to mass produce, at his expense, announcement flyers to assist in spreading the word about upcoming events that children, parents, grandparents, and community members could participate in.

Bruce was instrumental in making connections with local papers to spread the word about all the great work that is done at the Newport Senior Center. Bruce was no quitter. When no one else could make it happen, Bruce did not give up until he made the right connection to get the senior center on the waitlist, for now, gambling charities.

For Bruce, giving back was his way of life. Bruce's efforts of giving back have touched the lives of so many. Whether Bruce was volunteering his time



at the Newport Senior Center, town government that included Croydon and Newport, Wags & Wiggles Rescue, Newport Rotary (50 years) or Econ, Bruce's acts of kindness always empowered others to live a healthy life filled with joy, happiness, and independence.

Bruce was an inspiration to those he coached and did not stop with just the youth. Bruce always had encouraging words and advice for the board. His excellent proof-reading skills is another skill we became dependent upon and that will be missed. Bruce would often contact staff of Sullivan County Nutrition Services to acknowledge his appreciation for articles written in the weekly newspaper. His inspiration and encouraging words were appreciated more than he ever could know and will be truly missed.

The world today could learn a lot from Bruce's heroic acts of kindness. Bruce surrounded himself with a culture of respect, caring, and concern for his fellow neighbors near and far. The best way we can honor Bruce's memory is to continue to strive to achieve this type of environment each and every day here at the Newport Senior Center and throughout the community he gave so much to.

The Newport Senior Center, its members, and its staff are deeply saddened by this loss. Our hearts and gratitude go out to his wife and family who graciously shared their gift of Bruce with us.

It is our hope that by sharing part of Bruce's story, it will empower and encourage you to choose to embrace the spirit of enriching the lives of others, just as he did, and become involved today.

To learn how you can make a difference in the lives of those around you, call the Newport Senior Center at 603-863-3177. ■

~ Brenda Burns, Executive Director, Sullivan County Nutrition Services



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Richards Free Library

A Note From the Director

Did you know you can do lots of things in the library without having a library card? We would love for everyone who uses the library to have a card, but we also know the fees for out-of-towners and the proof of residency requirements for people staying but not owning property in Town can be tricky. Our physical space, our computers, our programs, and so much more are available to anyone and everyone!

Public libraries are always on my sight-seeing agenda when I travel. It's nice to have a bathroom stop where I don't have to spend money to use the facilities. Plus, it's fun to see what other libraries are doing! I like to look through the space, use the WiFi, and chat with the librarians.

Spread the word that you don't need a library card to use the library; it's only required to take materials home! You can use a computer, use

Book Groups

(Teens) Pages & Panels @ 3:15pm

- March 20th
Moonstruck Vol 1: Magic to Brew by Grace Ellis
- April 17th
Taproot by Keezy Young

Brown Bags and Books @ Noon

- March 26th
All the Missing Girls by Megan Miranda
- April 23rd
The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom

(Teens) BookTok @ 3:00pm

- April 3rd
Venom & Vow by Anne-Marie McLemore

Books on Tap @ 5:30pm

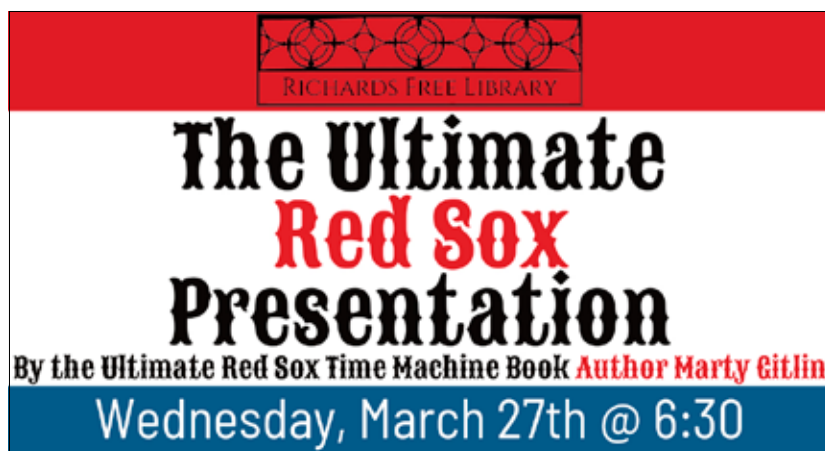
- April 4th
Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warda

(Kids age 3-6) My First Book Group – 2nd Tuesday @ 3:30pm

- April 9th
Bad Seed Goes to the Library by Jory John

(Children grades 1-4)

- Chapter Chats
2nd Tuesday @ 3:30pm
- April 9th
Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown



the WiFi, participate in an event, read a book, snuggle a cat, chat with the staff, reserve a study room, and plenty more just by visiting the library! No card required and no money required.

Local Author Celebration

On March 16th from 10am to 2pm, the Richards Free Library in Newport hosted Bookport, an event that celebrates local authors and promotes inspiration and discovery. Throughout the library, tables were set up, each showcasing the works of talented writers from the community. Whether a passionate reader, an aspiring writer, or simply curious about the creative voices in our midst, Bookport offered participants a unique opportunity to connect with local literary talent and explore a diverse range of genres, and perhaps even discover a new favorite book. Mark your calendars for next year's Bookport at the Richards Free Library – it's an event you won't want to miss!

Families Eating Smart

UNH extension presents **Families Eating Smart Moving More Mondays in March from 5-6pm**. This free program will provide participants with the knowledge and skills to make healthy food choices, prepare healthy meals and snacks, and increase physical activity. We'll see you March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th.

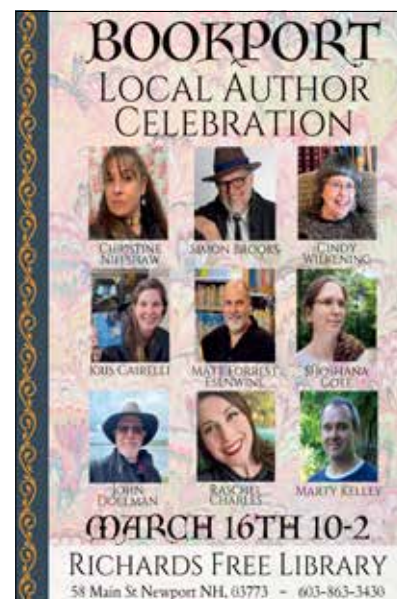
Boston Red Sox History

Join us on **March 27th at 6:30pm** for a fun and enlightening journey through **Boston Red Sox history** with

the author of *The Ultimate Boston Red Sox Time Machine Book*. This presentation features exciting and nostalgic videos of the greatest and most fascinating players, teams, events and moments in franchise history. The program also includes trivia questions for patrons to ponder and covers Sox history from the Royal Rooters, who launched Red Sox Nation, to Babe Ruth to Ted Williams to *The Impossible Dream Season* of 1967 to Lynn, Rice and "75 to the heartbreak of 1986 all the way to the four World Series championships and beyond. It will conclude with a question-and-answer period. Author Martin Gitlin will have autographed and personalized copies of his book available online following the program. This is a free event and you don't need a library card to join!

End-of-life Planning

Back by popular demand! **End-of-life Planning: Three Keys to Avoiding Financial Ruin**. Join us at the Richards Free Library on **Thursday, April 4th at 5:30pm**. A long-term care crisis can devastate a family and its finances. Nobody "wants" to go to a nursing home...and almost nobody "needs" to lose their life savings if it happens. At this free and educational legal seminar, Attorney Edward Beasley will discuss how to protect against the potentially catastrophic effects of a nursing-home stay; bullet-proofing trusts from nursing-home costs; shielding inheritance funds from outside



creditors and divorcing spouses of adult children; avoiding the costly and public probate process; and more. The seminar is highly engaging, conversational in nature, and is a no-pressure event. Special guest Greg Gagne of Affinity Investment Group will provide important financial and economic insight. To register, go to www.beasleyferber.com or call 1-800-370-5010.

White River Land Collaborative

Save the date for **April 16th at 5pm** – Emily Boles and Dan "Ruddi" Ruddell of the White River Land Collaborative will help explain how to create a stronger connection to the land through understanding ecosystems better. Check back at the end of March for more details about this unique event!

National Library week is April 7-13, 2024. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for exciting happenings that week!

Museum Passes

Reintroducing museum passes: the wait is finally over! Rediscover the beauty of the historic John Hay Estate at the Fells, immerse yourself in the rich agricultural history at Billings Farm, or explore the wonders of nature at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS). With our new lending program, patrons can check out one pass for one day, due the following day. Dive back into local culture and embark on your next adventure! ■

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NCTV is on a Roll

My experience at NCTV has given me a handful of helpful skills and more confidence to step out of my comfort zone. I started an internship at NCTV in April of 2023. As a freshman at Newport High School, I was still trying to figure out the direction I wanted to go, and NCTV helped with that. During my internship, I produced three travel shows called *Around The World*, talking about or “visiting” places around the world with the help of John Lunn. After completing my internship, I decided to stay working with NCTV; however, I did change the path I was going on. At this point we had worked a lot on my confidence both on and off camera, which helped me do better at school as well as at NCTV.

The summer before my Sophomore year, I was hired on as an employee for NCTV. From there, I decided I wanted to do something with film or broadcasting after high school – particularly in journalism or marketing. From there, John and I started working on new ideas for shows and topics to bring fresh ideas to NCTV, along with continuing what was already happening.

After this came the first edition of the CTE renovation series. There are four parts (and counting) in the series. During the shows, I interviewed CTE director Eric Perry as we toured the updated areas of the tech center at Newport High School. Over the past six months, I have been



Noel Edits Her Next Big News Story

writing news stories and conducting my own interviews with guidance from John.

NCTV has also recently produced a micro-show called *Bite Sized Entertainment* – a compilation of shorter pieces conjoined into a 30-minute segment, and produced by a group of student interns at NCTV. It was short running, but it was a great experience to have. *Bite Sized Entertainment* usually contained one interview or school report, one episode of a game show and podcast, and a segment of *Breaking Ground Political Perspective*. *Breaking Ground* is a news and Op-Ed show where I have researched topics of interest and reported stories about them, while also forming an educated opinion about the topics discussed, and getting to

have a creative outlet with the formatting of the show. In the past few months, John has also been working with me to master my skills in not only news writing, but other writing forms as well.

Coming up with original stories and reporting accurate information is not something that's easy to do a lot of the time. Most stories require editing pre and post production. Pre-production editing would be the editing of the script, and post-production editing happens after the show has already been filmed.

There is more than what just goes on in the studio. Though, not often, I do occasionally film sports games. Typically, all home games are recorded by NCTV. Along with sports, NCTV usually films local concerts and other town events. I have also assisted in filming and editing some of these.

One thing I have gained from my experience at NCTV is a good camera presence, which also helps with performing on stage, and just talking to people in general. I like to think that if I can talk on camera – where hundreds of people could potentially be watching – then I can also perform on stage in front of a live audience.

During my time here, I have also learned a lot about different topics which has helped me in school, as well as gaining skills that will be helpful in my future career, and my overall confidence both in and outside of the studio. ■

~ Noel Beauchaine

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**Steve
Yannuzzi**
Fire Chief

Which vacation spot would you like to visit next?

I would go back to Vegas; I visited in January and could visit 100x over again.

Do you collect anything? If so, what?

I started to collect Harley Davidson poker chips, after my collection of Harley Davidson t-shirts became overwhelming.

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

Knowing what I know now, I think it would be interesting to go back to the late '70s (my high school days).

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

Newport has such a strong community base, so my favorite times in Newport are attending the community events.

What is the best way to start the day?

Waking up! Also, having a cup of coffee, and meeting with the crew to go over the day's agenda.

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

Supporting fire-based initiatives/charities.

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

My family was big into sports, but I do remember *The Wonderful World of Disney* coming on after games, and I always liked the stories.

If you could have one super human power, what would it be?

Time Travel, being able to get from one place to another in the snap of a finger.

If you could have dinner with any famous person, who would it be?

My dad.

In general, do you follow or break the rules?

...rules are made to be followed, however...



**Chris
Pelletier**
Public Works Director

Which vacation spot would you like to visit next?

Portugal.

Do you collect anything? If so, what?
No.

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

I'd like to go back 10,000 years ago; I would be interested to see how ancient structures were built.

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

In general, my favorite way to spend a weekend would be spending time with my wife.

What is the best way to start the day?

I enjoy reading the newspaper with a cup of coffee.

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

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

The Poseidon Adventure, a '70s classic!

If you could have one super human power, what would it be?

Time-travel.

If you could have dinner with any famous person, who would it be?

Mike Rowe from the TV show *Dirty Jobs*...
Do you consider him to be famous?

In general, do you follow or break the rules?

I follow the rules.

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**Joanne
Dufour**
Executive Assistant,
Town of Newport

Which vacation spot would you like to visit next?

I would like to go to the Bahamas next, and the next time, and the time after that!

Do you collect anything? If so, what?

Nothing.

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

I would go back to the '60s – it was a fun time!

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

My favorite weekends in Newport are when there are outside activities/festivals happening on the Town Common. Something about the comradery always makes the Town feel vibrant – I miss the days where there were events on the Common every weekend!

What is the best way to start the day?

My perfect morning is on a Saturday, when I don't have to wake up from an alarm!

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

Rolling Thunder.

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

The Wizard of Oz.

If you could have one super human power, what would it be?

To fly! I would love to be able to see my family in California on a Sunday, and be back to work on Monday in no time!

If you could have dinner with any famous person, who would it be?

Jason Aldean.

In general, do you follow or break the rules?

Rule-follower (if you asked me 20 years ago, my answer may differ!).

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NEW LISTINGS	8	8	-
CLOSED SALES	2	9	+350%
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	96	60	-37.5%

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Sunshine Committee: All Smiles

Working at Ruger, there are many opportunities to get involved in fun activities through our Sunshine Committee. This group works to provide events for both Ruger associates and their families, as well as to give back to the larger community. From 5K races, fundraisers, and our associate appreciation week to the annual winter carnival, this group of volunteers work to make sure the community is the focus!

The Ruger Sunshine Committee and Facilities teams worked hard for the third year in a row to win the second place prize at the 108th Winter carnival. The theme for this year's carnival was "Woodstock". The Ruger associates got creative



Mike Boucher (lead guitar), Courtney Parizo (drums), and Beckie Bethel (lead singer)

and decided to honor the spirit of Woodstock with a stage complete with a live band and faux spotlights! It was far out and groovy! Our HR Business Partner, Mike Boucher, was on lead guitar with Occupational Health Nurse, Beckie Bethel, as lead singer, and Medical Assistant, Courtney Parizo, was the drummer! They donned wigs, rose-colored glasses, and go-go boots while they rocked out. Additional Ruger employees and their families walked alongside the float, handing out candy or showing off their four-legged friends and enjoying the live show. Here's to us trying for first place prize at the 109th Annual Winter Carnival! ■

Elise Letizia



www.ruger.com

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.

ANIMALS RULE

Volunteers Make Our Rescue



At Wags and Wiggles Rescue, while the administrative tasks are run by the executive director, the operational aspects of the rescue are volunteer-driven. Whether it's late night transportation, event coordination, or daily animal care, our volunteers step up to every opportunity that our rescue faces. From Maine to Massachusetts and in between, our virtual volunteers provide references and home checks while our local volunteers focus on the day-to-day animal care. Without our core group of volunteers from myriad backgrounds, we wouldn't be able to continue the services that we provide. ■

If you are interested in giving back to your community, please complete an application on our website at www.wagsnwiggles.org and begin volunteering today.

~ Christiane Dionne, Executive Director, Wags and Wiggles Rescue

CLEANING OUT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE "RUFF"!



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Volunteers Still Make the World Go Around

Having just gone through Newport's 108th Winter Carnival, it again occurred to me the spirit and help of volunteers is what makes any community special. Volunteerism is alive and well in Newport and especially here at Newport Recreation. The Winter Carnival was a superb highlight to demonstrate the incredible efforts of volunteerism. Leading up to the Winter Carnival, we had a committee of 9-12 who met regularly throughout the year chatting and organizing the festivities and events that occurred during the carnival.

Over 40 events took place throughout the weekend and each event was headed and directed by volunteers. Take the Pageant for instance; volunteers worked countless hours recruiting and training our awesome princesses and queen contestants. Hours went into set building and practice. The amount of energy needed to sustain the upbeat and positive atmosphere for the kids was a true indication of Newport's wondrous spirit. We also had nearly 70 apparatuses in the historic parade. Each business and community group had to recruit drivers, walkers, and spend time fancying their float for the big walk down main street. Nearly 400 people were in the parade alone and helped make sure it was an awesome event.

These two events probably had the most volunteers used during the carnival days, but it is truly awe inspiring to see each year the spirit that is Newport show itself during the winter carnival. Saturday's festivities had many youth groups and organizations selling their food and wares to the public, trying to make a few bucks for their various entities. Each one of these groups has volunteers who make brownies, balloons, and other trinkets to display and sell. The breakfast folks had their volunteers serving, cooking and selling for their events. If you just look through the winter carnival schedule and think about how many people are needed to put this on, you will be amazed, as I am, at the incredible spirit Newport has as a giving and energetic community. The Newport Rec would like to thank all the volunteers of the carnival, and our volunteers throughout the year, who make Newport such a special place to live, thrive, and be alive in.

Volunteerism is alive and well in Newport. Let us keep that spirit strong as we move forward to bigger and better things for our future. ■

~ PJ Lovely, Recreation Director
Newport Recreation Department



Let's Build More Housing Stock



Tractor trailer, crane, flatbed, 1 ton all rolling out at 6:15am. No project or delivery is too big or too small.



Eastbound and down... North, South, and West, too. 6am in Newport is Go Time.

With the dire housing shortage in the Upper Valley, many communities are feeling the effects of not having affordable workforce homes or even apartments. Even the inventory of existing homes is historically low. LaValleys can help.

LaValley Building Supply (LBS) has been a leader in all aspects of the building industry since 1962 and continues to be on the cutting edge of new construction systems and methods. With its history of innovation in new building services, LBS is able to offer flexible options for every type of new building project.

And, of course, saving time and money for their customers and contractors throughout the process is a top priority. LBS has remained committed to serving new construction contractors with its continuous pursuit of the most reliable assembly methods and delivery systems in the industry. As such, they are able to pass along the time and money-saving options to their building partners.

At LBS in Newport, NH, highly-trained designers use CAD systems to produce technical drawings for production centers, cut shops and component assembly plants. It is at this location where engineered roof trusses, floor trusses, pre-built wall panels and precision-cut floor systems, headers and framing assemblies are produced. Additionally, LBS has fine-tuned its communications systems over the past 50+ years to ensure reliable delivery, reliable project cycle times and maximum cost control.

An offshoot of LBS, Preferred Building Systems (PBS) in Claremont, NH, performs daily off-site construction, building new homes and custom structures in its climate controlled environment – protecting materials and workers against destructive weather and the elements – using Modular Construction methods and achieving the most energy-efficient buildings in the home-building industry. It is at this amazing plant where projects are designed and produced within the 167,000 sq ft production facility. This state-of-the-art plant is really a laboratory utilizing the most innovative science, proven materials, and assembly methods to build durable, energy-efficient homes with life-long, low-cost occupancy in both energy and maintenance savings in mind. PBS homes are time-tested and proven for using best-in-brand materials, Yankee craftsmanship and assembly methods to conserve energy, protect air quality and deliver lasting durability. In fact, a PBS team built the first in-the-nation modular ‘passive house’ in Charlotte, VT meeting or exceeding the stringent testing criteria to garner the “Passive House” certification.

For more information about the many services LaValley Building Supply offers its trades and consumer customers, go to their website at: lavalleys.com. To read more about the Preferred Building Systems, go to www.preferredbuildings.com. Daily Tours offered!



First ever modular passive house in progress for Habitat for Humanity.



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**Preferred Building Systems
was the FIRST
in the United States of America to
build a modular passive house
in 2010 for Green Mountain Habitat
for Humanity in Charlotte, VT.**



Where it all began: LaValley Building Supply, 1962



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Newport's Winter Carnival: A Festive Boost to Local Tourism and Economy

The Town of Newport celebrated its 108th Winter Carnival on February 7th- 11th, a celebration that not only brings the community together but also provides a significant boost to the local economy through increased tourism!

This year's Winter Carnival promised an array of enchanting events and activities, from the iconic Chamber Mac n' Cheese Cook-Off, to the Library of Arts Pro-ice sculpture guest, to the exciting '60s tribute band at the Opera House! Beyond the joy it brings to residents, the Winter Carnival has become a magnet for visitors from neighboring towns and beyond, making Newport the new local winter destination.

WCNL and the Newport Chamber's Steve Smith noted, "From the early days of visitors taking the train from Boston to Newport, to our modern day society, the Newport Winter Carnival has continued to bring participants to our community. It was great to see our local restaurants very busy, our Town Common swamped with people who were buying food and goods, and the continued support of our area businesses for our fantastic Winter Carnival. It's a big draw that has huge local support."

The Winter Carnival's appeal lies in its diverse offerings. From families enjoying the axe-man games, to thrill-seekers participating in the belly-flop competition, there's something for



everyone. Local artisans and vendors also set up shop, showcasing their crafts and creations, adding a vibrant local marketplace to the festivities.

Collaboration with Local Businesses

From restaurants to shops, the surge in foot traffic during the carnival provides businesses with a unique opportunity to showcase their

offerings and connect with the community. Joe Tuohy, owner of Salt Hill Pub, and annual contributor to Newport Winter Carnival, shares his perspective on the symbiotic relationship between this event and local businesses. Tuohy expresses, "One of Newport's most notable attributes is its strong heartbeat – it's both inspiring and contagious in the best of ways. People really love their

Town, and we are proud beyond words to have a business in a Town where we can love them back. The heartbeat is especially energized during great events like the Winter Carnival, and it's wonderful to see and feel the happiness of everyone!" Salt Hill Pub organized Trivia Night on the opening Winter Carnival night and also hosted an event as part of Saturday's festivities.

Winter Carnival not only brings joy and entertainment; this celebration illustrates Newport's ability to turn winter into an opportunity for economic growth and community engagement! The collaborative efforts between the community, local businesses, and organizations like ECON exemplify the Town's commitment to sustaining a vibrant economic landscape year-round.

In Loving Memory of Newport's ECON Vice President

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to our beloved Bruce Jasper, who served as the Vice President of Newport's ECON and was a pivotal Newport community leader. Bruce's passing leaves an indelible void that cannot be easily filled, but his legacy and impact on our Town will forever be etched in our hearts. ■

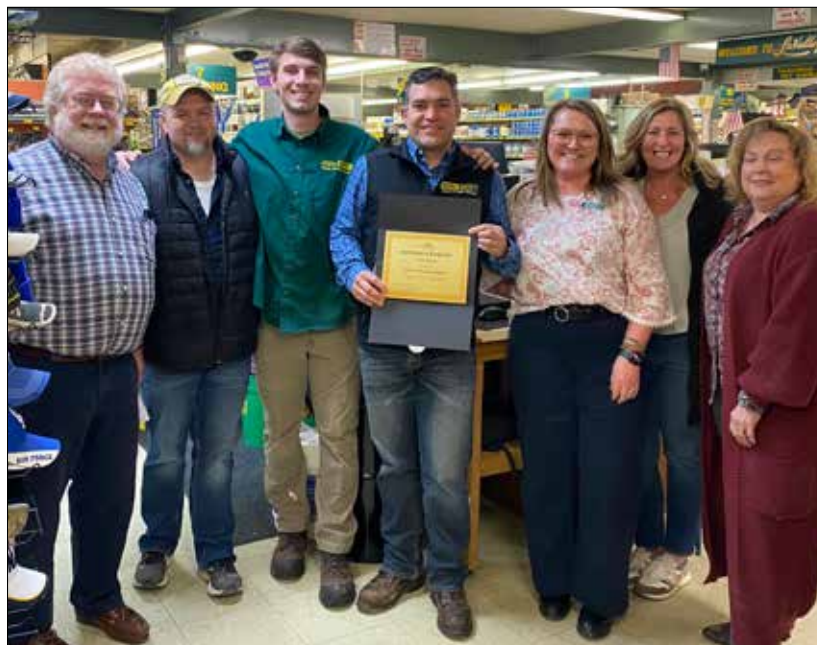
~ Allison Browning

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Greetings from the Chamber Office!

This year has been off to a great start. "Dancing with the Newport Stars: All-Stars" was a huge success. The Newport Opera House was just about sold out both Friday and Saturday nights. Congratulations to the dancers and thank you to all involved. Dr. Ben Holobowicz took home the winning trophy on Friday night and our Executive Director, Shannon MacMichael, took home first place on Saturday. We received feedback from several first-timers who absolutely loved the show!

Shortly after "Dancing with the Stars" was the 108th Newport Winter Carnival which was a blast! Thank you to the organizers and organizations who helped make the weekend so spectacular. It was wonderful to see the town packed with so many faces. This year's theme was "Woodstock" and it was nothing but peace, love and sunshine in



Business of the Year: LaValley Building Supply



Citizen of the Year: Virginia "Biddy" Irwin

Newport. The community spirit in Newport is always second-to-none and this year was better than ever!

In March, we honored our Students, Citizen, Non-Profit and Business of the

Continued on next page



Nonprofit of the Year: Newport Moose Family Center

Continued from previous page

Year Awards at our Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. The evening was full of networking, laughter, and recognition of those who have made a difference in the Newport Community this past year. Congratulations to Students, Gabe Merritt and Annie Renner; Citizen of the Year, Virginia "Biddy" Irwin; Non-Profit of the Year, Newport Moose Family Center; and Business of the Year, LaValley Building Supply. Very well deserved by all. We thank you for going above and beyond for

the Newport community!

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

~ Shannon MacMichael

Executive Director

Newport Chamber of Commerce

***The community spirit in Newport
is always second-to-none
and this year was better than ever!***



Students of the Year: Annie Renner and Gabe Merritt

NEWPORT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Greenup-Cleanup: Taking Pride In Our Town

Earth Day is a holiday that has inspired lots of songs. A personal favorite is Tom Chapin's "Happy Earth Day" on the great kid's CD "Billy the Squid". But, unlike other music-inspiring holidays, Earth Day is not a holiday at all. You do have to show up for work this April 22, but be assured that hundreds of millions of people will gather around the world at rallies and marches to keep a spotlight on the need to continue to move towards sustainable forms of development, lands conservation, energy sources and waste reduction. In the 54 years since the first Earth Day, the movement has had a role to play in the passage of significant legislation including The Clean Water Act, The Clean Air Act and The Endangered Species Act.

The idea for an Earth Day developed in the late 1960s. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin believed it was the time for a movement to equal the powerful political and social movements in protest of the Vietnam War, women's rights and social and economic equality for minorities. Rachel Carson had published "Silent Spring" a few years earlier. In 1969, there was a devastating oil spill off the Santa Barbara coast, and on December 24, 1968, the crew of Apollo 8 took the iconic photograph of the earth "Earthrise" highlighting



how truly small and fragile our planet – and its environment – is. Senator Nelson recruited a student activist, Denis Hayes, and with financial and political support from groups as unlikely as the United Auto Workers Union, the first Earth Day was born on Wednesday April 22, 1970. Because Earth Day falls on the 22nd every year, events both locally and regionally are often scheduled on a weekend. Locally, the Lake Sunapee Protective Association will hold an open house from 2-5:30 on April 22. New Hampshire Audubon is holding a day of events on Saturday the 20th, and UNH annually holds a day of events to name a few of the activities around New Hampshire.

Many communities dovetail town-wide cleanup activities with Earth Day. This year, the Newport Recreation Department is planning a week-long, town-wide Cleanup-Greenup "day". Appropriately, the week kicks off on April 22nd and will culminate with a full day of cleanup and a cookout on the common on the 28th. This year the Recreation staff is considering awarding cash prizes for exceptional work. Every spring, the receding snow reveals the winter's accumulation of trash. Greenup-Cleanup day is a great way to demonstrate pride in our beautiful town. ■

~ Larry Schissel

Newport Conservation Commission

MEET YOUR SUGAR RIVER BANK NEIGHBORS

Michelle Duford
AVP/Operations

What's your favorite hobby?
Kayaking

What fictional place and what real place would you like to visit?
Fictional-Atlantica;
Real Place-Scotland

What skill would you like to master?
Cooking

What is the best way to start the day?
Waking up early and not feeling rushed.

Name a book you'd recommend.
Anything by Nicholas



Sparks

What was cool when you were younger but isn't now?
Disco

What is your favorite movie from childhood?
Grease

What is your life motto?
Live everyday to its fullest, and focus on the positive

What is your theme song?
Lean on Me

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

What superhuman power would you like to have?
Invisibility

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

What's your favorite thing about Newport?
I really like the strong community spirit.

Shawn Bard
VP Senior Commercial Loan Officer

What's your favorite hobby?
Golf, competitive pistol and trap shooting

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

What skill would you like to master?
Golf

What is the best way to start the day?
Dunkin' Donuts iced coffee

Name a book you'd recommend.
One Bullet Away:



The Making of a Marine Officer by Nathaniel Fick

What was cool when you were younger but isn't now?
Disney

What is your favorite movie from childhood?
Star Wars

What is your life motto?
Live in the moment

What is your theme song?
Overcome by Creed

What one animal/plant/part of our earth would you save or protect?
Dogs/U.S. national monuments

What superhuman power would you like to have?
Flight

What famous person (dead or alive) would you have dinner with?
Theodore Roosevelt / William B. Ruger

What's your favorite thing about Newport?
Small-town feel and Sugar River Bank



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Newport's Good News Paper

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NEWPORT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Welcome Spring!

As the chill of winter fades away and the warmth of the sun begins to envelop us, it's time to welcome the arrival of spring with open arms. In a school setting, the transition to spring is not only a change in weather but also an opportunity for students of all ages to engage in a multitude of enriching experiences that celebrate the beauty and vitality of this season.

Spring is a season of renewal, marked by the awakening of nature from its winter slumber. In the school setting, this transformation is palpable as students witness the once-dormant trees sprout vibrant green leaves, colorful flowers bloom, and lively animals emerge from hibernation. Teachers can harness this excitement by organizing outdoor activities such as nature walks, scavenger hunts, and gardening projects, allowing students to observe firsthand the wonders of springtime. Educators can incorporate seasonal observation into the curriculum by incorporating nature journals, seasonal art projects, and scientific investigations that encourage students to document and reflect on the changes they observe.

Observing the same environment across different seasons is a valuable learning experience for students of all ages. By witnessing first-hand how nature changes throughout the year, students develop a deeper understanding of ecological processes and the interconnectedness of living organisms. They learn to appreciate the cyclical nature of life and gain a great sense of stewardship for the environment. Furthermore, seasonal observation fosters a sense of curiosity and wonder, sparking exploration and inquiry into the natural world.

We welcome spring 2024 with open arms! ■

~ Miss Christy, Executive Director, Newport Montessori School



NEWPORT MONTESSORI SCHOOL
P. O. Box 634, 96 Pine Street, Newport NH 03773
603-863-2243 • misschristy@newportmontessori.org • newportmontessori.org

MEET KYLE HARRIS, NEWPORT'S NEW TOWN MANAGER - continued from page 1

his major while attending Penn State University for undergraduate studies.

Harris' affinity for turfgrass science blossomed to a general interest in public works, and the ins and outs of municipal government. Harris took a position as a temporary groundskeeper at Monmouth University, where he also pursued a master's degree in



Hurricane Sandy clean up at Monmouth University in November 2012



Kyle Harris doing roadwork while working at Monmouth University, summer 2012

Business Administration. After graduating in 2008, Harris continued to work for the university and was promoted to the supervisor of athletic fields, followed by a promotion as the supervisor of grounds operations.

"I have a lot of hands-on experience in the day-to-day operations of a municipality, and I've had the ability to work my way up in a municipality," he says. "I've always looked at the University almost like a municipality...all the students that live on campus are sort of like residents, and you have to give them the ability to be able to get to the dining hall in a snowstorm or they can't eat..."

When he found out about the requirements to secure a public works position in a New Jersey municipality, Harris enrolled in courses at Rutgers University and completed certifications in Public Works Management, Public Purchasing, Municipal Clerk, and Recycling. This qualified him for a job as the director of public works for Old Bridge township – one of the largest municipalities in the state – home to around 70,000 residents.

"I knew early on in my time there that I wanted to be an administrator/town manager," Harris says.

Harris' job responsibilities as a public works director were numerous – including overseeing four divisions of the Old Bridge township municipal operations: streets and roads division (drainage, street sweeping, vegetation management); vehicle maintenance division (150 township vehicles, police vehicles, heavy equipment); recycling division (curbside recycling collection, residential drop off materials, leaf collection); buildings and grounds division (13 buildings, hundreds of acres of common space).

In June of 2021, Harris transitioned to a position as the borough administrator in Garwood, New Jersey, a community of about 5,000 residents located just a few miles outside of New York City.

"This past year, I really had the desire to move out of New Jersey. I love the outdoors; I'm an avid hiker and skier," Harris says. "I really wanted to work in a place where I could both continue my career in municipal government, which I love, but also have access to the outdoors."

Since Harris' move to Newport last month, he's been spending time getting to know the community and its inner workings.

"Right now, I'm getting to know the staff. I've set up meetings with all the different departments. I want to go out and see their operations, get to know their staff, and see what they do each day," he says.

Between Harris' past work experience and his love for municipal government, he's well positioned to thrive in Newport, and he's starting to feel at home already. "I think there's a real sense of community here," he says, noting how friendly and outgoing the people are here.

As for community, Harris says it's "a sense of being part of something, helping your neighbors out, coming out to Town events, and taking pride in where you live." A few of the things Harris has learned about Newport so far – like Winter Carnival or the new Community Center project – are compelling evidence of Newport's rich character and strong sense of community.

"I'm excited to be here, my door is always open to meet with residents and help them with their concerns, and to make Newport as great of a community as possible." ■

"I have a lot of hands-on experience in the day-to-day operations of a municipality, and I've had the ability to work my way up in a municipality."



Kyle Harris being sworn in



Library Arts Center News

The 13th Annual Peeps Diorama Contest

A true sign of spring in Newport is the Peeps Diorama Contest! This zany community tradition has been hosted by the Library Arts Center for over a decade now. For the contest, participants make shoebox-sized dioramas featuring Peeps, the sugary marshmallow chick and bunny confections synonymous with Easter.

There is no way to visit the Arts Center gallery to see the dioramas without smiling and laughing. The results of this creativity are consistently playful and “punny”. Dioramas are often themed on pop culture or current events of the year. They can also be themed on puns or based on books, history, or any other manner of inspiration. Whatever the theme, it seems if you add Peeps to it, the results are adorable and really quite funny.

This contest is for kids, adults, artists, and local businesses and organizations alike. Everyone is encouraged to get out a hot glue gun and join in the creativity. Dioramas are due by March 21 to be included in the display that will run March 23 – April 4. The Town’s famous “Peeps Party” will be Friday, March 22, 5-6:30pm. This zany celebration includes a Peeps s’more roast in the parking lot, Peeps themed appetizers, and a Peeps awards ceremony complete with handmade Peeps trophies.

There will be a 21+ event in the gallery during the Peeps Diorama Contest called “Peeps and Pints.” During this event, adults can get a close look at the dioramas while enjoying local brews from Polyculture Brewing Co., and appetizers by the Old Courthouse Restaurant. This event will be Thursday, March 28, 5-7pm. Tickets are available at libraryartscenter.org or in the Arts Center office.

Exhibit: Home – April 20-May 29

The Library Arts Center invites you to enter a piece or two of your artwork into its community art show. All entries are to be related to the theme “home”. Interpretation of this theme can include images of interiors and exteriors of buildings that mean home to you, landscapes that represent home, or more abstract interpretations of the theme. As a true representation of the Library Arts Center’s creative community, this show is designed to include the artwork of professional artists, non professional artists, community members, and youth alike. Painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, photography, and sculpture will all be included in this show. The Library Arts Center will work to include as many entries as possible in the exhibit. Deadline for entry is April 1. The exhibit will be on display in the Library Arts Center gallery April 20-May 29, with an opening reception on

Friday, April 19 at 5-7pm. Entry is free and open to all in the greater community. Find out all about how to enter at libraryartscenter.org.

Gallery Drop-In Art Projects

Saturdays in the Library Arts Center gallery are very creative. At least once a month, and sometimes more often, the Arts Center presents free drop-in art projects right in the art gallery. This past month included dip pens and quills and ink for drawing, really neat Irish-themed paper crafts, and giant paper flower making. March will bring printmaking with cut crystal dishes, and Peeps diorama prep, complete with googly eyes and hot glue guns. Check libraryartscenter.org or our social media for the most up to date free Saturday drop-in offerings. These drop-ins run during Saturday gallery hours of 10-2, and are open and free to everyone in the greater community.

Classes

From Weekly yoga classes to letterpress classes, the Library Arts Center offers a wide range of arts classes for all ages and abilities. There is an incredible Teen Art class that meets on Fridays after school. There is an open studio drop in for artists on Wednesdays, weekly art class for differently abled adults on Thursdays, monthly mixed media collage classes as well as monthly printmaking classes to name a few. Music with Friends is a wonderful weekly Wednesday music class for babies, toddlers and preschoolers and their caregivers. There are also basket-making classes, watercolor workshops, master painting classes and more. Check out libraryartscenter.org for full and current class listings.

Apple Pie Crafts Fair

The Library Arts Center sold out craft booths at the Apple Pie Crafts Fair within four hours of launching booth sales online in late February! There is now a waiting list forming. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the fair which has become an incredible community tradition! Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 24 to join us for the 50th annual Apple Pie Crafts Fair on the town common. As part of the anniversary celebration, a community cookbook is being made of apple-themed recipes ranging from pies and desserts to entrees and beyond. If you have a recipe or two to share, we would love to have them, either drop copies off at the Arts Center office, or email them to us at applecookbook2024@gmail.com. ■



April at the Newport Opera House!

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend these events at the historic Newport Opera House, in April!



The Newport Opera House Association presents

Taste of Sullivan County

**Sunday, April 7, 2024
2:00pm - 5:00pm
Newport Opera House**

**Food & Spirited Beverage Samplings
created by
Sullivan County Artisans**

Tickets: \$17.00 in advance, \$22.00 at the door
Newport Opera House, 20 Main St., Newport, NH
603-863-2412 newportoperahouse.com
(21 & Over Only - Valid Photo ID Required)

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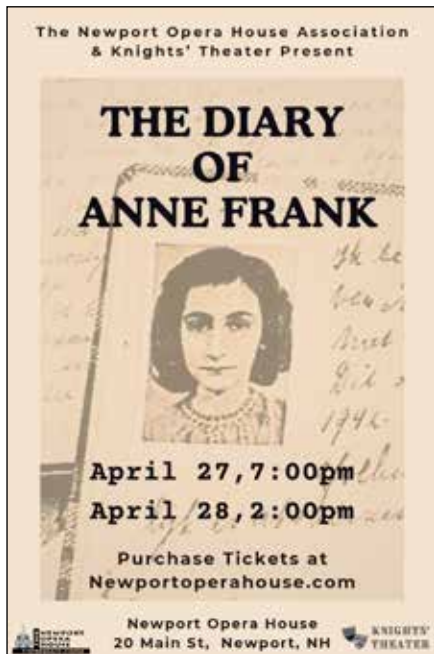
Taste of Sullivan County, April 7

The Newport Opera House Association is pleased to announce the return of the *Taste of Sullivan County* at the historic Newport Opera House on Sunday, April 7th from 2:00pm to 5:00pm, where you will find a variety of food and spirited beverage samplings which are created by Sullivan County Artisans!

Tickets for this event are \$17.00 in advance and \$22.00 at the door (21 & over only – valid photo ID required for admittance.) Purchase

tickets online at newportoperahouse.com or call the Box Office at 603.863.2412.

Come experience an afternoon of great tastes at the *Taste of Sullivan County*! This event is generously sponsored by Universal Physical Therapy.



The Newport Opera House Association & Knights' Theater Present

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

**April 27, 7:00pm
April 28, 2:00pm**

Purchase Tickets at
Newportoperahouse.com

Newport Opera House
20 Main St., Newport, NH

The Diary of Anne Frank, April 27 & 28

The Diary of Anne Frank, dramatized by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett with an adaptation by Wendy Kesselman, will be brought to life by the Mount Royal Academy Knight's Theater in partnership with the Newport Opera House Association (NOHA), on Saturday, April 27 at 7pm and Sunday, April 28 at 2pm.

This play tells the experience of the Frank family as they hid from the Nazis in the heart of Amsterdam from

1942-1944 in a concealed storage attic. The *Diary of Anne Frank* captures realities of their daily existence – their fear, their hope, their laughter and their grief. The *New York Post* cited this as “an extraordinary theatrical adventure! Go and remember.”

With a cast and crew of over twenty students, this performance is one that you won't want to miss (parental discretion advised for children under the age of 10).

Purchase tickets online at newportoperahouse.com or call the Box Office at 603.863.2412. We appreciate your support and look forward to welcoming you to the historic Newport Opera House! ■



From the Town Clerk

Surcharge for Plug-In Vehicles

In September of 2023, a new plug-in vehicle surcharge was instated. If you own a fully electric vehicle or a plug-in hybrid, you will have an increase in registration costs the next time you register your vehicle. For fully electric vehicles, the surcharge is \$100 annually and plug-in hybrid vehicles have a surcharge of \$50 annually. These fees are prorated for a new vehicle registration. The background for this new NH law is an attempt to recoup loss of revenue through the gas tax which is used for road and bridge repair. These vehicles use NH roadways but are not contributing to the fund in the case of fully electric vehicles, or they are contributing very little in the case of a plug-in hybrid, which could potentially run on battery the majority of the time. This surcharge does NOT apply to traditional hybrid vehicles. If you don't have the ability to plug it in, you won't receive this surcharge.



SB2 Official Ballot Referendum (Town Meeting Sessions)

Filing period for Elected Town Positions begins on Wednesday March 27, 2024 and ends on Friday April 5, 2024 at 5pm. Forms will be available at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours and online at www.newportnh.gov/town-clerk; select Filing Period for Elected Positions. Filing on the last day must be in-person.



The following terms are up:

- 1 Trustee of Trust Funds (3 year term)
- 1 Moderator (2 year term)
- 1 Library Trustee (3 year term)
- 1 Supervisor of the Checklist (6 year term)
- 1 Selectmen (3 year term)

Town Deliberative Session will be held on Tuesday April 2nd at 6pm at the Newport Middle High School Gym.

Town Voting on all Warrant Articles will be on Tuesday May 14 from 8am to 7pm at the Newport Middle High School Gym. ■

~ Liselle Dufort, Town Clerk



THE LIBRARY ARTS CENTER'S 13TH ANNUAL

PEEPS

DIORAMA CONTEST

Arts Center

**DIORAMAS ON DISPLAY
MAR 23 - APR 4**

● SEE CONTEST DETAILS AT LIBRARYARTSCENTER.ORG
● ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 21 AT 4:00PM

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Greetings from the Board of Selectmen

We extend a warm welcome to all as spring and summer slowly come into focus. Rest assured, we did not hibernate over the winter. On the contrary, we would like to take this opportunity to share the exciting updates and initiatives that highlight the progress we have made in the recent months. Our new Town Manager, Mr. Kyle Harris, and new Public Works Director, Mr. Chris Pelletier, have seamlessly integrated into our vibrant community, bringing with them not only a broad scope of expertise, but also a warm and friendly energy that will surely resonate deeply with Newport's unique spirit. Their collaborative mindsets are already influencing positive changes, particularly in addressing critical issues related to infrastructure and energy initiatives. We look forward to seeing growth in our community through their capable stewardship.

For starters, let's outline the numerous community projects that are in full swing. The Dog Park and Community Garden project, a testament to the community's collaborative spirit, is set to move ahead at full speed. With garden beds, fencing, benches, and other components at the ready, we eagerly await favorable weather conditions to begin site work. We are anticipating site work to be completed, and components set in place with an expected mid-summer opening. Gratitude is extended to our wonderful community for securing the 2021 PetSafe Bark for Your Park grant, the 2022 AARP Community Challenge Grant, along with substantial donations from the Oleander Jameson Trust and local supporters. This collective effort enables the creation of this 100' x 100' Dog Park and Community Garden, and we hope this will contribute to our continued efforts of expanding community engagement and active green space for all – human and furry.

December 27, 2023, marked a significant milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony for the Newport Community Center! This almost 30-year project-in-the-making is finally at an end! Spanning almost 20,000 square feet, this new facility will respond to the critical need to replace our current, and aging 90-year-old Recreation Center. Beyond its age, the existing structure poses safety concerns, lacks compliance with building codes, and falls short in meeting the growing demand for indoor space for physical and passive community activities. The Newport Community Center, with expanded capacity and improved facilities, is poised to become a hub for



social interactions, civic engagement, and recreational activities catering to residents of all ages and interests.

The Town of Newport has done a commendable job at welcoming new affordable housing into our region. There are 42 units on Spring Street set to open soon, and the illustrious 72-unit Ruger Mill Housing project is in the works and progressing smoothly. The Spring Street units are located right on the edge of our Town's bustling center, with easy accessibility to the Shaw's grocery store, local Sugar River pharmacy, and laundromat. We extend a warm welcome to all new residents of these beautiful apartments.

The preservation of historic sites, such as the Dexter Sons Woolen Mill (aka Ruger Mill), not only honors Newport's rich history but also contributes significantly to the expansion of affordable housing options in the Sugar River Region. Affordable housing is a key factor in attracting and retaining a diverse population and new businesses. By providing accessible housing options, Newport is helping contribute to the State's ability to attract young professionals, families, and skilled workers. This, in turn, strengthens our local economy and ensures a sustainable workforce for our industries for the long-term.

By addressing housing shortages, Newport fosters a

sense of community and well-being. Additionally, economic resilience is closely tied to housing stability, and in turn, affordable housing projects contribute to the overall economic health of the Sugar River Region. A thriving community requires a stable housing market. When residents have secure homes, they can actively participate in local businesses, education, and civic life. This resilience extends beyond individual households to the entire community.

In a historic preservation effort, Newport secured a \$750,000 FY2022 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the former Hartford Woolen Mill (Ambargis Mill).

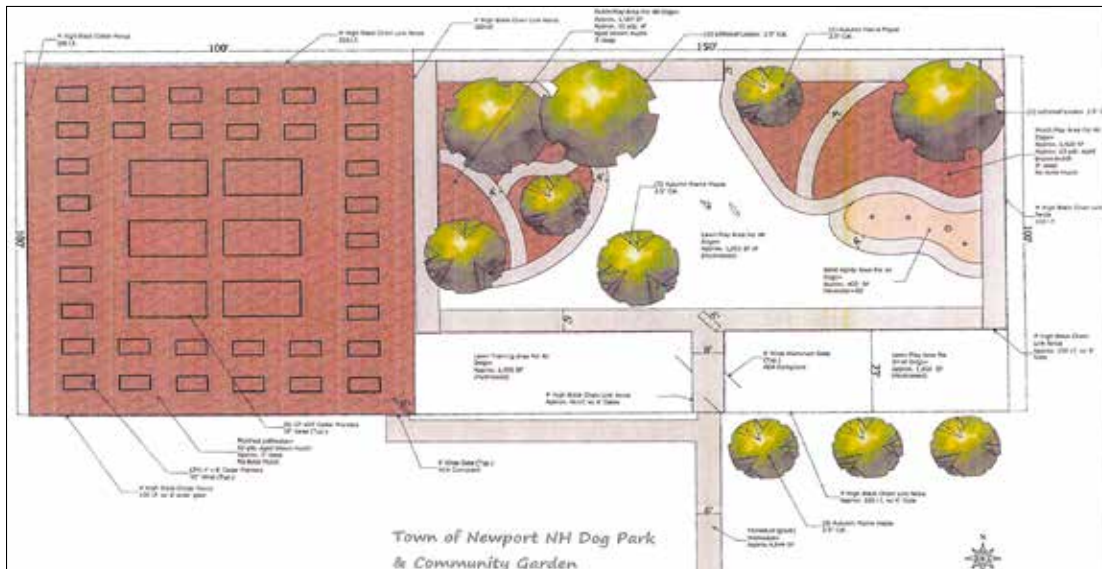


This initiative aims to transform the underutilized space into a recreation destination, addressing environmental concerns and ensuring the safety of our freshwater system. As we move forward, community input will be vital in shaping the final design, with proposed features including river access for fly-fishing, expanded parking for the rail-trail trailhead, seating areas, and open greenspace. Public information sessions will be held in the coming months to gather valuable feedback.

The Newport Opera House Association continues to be a cornerstone of our cultural vitality, and we encourage everyone to stay connected, supporting local arts and contributing to our thriving local economy. As we anticipate the Newport Farmers Market Season, scheduled from May 24th through September 27th every Friday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, we collectively hope for better weather to enhance this cherished community gathering.

Your involvement and support continue to be an integral part to Newport's growth and success!

~ Town of Newport Board of Selectmen

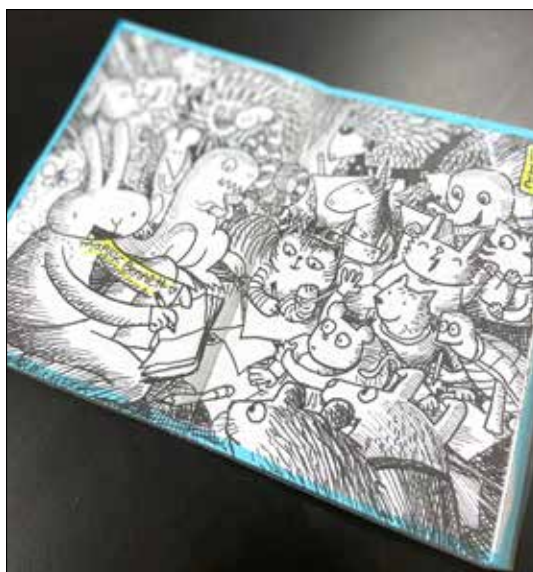


also led a professional development workshop for all Richards School teachers, giving them skills and ideas of how to integrate this style of writing and drawing into other aspects of their teaching.

To further the learning experience, the finished comics will all be on display in the Library Arts Center's West Gallery, April 20–May 29. Being on display in this way allows students and families to view all the completed work in a professional setting, showing the students that their work and creativity is valued by the entire community. It also gives an opportunity for the residents to stop in and enjoy this youthful creativity. The show will be open Tuesday through Friday, 11-4 and Saturdays 10-2 during this time at the gallery located at 58 N. Main Street.

Extending the learning experience to the greater community, the Library Arts Center is working with artist Marek Bennett to create a free art kit for gallery visitors in May which will include directions, examples, and materials to make comics at home. ■

The finished comics will all be on display in the Library Arts Center's West Gallery, April 20–May 29.



Pulling It All Together

"This was a fabulous, amazing and wonderful experience for our young artists!" states Colleen O'Connor, Richards School's art teacher, talking about the Artist in Residence experience her students just had at Richards School.

"It was all a lot of work, but it was so, so worth it," Ms. O'Connor continues. From helping with grant writing, to collaborating, to scheduling there were many additional steps Ms. O'Connor added to her workload to bring this dream to life.

Artist in Residence, Marek Bennett, shares, "Many students already told me they are teaching their families how to make mini comics and are starting their own projects out of school."

During the five-day residency, Bennett worked with every single student during their art and library class periods providing ample time to connect and create with this artist.

"With Colleen's enthusiasm IN the classroom, and the Library Arts Center's promotion in the wider community, it feels like we could really nurture a comics community here."

The Library Arts Center will be hosting a display of all the comics created by Richards students April 20-May 29. This display is open to the greater public. The Library Arts Center and Richards Free Library are working with artist Marek Bennett to explore the possibility of creating a summer extension of this program where youth can continue working with Bennett to even further this incredible learning experience.



Art Teacher Colleen O'Connor confers with students during the Artist in Residence at Richards School.

"Hopefully our Richards School young artists will remember this for years to come and will continue making art," adds Ms. O'Connor.

This residency was funded through a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts made possible through the collaboration between the Library Arts Center and the Newport Schools. This is the first multi-day residency offered in the school since the 1990s! This opportunity, as well as the one-day residency with sidewalk chalk artist Katie Runde two years ago, is hopefully just the beginning of similar opportunities for Newport youth for years to come.

Sidney Rollins Memorial Record Collection: The impact of Newport Rotary extends beyond the confines of their regular meetings. The club established the Sidney Rollins Memorial Record Collection at Richard's Free Library, a testament to their commitment to preserving local history and promoting access to educational resources. This initiative serves as a lasting tribute to Sidney Rollins, leaving a lasting imprint on the community.

As Newport Rotary looks back on its history, these fascinating facts and notable achievements serve as a testament to the organization's dedication to service, community involvement, and the pursuit of philanthropic endeavors. ■

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