

The Newport Times

Newport's Good News Paper

Serving the Town of Newport, NH

May/June 2023

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"Spring
is when
you feel
like whistling,
even with
a shoe
full of slush."

~ Doug Larson



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Lexi Smith did a 'selfie' with 'Crazy Jean' Jean Liepold.



Everybody likes Dad's ice cream.



Happy patrons

Kids at Dad's How Crazy Jean Whips Up Some Good Life Lessons

Mel Reed

Finding the Perfect Frappe

I'm sitting in a small dining room straight out of the '50s... red Formica-topped booth tables, freshly swept, spotless linoleum flooring, baby-blue painted walls, an unadorned wooden cross on the wall, and one of those old-fashioned self-serve popcorn machines percolating in a corner. Several families sit in booths, enjoying baskets of food and good-natured banter. Everyone is smiling – even the teen-aged boys who, as a group, are typically characterized as being self-involved and

introspective to the point of being rude. Not this group.

So, where am I?

Silly question. I'm at Dad's on Route 3 in Newport.

Most restaurants serve vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry ice cream. Sometimes the only way you can tell which is which, is by the color – yellow, brown, or pink – unless you want to pay \$15 a scoop at a fancy restaurant. They hardly ever serve coffee ice cream, and that is almost always what I want.

On the other hand, Dad's serves vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, a bunch of other flavors and *coffee*! I ordered a

coffee frappe and hoped for the best. While I waited for Jean to spare me a moment from taking orders, waiting tables, and handling customer checks, I sat in a booth sipping my coffee frappe. (I will come back to the frappe in a moment.)

Jean – aka: Crazy Jean Cookin' – is a vibrant woman with a welcoming smile and that knack some people have for making strangers feel like old friends. She sits down next to me for my 'moment.' "I'm supposed to be washing dishes," she said. "Isn't it wonderful?"

I thought it was a rhetorical question. It wasn't. She really wanted to know

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Focused Storytelling John Lunn Shares His Genius

Rose Terami

Being an introvert and a musician doesn't always go hand-in-hand, but Newport resident John Lunn has never let that stop him from going after his many pursuits. A novelist, screenwriter, local politician, teacher, and well-known flutemaker, Lunn has spent much of his life dedicated to telling stories and giving back to his community.

Lunn, who grew up in Toronto, made his introduction to the world of musical instruments in middle school, where he picked up the recorder – a common first instrument for beginner music students.

"There are all these memes about how useless it was [to learn to play] the recorder in middle school

because it helped [people] out later in life," he remembers sarcastically. "Well, in fact, it did."

Unlike most of his peers, Lunn's first and seemingly insignificant encounter with the recorder led him straight down the path of a lifelong career in the industry. From performing in local chamber groups and learning the flute throughout high school, Lunn was set to pursue composition studies in college. After an abrupt but serendipitous change of plans, Lunn was hired by his flute teacher as a flute-making apprentice for three years. "It turned out that that was probably a better career for me [than composition]," he says. "Introverts don't tend

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Donna Mahair: Petal Patch Owner

Allison Browning

The Town of Newport will be buzzing with excitement as they read this article and see that Donna Mahair, the owner of Petal Patch, has been named Ruger's Hometown Hero!

Originally a Lebanon resident, Donna has been a florist in Newport for over 30 years. Her journey began when she started working for her mentor, Millie Johnson, who owned Johnson's Florist in Newport. Under Millie's guidance, Donna learned the ins and outs of the floral business, and her love for flowers 'blossomed' (although allergic, how interesting!). After years learning the ropes, Donna opened her own floral shop in 2001, Petal Patch. Millie even began working for Donna a year later to give Donna further help and guidance. Donna is still so grateful for Millie's mentorship and keeps Millie's professional cutting knife on her work bench as a reminder.

Since then, Donna has been a pillar of the Newport community. Her artful floral arrangements have brought joy and beauty to countless customers, and her kindness and generosity have touched the lives of many.

Donna's selflessness has not gone unnoticed, and her nomination as Ruger's "Hometown Hero" is a testament to the impact she has made on Newport. When asked about her nomination, Donna was humbled and grateful. "I am an avid reader of the *Newport Times*, but never expected to be nominated for this," she said. "I just love what I do, and I love this community even more than I can explain. It's an honor to be recognized."

Donna's community involvement deepened when she became a member of the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce. Her enthusiasm and drive for the town quickly became apparent, and she soon took on a leadership role. Donna served as the president of the



Donna Mahair (left) with fellow *Dancing with the Newport Stars* coordinator, Megan Mavor (right)

Chamber for 9 years, during which time she was instrumental in helping promote the Town as a great place to live, work, and visit.

Donna's commitment to Newport doesn't stop there. She is also involved in ECON (the Economic Corporation of Newport), SRVRTC Advisory Committees, Opera House Association, and the Newport Revitalization Committee. Her involvement in these groups allows her to have a direct impact on the economic and cultural growth of Newport.

Donna's commitment to Newport is due in part to the late Ella Casey, a beloved member of the community who inspired Donna to get involved. Ella's legacy lives on through Donna, and her impact on Newport continues to be felt.

One of the most notable events that Donna is involved in is *Dancing with the Newport Stars*. This event, which has become a beloved tradition in the community, was actually curated by Donna 14 years ago. The idea came about during a conversation with the late Peter Lovely Sr., who's joyful, dancing

demeanor one day fueled Donna's vision for the event.

And *Dancing with the Newport Stars* is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Donna's involvement in community events. She is also involved in Newport's summer Block Party, which was born out of a conversation she had with chamber VP, Steve Smith. The Block Party has become a highlight of the summer social calendar in Newport, drawing residents and visitors, alike, to the town's charming downtown area for food, music, and fun.

For Donna, giving back to the community is a passion that runs deep. And nowhere is that passion more evident than in her involvement with the Willy Perra Christmas Giving Program. The program, which is named after the late Willy Perra, a beloved member of the Newport community, is designed to help provide Christmas gifts and other necessities to families in need in the area. Donna has been Chair of the Willy Perra program for 15 years, and works tirelessly to raise money and coordinate donations. "There's nothing more rewarding than knowing that you've helped to bring a little bit of joy to someone's life during the holiday season," she says. "And to see the outpouring of support from the community each year is truly heartwarming."

When asked about her involvement in community events, Donna is quick to credit the many community members who make these events possible. "This is just the most phenomenal community in the world," she says. "Everyone is really close knit, and I work with all the businesses because they come together for the best, always."

Donna Mahair's contributions to the Newport community are truly impressive, and her impact on the town will be felt for years to come. Her love for Newport and its residents is evident in everything she does, and her tireless dedication to making the town a better place is an inspiration to all who know her. ■



Donna as a contestant of *Dancing with the Newport Stars*



Donna (right) with the beloved Ella Casey (left)



Donna's helper at Petal Patch: Ella May, reminiscent of the late Ella Casey



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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.

Honoring MJ Harrington's 75 Years

Community Celebration

On June 20th, MJ Harrington Jewelers will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary! 75 years of family-ownership, commitment to service and community service.

A community celebration will be held the week of June 20th. The public is encouraged to stop by the store throughout the week to share memories and celebrate this community institution, and to register for a raffle ticket for the .75 carat, lab-grown diamond necklace the store will be giving away to a lucky winner. Donuts and coffee will be on hand on Saturday, June 24 when the raffle ticket will be drawn and the winner announced!

Additionally, also to help kick off the celebration, MJ Harrington's will be hosting the June 20th Tuesday evening Newport Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event from 5:00 to 7:00pm to be held at the store at 35 Main Street in Newport. Enjoy networking and socializing with members of the business community and patrons alike. Food and drinks will be available.

All are welcome to help celebrate this very special milestone for a beloved family-owned business that has, itself, been part of the many milestones celebrated by generations of families in Newport and throughout the Lake Sunapee Region.

For a business to remain strong and rooted in a community for 75 years, it obviously treats its customers right and delivers on its promises by providing outstanding products and services. And, as many business owners have discovered more recently, how a business treats its employees may even be the top indicator and true measure of a business's success. Here are a few words from some of MJ Harrington's staff that certainly illustrate why its been in business for 75 years!

Kenney Bergeron, Certified Bench Jeweler Hired in 2002

"What I've always loved about this place is that it's about love. The core value of this business is and has always been about togetherness. I've been able to form some great relationships here with staff and our customers. Many customers continue to come back just to see me or have me create something new for them, which is amazing."



Sandra Flint, Sales Staff Hired in 1988

"The things that come to mind when I reflect back on my years working as a team at Harrington's are the smiling faces of the staff and our customers. Talking with customers about the beauty of jewelry and teaching them about the gemstones they are viewing. The customers with the positive attitudes and the perplexed look on the men's faces while they are trying to make a decision for what they believe their spouse or girlfriend will like. You really cannot beat the feeling of accomplishment when a customer asks for you and seeing the longevity of their continued support. What especially has been rewarding is when you call a customer to let them know their jewelry is ready to be picked up and you can hear the joy in their voice."



Stephanie Bergeron, Marketing Manager Hired in 2020

"It has been a privilege working for this beloved family-owned business. I originally worked as a member of the Sales Staff for Harrington's from 2011 to 2013. In 2020, I returned to be their Marketing Manager. I came back to this business because of the level of care and support that they show for their employees. Our customers that come in not only remember our names, but our family names, or even the names of our pets... they truly make working here a special place. There is a lot of history here, a lot of fine memories, not just with the customers, but with the staff, and especially with the Lantz Family." ■



Newport Area Chamber



The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to spring into summer! We're kicking off the season with Business After Hours events and the CarNutz Cruise Nights located at 10 North Main Street behind the Sugar River Bank on the second and fourth Monday evenings in May through September from 6-8pm, starting May 8th.

The events hosted by the Chamber are designed to bring tourism to our region and promote the wellbeing of our businesses and community, and that's exactly what we plan to do!

The summer will begin with our 9th Newport Nano Brewfest on the Newport Common on June 17. Featuring some of the best small batch, local Nano Breweries that New Hampshire has to offer, we've had people from all over New England attend this event in the past. Our Animal Plop Bingo fundraiser will be hosted on the Common during Brewfest for a day full of fun!

We are thrilled to announce that we have teamed up with the Parlin Field Airport to host our 3rd Annual Newport Wings and Wheels Car Show on June 24th, with a rain date of the 25th. Cars, trucks, motorcycles, food vendors, a DJ and airplanes will fill the grass runway of Parlin Field. Whether you bring your vehicle, or attend as a spectator, you will not be disappointed!

Concerts on the Common begin July 2 and run through the end of August! The Newport Block Party will be on July 21st from 5-8pm. ■

For information about events, please call the Chamber Office at (603) 863-1510 or visit our website newportnhchamber.org.



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Playing the Long Game

There seems to be a subconscious mindset that guides the citizens of Newport to continue to create the amazing community that exists today. That mindset is referred to as 'playing the long game.'

The reason this theme came to me is because every single article in this issue speaks to what playing the long game embodies: patience; perseverance; giving of one's time and talents for the current and future greater good; trust in one's neighbors; and the willingness to be vulnerable and ask for help. Rare, rare qualities in today's superficial, fast-buck-focused world. Let's look, now, at what I'm talking about.

The cover story about Dad's is not at all about Dad's the food joint. It's about how its owner, Jean Liepold, decided to live out her wisdom years honoring her 'dads' and teaching young people how to cook. The impact she is having on the future generation is palpable now!

John Lunn has played the long game in everything he has done in his life and now teaches young people marketable skills (while modeling the unspoken habits that are arguably even more important) that will take them into the future, as well.

Donna Mahair is this issue's Ruger Hometown Hero for good reason. Her commitment to the greater good of Newport through her many contributions for over 30 years is awe-inspiring.

MJ Harrington's is celebrating 75 years as a 'brick and mortar' retail business in this world of big box stores and Amazon. This family business has played the long game and, 75 years later, is here to celebrate with its community!

The Town of Newport, the Rec Department, ECON, the Tech Center, the Library and Library Arts Center... each of these institutions is playing the long game, as well. Check out the many 'wins' the Town has achieved by holding forth a vision for the future while being creative and nimble enough to find solutions and money when necessary.

I could write a great deal more about each and every article in this issue as examples of people and organizations playing the long game. Hopefully I've given you a good start. Now it's your turn to read this issue from cover-to-cover and see it through this long game lens. I think you will be unduly proud and inspired. ■

~ Jen MacMillen

The Newport Times

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And all of the representatives of the community organizations featured

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and especially all of the contributors in each issue.

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

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BRIGHT FUTURES

Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center Needs Your Support!

The Newport School District, SAU43, needs support to ensure that the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center (SRVRTC) is able to complete the renovation project slated to begin this Spring.

Career and Technical Education is vital to the students of Newport and our region. It's clear that Newport voters highly value CTE as evidenced by overwhelming support of the project with over 80% of the votes cast at the polls last year.

To show your support, there are many opportunities to create a legacy in your name, your company name, or in honor of someone you love. Recognition at varying levels includes (but is not limited to) a named SRVRTC program, named lab spaces, interior and exterior signage, name on a plaque in the main building entrance, or name/logo placement in print and/or electronic media.

Our fundraising committee is seeking to raise a total of \$1M in donations to see the renovation through in its entirety. A gift of any size will help and be most appreciated! ■



Call or email for more information:
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NEWPORT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Positive Discipline: Life Skills For All



Our Montessori School uses Positive Discipline (PD) to supplement the rich and vast Montessori curriculum. One of the daily PD happenings in each classroom and at each grade level are our Class Meetings. These daily meetings are one of the most valuable things we do to build and nurture the normalization of our classrooms as communities.

We recommend extending these out to hold regular family meetings as a family. While you will not need to hold them on a daily basis as we do in school, a one time weekly (or more than one time if a particular issue arises) meeting will provide an opportunity to teach your children/tweens/teens invaluable social and life skills to build good character. Some of the things they will learn from Family Meetings are: listening skills, brainstorming skills, problem solving skills, mutual respect, the value of cooling off before solving a problem, concern for others, cooperation, accountability in a safe environment, how to choose solutions that are respectful to everyone concerned, a sense of belonging and significance, social interest, and that mistakes are wonderful learning opportunities.

For parents, family meetings provide an opportunity to: avoid power struggles, avoid micromanaging children so children learn self-discipline, listen in ways that invite children to listen, respectfully share responsibility, create good memories through a family tradition, and model all the skills you want your children to learn.

Meeting lengths should be between 15 and 30 minutes.

Have an agenda:

1. Compliments (might include improvements from last week)
2. Evaluate last week's solutions

3. This week's issues (if a friendly discussion is not enough, brainstorm for solutions)
4. Special Event
5. Meal Planning
6. Calendar
7. Family Fun

A bit more about the Compliments piece of your meeting agenda... compliments create a positive atmosphere. They allow children to be "good finders" when they look for and verbalize the things they appreciate about family members. Children usually fight less when they participate in regular family meetings beginning with compliments. It is important to have each member of the family give a compliment to every other member of the family so that everyone feels a sense of belonging and significance. Remember that compliments may sound awkward in the beginning. They get better with practice.

Family meetings have jobs for family members. Recorder: be sure to have someone write down all of the ideas that are brainstormed. It is so much fun to look at these ideas later-as much fun as looking at photo albums! The Recorder circles the solution that works for everyone. Consensus is important in family meetings. If you cannot reach consensus, table the item and try again the next week. Chairperson: Rotate this job so everyone has a chance to be the "person in charge." The Chairperson calls the meeting to order, asks for compliments to begin, and handles the Weekly Challenges page by announcing the next challenge to be solved and following the rest of the agenda. Timekeeper: A timekeeper can keep everyone on track so the meetings don't go on and on and get boring.

Some do's and don'ts for successful family meetings:

Continued on next page



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Using Hearts, Hands, and Heads for Good Health

The Newport Senior Center is proud to share more information about its newest program, Craft-N-Chat. This new therapeutic activity is the perfect outlet for socializing while you DIY with long-time friends, make new friends, and strengthen social connections. If you are looking for ways to meet people and expand your social circle, the Craft-N-Chat group is the group you want to be with.

Mary Boardman came to the center with a vision for art and how to share that art with others. Mary took the reins and started reaching out to other crafters who were interested in socializing while working their magic in a safe, beautiful environment. After exploring the Newport Senior Center and all the beauty it has to offer, Mary knew this was the perfect place to start a drop-in craft group. Mary and her friends can now be heard laughing, cheering each other on, supporting one another and spreading joy as they each work on their personalized project.

Have you been looking for a reason to finish that half-knitted or crocheted blanket? Well, now's the time because, if fun is not a good enough reason, maybe knowing that knitting and crocheting are proven mood boosters will be incentive enough for you to resume.

Whether you want to complete a needlepoint project or learn how to knit or crochet, Mary is an amazing knitter who is willing to help get you started again or teach individuals one-on-one. She is available every Monday from 10 am – 1 pm and is so delighted to share her craft that she will even make herself available by appointment as well.

Prefer a different medium? Dig out your old boxes of photos that are collecting dust in the closet somewhere. Keep your hands occupied and your creativity flourishing as you preserve memories with your very own scrapbook, collage board, photo magnets, photo candles or photo flower pots. Gather your pictures and blank scrapbook and bring it with you to Craft-N-Chat. Sue will be happy to help you get started on your very own scrapbook and Christmas boxes.

Coloring – Not just for kids anymore! If you do not have a specific craft, but want to remember what it was like to giggle, grab an adult coloring book and color pencils and join in on the fun as you create something beautiful. Did you know coloring lowers stress and anxiety which lowers blood pressure?

Not sure what type of craft may be of interest to you? Improve brain stimulation as you solve problems and explore new ideas with Peggy as she creates unique 3-D cards for all occasions using paper, scissors, and glue. You will never find a card like these. This creative craft is great exercise training for the brain.

Did you know that studies have proven that spending 45 minutes in some type of craft activity reduces the stress hormone cortisol? Currently, each crafter brings their own craft project to work on. While crafting on your project, you may get interested in other crafting projects you never knew existed like Mary's paper beads and artist trading cards. Maybe you would like to learn some new stitches as you quilt with Robin. Joyce's beading talent is phenomenal and one-of-a-kind if you have ever been curious on how to design your own jewelry. Joyce has extensive experience with working with all skill levels that will be sure to put a sparkle on anyone's smile.

Whether you are an experienced crafter or new to crafting, Craft-N-Chat is a great way to get involved, relieve stress, possibly lessening the likelihood of developing dementia while enhancing your cognitive ability. Don't wait any longer and join us today for crafts, lunch, and friendship.

Craft-N-Chat meets each Monday and Friday, from 10 am—1 pm. Feel free to drop in any time during these hours and spend as much time as you would like. The group enjoys lunch together at 11:45 am. You can choose to bring your own bag lunch or receive lunch from SCNS for a suggested donation of \$3 (must be 60+ for SCNS lunch).

Annual Yard and Bake Sale

Our Annual Yard and Bake Sale will be held on May 27th, from 8 am – 1 pm. This is a fundraiser to help keep the lights on at the center, A/C flowing and programs running. As you do your spring cleaning, consider donating to the Newport Senior Center for this event. All donations can be dropped off the week prior to the sale. If you have a baking specialty, donated baked goods can be dropped off the day before or the morning of the sale. Please call 863-4422 with any questions or to volunteer for this event.

Homeowner Tax Rebate Assistance

Can you use a little cash in your pocket? If you are a homeowner with low to moderate income, you may be eligible for up to \$300 in rebates on your tax bill. Volunteer AARP representatives will be at the center on May 18, from 9 am – 10 am for individuals whose last name begins A-F, 10 am – 11 am for individuals whose last name begins with G-P and 11 am – Noon for last names beginning with Q-Z. This is another great free opportunity the Newport Senior Center is proud to host.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page: Newport Senior Center Home of Sullivan County Nutrition Services to learn more about the center and programs to support individuals as they age. ■

~ Brenda Burns, Exec. Dir.; Sullivan County Nutrition Svcs., Newport Senior Center



MONTESSORI SCHOOL: POSITIVE DISCIPLINE - continued from previous page

Do:

1. Remember the long-range purpose: To teach valuable life skills
2. Post an agenda where family members can write their concerns or problems
3. Start with compliments to set the tone by verbalizing positive things about each other.
4. Brainstorm for solutions to problems. Choose one suggestion (by consensus) that is practical and respectful and try it for a week.
5. Focus on solutions, not blame.
6. Calendar a family fun activity for later in the

week – and all sports and other activities (including chauffeur schedule).

7. Keep family meetings short (10-30 minutes) depending on the ages of your children. End with a family-fun activity, game, or dessert.

Don't:

1. Use family meetings as a platform for lectures and parental control.
2. Allow children to dominate and control (mutual respect is key).
3. Skip weekly family meetings. (They should

be the most important date on your calendar.)

4. Forget that mistakes are wonderful opportunities to learn.
5. Forget that learning skills takes time. Even solutions that don't work provide an opportunity to learn and try again – always focusing on respect and solutions.
6. Expect children under the age of four to participate in the process. (If younger children are too distracting, wait until they are in bed). ■

~ Miss Christy

Sneak Peek: Newport's New Community Center



While we continue to brainstorm new and exciting programs for kids to be implemented at the new Community Center, we wanted to give a little insight about what to expect once we open the doors to the new facility. By no means is this a done deal, but based on past programs and overcrowding issues, these are some of the things that come to the forefront when it comes to kids programming for 2024 and beyond. Please know that, at any time, you may send a note about potential ideas and programs you would like to see in the future of Newport Rec.

Our mission is to provide a wide range of leisure activities for all ages and abilities to enjoy that enhance the spirit, mind and body.

The biggest benefit of the new Community Center will be the ability to do more than one activity at once. The 19,500 square foot facility will house a gymnasium (9350 sq ft) that can be split up into two practice area courts, each about the size of the present rec center gymnasium. It will also have an active multipurpose room of about 2000 square feet that can also be split up in two sections if needed. A final space of about 900 square feet will have a meeting/table area and afterschool program equipment like a foosball table and ping pong table for the kids to hang out or to have organizational meetings/seminars and coaches training.

We will talk about kids programs today and, in a future issue, touch on adult and senior programming. Looking at our toddler program, we will continue the "kidzone" for parents of preschool kids. A couple of days per week, we will get out the toys and give the kids space to play with blocks, balls, smiles, and bounce houses. Kids learn cooperation, sharing, and it gives new mothers a place to get to know each other in the community. Our outdoor special events will continue, including the Easter Egg Hunt, Winter Carnival activities, and other cool events. Birthday parties are also a big part of the present rec center, and that will continue. The best part is that the birthday boy or girl will get their own space to play and celebrate their birthdays, while the center remains open for other activities and programs.

Once you reach the age of six, you can start some of our youth sports programs and day camp activities. Day Camp is for ages six and up, and we presently serve about 60 kids per week for the summer. It is our hope, because of the increased space we have, we can bring that number up to 80 kids. Having the location next

to adjacent fields will allow us to have lots of space to spread out while offering different activities, but also have a space to keep the kids inside on a rainy day, if needed. A couple of our youth sports operate outside of the Rec Center, youth wrestling and 3rd and 4th grade basketball. We presently utilize Richards School for basketball practice while using Wheeler gym for their games.

Wrestling has used the Airport's hangar (thanks, Bob Davis), Richards School, the rec, and this year are using Newport MMA for their space. The new facility will provide enough space to house the wrestling program, as it will use the multipurpose room for wrestling while freeing up the gymnasium for other activities. Third and 4th grade basketball may still need to use Richards School depending on scheduling, as we plan to also offer other basketball programs in the new facility, as well. Having Wheeler gym and the new community center so close will also enable us to offer potential basketball tournaments. This will be a great experience for the kids as well as a chance to raise money for the many beneficial organizations in town. The New Center will seat about 440 spectators.

Teen programming will be an essential part of the new facility, as they are a tough group to accommodate, but are at an age where keeping them involved in a positive environment is of utmost importance. Our afterschool program will have them in mind. The Space will provide a place to hang out and socialize, but also offer ping pong, foosball, chess and basketball games, when they are not working on their homework. This will be a drop-in, like it is now, but they will need to be registered once the new facility opens at a very nominal fee. It is hoped that we will be able to offer an intramural basketball program for the kids during the after-school hours, as well, for those that just want to play and not be associated with a school or rec team. A High School rec team is also being looked at to supplement the High School's team, and for those who may not have the grades, but still want to play the great game of basketball. Volleyball drop-ins are also being considered, as the new center will have two volleyball courts (mainly for the adult programs), where you can play volleyball and basketball at the same time. Weekend hours will also be available for teens, as well. A few hours on a weekend of recreation always can help them stay off their devices, improve their mental and physical health, and stay active and engaged.

Being adjacent to the fields will also have a great impact on what we do. After-school activities can utilize the fields for programming games like tag, flag football, kick ball and other outdoor games before the winter takes its grip on us. The afterschool program will utilize this space to supplement activities indoors.

The Recreation Department looks forward to serving more citizens in a positive, impactful way through its programs to increase the quality of life for young and old in the Sunshine Town. ■

~ PJ Lovely, Executive Director; Newport Recreation Department



Women's Volleyball Championships

The Newport Recreation Adult Women's Volleyball Championship for 2023 concluded in April after five months of competition during the playing season. Ten women's teams from the local area participated.

The results of the Championship finals put The Misfits on top as they defeated The Lakers in a best of two-out-of-three competition, with The Misfits 2 games to The Lakers 0 wins with scores of 21-9 and 21-8. The Lakers is a team made up of mainly former Sunapee High School players. They reached the finals by defeating the team, That's What She Set, from the Claremont area 22-20 and 21-15 in one of the most competitive women's volleyball matches of the season, with both teams capable of winning.

The final championship game had players missing on both teams due to school vacation week. The Misfits playing with four players had an advantage with Jillian Cummings completing numerous spikes for points, and Beth Pitkin constantly setting her up for numerous spike attempts. The Lakers tried to block or



Jillian Cummings, New London; Beth Pitkin, Capt., Newport; Brandi Hurd, Newport; Maggie Hurd, Newport. Players not pictured: Aimee Ross, Sheila Hulton, Erin Stanon

return her spikes to no avail. The Misfits kept the volleyball in play and forced The Lakers to make mistakes. Volleyball is a game of momentum shifts that favored The Misfits this night.

Newport Recreation Adult Women's Volleyball's greatest success is that it gives women a chance to socialize while engaging in a healthful activity that keeps bodies of all ages moving during the winter months. And, these same women have the opportunity to continue to develop their volleyball skills, setting them up for greater success when next year's season rolls around again! ■

~ Larry Flint, coordinator and referee for the league

ANIMALS RULE

Wags and Wiggles

Strut Your Mutt for a Great Cause!

Our second annual Strut your Mutt 5k is on August 12, 2023. Bring your mutts, family, and friends along and join us on a beautiful, wooded river walk to benefit Wags and Wiggles Rescue. From matching forever families with our homeless dogs to assisting our community, Wags and Wiggles Rescue cannot do the work that we do without your help. The first 50 participants to sign up will receive a free t-shirt! Register today at www.pinnaclestrive.com.

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



Newport's ECON Organization Continues to Drive Positive Change in the Community

In our beloved small town of Newport, there is a group of dedicated individuals who have come together to make a lasting and positive impact. Established in 1992, the Economic Corporation of Newport (ECON) has been a driving force behind the development of many town projects. As ECON President, Mark Pitkin, explains, "working as a cohesive, local group of vested individuals, the members of ECON are focused on promoting and fostering business growth in Newport."

ECON serves as a conduit for businesses, residents, and Town officials to collaborate and share their visions for Newport's future. While promoting economic development is not always obvious to the community, many of its activities help to determine the future and quality of life in Newport.

ECON achieves this in a number of ways. At various times over the last few years, ECON has supplied letters to the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen, and State, and Federal agencies to express the Board's support for various development projects and its opinion on various issues. ECON has also sponsored approximately half a dozen programs on NCTV over the past couple of years. In the recent past, ECON worked with Sullivan County Economic Development (SCEDC), Claremont Industrial Development Authority (IDA), Charlestown Economic Development Authority, and with the State of New Hampshire's Office of Business and Industrial Development in joint advertising projects.

One of ECON's most significant achievements was the revitalization of Newport's downtown "Eagle Block" area. Recognizing not only the building's historical significance, but also its economic potential, ECON secured grants that rescued the structure from impending demolition, supervised its restoration, and recruited a new business into town to serve as a tenant. Subsequently, ECON facilitated the sale of the Eagle Block to that tenant. The result was a facelift for a prime section of downtown Newport establishing a vibrant hub for business and entertainment that brings the community together.

Another significant, ongoing ECON project began in 2006 when it took ownership of the closed and capped Newport Ash Landfill, located on John Stark Highway. In collaboration with the Town, the organization took on the arduous task and expense of monitoring and maintaining the closed landfill, which at one time accepted the solid waste of 29 communities in NH and VT, to protect the local environment. The landfill, including surrounding acreage, was

subsequently placed in conservation, guaranteeing it would never be used as a landfill again.

Most recently, ECON brought to fruition a collaborative venture initiated by longtime Newport businessman and local philanthropist, the late Roy Malool. One of Mr. Malool's many

goals for Newport was the construction of a new Community Center. Several years ago, Mr. Malool donated to ECON real estate with structures located at the corner of Sunapee Street and Sand Hill Road. Terms of the donation stipulated that ECON would serve as



steward/owner of the property as it saw fit; however, if at some point in time ECON decided to sell the property, 75% of the net proceeds were to be channeled to the Town Recreation Department. With the effects of inflation, the cost of the Community Center project increased substantially. The community continued to be supportive of this project but was still struggling to keep up with the ever-increasing costs. The most recent estimates for this project are in the vicinity of \$9 million. ECON decided that the time was right to sell the real estate donated by Mr. Malool, and completed a sale to a local business after soliciting bids on the property. The sale generated \$206,000 in funds that have been applied to the new Community Center Fund, helping Mr. Malool's vision become reality. Through local donations and pending funding from USDA's Department of Rural Development, and GOFERR, the Town has now secured all funds necessary for construction to begin in the Summer of 2023.

The success of ECON can be attributed to its collaborative and inclusive approach. The members believe that everyone has a role to play in creating a better future for Newport, and they welcome input from all members of the community. This approach has earned them the respect and support of businesses, residents, and the town government.

ECON's plans for the future include expanding its stewardship in Newport while focusing on initiatives that will promote sustainable growth and development. This includes a renewed emphasis on community engagement, with a goal of creating a stronger sense of community and belonging.

In the end, ECON's impact on Newport has been significant. It has contributed to a thriving community that is full of opportunities for residents and businesses in Newport, alike. Through its leadership and collaboration, it has shown that even a small town can make a big difference when it comes together with a common vision. ■

From the Selectboard

Busy Construction Season in Newport

A busy construction season is starting in Newport! This summer we will see several projects starting that will benefit all members of the Newport community. Most of the costs for these projects are paid for by grants received by the town. The Town of Newport has been successful in receiving about \$27 million of grants over the past few years, due to the quality of the grant requests submitted by our Town Manager and his staff. The past few years have seen a lot of monies released by the federal government to support state and local needs. Whether that is good or bad, the grant monies are available and will go somewhere. Newport, with legitimate needs and quality proposals, has been successful in receiving several grants.

Community Center

The biggest project will be the start of construction of our new Community Center adjacent to Meadow Park. This \$9 million project will be funded by local donations and grants from private foundations, and the state and federal governments. The cost of the center has increased about \$2 million since it was first proposed. We are fortunate that, while the cost of construction has increased, the recent availability of federal and state grants now allows us to construct the Community Center without cost to our taxpayers.



Tech Center

Up the road, the high school's Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center is starting their \$16 million renovation and expansion project. After 30 years of preparing our students for their futures, it is time to update the center to continue to prepare our next generations of learners. Most of this summer's work will be inside the existing structure, including upgrading the cosmetology and welding labs. Later this summer, foundation work should start for the new agricultural studies building on the north side of the high school.

Other Important Projects

Continuing up North Main Street, across from the soccer fields is a dirt parking area owned by the Town. This will be developed into a proper **park-and-ride** parking lot. Space will be available for parking for carpoolers or connecting with a commuter bus to the Upper Valley in the future. A section will also allow for larger vehicle parking. We expect Newport's first public charging stations for electric vehicles will be here.

Work started in April at the rear of the **Newport Opera House** to replace the stage level access and the handicap access ramp. Once this safety and access work is completed, the Opera House can increase the seating capacity for events. Unfortunately, the town did not communicate to the Newport Opera House Association the impact and construction dates of the access project. Several events had to be canceled or rescheduled. Once construction is complete this summer, we hope to see everyone back at the Newport Opera House. Looking to the future, Newport has applied for grant funding to air condition the Newport Opera House to turn it into a year-round destination.

The **Town Office** building's approximately 100 windows shall be replaced this summer. This will reduce the breeze that blows through past the existing windows and reduce outside noise. The existing window air conditioners will also be replaced with a central air conditioning system in the fall.

The **dog park/community garden** project will be done this summer. This project is located on town property and is next to Advanced Auto.

Along Unity Road, work will begin on upgrades/replacement of sections of the **town water lines** that supply our drinking water. The cost of water pipes has increased since this project was developed so the amount of piping replaced will be less than planned.

Newport will continue to pursue grants to replace additional sections of the 100-year-old pipes coming into town.

On the sewer side of the water system, the **Riverbend Sewer Pump Station** on Sunapee Street will be upgraded this summer. A new pump and controls will improve the reliability of our sewer system to move wastewater along Sunapee Street to our wastewater treatment plant.

There are not any major town road projects this summer. We are continuing to pay off our investments on Barton Whitney, Blueberry Ridge, and Breakneck Roads from a few years ago. Our town budget does include funding to continue to repair and **improve the sidewalks** in town this summer.

Overall, a busy summer of important projects in town. Our town staff will be keeping a watch on these projects and keeping them moving and on track while performing their daily work at the same time. A collage representing these various projects and others in town, and the funding we have received for them, is displayed in the basement hallway of the Town Office. Stop and take a look the next time you visit our Town Office.

~ Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman;
Newport Board of Selectmen

Fire Department 9/11 Picture Restored

The Newport Fire Department recently received back the department's 9/11 picture. This picture formerly hung on the outside of the station, but was removed. The picture eventually ended up in the boiler room of the fire station. The picture had sustained weather damage from being outside and damage from being in storage.

The picture was taken to Claremont Custom Framing in the summer of 2022 in an attempt to restore the picture. The project on the picture was completed on the first of February 2023.



Always in our hearts...

Fully restored and reframed, the picture was hung in the fire station. It is in the stairway of the fire station coming down from the second floor and acts as a reminder for all department members of the sacrifices the firefighters and emergency responders made that day 22 years ago.

~ Steve Yannuzzi, Fire Chief
Newport Fire Department

Greens Are Open: The Newport Golf Club Kicks Off Season with a Swing!

Scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023, golf enthusiasts from around the area flocked to the Newport Golf Course for the much-anticipated opening day of the season. The course was looking better than ever, with freshly manicured fairways and greens, and a brand new driving range thanks to new management who worked tirelessly over the winter to make improvements to the course.

As the sun rose on opening day, golfers were already lining up to get their tee times for the day. The atmosphere was electric, with players eagerly anticipating their chance to hit the links and start their season off on the right foot. As players made their way around the course, they were treated to stunning views of the surrounding countryside. The course's layout had been carefully designed to take advantage of the natural beauty of the area, with each hole offering its own unique challenge.

With close to 200 members and rising, the Newport Golf Club has been given a new lease of life thanks to a group of 13 local investors who share a dream to make the Newport Golf Club a thriving community center once again. Previously, the golf club was facing an uncertain future as plans were being made to sell the property and turn the land into condominiums, but these local investors were determined to save this important community asset.

Since the purchase, the new owners have been working tirelessly to improve the course and the facilities with the aim of making it the best in the region. They have added a number of exciting new features, such as the Hole-In-One-Diner. This popular eatery has quickly become a favorite among golfers and locals alike, with a menu that includes classic diner fare with a fine-dining twist.

In addition to the improvements to the course itself, the Club has also added new amenities for players to enjoy. This includes a fully-stocked Pro Shop for the first time in years. Not just with golf balls, but apparel and accessories, clubs and bags.

Other new amenities include the golf simulator. This high-tech simulator is the latest addition to the golf course's facility, and it promises to provide a top-notch golfing experience for players of all skill levels. The simulator uses state-of-the-art technology to recreate the experience of playing on some of the world's most famous golf courses. Players can choose from a range of courses, each of which has been meticulously recreated to provide a realistic and immersive experience. This makes it an ideal training tool for golfers who are looking to improve their skills and take their game to the next level. The Newport Golf Club is thrilled with the new addition to their facility and believe that the simulator will appeal to a wide range of players, from beginners looking to learn the basics to experienced golfers who wish to refine their skills. The golf simulator is also a great option for golfers who are looking to play in the off-season or during inclement weather. With the simulator, players can enjoy a round of golf no matter what the weather is like outside.

Future investments to the golf club have also been in the works. The golf club's management team has stated that they are committed to making the clubhouse more inclusive and welcoming to all members of the community. This includes installing ramps and an elevator to provide wheelchair accessibility, ensuring that all areas in the clubhouse and around the course are accessible to people with disabilities, and making sure that all public areas of the clubhouse meet ADA requirements. With plans to become ADA compliant, the club's management is committed to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of the community. Further, these changes will help to create a more accessible and welcoming space for everyone and will help to increase the overall appeal of the club to a wider audience.

Other exciting new developments at the golf club is the outdoor pavilion. The golf club has big plans for this space, and are currently working to make it an event location that can host everything from weddings to corporate events. They plan to install running water and plumbing to make the space more functional and appealing to event planners.

The new management is confident that these changes will help to turn Newport into a popular venue destination. With its stunning golf course, beautiful mountainous terrain, and top-notch facilities, they believe that people from all over the state will want to visit and experience everything that the Newport Golf Club has to offer.

The Newport Golf Club is poised to have a banner year. The club is already seeing increased interest from golfers, and the club is planning a number of special events throughout the

summer, including Monday and Tuesday Men's leagues, the Wednesday Senior league, Ladies' league, and charity golf tournaments. Also, for the first time in years, the golf club will host group clinics and youth golf camps with a vision of growing the game.

In short, the Newport Golf Club is undergoing a transformation thanks to the dedication and hard work of its 13 investors. With their vision and commitment to excellence, they are sure to make this one of the top golf destinations in the region, and a popular venue for events of all kinds. The Newport Golf Club is thrilled with the success of their revitalized club and are committed to continuing to provide the best possible golfing experience to their members and visitors. They are looking forward to a busy summer season and are confident that the club's new features and improved accessibility will help to make it a must-visit destination for golfers and non-golfers alike.

It's a story of hope and renewal that's sure to bring a smile to the face of anyone who loves golf, community, and the great outdoors. ■

~Allison Browning, Economic Development Coordinator



First golfers out on opening day. From left to right: Don Hague, Rob Daley, Mike O'Connell (not shown: Steve Haselton).



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Town Clerk News

Top Dog Royalty Announced

After four long months of dog licensing, the Newport Town Clerk's Office announces the 2023 Top Dog. Winners were pulled by random drawing on May 1st at the Town Clerk's Office. We had 285 dogs entered into the contest.



First prize goes to Cinder, entered by Kellie Collise. Cinder's prize package includes: The coveted Town of Newport 2023 number 1 dog tag; LaValley Building & Supply – Petsafe in-ground fence; Wendell Veterinary Clinic – \$100 Gift Certificate toward services or products; Radford K-9 Dog Training – Training Session \$150 value; Running's – \$50 Gift Card; Tractor Supply – 4 bags of dog food; Claremont Animal Hospital – Hill's Science Diet dog food; Sanctuary Dairy – Free doggy dish; Sugar River Bank – tug toy.



Second prize goes to Diesel, entered by Kellie Collise. Diesel's prize package includes: The Town of Newport 2023 number 2 Dog Tag; Pleasant Lake Veterinary Hospital – Free Exam \$54 value; Solace Massage – gift certificate \$75 value; Running's – gift card \$50 value; Claremont Pet & Aquarium – \$25 Gift Card; Tractor Supply – 4 bags of dog food; Sanctuary Dairy – Free doggy dish; Sugar River Bank – tug toy.



Third prize goes to Izzy, entered by Joanie Lemmon Bella. Izzy's prize package includes: The Town of Newport 2023 number 3 Dog Tag; Sugar River Animal Hospital – Free Exam; Aubuchon of Newport – \$20 Gift Card; Shaw's – \$25 Gift Card; Interware Development – Camelbak gift bag; Tractor Supply – 4 bags of dog food; Sanctuary Dairy – Free doggy dish; Sugar River Bank – tug toy.

To further celebrate our 9th year of Top Dog, we were able to pull 6 additional winners, each receiving a bag of dog food donated by Tractor Supply. These lucky pups are: Buggs, entered by Doreen Borcuk; Loki, entered by Joanie Lemmon Bella; Timber, entered by Stacey & James Burroughs; Hope, entered by Dail Sanlan; Bella, entered by David Collise; Willy, entered by Kim Wilcox.

As always, thank you so much to our sponsors! We had some fun early in the dog licensing season with tug toys that were donated by Sugar River Bank. We also had some surprise "free dog license" days courtesy of One Credit Union. We were able to supply 36 dog licenses free of charge with the licensing fee covered by One Credit Union. What great fun this dog licensing season has been. Our sponsors have been getting creative with their donations and all for the Dogs (and dog owners) of Newport. We thank you for your support and for our residents who have licensed 1982 dogs by the April 30, 2023 deadline. ■

~ Liselle Dufort, Town Clerk

Join the Newport Young Professionals Club

In the bustling Town of Newport, there is a group of motivated and driven individuals who are making waves in the professional world. The Newport Young Professionals Club is a community of young adults who are focused on building connections and achieving their goals.

So, what exactly is a young professionals club? It is an organization designed for individuals who are in a local career field and are looking for opportunities to network, learn new skills, and socialize with like-minded peers. The Newport Young Professionals Club is similarly dedicated to supporting the professional growth and personal development of its members.

The first meeting was held on March 23, 2023 with a large turnout of motivated and enthusiastic individuals! The meeting began with an introduction from the club's organizers who shared their vision for the group and their goals for its members. Attendees were then given the opportunity to network with each other, and share their career aspirations. The group also discussed upcoming events, including the Newport Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event. Overall, the first meeting was a great success and set the tone for a supportive and engaging community of young professionals!

The group's goals are multifaceted, but all aim to empower and inspire its members. One of the club's main objectives is to provide educational and career advancement opportunities for young professionals in Newport. Our club strives to regularly host community events, seminars, and networking events to help its members develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their careers.

Another important goal of the Newport Young Professionals Club is to give back to the community. Members are passionate about making a positive impact in their town and regularly participate in volunteer and community service activities. Through their efforts, the group is making a tangible difference in the lives of those around them.

One of the things that makes the Newport Young Professionals Club so special is its inclusive and welcoming nature. Members come from a variety of backgrounds and industries, but all share a common desire to grow and connect with others. Whether one is new to the area or simply looking to expand their professional network, Newport Young Professionals is a great community to be a part of!

So, how can you join the Newport Young Professionals Club? It's easy! Simply text (603) 344- 6278, email edd@newportnh.gov, or keep an eye out on Newport's local social media forums to learn more about the organization and upcoming events. Membership is open to young professionals of all backgrounds and industries who are looking to grow personally and professionally. Joining Young Professionals is a great way to meet new people, expand your horizons, and make a positive impact in your community! ■

~ Allison Browning
Economic Development Coordinator, Town of Newport



Laurel Jackson, 36, Quality Sys. Mgr., Endyne Environmental Laboratories - Lebanon



Jonathan Flynn, 27, Cemeteries, Buildings & Grounds Manager - Town of Newport



Tyler Sullivan, 21, Paraprofessional - Interim Afterschool Site Director - Richards School



Bryant Dole, 31, Personal Banker II - Bar Harbor Bank (Newport Branch)



Bethaney Bowie, 25, Customer Service Lead, Ruger



Tor Stenberg, 26, Loan Originator, Sugar River Bank - Town of Newport



Allison Browning, 23, Econ. Development Coordinator - Town of Newport



Dryad's Touch



Dryad's Kiss

to be very good at public experience, so I was better off working at a bench with silver and gold, and learning how to make flutes."

At 21, Lunn relocated to Boston to work for a flute-making company. As a journeyman flute-maker for the next ten years, Lunn discovered his love for the woodwind instrument and started making drawings to document his own design ideas. "I always liked the idea of the flute being a work of nature," he says. "If you look at a woodwind instrument... they've got little cups on them and arms that hold the cups to the tubing. I always imagined those arms being vines and the spatulas that you put your finger on would be leaves and the cups were its fruit."

In 1989, Lunn started his own company with the intention of creating an "art nouveau flute," a product that would stand out for its unique design – both aesthetic and mechanical – amongst other mainstream offerings. "I wanted to give them names; I didn't want serial numbers," he says. "In

the history of any instrument, it's never been seen. It's totally unique."

Since Lunn made his flutes completely by hand, he was able to modify his instruments to help make them adaptable for all sorts of musicians, especially those struggling with related injuries, such as tendinitis and other nerve problems. Lunn also created a bi-monthly newsletter called *Hands On*, aimed at "finding solutions to performance injuries," which was distributed to about five thousand musicians from all over the world.

"For each flute, as I went along, I tried to take the machine work out of it so they were entirely made just by hands," he says. This included hand-forming and shaping the metal parts of the flute, with the tubing being the only manufactured element of his creations. Despite being handmade, Lunn's flutes were still proportional and accurate to ten-thousandths of an inch.

"[This] baffled my colleagues who made flutes for other companies. They couldn't figure out how I could get away with that," Lunn says.

Eventually, Lunn reached the point in his flute-making career where he had finished crafting what he called "the ultimate flute," an 18-karat green gold instrument worth \$60,000, which has most recently fallen into the hands of pop-culture music artist, Lizzo, who played it at the Met Gala last May.

Lunn moved on to making "story flutes" for the second portion of his career. These instruments were uniquely and intricately designed, with each key featuring a different scene from a story, like *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Hobbit*, various poems, or other narratives such as the "History of Jazz."

For Lunn, flute-making and storytelling go hand-in-hand. On a pawn shop typewriter, Lunn kept track of his ideas as they brewed; he made

flutes by day, played them by night, and then kept on writing.

"While I was making flutes as an apprentice, I was daydreaming this story," he says. "That's what prompted me to write my first novel."

Lunn started writing when he was in high school, wrote his first novel during his teenage years, and eventually published two novels – *The Aquanauts* and *The Mariner's Curse* – in Canada in the early 2000s. He's since finished a third science-fiction adult novel which he hopes to publish soon.

Writing is one way Lunn explores topics that interest him such as quantum physics, theories on the origins of time, and "what the universe is made up of," all while "having an adventure with a couple of characters." Lunn has also written his own theory on time and gravity, and his books represent his love for science... and fiction. An active blog called *Grampy's Little Acre* – which is inspired by the

time he spent raising three grandchildren with his wife – is another of Lunn's published pursuits. "My brain is constantly going... I'm always imagining something."

In addition to the creative trades to which Lunn has dedicated his time to over the years, he has also made great use of his talents and energy to directly benefit the Newport community.

For the past six years, Lunn has led the charge as executive director of Newport Community Access TV (NCTV), where he's kept the airways open with local programming that features and serve the Newport community. He also works alongside Newport youth and students – teaching video-editing, script writing, and computer skills – mentoring them in the art of filmmaking to design their own creative masterpieces.

To-the-point narration is one of the most important lessons he's learned as a writer and the best advice he can pass down to others, Lunn says. "I teach in the old way. Stick to the facts, stick to the ideas... the story is more important than the description."

While living in Newport for the past 32 years, he's also served on planning and zoning committees, the historical society, as the chairman of library trustees, and as a selectman. "It's important to me to stay connected that way."

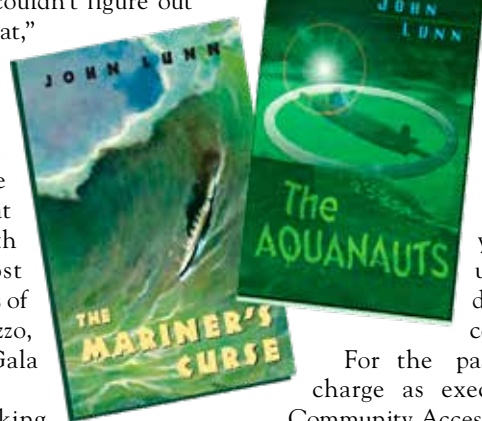
Throughout his career, Lunn has used his wildly active imagination and expert storytelling skills to help bring his ideas to life. And now, he's passing that knowledge on to the next generations of storytellers, for them to be bold and creative, and to make their communities – and the world – a better place. ■



John Lunn in 1981



John's artwork conveying the History of Jazz



Working with NCTV in 2021

Richards Free Library

Dear Patrons, Supporters and Friends...

Can you imagine a worse place for a water leak than a library full of books and an art gallery full of photos and paintings?

For several years, the Richards Free Library and the Library Arts Center have been battling leaks with repeated repairs that didn't solve the long-term problems.

On February 9th, the Board of Trustees of the RFL met to review bids and chose to work with GDC Slate and Copper, a roofing company with experience and great references for working on historic buildings. Their inspection prior to bidding was done comprehensively with drone technology and showed 37 areas needing work on the Library and the Arts Center. They will make repairs to slate, to copper roofing, to rubber roofing, to flashing, to chimney and to woodwork. Here are a few pictures, courtesy of GDC Slate and Copper (2/3/23).

The comprehensive bid to make all repairs is \$216,000. The Library's Memorial Fund that was left by the Rollins family for maintenance of the RFL will cover \$21,600 and GDC has awarded a \$5,000 grant for this historic building project.

In recognition of the value of the Library and Library Arts Center to the Newport Community, the Newport Board of Selectmen agreed to include in the town budget a separate warrant article for \$189,400 so that the roofs of our buildings can be completely repaired and their precious contents protected.

The Richards Free Library and Library Arts Center are asking for your support!



Visible roof damage and leaks



Community Celebration

The Summer Reading Program, "All Together Now, at RFL" will kick-off on June 17th with a community party from 12-2, celebrating everyone who works together to make Newport a safe and wonderful place to be. Police officers will show off their vehicles and teach us about bike safety; the Fire Department will bring a fire truck to explore, and more! Everyone is invited!

New Book Group for Adults

You asked and we listened! The Richards Free Library is now hosting a book group for adults (ages 18+) to read and discuss Young Adult books! The Young @ Heart Book Club will be meeting May 31st and June 28th at 6pm. We will meet through September on the library's front porch. Stop in to get your copy of *The Summer of Broken Rules* by K.L. Walther today!

Introducing the RFL Monthly Movie Night

Pop your popcorn and curl up with the cats! The RFL is introducing a monthly movie night the third Wednesday of every month at 6pm. Join us May 17th for *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*! ■



Embracing Change

John Lunn

"Change is as Good as a Rest." ~ Winston Churchill

Writing something fresh on a regular schedule in a world that changes slowly can be a challenge. Even if it's only four times a year, a deadline pops up and we're left scratching our scalps hoping it will stimulate a font of inspiration. I've been to meeting after meeting where the same issues circulate and percolate looking for resolution. I get to work each day facing similar routines of editing, paperwork, charging batteries and uploading newly recorded content onto our network. What's fresh about that?

Yet, underneath it all there are always new things happening. For instance, we have a 'changing of the guard' this spring as our two student workers (Bella Osgood & Jay Page) graduate and are off to college in the fall while three new young people join our team. Those who attend meetings will notice that I'm not the one recording all the meetings anymore. A new face has taken on that job in the person of Elise Dufresne (my daughter) and she's a brave woman to do so right now, as the town and school board meetings have been long and contentious, occasionally lasting until midnight.

Having new students coming to NCTV is a gift and a challenge. I spend every afternoon each week working with them to teach video arts (video editing, camera skills, writing, etc.) and the results are starting to show. Noel Beauchaine is producing a travel



show that premiered this past week. She's earning school credit while doing it, too. She's a bright freshman with a keen interest in travel and wants to share it with people. Watch as she takes us to exotic places while she develops her skills. Carter White, a grade eight student, is creating a science show where he and I discuss the science in science fiction movies. The first episode will premiere soon. Connor Clark, also a freshman, has been doing a school news report and editing videos that come in. He hopes to take Bella's place as our news anchor (a high bar, but I know he can reach it).

There are some other new programs appearing on our channel. The Richards library staff has started a monthly program "Gaming and Gabbing" where they talk about upcoming events while they play a board game. We have a few school and town special events such as school concerts, public hearings on solar power, updates from our legislators, the Sunshine Initiative, and more. We are also adding to our collection of public domain old movies and classic audiobooks. Of course, graduation is sneaking up which brings class night, athletic awards and CTE awards along with some other community programs.

So when I say there isn't much change, I don't mean we haven't got lots going on. It is just the normal pace of business here at NCTV. We are creating more new programs than ever before, while making sure the town government meetings still get covered. If you aren't one of our regular viewers, tune in! We have a lot to offer about and around Newport that you won't find anywhere else. Cable subscribers have channels 8 and 10 and everyone can watch online at nctv-nh.org (click the WATCH button in the top right corner). Most of our content is also there on free video on demand.

Change is good, as the saying goes and I believe that. I've lived my life embracing change. Still, sometimes 'steady as she goes' isn't such a bad thing, either. Great things happen when we combine change with perseverance. ■

Library Arts Center Happenings

Letterpress Studio Classes and More!



Letterpress



Basket weaving



Art Kits in the gallery change monthly



Landscape Painting in the Studio

Did you know that the Library Arts Center has a small letterpress studio? Letterpress is printing words and images from a raised surface using ink. It is how all newspapers and printed items used to be made before the digital age. Thanks to donations made by local families, the Library Arts Center now houses an impressive collection of presses, type in a variety of fonts and sizes, and images. Much of the Arts Center's collection was originally from the Barret Press, Newport's longstanding local press. This collection has been curated by lifelong Newport resident, Ann Stout. This art form incorporates many of Ann's interests as she is an artist, local historian, and writer. It is fascinating to see this historical mode of communication used as a modern art form.

Ann has been leading classes for one to two participants at a time to teach them how to use the presses. In each class, participants print 20 or more copies of notecards, quotes, coasters, or other small items of their own design with instruction, assistance, and access to all LAC letterpress tools and supplies. Prints made in these classes can be custom-tailored to each participant's desired creation.

As one of the Library Arts Center's monthly Saturday free community drop-ins, Ann will have a letterpress set up in the gallery on Saturday May 20, from 10am-2pm. Everyone of all ages is encouraged to stop by the gallery for this drop-in, hands-on, demo. Participants will leave with small prints they have printed on the press themselves using plates Ann has preset with type. This drop-in is a great way to learn more about this program, see all the pieces used in this unique process, and get a chance to try it out for oneself.

Visit libraryartscenter.org to learn more about registering for letterpress classes, this free drop-in, and all our classes and free monthly drop-ins.

Free Monthly Art Kits

The Library Arts Center offers free make-and-take art kits on a monthly basis. These kits are artist-designed and include all the supplies and instructions to make a themed art project. Each kit is designed to be engaging for both children and adults, alike. May's kit includes everything needed to create seed bombs. Seed bombs, created by mixing organic clay, compost, and seeds, are designed to be tossed into nature to create beauty in often-overlooked natural spaces.

June's kit will include all the supplies and instructions needed to create friendship bracelets. There will be instructions for both simple and more complex designs in order to make the kit engaging for makers of all ages and abilities. Being that June is Pride month, the kits will be available in rainbow colors, as well as multi-color options. Stop by the gallery to pick up a kit while supplies last.

Summer

Registration for summer classes will open in June. The studio classroom will host weekly classes for kids, our outdoor event space will host weekly free family drop-ins as well as Music With Friends for babies and toddlers. The free Summer Performances for Kids series on the

side lawn in July is a summer tradition in town. Summer yoga, letterpress, basket weaving, painting classes, open studios, summer camp for grown-ups series are all fun summer options for adults. Visit libraryartscenter.org for full summer listings, which will be posted in June. ■



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Ethan



Alexa



Alex



Caleb

what I thought. I swallowed and answered: "It is, Jean. It really is." She smiled at me, and I suddenly felt the same way I had in Mrs. Sanborn's 8th grade when I got the right answer.

I countered with a question of my own. "So, Jean, how did this all happen?" I waved my frappe in the air to include the dining room. "Was it your Dad's?"

"Oh gosh, no!" She corrected me. "He lived in Rhode Island. He was quite old when he died, you know, over 90."

"So, why the name 'Dad's'?"

"I retired from teaching to spend more time with him. Whenever I visited, I'd take him to an ice cream place... or a burger joint. He just loved them." She let her eyes scan the customers enjoying hamburgers and hotdogs. "My dad died 4 years ago, and I started looking for a place to teach young kids how to cook."

"And I found this place! I bought the former 'Fabulous '50's' vacant building and re-named it 'Dad's'!" I named it after my two dads. My 'Dad' up there," she pointed towards heaven, "and my physical dad down here." Before I could ask another question, she sprang up and headed to the kitchen. "Come on. I want you to talk with the kids."

Jean employs five kids: Gracie, Lexi, Alexa, Alex, and Caleb. Gracie is the newest and youngest at 15. She works Sunday mornings waiting on customers. Lexi is 22 and recently took a year off from her Christian college to enter the missionary field.

I met in-person with Alexa, Alex, and Caleb. Alexa has already completed her first year of college and Alex and Caleb will graduate from high school this year.

"I'm just going to go work in the dining room so the kids don't feel they have to say nice things about me," joked Jean and was gone before anyone could contradict her.

Alexa

Alexa runs what might be called "front of the house" in a more traditional eatery. She is the face that greets any customer walking up to the front windows. It is a fresh, smiling, and overall welcoming persona.

"What do you do here?" I asked her.

She grinned at me: "Everything." I deserved that. She was kind enough to rescue me. "I do prefer working directly with customers," she confided. "But I have done everything, and I can step in when needed." She is not bragging. She is just speaking with the confidence that four years under Jean's tutelage has given her.

"What are your post-Dad's goals?"

"I am studying Fine Arts with a concentration on ceramics."

She goes on again, before I can frame a leading question. "Once I finish my BFA I want to get a teaching certification."

"How long will all that take?"

"With all the extra credits I carried out of high school and an accelerated program, I can be all done in four years."

"Wow..."

Alexa took three orders, chopped up a tray of walnuts, mixed a vanilla frappe, and made change for carry-out orders while she answered my questions. I thought it best to move on. Alex and Caleb were out in the food prep area.

Alex

Alex was busily weighing, pre-forming, and wrapping 1/3-pound hamburger patties in 12-burger trays. After Alexa, I was not surprised that he would – and could – carry on an interview without missing a beat in his kitchen duties.

"What are your post-high school plans, Alex?"

"I am going to study Cyber Security and Network Engineering. There are lots of jobs in those fields available now." Watching the scale in front of him, he carefully added a pinch of hamburger to his current patty.

"Have you thought about summer work that is more closely aligned with cyber security?"

"But I love it here." He waved a handful of burger around the room. "There is always something to do and we are trusted to get it done. I like the self-sufficiency."

Enough said.

Caleb

Caleb was currently washing dishes. "I thought Jean was supposed to wash the dishes." I joked with him.

"Around here, if something doesn't get done quickly enough, someone else just does it."

Jean – who had obviously been eavesdropping – stuck her head in:

"That's one of my favorite management strategies. I just don't do what the kids tell me to do, knowing that one of them will do it."

"She's right!" chuckled Caleb, holding up the huge metal bowl he was washing.

I brought the conversation back on track. "And what are your plans after high school, Caleb?"

"Working here. And part-time at two other jobs. I have to have something to do all the time."

"And after that?"

"I am going to study culinary arts." Of course he is, I thought.

"Aren't they just great?" Jean said as we emerged from the kitchen. I could only smile and agree. These three young people have obviously not heard current wisdom about how no one their age wants to work.

"They do all their own scheduling. The two boys come in Thursday evenings to do weekend food prep. They all have keys. They come and go as they please. Not one penny has ever gone missing."

"Is the business profitable?" She didn't specifically answer the question.

"I don't take a salary. That helps keep prices down for our customers. Anything we make, goes into buying food, keeping the lights on, and paying the kids. This place is all about the kids." She paused for a moment. "We started right when COVID hit, you know. It was tough going for a while. But we are doing just fine now!"

Now, about that frappe I promised to come back to... It was a thick, luscious, real-coffee-tasting ice cream concoction. It tasted like home, childhood memories, and love all whipped together in a tall cardboard cup with a blue plastic straw. I sighed a completely satisfied sigh when I had to suck really hard to get the drink to come up the straw. It was the best.

Dad's is the best, too. ■



Dad's: a great place to hang out with friends

The Inaugural Family and Community Day a Great Success

On Saturday, March 22, NH Grand Families hosted its first Family and Community Day at the Newport Rec Center.

It was a fun day filled with cookie decorating, face painting, sand art, mask, and cape making. As NHGF Vice President Jennifer Richardson said, "It was both heartbreaking and heartwarming to see these grandparents with their grandchildren today. It's much more of a reality check seeing it in person, but how wonderful it is that these children have these people. I heard several talking about their struggles but yet they still do these fun things for the kids. I'm honored to be a part of such a helpful and great organization."



In May, NHGF is partnering with the Epiphany Church to host a three-part series event to support children who are not able to be with their mothers due to incarceration, addiction, death, or any other reason. There will be a meal eaten together and a book read together, after which caregivers can share some adult time, and children will do an art project related to the book."

For more information about this event or about receiving support as a kinship caregiver, please reach out to 603-558-8555, support@NHgrandfamilies.org or visit the website NHgrandfamilies.org. ■

~Stacey Hammerlind, secretary;
NH Grand Families



RUGER NEWPORT: PROUD TO CALL THIS HOME

Share the Road Safely with Our Motorcycle Enthusiasts

Spring in New Hampshire brings many wonderful sights, sounds, and smells – the sight of first blooming crocus flowers, spring peepers at dusk and the smell of fresh spring rain. For motorcycle enthusiasts, spring brings the sight of many bikers taking to the pavement, the sound of revving engines, and the smell of the fresh air as the wind blows in their faces. The first few weeks of warm weather starts to transform our Ruger parking lots from four-wheeled vehicles to two-wheeled vehicles. With more motorcycles on the road, there are some specific safety concerns that need consideration.

For riders, wear brightly colored clothing to remain visible on the road. Choose protective gear like long pants and sleeves that can protect from road rash, as well as a DOT-approved helmet, over-the-ankle boots as well as gloves. Check the weather before heading out to avoid non-ideal or dangerous conditions, especially here in New England as the spring weather is unpredictable and changes rapidly. In early spring, riders should be extra careful, as there is still debris on the roadways from winter salt and sand treatments.

For car drivers, always use your turn signal (use yah blinkah!), and check side and rearview mirrors before turning or changing lanes, paying attention to blind spots. Use extra caution at sunrise and sunset when the glare makes it harder to see smaller objects like motorcycles. Always give motorcycles plenty of space, too. Additionally during spring yard clean up, avoid blowing or raking leaves and grass clippings into roadways as this causes poor conditions for motorcyclists.

Two Ruger associates, Crystal and Steve Weidlich, who love motorcycling, share their thoughts:

Crystal: When I am on the bike there is not a care in the world... there is no stress. It is like taking a deep breath and slowly exhaling.

Steve: There is just so much to see across our great country, and we plan on riding through it. Not knowing where you will end up at the end of the day, the smells, the temperature changes you only feel when riding, all being part of the adventure that makes a trip on a bike the best. I strongly suggest getting out there and getting some mileage!

~ Elise Letizia, ATF Compliance Technician



Crystal and Steve Weidlich



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Newport's Very Own "Everyman"

Mel Reed

Occasionally, when I sit down to write an article, I find myself desperately searching for the 'hook' I want to hang the piece on. Something that makes the person stand out from the crowd; something that screams at me 'here it is!,' something that makes me think: 'this is what it's all about.' Sometimes finding that hook can be difficult. Sometimes it seems impossible. All I had in the beginning was a comment about a bird feeder my subject had put up at Dunkin Donuts.

Before I even got as far as Dunkin Donuts, there was the 'name' issue. My initial contact was for "Branton." I called. The woman who answered said: "Nobody here by that name," and did exactly what I would do these days. She hung up. So, I called again and blurted out that I was calling from the Newport Times and probably had the wrong name before she could hang up again.

"Oh – you want Bradon," she told me. "Yes... Contact!" I thought. "Can I speak with him?" I asked. "Bradon is unavailable right now..." she said. There followed a convoluted discussion about when he might or might not be around which eventually found its way to an agreement to meet with him at Dunkin Donuts the following Monday. I was still feeling positive.

Monday was one of those 'wanna-be Winter' Spring days. Cold, damp, cloudy. I went in and situated myself at the table opposite the bird feeder. I met with a few of his regular buddies.

"Hi. I'm here to meet Bradon about an article for the *Newport Times*."

"Who's Bradon?"

I explained the name issue again.



Freddy



Eric



Robin



Bernie

"You know, the guy who put up the bird feeder?"

"Oh, you mean Bernie!"

"Do I?" I countered.

"Yup, that's Bernie. He knows everybody."

Branton, Bradon, Bernie. I had a sneaking suspicion things were not going all that well. But ever-willing, I forged ahead.

I met **Freddy** who lives up on Maple Street. He painted houses for a living before he retired. He doesn't talk a lot, but that doesn't mean he doesn't have much to say. On the contrary. He was full of local news and history. "I was

born here," he said. "Went to school here. I walk the streets around here every single day."

"Except maybe in the winter," interrupts **Eric**. Eric is a retired over-the-road truck driver. He and his wife, Robin – a retired postal worker – come as a team. "You gotta be careful in the winter, Freddy, you don't bounce like you used to!" Then he laughs delightedly at his own joke. He gave me a broad smile. "I still work part-time," he says.

"Over-the-road?" I wondered out loud, thinking about the pros and cons of this 70-something guy driving coast-to-coast."

"Na!" he laughs. "Just local these days."

Robin, although clearly one of the group, sits to the side at a high table... part of – yet apart from the conversation.

"Do you still work?" I asked her.

"Oh no," she says. "When I retired, I retired. I went to school with Freddy," she says. "We know everybody around here."

Those three were joined by David, a truck driver for LaValley... a bit of an outsider since he was not retired. He drank his coffee and rushed off to work. In the brief silence that followed his hurried departure, Freddy offered, "He's not a regular."

I spent an hour chatting with the folks Bernie had coffee with every day. But not that day. That day he stood me up.

"Funny that Bernie's not here," Eric said. The same thought crossed my mind.

"He's here every day," confirmed Freddy.

"Something must have happened," cautioned Robin. A pall fell over the group as they considered the possibilities. I left soon after.

I was somewhat irked that I had been stood up and when I finally got Bernie on the phone, I was primed to let him know just how unhappy I was.

"I'm real sorry about that. I had to rush down to Concord hospital. 'I'm actually up at Dartmouth right now... I have prostate cancer. Something went wrong. But I can meet you tomorrow...?'"

My righteous attitude evaporated. "I can't. How about Wednesday?" I ventured.

Continued on next page

FLYING HIGH

ACE Camp: Sign Up Now and Fly!



The ACE (Aviation Career Education) program will take place at Parlin Field, Newport, NH during the week of August 7-11. The attendees will have the opportunity to fly in a variety of general aviation aircraft (Cessna 172 type), go on a field trip to an aviation facility, hear guest speakers from the aviation industry, and participate in hands-on aviation activities.

The program is made possible through the volunteer efforts of many including local pilots and teachers. The cost is \$100 for the week. ■

For more information, contact: Heath Marsden, Parlin Field co-manager, 978-886-0854 cell, ParlinField@gmail.com.



"Deal! I'll buy you a coffee to make it up to you."

Two days later, I finally got to sit down with Bernie at Dunkin' Donuts in Newport on another raw Spring day and found myself struggling between doubting the worth of my article and wondering if I had somehow failed to grasp the plot of one of life's important lessons.

It wasn't like there wasn't a lot to talk about.

We covered how long he had lived in Newport; how he had met his wife of 40+ years; how he worked as a butcher for 14 years; how he got fired which resulted in him getting the best job of his life; how he became a route-jumper for H P Hood; and how he had never been sick a day in his life until he fell out of his truck and broke his ankle.

He showed me the scar on his left leg from knee replacement #2 - #1 had never healed correctly. He showed me a picture of a puppy his wife bought out from under the nose of Steven Tyler of Arrowsmith. "He's a great guy," said Bernie.

He showed me pictures of 9 grandkids and 8 great grandkids.

And he showed me a picture of his son who went to war and came home to hang himself. I laughed, I cried, I smiled, and I grimaced. But none of it

seemed to add up to a good article.

It turned out I was wrong about that. But it took me a while to figure it out.

You see, back in the day... wayyyy, wayyyy, back in the day... around the 1500s, clergy hired itinerant actors to travel around performing 'morality plays' - short entertainments that taught country folks (none of whom could read or write) about good and evil. One very famous morality play's central character was called 'Everyman.'

Everyman was not unique. In fact, he was blatantly 'normal.' He had good points and bad; he was sometimes righteous and sometimes evil; he had every strength and weakness known to man. He was neither hero nor villain. But everyone identified with him and learned from him by watching him struggle.

At 2AM the morning after my interview, it came to me. Bernie is Newport's 'Everyman.' You look into his eyes and see yourself - strengths and flaws, alike - looking right back at you.

Bernie welcomes anyone at his table. He makes no judgments. He offers no solutions. He just 'is' and that makes it easier for you to just 'be' too.

The birds had not yet visited the bird feeder... too cold, I guess. But it's there waiting for them when they are ready. So is Bernie. ■



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— Gloria G.

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