

The *Newport Times*

Newport's Good News Paper

Serving the Town of Newport, NH

November/December 2022

Est. January 2022

*"I am grateful
for what I am
and have.
My Thanksgiving
is perpetual."*
~ Henry David Thoreau

*"It's not how
much we give
but how much
love we put
into giving."*
~ Mother Theresa



Shredding the apples into a pressing tub

Timeless Thanksgiving Traditions

Editor's Note: What a fabulous Fall season we have enjoyed! With Thanksgiving right around the corner, we decided to feature two wonderful, old-fashioned fall harvest traditions that Newport resident, Arthur Walsh, shares with his family and friends. New England frugality (waste nothing!), hard work and common-good values all play a role in the traditions of apple cider pressing and grinding corn into meal to use in a variety of recipes, in this case, Indian Corn Pudding! We hope you enjoy stepping back in time as Arthur shares these traditions and perhaps you will become inspired to start your own Thanksgiving harvest-time ritual.

Arthur Walsh, MD

The Story of 'Indian Pudding'

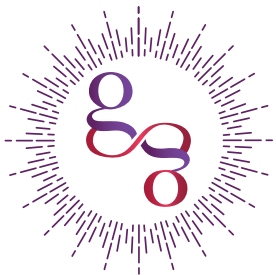
This is a story about "Indian Pudding" – a tale involving life on the Dakota Prairie, Native American agriculture, an old artifact, and Thanksgiving in Newport.

The middle of the tale begins over a century ago, on the vast prairies of Western North Dakota, where my grandfather had staked a claim and broken the prairie with teams of horses, planting wheat and rye. Around 1916 to 1919 or so, when my father and his brothers were boys, they amassed a substantial collection

of Indian arrowheads, spear points, and even hatchet heads. As they would bounce along on the iron seat of the horse-drawn plow, they would eagerly watch the soil turning over on the plowshares, hoping for a glimpse of the occasional treasure (and there were many, after centuries of human habitation of those prairies). When they saw one, they would pull the horses to a stop, jump off of the plow, run back to grab the treasure, then hop back on the plow and continue with their work.

My father said that the five brothers had accumulated a remarkable collection over the years, including lengthy spear points with their tips intact.

Continued on page 20



Eichenauer employees are the foundation of the new high-performance culture

Transforming Eichenauer from the Inside Out Cultivating a 21st Century Employee-centric Culture

Mel Reed

A sprawling and unprepossessing gray building on Sunapee Street in Newport houses Eichenauer, Inc. – a manufacturing operation specializing in the development, production, and sale of electrical heating systems.

Most citizens probably do not know much, if anything, about Eichenauer. The company is a B2B (Business-to-Business) company which sells only to other manufacturing businesses. There are no typical "customers." No people walk in off the street to peruse the products that Eichenauer has for sale. No one searches through weekly flyers for 'deals and steals.' Nonetheless,

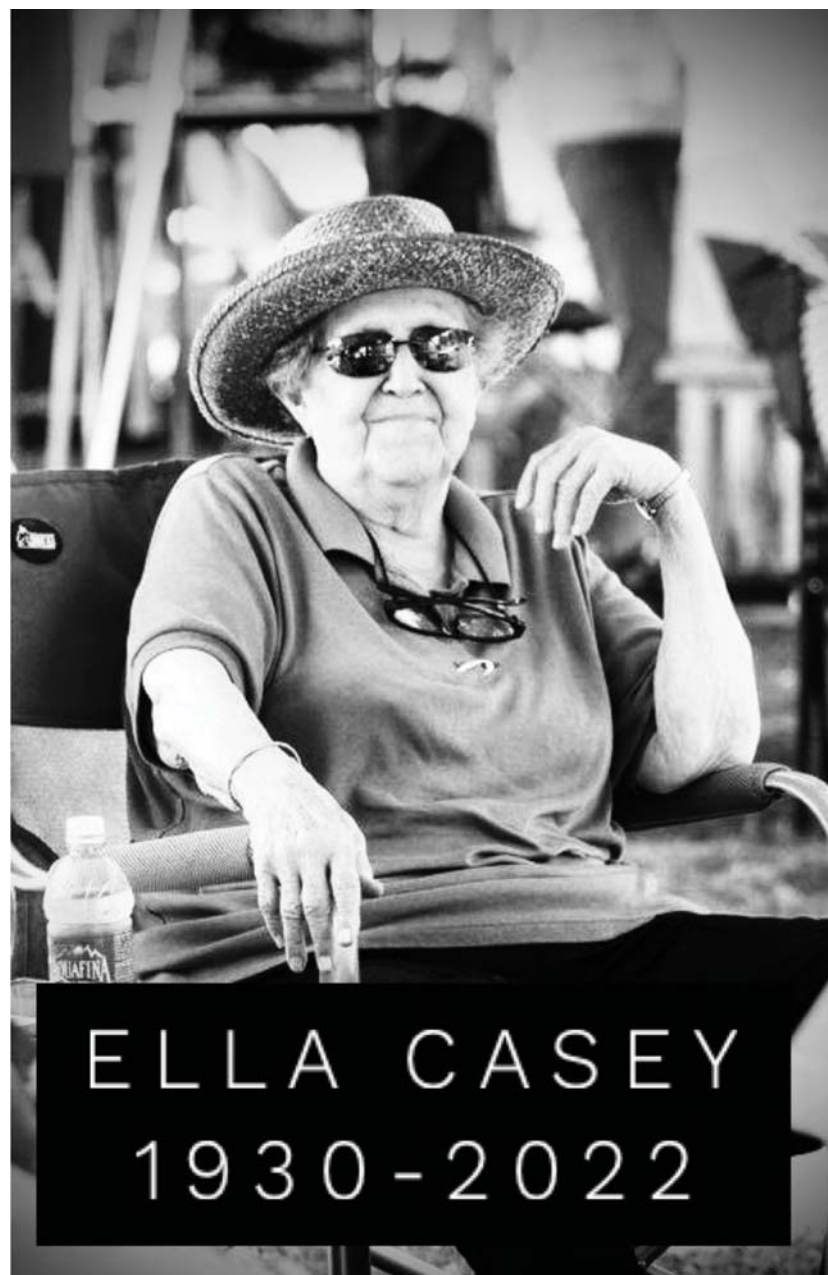
Continued on page 22

Ella Casey: A Life Well Lived

Newport's Beloved Two-time Citizen of the Year

Speaking on behalf of all of us here at Sturm Ruger, we mourn the loss of our chosen Hometown Hero, Ella Casey, who passed away last month. We send our condolences to her loved ones and our gratitude for her above-and-beyond contribution to our community.

Born and raised in Worchester, Mass, Ella and her late husband, Jim, made Newport home beginning in 1966, raising two daughters, Patricia and Jamie. After retiring from First NH Bank in 1996 as Operations Officer, Ella continued to devote her life to the Newport community. No matter if it was her involvement with the Red Hats Club, the Newport Rotary Club, Supervisor of the Checklist, Newport Economic Development Corporation, the Newport Area Women's Club, as a past



chairman of Community Alliance of Human Services, the Newport Loan Advisory Committee, Newport Historical Society, Newport Winter Carnival, or as the Executive Director of the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, if one needed to know something about the town of Newport, it was common knowledge to go "ask Ella."

Ella Casey was such an important figure in our community that the Newport Chamber of Commerce bestowed the distinguished Citizen of the Year upon her twice – once in 1992 and again last year in 2021. Through all of the changes Newport and the world has seen in those 29 years, Ella's commitment to the Newport community remained steady throughout. For her first honor in 1992, then President Jane Dearden and Executive Director Lin Cossaboon cited her 25 years of service to Newport while a loan officer for BankEast, serving as a past President of the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, involvement in the Newport Booster Club, her time on Newport Planning Board, long time member of the Newport Business and Professional Women's Club – several times President – and the first ever woman to coach a Newport Little League team.

In 2002, then Chamber President Dave Lantz said in an interview with the *Eagle Times* "She really is the glue that holds it together, and she's very committed to our community." Those words were as true then as they were until her passing. In that same interview, Ella said "I don't know what I'm going to do when I grow up," Luckily for us, Ella never grew up. ■

Excerpted from material written by Steve Smith of WCNL and VP of the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce.

*...if one needed to know something
about the town of Newport,
it was common knowledge to go "ask Ella."*



RUGER is the proud sponsor of the Hometown Hero page

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

Give the Gift of Good News!

The Newport Times Asks For Your Support

As we finish up the first year of publishing the *Newport Times*, by all accounts it has been a resounding success... **a beam of sunlight in this Sunshine Town!**

The first year was **generously sponsored by the Malool family** with additional revenue provided by **local businesses through advertising dollars**. As with everything else, printing and US postal **costs have risen sharply**. And start-up funds have expired. As such, we are now asking you, the citizens of Newport, to **pitch in what you can** to help **keep the good news coming**.

Never fear! We are primed and ready to deliver **another 6 issues** in 2023 to **every address in Newport** as always! We just ask that readers **contribute** to help build a slush fund to guard against any unforeseen economic storms that may come our way. We appreciate you and your generosity.

Thank you for sharing your stories, photos, and words of encouragement with us! **It has been a pleasure to spread your good news** to everyone in town. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Here's a short list of the gifts the *Newport Times* delivers to your mailbox 6 times per year!



Good News
Need we say more!



A swelling sense of pride
in and appreciation for
your community



A chance to
meet your neighbors
in our printed pages



A tangible source of
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young and old
and smiles all around!



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Please make your check out to: Greater Good Media and mail to: PO Box 104, White River Jet VT 05001, or scan this QR code to donate electronically.
\$6, \$30, \$48 or whatever amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated!

SUPPORT LOCAL

Business Help for Food and Farm Operations

Kate McNamee of Clover Meadow Farm graciously walked me around her flower beds in the rain as we chatted about her experience working with the Agricultural Viability Alliance (AVA). Clover Meadow Farm is a "u-pick" flower farm in Claremont, NH, that focuses on community-building, growing without pesticides, and improving pollinator and soil health.

"We're growing slowly," she told me, but she has a lot of projects in the works and big ideas for the farm to go along with that sentiment. As we walked around she pointed out what she's planted where, and what sorts of things she's been doing to help improve soil health on the farm. She has garlic planted for the upcoming year and is hoping to have some more vegetables for kids to pick next season in order to help them connect to where their food comes from (though she's had some battles with critters like gray squirrels along the way). On top of that, she is looking to move into the dried flower and dried flower wreath market next fall.

One of the aspects of AVA's assistance that Kate mentioned finding very helpful was the flexibility of the program and the ability to customize the help to her business's needs. Though the flower farm is Kate's true passion, it's still in addition to a full-time job. Two areas that Kate highlighted as we talked about her experience with AVA were the customized business coaching and web design. The business planning sessions gave her a structure which she and her husband, Tom, could use to figure out their goals for the business and the roles each of them would play.

Furthermore, the assistance with developing a website helped to simplify the load on Kate's plate. In this era of heightened digital communication, a well-built and branded website is almost essential to a successful business. However, most folks already have enough going on with running said business – and in Kate's case, a full-time job outside of the farm – and don't have the time or capacity to deal with figuring out how to develop a user-friendly website out of whole cloth. With things like web design and some helpful business coaching conversations to guide Clover Meadow Farm, Kate now has a pathway toward even more exciting opportunities for the farm. Over the coming year, she'd like to have more on-farm workshops, continue providing the unique experience of helping customers to pick their own customized bouquets, and is looking into partnering with other local businesses like berry farms and cheesemakers to consider putting together joint gift baskets. We're excited to see what 2023 has in store for Kate and Clover Meadow Farm! ■

~ Cameron Huftalen, Vital Communities

If you'd like to connect with us about receiving technical assistance for your food and farm business, please contact cameron@vitalcommunities.org to see if the AVA program is a fit for you!

You know those favorite local businesses
that are there when you need them?

They need you.
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Find open Upper Valley businesses & farms by
searching the Vital Communities Guide —
vitalcommunities.org/guide

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civic, environmental, and economic
vitality of the Upper Valley

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everything local

My CHRISTMAS Wishlist



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 **LIBRARY ARTS CENTER**
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Leading By Good Example

As I type the last *Newport Times* Publisher's Note of 2022, I cannot believe that a full year has flown by. Despite many ups and downs throughout the world, the good news has remained steady here in Newport, and we have taken great joy in bringing it to you!

One theme that shows up resoundingly in this issue is that of mentorship. At every turn, it appears that an elder, or at least the more experienced member in a situation, is patiently showing the ropes to a protégé. I love the cover photo where multiple generations are gathering to engage in a wholesome harvest ritual that has been happening in New England, at least, for centuries. Even manufacturing companies like Eichenauer and Ruger have programs in place which stress collaboration and mentorship.

Clearly, many organizations in Newport create opportunities for young people to be inspired by those who have gone before them. The Library Arts Center and the Richards School teamed up to engage an artist-in-residence who in turn taught the students the beauty of chalk art. The Middle School young people also had a chance to see a variety of career options at the Career Expo held at the Tech Center.

Somehow, the image of a patient teacher and willing student embodies what Newport is all about. Generations taking turns making this community a better place than it was before.

As the year comes to a close, the *Newport Times* wishes to thank you for your enthusiasm and efforts in making this first year as uplifting and joy-filled as possible. YOU are the rays of sunshine; we just reflect the well-deserved light back to you!

Happy Holidays and Peace on Earth.

~ Jen MacMillen

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The Newport Times

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Contributors

Jackie Cote	Mel Reed	Arthur Walsh, MD
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And all of the representatives of the community organizations featured



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

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

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Hidden Gems

The Pinnacle

The Pinnacle is a 1362 foot Summit destination that overlooks Newport. This mountain/hill overlooks downtown Newport and is located northeast of Newport High School in the Newport Town Forest. It is accessible by foot or mountain bike.

This summit has been a local hiking destination for decades.

The Pinnacle was officially obtained by the Town of Newport in 1991 when they received a grant from the Land Conservation Investment Program of the Trust for New Hampshire Land. They used this money (\$109,000) to purchase the property from James and Mary Barton that year. The town Conservation Commission, as well as students from Newport High school, under the direction of the New Hampshire Conservation Corps, also began work to re-open the view from the Pinnacle. Under the purchase agreement for the town, James and Mary wanted to keep the view open from the Pinnacle in perpetuity, so all hikers can appreciate the view of the town.

Over the past 3 decades, many hikers have crested the Pinnacle to see the fine views. Many trails have been added to the Town Forest over the years and folks have used those trails to access the Pinnacle over and over. Newport had hosted a Pinnacle mountain bike race for nearly 20 years, raising money for local needs through Newport Lions Club, Team Pinnacle (a local mtb group) and The Newport Recreation Department. The Town Forest also hosts a trail running race every year (Six in the Stix) that runs atop the Pinnacle to catch a view before heading back into the forest. Winter Carnival events have used the Pinnacle for various activities over the years. The Pinnacle is also home to an albino porcupine that has been seen at various locations throughout the years.



The Pinnacle trails were also featured in a recent book, *Haunted Hikes of NH*, written by Marianne O'Conner, published in August of 2009. Whether or not the Pinnacle is haunted is up to interpretation, but folks have said that there is a strange presence when they are up there, as it feels like something is watching or following them. Head out on a cool moonlit evening, bring a headlamp and wander around to see if you feel any presence.

Overall, the Pinnacle is a great way to see the town from a different perspective. There are loads of trails to explore and a rich history to follow. There are three trail heads that feature parking and a trail map to help get you there. The parking spots are located at the end of Summer Street (closest parking to the Pinnacle), the end of Cheney Street (one parking spot), and the north end of the track at Newport High School (ample parking). I would suggest hitting "Big Rock" trail as it is a short trail that almost has a bouldering type rock climbing challenge for the brave (you can walk around the boulder) on your way up. There are two water towers to gawk at, as well as some small caves to explore. As you get closer to the Pinnacle and as you make the final turn, there is an old foundation to check out, as well. Grab a friend, grab some family members, and go see one of our many hidden gems in the Sunshine Town of Newport. ■

Newport Rec Happenings



Past winner of the Chili Walk, Rachel Charles from Newton Bartlett Funeral Home

November- December Programs

- Youth Basketball
 - 1st & 2nd grade
 - 3/4 and 5/6 grade travel league
- Youth wrestling
 - Grades K-5
 - Grades 6-8
- Teen Hoop, Sunday nights 6-8pm
- Coed Hoop, Fridays 7-9pm
- Kidzone Playgroup, Tuesdays 9-10:30am, Fridays 10-11:30am
- Men's Drop-in Basketball, Mondays 7-9pm
- Table Tennis, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11am-1pm
- Pickleball, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9-11am
- Men's Volleyball, Tuesdays, 6:30-9pm
- Women's Volleyball, Thursdays, 6:30-9pm
- Rec Fit, Monday/Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm

- Senior Adult Exercise, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:30-9:30am
- Line Dancing, Wednesdays 7-9pm
- Bootcamp, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 5am

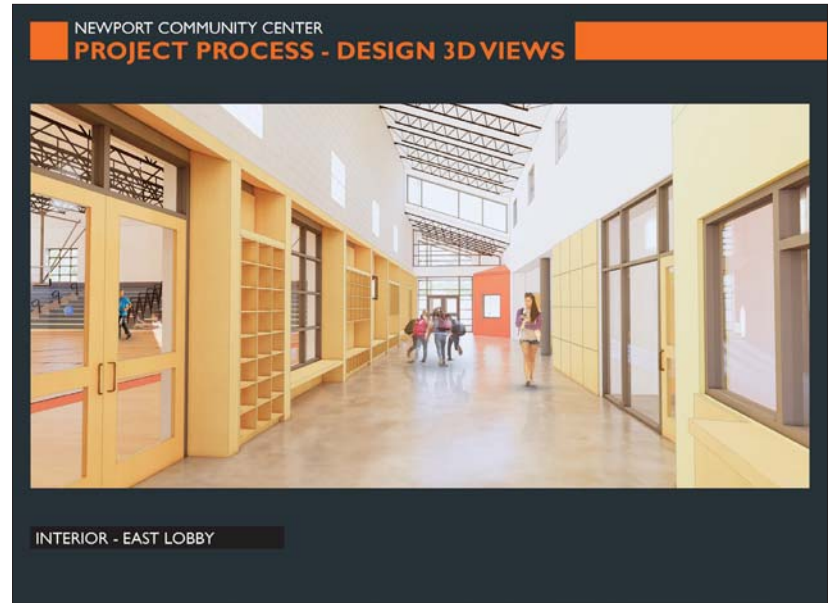
Other Events

- Chili Walk ('Twas Festival), Saturday, December 10, 2022
- Children's Christmas Party, December 23, 2022
- Winter Carnival "Aloha Newport" Feb 8-12, 2023
- Facility Rentals, birthday parties, call for availability
- 300-mile challenge (indoor fitness)
- Ice skating on the common (weather dependent)
- Basketball Hall of Fame (Winter Break kids trip)
- Recreation Advisory Meetings, 4th Monday of the month @ 6:30pm



Santa on his way to greet the kids at the Newport Opera House

From the Selectboard: New Community Center Update



Replacing our current Recreation Center with a new Community Center is not a “want to have,” or “nice to have,” but is a definite “need to have” facility for our community. The existing Recreation Center no longer supports the demands placed on it by the children and community members that want to take part in recreation programs. The former armory that is our Recreation Center is worn out and would need at least \$3 million to renovate it while still leaving the building too small to adapt to the demands of our recreation programs. It is for this reason that I use this space in the *Newport Times* to continue to keep our community informed of the town’s efforts and progress to construct our new Community Center *without adding the cost to our taxes.*

“The History of the Rec Center” is the title of the article in the March/April edition of the *Newport Times* by PJ Lovely, Newport’s Recreation Director. PJ summarizes the history of Newport recreation in the former armory built in 1939. Generations of children experienced great memories in that building. It is time to provide the necessary center for the next generations of children to experience their lifelong

memories and bring their parents and grandparents back for new experiences and memories.

In the same issue of the *Newport Times*, my article was “The Right Time for the New Community Center is Now.” I detailed the work performed by the 12 community members that served as our Community Center Committee who produced the plans for the new Community Center. They considered renovation versus new construction, locations, programs, etc. The proposed Community Center is the product of the efforts of these 12 community members. All their work is available to see from the Community Center link on the left side of the town’s web homepage at www.newportnh.gov.

In the interest of repeating myself, here is the Community Center update from the September/October edition of the *Newport Times*:

“In May, a bond vote to raise up to \$4 million toward the new community center failed. The timing could not have been better. Who wouldn’t be concerned about paying back \$4 million with the highest inflation and highest costs for food and gasoline in decades being headline news on voting day. Regardless of the vote to bond funds for construction, the existing recreation

center is at the end of its life. Details on how the Community Center was developed, including the work by the 12 community members on the community center committee, is in an earlier issue of the Newport Times.

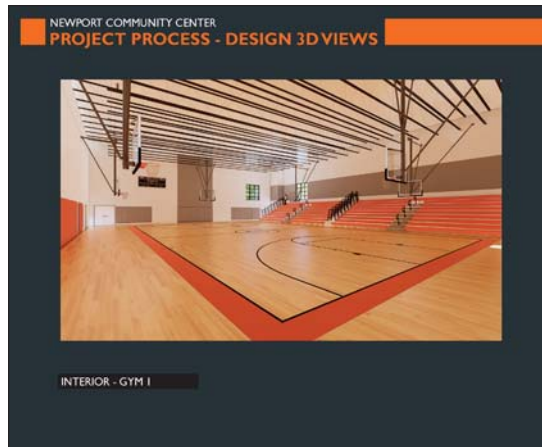
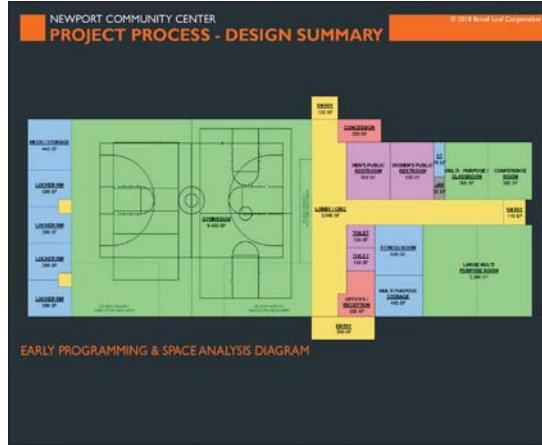
In April, the Town Manager applied to Senator Shaheen’s office for 4 congressionally directed earmarks (Federal funds included in the Federal budget for, and only for, a specific project). In early August, the town received notice that one of our earmark requests has been granted. Senator Shaheen included in the Federal budget an earmark for Newport of \$4.785 million for the construction of a new community center. After that announcement, the Town Manager contacted our architect/engineer to firm up their construction cost estimate, and he contacted all the donors to the project, and has been contacting new potential donors. As of the middle of August, we estimate that the town is within \$500 thousand to \$700 thousand of having the funds needed to construct the Community Center without any burden to the tax rate.

Over the next few months, we will close the gap and acquire the remaining funds required to build the Community Center, refine the plans, and put the project out to bid for the summer 2023 construction season.”



Now, in mid-October, the town has commitments for about \$7.7 million in grants and donations for construction of the new Community Center. We are continuing to seek and receive additional grants and donations for the Community Center. Our architect/engineer has been conservative in their construction estimate and is still forecasting a cost of about \$8.5 million for construction starting in spring of 2023. Informally, we are hearing that the commercial construction market is softening and that costs for construction may be less next year. Not until the town puts the construction of the Community Center out for bid this winter and receives back actual bids for construction, will we know for sure what the actual construction costs will be.

Before that happens, some other steps will take place. The town, the architect/engineer, representatives from Friends of Recreation, the Recreation Department, Recreation Advisory Committee, and the Community Center Committee shall meet and review and confirm the design for the Community Center. The town has received an estimate for the cost of adding a walking track above the gym. This was a popular request, but needing two staircases and an elevator for access, and a higher roof, this adds about \$1 million to the project. The group reviewing the final plan may recommend requesting bids with and without the walking track to see what the actual difference is. Or they could recommend raising the gym roof to accommodate adding the walking track later. (I have heard that a higher roof may also benefit volleyball players.)



The town recently learned that at the beginning of October the Governor's office for Emergency Relief and Recovery requested authorization to use \$20 million of available Federal funds for a Community Center Investment Program with grants of up to \$1 million for eligible community centers. Our new Community Center meets the examples of the projects they are looking to fund. Our Town Manager has spoken to our Executive Councilor and the Governor's office about the benefit this grant would bring to the Newport community. We will be applying for a grant when the state finalizes the application process.

The need for the Community Center is there. The funding is almost there, and we are continuing to add to those funds. We have the groups that developed our Community Center plan finalizing their plan again. We will determine the actual cost to build the Community Center from the bid proposals. And then, hopefully, move forward.

Donations (100% tax deductible) to help make this community asset a reality will be greatly appreciated. All contributions of any denomination will help push this project from being out-of-reach a year ago to within the finish line today. Please do what you can!

Please direct all donations or pledges to the Town of Newport, 15 Sunapee Street, Newport, N.H. 03773. For questions about donations or the Community Center, please contact the Town Manager's Office at 603-863-1877. ■

~ Jeffrey F. Kessler, Newport Board of Selectmen

Eichenauer Inc. wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!



www.eichenauerusa.com

As another year comes to a close, we at Eichenauer Inc. want to express our gratitude to our employees for their dedication to our company and its customers. We are positioned to meet the challenges ahead as well as to grow and develop new opportunities in 2023. As with all businesses right now, we struggle with staffing shortages but are fortunate that those individuals working at Eichenauer are willing to step up to ensure that we meet our customer demands. We know we could not do it without them.

**Even if it doesn't always say Eichenauer on the outside –
EICHENAUER is usually on the inside!**



Highway Department

"It Ain't a Fit Night Out for Man or Beast"

Mel Reed

W. C. Fields spoke that line as a pail of fake snow was thrown in his face. It describes perfectly many very real snowstorms in New Hampshire where it is not uncommon for a Nor'easter to have 50 mph winds, thundersnow, temperatures below 20 degrees, and an hourly snowfall rate of 3 inches. Based on that, folks who keep our roads cleared do not qualify as either "man or beast."

I agree. They are heroes...supermen...modern-day paladins who brave life-threatening elements to keep our roads safe for emergency vehicles, police, and folk who have to get to-and-from essential jobs regardless of weather. So, I jumped at the chance to talk with Todd Cartier (Public Works Director) and Craig Sartwell (Highway Superintendent) about Newport's Winter Operations.

"We plow a total of 65 miles of road – that's 130 LANE miles," says Cartier, "plus all the municipal parking lots and sidewalks in town. The department used to have a Superintendent and 6 Truck Driver/ Equipment Operators (TD/EOs) but one TD/EO position was eliminated. They currently have only 5 full time +1 vacant position, 1 from Public Works, and 1 per diem. "When things get really bad," adds Sartwell, "Todd will jump in a truck himself!"

They both stress that one of their biggest challenges is keeping their drivers safe. "If the storm is polite," says Sartwell, "it will start early in the morning and get done by the end of the day. We start plowing in the morning and get home later the same day. But if the storm is not polite and starts late in the day, or lasts 24+ hours, staff will work a full day and then be on duty for however long it takes." Sartwell continues, "We do stagger on-duty times. If a storm lasts 24 or more hours, we may pick a time when the least number of folks would be on the road and send everyone home for a 4 or 5-hour respite."

Cartier adds, "We get plows on the road when we have 1 – 2 inches on the



(L-R) Kris Page, Cody Tarmy, Todd Cartier, David Almquist, Stephen Daley, and Craig Sartwell

ground. We do primary roads first, then intersections, and then secondary roads. In big storms, we then must start all over again."

When asked about issues, both agreed that staffing (more people) and equipment (older equipment) are the two main needs. When pushed, they also agree people need to help them out. Here are some of their requests:

- Prepare for Winter before the first snow falls
- Obey no parking regulations
(no parking from midnight to 7:30AM November 1 to March 31)
- Stay on primary roads whenever possible
- Stay home if possible

Cartier wraps up the conversation, "We're hiring! This job is the most fun someone will ever have!" So, if you think you have what it takes to be a plow-driving hero, contact Newport Public Works.

Later, as I contemplated the dangerous work these folk do, I was reminded of a less gritty sentiment from Robert Frost's famous poem, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*. It ends, "And miles to go before I sleep."

Truer words were never written about the people who keep our by-ways passable. Thank heaven for them. ■

The Sand Hill Bridge Opening

Back in Business!

The long-awaited Sand Hill Bridge is now complete and is ready for use! This repair and restoration project marks an overdue development plan that expands accessibility within Newport.

With origins dating back 70 to 80 years, the Sand Hill Bridge was once a historic landmark, commemorating the rise of heavy influential industrialization within our hardworking Town. After years of industrial and commercial use, the Sand Hill Bridge had experienced negative effects; rotting in some places and crumbling in others. In 2020, the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation condemned the bridge, deeming it unsafe for commercial use and in-operable from a

manufacturing standpoint. This commission from the State led to the bridge closure and the beginning of a two-years-long detour route for passengers.

The importance of the Sand Hill bridge is the accessibility it provides and the interconnectedness it promotes between local companies and our community. Located alongside its connection, local propane manufacturer Goodrich Oil and local industrial concrete company, Carroll Concrete, handle their everyday operations. During the winter months, it becomes crucial for our local propane company to access every household safely and efficiently. Once the heating season begins, propane tanks take multiple trips along this route, and due to

the closure of the Sand Hill Bridge, propane trucks had to drive longer distances, adding nearly 20 minutes on top of the average travel time. This extension led to backup times during the heating season and added stress on the worker and the homeowner/business owner.

The completion of the Sand Hill Bridge has 'bridged' the distance time between our local heating source and our community! Thank you to the incredibly hard-working and dedicated team at Daniels Construction. These talented professionals have articulated nearly four bridges around Newport!

~ Allison Browning
Economic Development Coordinator



Alan Davis (pictured above right) has spent approximately 40 years creating secure, cohesive structures for towns all around New England. While planning to retire Mid-October, Alan states the urgency he feels to see this reconstruction through until the very end. We appreciate your long dedication to our community, imprinted in Newport for decades to come!

Happy Fall From the Town Clerk's Office!

We are pleased to introduce Suellen Leischner, our newly hired Assistant Town Clerk. Suellen started in our office at the end of August and has received her credentials as a Motor Vehicle Agent, Boat Agent and credentialing for pulling vital records requests, voter registration and absentee ballot processing.



Suellen Leischner, Newport's newly hired Assistant Town Clerk

Suellen is learning quickly and we are thrilled to have her. Next time you are in the building, give her a wave.

As the holidays approach, we want to remind residents that the Town Offices are closed the following days:

- General Election Day, Tuesday November 8
 - Veterans Day, Friday November 11
 - Thanksgiving and the day after, Thursday & Friday November 24-25
 - Christmas Holiday, Monday & Tuesday December 26-27
 - New Years Holiday, Monday January 2
- Happy Fall Everyone! ■

~ *Liselle Dufort, Town Clerk*

Clerks oversee elections, election law changes, absentee ballot requests, ballot counting, reconciliation, results reporting, voter check-in and more.

Newport's Very Own Town Clerk, Liselle Dufort, Honored

During the week of October 10 through October 14, 2022, Clerks from 234 New Hampshire cities and towns gathered at the Double Tree Manchester for the New Hampshire City and Town Clerks Association (NHCTCA) Annual Convention. Clerks, by law, are tasked with making and preserving true and accurate records for present use and future reference. In order to support Clerks in their Municipalities, this Association was established in 1926. One typically thinks of the duties of a city or town clerk as motor vehicle registration and dog licensing. However, clerks perform many more important duties such as overseeing elections to include ballot clerk procedures, election law changes, the processing of absentee ballot requests, ballot counting, reconciliation, results reporting, voter check-in and using the Statewide Voter Registration System ElectioNet. Clerks are also responsible for vital records, learning about new legislation and personal education.

This Association is also tasked with developing, exchanging and disseminating information, ideas, recommendations, resolutions and techniques relating to the offices of the clerks of New Hampshire's cities and towns; promoting an understanding of intergovernmental relations, fostering and encouraging a higher degree of professionalism



Lee Dufort was sworn in as President of the New Hampshire City and Town Clerks Association, pictured here with Secretary of State David M. Scanlan

among clerks and empowering, inspiring and supporting fellow clerks within the Association.

During Thursday evening's banquet on October 13, Newport's Town Clerk, Liselle "Lee" Dufort was sworn in as President of this prestigious organization by New Hampshire Secretary of State, David M. Scanlan. Lee has served as Newport's Town Clerk since 2014. During the week, Lee was also awarded the Secretary of State 2022 Certificate of Merit for attending 11 training sessions, the most of any New Hampshire Clerk. Congratulations, Lee! ■

Lee's education includes:

- Earned NH Certified Town Clerk (CTC) designation in 2014
- Participated in a 4-month Preservation 101 course with the New England Document Conservation Commission to better understand how to care for and oversee the Town's oldest permanent records
- Primex intensive 4-day Supervisor Academy on being a manager and several subsequent leadership classes
- NHCTCA Dartmouth/Lake Sunapee Regional Co-Chair 4/17-10/20
- NHCTCA 2nd VP 2020-2021, 1st VP 2021-2022, President 2022-2023
- Completed 2nd of 3 year intensive training in 2022 with New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy
- Member of International Institute of City and Town Clerks (IIMC)
- Currently working on attaining Certified Municipal Clerk designation through IIMC
- Member of the IIMC Election Committee

AROUND TOWN

WCNL Receives Honor at Annual Event

On Tuesday 10/11/22, WCNL General Manager Steve Smith accepted the Granite Mikes Award – First Place for Public Affairs/Talk Show at the 2022 New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters annual meeting and award ceremony. For the first time since 2019, due to the pandemic, the annual event took place in person at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. Smith, the host of The Workforce Wake-Up (6-10am weekdays), received the award.

"Media has changed quickly with the use of cell phones and the internet. But, we have seen recently, with the pandemic, just how important it is to be as local as possible," Smith said in a statement. "It is a huge honor to me to be recognized for what we do for our community on my morning show. I want to be a place people can turn to and find out what is happening in their community. The content I highlight every day is not something you will find on Pandora or Spotify. And for radio to stay viable, you have to give back to your community."



A previous Radio Station of The Year, Radio Personality of The Year, Public Affairs Campaign of The Year, and Marconi Award Finalist, this was Smith's first time being recognized for Public Service/Talk.

Smith began his radio career as an intern at Heat 95.3 WXHT in Portsmouth, NH in 1997; he received his 25 Year Pin at the annual meeting as well. He noted, "Ever since I began attending the NHABs in the early 2000s, I have always wanted to get my 25-year pin. Each year I would see these people I looked up to in the industry get up and receive their pin, and had hoped someday I would have a career that lasted as long as the people before me. I just hope I can be as meaningful as so many before me that influenced me and my journey."

The New Hampshire Association Of Broadcasters consists of 79 various radio and television stations across the Granite State and meets each year to hold its annual meeting, honor the best of New Hampshire broadcasting, and come together to celebrate broadcasting in New Hampshire. ■

Library Arts Center

Library Arts Center Brings Artist-in-Residence to Richards School

Every child (K-5th grade) at Richards School in Newport NH got the opportunity to work with Artist in Residence, Katie Runde, in an incredible day-long residency, October 4, at the school. This residency was made possible by the Library Arts Center which funded this community arts activity, in part, through donations to the Arts Center via NH Gives—a state-wide giving initiative that took place in June. The residency was coordinated through the Arts Center and Richards School Art Teacher Colleen O'Connor.

Runde created a large-scale, 3D tiger, Newport School's mascot. All classes came out and met with the artist to view her working, get a lesson from her about her technique, and have a chance for questions before diving into their own sidewalk chalk art creations of "paw"sitive tiger paws, alongside the artist while she worked. Runde's piece was designed so the 3-D effect worked best from a 4 foot viewing height, perfect for students, and visible for adults when bent over. This added layer, making the piece best viewable from a child's height was a wonderful detail. At the end of the school day, all students and staff paraded around the schoolyard to see hundreds of paw prints leading around the school and around the tiger art piece by Runde.

This was the first artist-in-residency in the Newport School System in quite some time. The Library Arts Center understands that school funds are tight, and will work to ensure that this is a first of many to come, and will work to make funding possible for these opportunities to happen more regularly in the future.

Newport Heritage Mural Reproduction Is Complete

Have you noticed the completely redone Heritage Train Mural downtown on the Newport Fitness Building? After months of work, and with hundreds of volunteers and donors involved, the Heritage Mural Reproduction, comprised of 36, 4x4-foot panels, is now complete and was unveiled in a community-wide celebration Saturday,



Richards School students worked on their own chalk art pieces creating "paws-itive" tiger paws alongside the artist while she worked.



Artist-in-Residence Katie J. Runde works on a large-scale chalk art piece outside of Richards School. The mural's specially designed 3-D effect was designed to be viewed from a child's perspective, alongside the artist while she worked.

October 8th. The festivities took place directly under the mural, in the freshly revamped courtyard between MJ Harrington Jewelers, Aurora Bakery, and Newport Fitness. The celebration, which drew hundreds, included live music, and complimentary fall treats and hot cider from Aurora Bakery.

The mural was reproduced in 2022 as the 25-year-old original mural had worn beyond repair. This heritage mural depicts scenes from downtown Newport in the years that the train passed directly through town. The Library Arts Center has spearheaded this reproduction which involved project lead artist Heidi Lorenz, lead builder Nick Scalera, lead historian Pam LaFountain, building owners Jeff and Heidi North, as well as hundreds of community members, artists, and local businesses who have volunteered and donated to make this project possible.

A free booklet on the mural's history is now available at the Library Arts Center, Newport Fitness, Aurora Bakery, MJ Harringtons, and the Historical Society. Find out more about the reproduction effort and the mural's history at libraryartscenter.org/mural.

Gallery of Gifts: Support Local and Handmade this Holiday Season

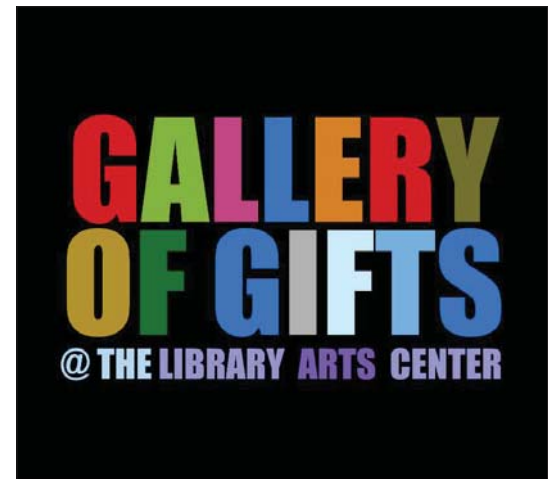
The Library Arts Center transforms its art gallery space into a makers' pop-up-style holiday boutique November through December. In doing this, the gallery showcases and sells handmade pieces from over 100 crafters and artists from the region. Shopping at Gallery of Gifts is a completely enjoyable, low-stress, local alternative to the hustle and bustle of "big box store" shopping, and is a great opportunity to support local artisans and the creative economy with your holiday shopping. Stop by Gallery of Gifts November 5 - December. 23. Gallery

Hours: Tuesday through Friday 11-4, and Saturdays 10-2. Check out libraryartscenter.org for special events, including "Ladies Night, December 1, as well as free weekly ornament craft kits for all ages in the weeks following Thanksgiving, and more. ■

Library Arts Center - Gallery & Studio; 58 N. Main Street, Newport, NH 03773; 603.863.3040.



LAC staff present artists Mal McLaughlin and Karen Little with gifts of appreciation at the mural unveiling



Newport Opera House Association Welcomes New Executive Director

Newport native, Laura McGrillis Kessler, has been chosen as the new Executive Director of the Newport Opera House Association. Laura has a long history with the organization having been on the NOHA Board of Directors for several years and appearing on the Opera House stage in many productions. Local readers may remember her in the NOHA 2006 production of *The Pajama Game* playing the part of Babe Williams, as Mrs. Paroo in *The Music Man* the following year and she appeared in *State Fair* as Jeanne as well. Kessler has also been an ensemble member in numerous musical comedies.

Outgoing Executive Director, Meg Cowan, is excited for the future of the NOHA under Laura's leadership. "She has deep roots in and a sincere passion for the Newport Opera House Association", said Cowan. "Laura has invested so much of herself in this organization over the years, I know she will do a fantastic job carrying on our mission of bringing a wide variety of performing arts to the people of Newport."

Both Kessler and Cowan performed on the Opera House stage under the direction of Charles Massey, another name that will resonate with many readers. He taught at the Newport High School for many years (Laura was one of his students) and through his connections with the citizens of Newport, was able to recruit a large number of volunteers to bring back the neglected Newport Opera House to its former glory and launch a 501 c 3 not-for-profit performing arts organization in 1976, the Newport Opera House

Association. It is due to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers and staff like Charles Massey that the beautiful, historic building that graces the center of Main Street is still the entertainment hub of the region.

Laura will be full-time at the NOHA starting on December 5, 2022. In the meantime, Meg is teaching Laura about all the daily operations of running the business of the Opera House. "Even though we are a non-profit known for our entertainment, first and foremost, we are a business with all the procedures and paperwork that need attending to just like any other business," noted Cowan. "I'm happy to report that Laura is catching on fast!" she continued.

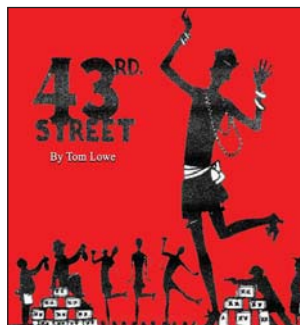
Coming up on November 18-20 is *43rd Street*, a partnership production between the NOHA and SKIT (Sunapee-Kearsarge Intercommunity Theatre) This is a historical revival of the Sutton Homesteader's last musical comedy written by Tom Lowe. Gangsters, Flappers and Bootleggers are played by local actors who will sing and dance their way through the Prohibition Era to the irresistible jazz of the Roaring '20s!

NOHA will also be partnering with the Mt. Royal Academy's Knight's Theatre, on December 2-4 to present *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. This timeless classic by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman is a brilliantly witty madcap play and one of the most beloved comedies of the American theatre.

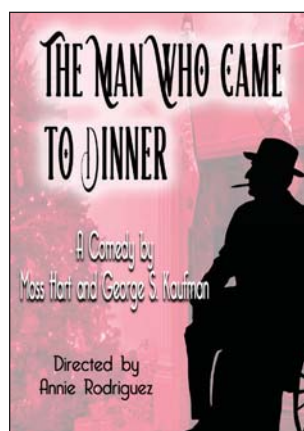
Tickets are available online at www.newportoperahouse.com. ■



Outgoing Executive Director, Meg Cowan



"43rd Street"



"The Man Who Came to Dinner"



New Executive Director, Laura McGrillis Kessler

NEWPORT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

What Is Montessori Education?

In 2005, the Newport Montessori School opened on September 5th with a student enrollment of 18 and a staff of 5. This current school year 22-23 marks our 17th year of operation. We have an enrollment of 108 and a staff of 18. Over our years, we have been asked many times, "What is Montessori education?"

Created by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1907, the Montessori Method is based on scientific experimentation which showed great results by students when they used hands-on learning to develop real-world skills. Today, there are over 5,000 Montessori Schools in the United States and more than 20,000 Montessori Schools in 110 countries world wide.

Montessori educators view children as naturally eager and capable of initiating and pursuing learning, guided by their own interests. To support children as they learn, Montessori schools provide thoughtfully prepared, age-appropriate environments that nurture children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.

Regardless of the type of Montessori school – for example, independent, private, or public/charter; secular or faith-based – the American Montessori Society recognizes five components as critical to high-fidelity implementation of the Montessori Method.

1. Trained Montessori Teachers

A properly credentialed Montessori teacher has the skills and expertise to implement high-fidelity Montessori. There are several Montessori training



organizations: AMS, AMI, NAMC are just a few. Our school is a member of AMS (American Montessori Society) and most of our teachers have been trained by NAMC (North American Montessori Center).

2. **A Multi-Aged Classroom** Classes with 3-year age spans facilitate mentorship among the students and encourage leadership development.
3. **Using Montessori Materials** A hallmark of Montessori is specially designed materials that provide a hands-on approach to learning.
4. **Child Directed Work** Students are given agency to self-select work, leading to intrinsic motivation and sustained attention.
5. **Uninterrupted Work Periods** An extended period of "free choice" enables students to work at their own pace and without interruption. ■

~ Miss Christy (Christy Whipple), Head of School

Richards Free Library: Cultivating Cozy for the Holiday Season

It's that time of year again: The time where neighbors compete to see who can hold out the longest before turning on the heat. If you hear the echoes of "just put on a sweater" ringing in your memory, you know that a cozy sweater is more than just fashion - it's downright thrifty! Some folks are lucky enough to have hand knits made by a grandparent or crafty friend. These scarves, sweaters, mittens, and hats represent the passion of their craftsperson, the love of a caretaker, and a respect for the heritage of woolens and textiles so dear to our New England history. For knitting season this year, Richards Free Library is offering different ways to engage with this craft.



for the Sarah Josepha Hale statue, located in the park next to the library. The scarf will be placed around the statue on Wednesday, the 23rd of November, in time to honor Sarah Josepha Hale for Thanksgiving.

How can you participate in the "Warm Up Sarah" project, you may ask? Contributions may be submitted Monday, October 24th through Friday, November 18th, either by adding to the public knitting or by submitting a piece of work that measures 8 inches in width. After Friday the 18th, contributions will be

joined together into a community knit scarf, and placed on the statue.

The public knitting will be on display at the library located next to the glass display case at the base of the library staircase. The library will provide yarn for the interactive knitting display at the library, as well as yarn for separate contributions by the crafter (feel free to contribute your own yarn according to your preference). All fiber crafters are welcome to join in, so crocheters, weavers, or any other fiber artists, you are welcome to bring in pieces! These contributions will be accepted through Friday, November 18th, after which they and the public knitting scarf will be joined together for placement on the statue.

Monthly Knitting Group

The library Knitting Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6-8. Join and chat and knit or create other fiber art projects. All levels of experience are welcome. If you would like to join via ZOOM instead of in-person, email us at rfl@newport.lib.nh.us to receive a meeting invitation. "As we craft with each other, we offer support, enjoy each other's work, and get inspiration for future projects."

Check out a display of the Knitting Group's projects at the Richards Free Library today!

Knittin' Mittens

Join us Saturday, November 5th for Knittin' Mittens! Bring your yarn and needles, and a pattern if you have one, or use one of ours! Enjoy some treats, conversation, and dedicated mitten knitting time! We can't wait to see you and your mitts!

Community Knit

The library is pleased to announce the "Warm Up Sarah" Community Knit Project! This event officially began Monday, October 24th, Sarah Josepha Hale's 234th birthday. Community members are invited to help make a scarf

Giving Tree

This holiday season, the Richards Free Library will have a fun, new way to donate! Come in and take a tag off the Library Giving Tree. Some tags will be for specific children's books, some for specific craft items for programs, and some for specific needs for Dexter and Minnie, the library cats. The tree will be up from November 29th (Giving Tuesday) through the end of the year. Of course, if you'd rather make a monetary donation, those are always welcome and are much appreciated! The Richards Free Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit which means all donations are tax deductible. If you'd like a receipt for your donation, just ask! If you have any questions about donating to the Richards Free Library, please email Justine Fafara, our Director, at jfafara@newport.lib.nh.us. Thank you for supporting the library any way you can! ■

Newport Community Television 'Tis the Season (Election, That Is!)

This time of year it is impossible to avoid the campaign signs and ads all over our state. Let these advertisements be a reminder of how important it is to carry out your civic duty and vote this election season, no matter the political party. Voting is the easiest way to have an impact on the direction our communities and state move in as a whole; a basic right that we need to use and appreciate.

Since August, I have been organizing, preparing for, and conducting interviews with local political candidates from multiple districts. From the New Hampshire House of Representatives, Senate, and Executive Council, candidates from multiple local districts have come into

the studio to discuss their political background and campaign points.

During the Primary, I spoke with candidates individually throughout the week, but as we moved into the general election, I have been bringing opponents together to discuss their differing views and what they have in common with each other so voters can decide who they wish to vote for based on their explanations rather than sound bites or mailers.

I have enjoyed conducting political interviews, and feel as though I am getting involved in what interested me in journalism to begin with. I will continue to report on politics and other local news until next fall when I go to college. Thank you to all of you



New NCTV intern, Connor Clark, produces Bella's Interview

who have met with me, in and outside of our Newport community. For those of you who are watching our shows, thank you for supporting NCTV. We will continue to deliver the news.

If you are curious about what

candidates on the ballots have said, or candidates who participated in the primary election that you may see in future political endeavors, you can go to our website: nctv-nh.org and watch all the interviews. ■ ~ Bella Osgood

Newport Senior Center Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

A puzzle is only seen when all the pieces are together. As a long-standing community focal point, the journey of the Newport Senior Center has included many stepping stones in order to forge a path into creating a sturdy foundation to provide opportunities for older adults to stay safe, active, independent, and healthy as one ages.

It all started in 1953, when “The Golden Age Club” was formed and housed under what was once Hubert’s store. At that time, it was Western Auto. Then in 1970, the name was changed to Newport Senior Citizens Center.

With the implementation of the “Older Americans Act” (OAA) by the federal government in 1972, Sullivan County Nutrition Services (SCNS) was designated as the focal point for the delivery of OAA services. The initial program served 25 meals per day with an operating budget of \$20,000. Fifty years later, yes 50 years have now passed, SCNS is preparing 500 meals per day with a \$1 million operating budget.

On September 11, 1979, the Newport Senior Center incorporated and moved to the basement of the Newport Primary School, which we know today as our town office building. As the need for meal and nutrition services continued to grow, SCNS established two additional meals sites in 1980 to meet the increased demands. As basic essential service needs were recognized, SCNS started its Senior Transportation program in Newport as well.

Quickly outgrowing the basement of the Newport Primary School, fundraising efforts began in 1987 to purchase our current property located at 76 South Main Street. Kaarle Lehtinen kicked off the fundraising drive with a \$100,000 donation and held the remaining mortgage at a low rate until 1993 when the mortgage was burned in the parking lot.

With the support of Kaarle Lehtinen, the efforts of the fundraising committee, and community support, the Newport Senior Center purchased the property on July 6, 1988, from Ernest Hodgdon Jr. Seniors remodeled and moved in for their first Thanksgiving dinner at their new home.

Although senior centers are not always recognized as the vibrant places of learning, socialization, and wellness that they are, the center once again was bursting out at the seams as we became a lifeline for older adults by connecting them to vital community services with the goal of helping individuals continue



to live at home for as long as possible.

In 2002, a new rubberized roof was installed for \$31,000. Then in 2006, a new garage was added onto the center after several incidents of vandalism to the senior center car occurred and the need for additional storage space became increasingly evident.

As programs and services such as meal and nutrition programs, information and assistance, health & wellness programs, transportation services, employment & volunteer opportunities, social & recreational activities, arts programs, and intergenerational programs continued to grow, so did the need for parking.

In 2010, the Newport Senior Center & SCNS purchased the property at 84 South Main Street to accommodate the need for additional parking. The center was identified as one of the emergency shelters and cooling centers for the Town of Newport and a generator was installed.

Over time, as many studies revealed that services provided by the Newport Senior Center did, indeed, improve physical, social, emotional, mental, and economic well-being of older adults, services expanded and the need for more space once again became an issue.

On May 11, 2016, Northern Architectural Design Group completed a feasibility study to help determine the need for expansion. The study showed that the shift in the senior population

was to begin in 2020 and double by 2040. This shift was referred to as the “Silver Tsunami.”

The study revealed additional available space in the basement, several code violations, the need for air exchange units, new and upgraded lighting needs, wiring needed to be cleaned up and code violations fixed, updated fire alarm system to a digital, addressable system needs and the installation of a sprinkler system that had been neglected when the facility was transformed as a place of assembly, to name just a few improvements that needed to be addressed.

Whispers are not always loud and often go unheard, but when you slow down and listen, it is then that you hear what is important. The Newport Selectboard, CDBG, NSO, USDA, Malool Foundation, local businesses, and individual donors heard loud and clear the importance of the value of the Newport Senior Center and SCNS to its older adults.

It is because of the community’s support; the Newport Senior Center was able to bring the entire building up to code and meet all ADA requirements and transform the basement into 4,000 square feet of usable space in 2018. The space includes one computer room, another room used for health clinics, a large open space used for exercise programs and an indoor walking track. An elevator was also installed during

this renovation. LED lighting was later installed throughout upstairs in 2019.

In 2020, Covid-19 pandemic was declared and congregate meal sites were forced to close. SCNS designed quick, creative solutions to allow the continuation of services during the pandemic through our Grab-N-Go program and 14-day quarantine boxes were delivered to all our Meals-on-Wheels recipients. These alternative solutions show we are innovators committed to supporting older adults in Newport and Sullivan County.

We continue to work through the challenges of Covid-19 in an effort to bring the community a safe place for older adults to count on. In 2021, we installed cold plasma ion air purifiers for the five Mitsubishi wall units and the two roof top units to improve ventilation throughout the entire building and help reduce the spread of Covid-19.

It has taken 50 years of hard work, determination, and sometimes sheer endurance by many to get to where we are today, but our journey does not end here. We may not know where our next 50-year adventure may lead us or the obstacles we will have to overcome, but the thrills of our travels leave us excited and ready to see new things and meet the needs of older adults for another 50 years. ■

~ Brenda Burns, Executive Director;
Sullivan County Nutrition Services



Newport High School

Cheerleaders Travel to UConn

Members of the Newport cheerleading team traveled to the University of Connecticut on Saturday to participate in the annual varsity spirit day. They joined teams from all across New England to experience college football, meet the UConn cheerleaders, and to perform a dance at half time.

Newport Tackles Hunger

Varsity football captains and cheerleaders went shopping in support of NH Tackles Hunger and accepted donations of non-perishable food at the homecoming football game October 8.

Newport students came together to celebrate Homecoming in full force with a spirit week, sporting events, a pep rally and a huge parade! Classes competed to earn the top bragging rights for the best float at Saturday's homecoming parade with some very impressive floats. The theme of the parade was scary PG movies. Judges struggled to decide on a winner, but in the end, the sophomores came in first with their Addams Family-themed float which included many members of the class dressed as characters from the movie. Seniors placed with a close second with their Ghostbusters float, again with an impressive percentage of student participation. Juniors and freshmen followed with their renditions of Gremlins and Monster House. It was evident that a lot of time, effort, creativity and fun went into the creation of each float.

Homecoming Spirit Festivities Thursday, October 6

High school students and staff enjoyed beautiful weather for their homecoming field day and pep rally prior to homecoming weekend. Classes competed in a variety of contests ranging from an obstacle course, mummy wrapping and mat surfing. Cheerleaders, the band and chorus each gave performances as well. At the end of the pep rally, Olivia Moody and Mason Prouty were named the 2022 Homecoming King and Queen! ■



Homecoming King & Queen, Mason Prouty & Olivia Moody

Seniors Celebrate Their Overall Events Win



Senior Class Officers & Advisor Sarah Griffin



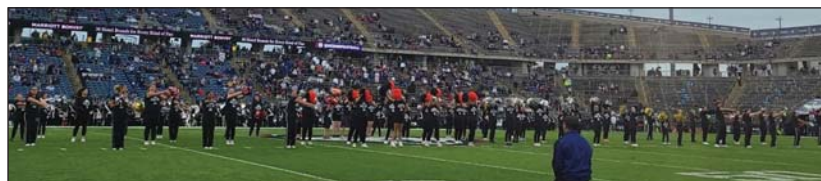
Student Council Advisor Sarah Bilodeau and Principal Shannon Martin



Cheerleaders travel to UConn



Cheerleaders travel to UConn



Newport Tackles Hunger



Counselor Hannah O'Connell

Newport Middle High School and Sugar River Valley Regional Technology Center

The Newport Middle and High School and Sugar River Valley Regional Technology Center will host its sixth annual Expo on Thursday evening October 20th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The academic Expo is an exciting event at which we will showcase interactive displays of our core academic classroom experiences from our middle and high schools and our Career & Technical Education programs. The Newport Middle and High School band and chorus will provide entertainment in the halls, which will be decorated with creative displays from our art department. The gymnasium will once again be filled with lots of excitement and energy with ongoing athletic engagements. Families are encouraged to come and experience the wonderful opportunities our district has to offer the students of Newport and our sending districts.

Interwoven throughout the fair will be many of our community resource programs, available to all families within the district, which seek to assist students in bridging the gap as they transition from high school to young adulthood by delivering content and resources to help them make positive connections for planning their future.

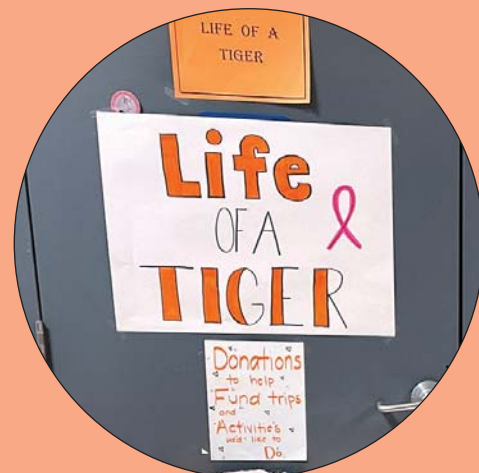
The evening is sure to be an exciting adventure for the families and students of Newport as once again there will be delicious treats from our Café Services, ongoing demonstrations and door prizes during the fair, including a raffle for a Chromebook. Please join us as we engage in civic pride to celebrate the educational and resourceful opportunities we have to offer within our community. ■



Art display



Forestry Display at Expo



Life of a Tiger Expo



EMT Health and FFA

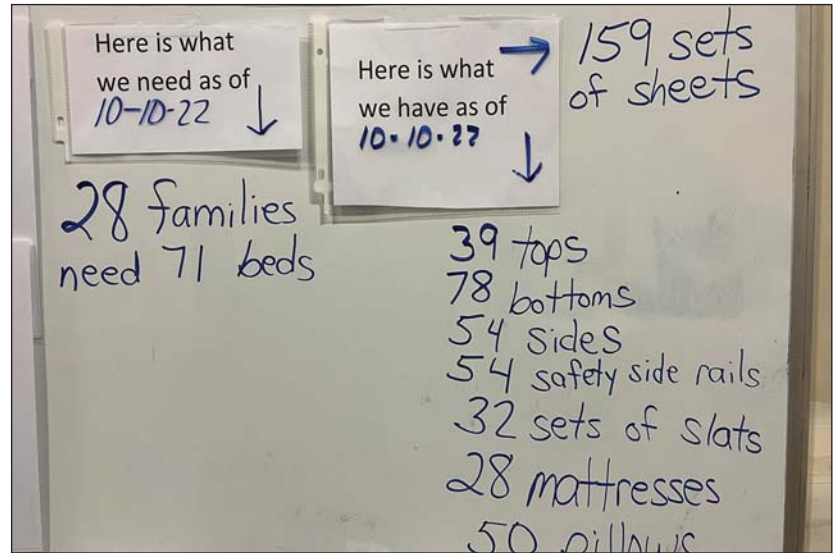


Pet grooming demo

Building Beds for Kids in Our Community



Selfie of Taysa Lynch (back) and Stacey Hammerlind at Logan Airport heading to Utah



All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In New Hampshire, and across the U.S., too many boys and girls go without a bed, or even a pillow, to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health.

That's where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in. They are groups of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. This organization has grown steadily over time, has over 200 chapters all over the country, and has built over 100,000 beds!

Taysa Lynch and Stacey Hammerlind recently traveled to Salt Lake City with 38 other individuals across the country to Sleep in Heavenly Peace Headquarters to learn the ins and outs of the organization and how to bring it into our community.

When Taysa mentioned to a co-worker that she was going to this training, the coworker shared that she had just received beds from a Vermont Chapter for her three foster children the week prior!

They hope to do their first build in November. ■

For more information or to learn how you volunteer, email Taysa.Lynch@shpbeds.org or stacey.hammerlind@shpbeds.org. To read more about the program, visit www.SHPbeds.org

~ Stacey Hammerlind, M.Ed, RN

Family & Community Coordinator/Family in Transition Coordinator

SHammerlind@sau43.org; www.SAU43.org; 802-222-0865

SAU43, 86 N. Main St, Newport 03773



MEET YOUR SUGAR RIVER BANK NEIGHBORS



Carolyn Haron
Assistant Branch
Manager for Newport

What do you like most about living in the Newport area?

Living in a small town where people know each other. I can relate with my customers and have conversations.

What's one of your favorite local events to attend or participate in?

The annual Apple Pie Fair in August. It brings out so many people to enjoy our local area and some great vendors!

Favorite hobby:

I enjoy field work with our two bird dogs.

Where would you like to visit?

Aruba or Greece

What skill would you like to master?

Self motivation to workout

What was cool when you were younger, not now?

Furbies

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

Aristocats

What is your life motto?

Another day, another dollar.

What is your theme song?

"Blue" by David Guetta

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

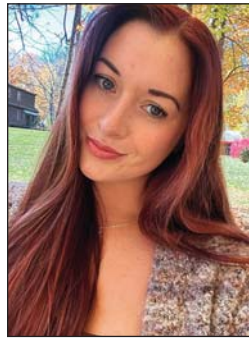
I would save ALL the animals, not just one.

What superhuman power, would you like to have?

Super strength

What famous person would you like to have dinner with?

Tom Welling



Barbara Perry
Mortgage Loan Processor
in Newport

What do you like most about living in the Newport area?

I love the small-town vibes

What's one of your favorite local events to attend or participate in?

Winter Carnival

Favorite hobby:

Traveling

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

Fictional: Narnia
Real: Italy

What skill would you like to master?

To learn a second language

What is the best way to start the day?

Puppy snuggles

Name a book you'd recommend?

The Kissing Booth

What was cool when you were younger, not now?

Bratz dolls

What is your favorite movie from childhood?

The Fox and the Hound

What is your life motto?

You only live once.

What is your theme song?

The McDonald's song

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

Rhinos

What superhuman power would you like to have?

Flying

What famous person would you like to have dinner with?

Ian Somerhalder



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AIRPORT NEWS

Meet the People of Parlin Field

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

Russell Kelsea

Russ was raised in Claremont graduating from Stevens High School in 1969 and currently lives in Northwood, NH. He obtained his BS in 1973 then MS in 1993 in Soil Science both from UNH. In 1981 he also attended the Soil Science Institute at the Iowa State University. He has worked in the Soil Science field since 1973, sampling, describing and mapping soils throughout New Hampshire for 17 years and briefly on the Minnesota prairie in support of the Farm Bill before serving in technical and leadership positions in Lincoln, Nebraska; Fort Collins, Colorado; and Durham, New Hampshire. Russ has flown more than 2,000 hours piloting many aircraft types. He holds an FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate with Instrument Rating for Single Engine airplanes, is an FAA Certified Flight Instructor and an FCC Amateur Radio Operator. His geographic flight experience includes the East Coast, Northeast, Midwest, Great Plains and Eastern Rocky Mountains. Russ has served the Aviation Community as President, EAA Chapter 569 in Lincoln, Nebraska; AOPA Airport Support Network volunteer at Crete, Nebraska Municipal Airport; FAA Safety Team Lead Representative covering Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine; President EAA Chapter 740 in Lebanon, New Hampshire; Parlin Field Airport Manager 2009 to 2012 and is currently a member of Parlin Airport Advisory Board. Russ volunteers at Parlin performing various tasks as needed such as runway light maintenance, mowing, ACE camp, creating trail signs and runway documentation.



Tim Renner

Tim comes from a multi-generational military family with his grandfather serving in the Navy during WWII and his father in the Air Force as a Radio Technician. Born in North Dakota and growing up in Colorado, he was fascinated by aircraft at an early age and enjoyed attending air shows.



Joining the Marine Corp in 1997 as an Avionics Technician, he served four years at the Marine Corp Air Station at Miramar, California and one year in Iwakuni, Japan working on aircraft navigation systems and another four years at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, NC. After serving nine years, he was honorably discharged in 2006 and took a job as a Field Service Engineer at an aerospace company in Wilson, NC. For seven years, Tim worked on fire and overheat detection and suppression systems for multiple aircraft around the world such as Boeing, Airbus, Embraer, Bombardier as well as multiple military aircraft. Tim and family moved to Newport in 2013 serving as a Technical Service Associate at Hypertherm in Lebanon, NH. He volunteered for the first ACE Academy in 2015 and has since served as third and currently as second year instructor. In 2018 he began training for his Private Pilot's License completing the training in 2020. Tim loves flying and ACE Camp providing the opportunity to students that he never had. His future plans include buying his own airplane, supporting ACE Camp and Parlin Field. ■

GOOD COOKING

Thanksgiving is a time to swap and share traditional recipes with friends and family. Here's one of our favorites...

CRANBERRY SAUCE

Combine these ingredients in a pot:

1# fresh cranberries

1 orange (chopped in food processor first)

1 small chopped onion

1/2 cup finely diced celery

1 cup golden raisins

1/4 cup orange juice

Zest of one lemon

1/4 cup Port or other red wine

2T brown sugar

2 T white vinegar

Cinnamon, ginger, allspice, cloves and salt (start with 1/4 t of each and add to your liking.)

Simmer for about 30 minutes on low after bringing to a boil. Chill. This can be made a week ahead.

The Old Courthouse



FALL REAL ESTATE A GREAT SEASON TO SELL

Winter weather is on the way and soon enough we'll be shoveling snow and enjoying hot chocolate around the fire. Have you been thinking about selling your home?

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ANIMALS RULE

Wags and Wiggles A Loving Resident Looking for a Forever Home



Bailey

Stubborn, Friendly, Intelligent, Affectionate, Loyal, Strong Willed, Clownish, Obedient, Gentle, and Courageous are words that describe the Pitbull breed. Villainized, improperly bred, and used for fighting sport, Pitbulls are stigmatized and often overlooked at rescue organizations and humane societies. Bailey, our resident pittie, was adopted from WWR at the age of 3 months. Her home was loving but lacked the boundaries, exercise outlet, and training regimen necessary for success. She was returned to WWR at the age of 18 months, and we quickly saw the work that needed to be done.

With the continued training support of Radford K9, Bailey is thriving under structure, loves to hike, and tennis balls are her favorite pastime. With impeccable focus, Bailey adheres to her training regimen and can showcase her intellect while clowning around at her favorite local park. We share her story as we continue to see overcrowding in shelters nationwide, continued euthanasia in larger areas for space and correctable behaviors, and the ever present need to advocate for animals who do not have a voice.

Bailey and her smile can be found on our website at wagsnwiggles.org. ■

Christiane Dionne, MBA; Executive Director,
Wags and Wiggles Rescue

Radford K9

Radford K9 is a local business and integral part of the work that we do at Wags and Wiggles. Thomas is an asset to Newport as families continue to adopt animals who really need the help of the trainer.



Thomas with Kayleigh and Bella

Thomas Radford is the owner of Radford K9 in Newport, NH. He, along with his twin brother, Timothy (co-owner of Newport's Paws in Motion), graduated from Newport High in 1985. Thomas graduated from UNH and then moved to VT for 33 years, and recently came back home and started this in-home dog training company.

He brings over 23 years of experience training police and civilian dogs to his credit. He was a police officer in Burlington VT for over 20 years, and in that time had a police dog, K-9 Stoney, for 9 years. In 2008, both he and Stoney were inducted into the VT Police K-9 Hall of Fame at the VT Police Academy. Stoney still holds the state record for most drug finds (1,010) and in their storied career, they were named the overall best dog team 3 different times as well as the top drug dog team on 3 separate occasions. Thomas has been on the VT Police Academy Canine Committee, which oversees the police dog program, for 18 years including 9 years of being the chairman. He is a police dog instructor and is known for his creativity, patience and extensive knowledge in how to motivate dogs to reach their highest potential, while also resolving unwanted behaviors.

Upon his retirement from law enforcement in 2016, Thomas started Thin Blue Line K-9 in Williston, VT and quickly rose to the top of the dog training world in VT with an indoor training facility and a wilderness agility course. He gained a reputation of being the "go to" trainer to resolve any unwanted dog behaviors, including the high-end issues of people and dog aggression. Due to life events, he closed this company and moved back home in 2022 and started Radford K9. Thomas prides himself on his efficiency and ability to simplify training for clients so they can better understand what exactly is going on in problem situations. He trains humans how to train their dogs, and has a high rate of success. Go to radfordk9.com for more information or e-mail radfordk9training@gmail.com or call 603-372-7602 to schedule an appointment.

~ Christianne Dionne, Executive Director, Wags and Wiggles

Stay Local and Shop Local for Newport's Holiday Season



The leaves have fallen, the days are getting shorter and much colder. The winter doldrums are quickly approaching. But don't let that get you down. At the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, we have some great things that we certainly are looking forward to! We are excited to finally have our annual 'Twas Just Before Christmas back, live, in person. Over the past two years, due to the pandemic, we improvised and had a very successful drive-thru event. And though both 2020 and 2021's 'Twas events were lots of fun, nothing beats walking the streets, riding the horse drawn carriage, and singing Christmas carols on our beautiful Main Street on an early winter's eve. Things will be back as they were in 2019, and once again we have teamed up with the Newport Recreation Department, as

they present their Chili Walk. Some of the best chili makers in our area will be competing for the title of the best chili. And we have been working with the elves at the North Pole. Santa Claus will be taking a break from his extensive naughty & nice list to visit inside the Opera House with the children of the Newport area. Look for performances from the Area Choir from the balcony of the Opera House, plus vendors, a Santa letter writing station and more. We are so excited to have this event back, in person, and hope the community can come deck the halls with us.

January 27th and 28th this year's Dancing With The Newport Stars cast will be on stage once again. Our highly successful show spotlights some of our local "stars" of the business, non-profit, and community world, and our "pros"

are your neighbors too. These dancers put countless hours into this wonderful show. We are glad to have things back as scheduled for our traditional January performances.

Looking ahead to February, don't forget the 107th Newport Winter Carnival will be upon us. This year's theme, "Aloha From Newport" is sure to be a fun one. So grab your grass skirt, Hawaiiin shirt, and get ready for some tropical fun in the winter sun. Stay tuned for more Winter Carnival information as we get closer!

And as you gear up for the Holiday gift buying season, we at the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce want to remind you of the importance of shopping local. Our local stores and businesses are the backbone of our community. These are the businesses that employ our residents, make donations/support our local non-profits, pay property tax, and are here when you need them. It's said that for every \$100 you spend with a locally-owned business, \$68 stays in your community. And for every \$100



you spend at a chain store, \$43 stays in your community. Yet, when you order online from one of those online, deliver-to-your-house businesses, none (\$0) of your money stays within our community. Plus, you have a bunch of boxes you need to figure out what to do with! So, please keep in mind this Holiday season just how important it is to stay local and shop locally whenever possible. For a complete list of Newport Area Chamber of Commerce businesses, please see our website. We hope you have a safe and happy Holiday Season and thank you, as always, for the support you give to our local community. ■

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



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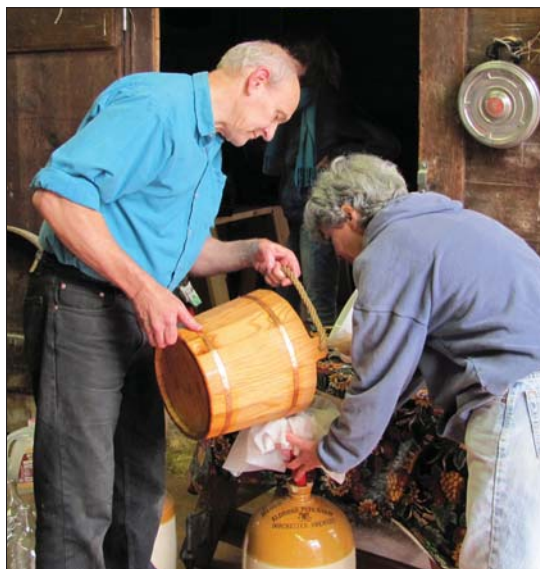
To make corn meal



Birch log mortar with metacomet corn



Pounding the Kernels



Arthur Walsh and friend dispensing cider

Unfortunately, crushing to the brothers who were not present at the time, the collection was given away to neighbor boys by their older sister when she sold the house to family friends in 1948.

Nearly 20 years later, when I was in junior high school, we were visiting the old homestead, and I longed to learn about what happened to the lost collection. Jack Wensch, the by-then elderly family friend who had bought the home was sad to tell me that there had never been any trace of the collection found. As we were leaving, however, he suddenly said, "Wait, the kitchen door stop!" – "this has been here ever since we bought the house from your Dad's family" – and he picked up a four-pound piece of stone, roughly cone shaped, with a groove cut around the narrow end, blunt at the other, and gave it to me. Dad confirmed that it was, indeed, one of their old treasures. This is one of the most precious gifts I have ever received!

Now for the oldest part of the tale: the Native American tribe which had historically been in that area were the Mandans, primarily agricultural people, who for centuries inhabited the lowland breaks in the prairie created by tributaries of the Missouri River. This is a typical tool they would use to pound the corn into meal. I love to imagine what hands used this to prepare food so many years ago – how many families enjoyed meals made with it? Who were they? Old people? Children? Talking and laughing as they ate?

The Native Americans used an ingenious technique of agriculture, well known as the "three sisters:" in each of many hills scattered over the garden plot, corn, beans, and squash were planted. The cornstalks served as poles for the bean plants to climb up into the sun, while the spreading squash vines with their broad leaves created a shade over the garden plot to preserve moisture and retard weeds. Even more remarkable, not understood until the advent of modern chemistry, the beans (legumes) have nodules on their roots which harbor bacteria, converting nitrogen into organic nitrogen compounds, which fertilize the corn in later seasons! The Native Americans developed numerous strains of corn, with varying purposes of preservation and cooking technique – this included sweet corn, familiar to us in summer, flour/meal corns, such as flint and dent, and even popcorn!

And now the latter portion of the tale: around 1999 our family began planting an "Indian garden" on our property here in Newport. The Seed Savers Exchange, in Decorah, Iowa, makes available genuine heirloom seeds, planted generation after generation by dedicated growers, of strains of vegetables preserved from even a couple of centuries ago. The Indian corn we would plant was "King Philip Corn" (or Metacomet, or Metacom, his original Native American name), directly descended from the crops of his Wampanoag tribe, yielding beautiful red ears with lustrous, almost translucent "flint corn" kernels.

At Thanksgiving, 2021, we realized, "What better way to utilize this beautiful dried corn than to pound it into meal and make Indian Pudding," the main ingredient of which is cornmeal.

We mounted the corn pounder on a fresh-cut forked branch, improvised a mortar out of a birch log, pounded some of the kernels into meal, and made our Indian Pudding, enjoyed at the Thanksgiving table!

Final Note: The Durgin Park restaurant in Boston at the Faneuil Hall marketplace was in operation for almost 200 years, from its opening in 1827 to closing in 2019. A wonderful old New England institution, they were always known for serving Indian Pudding, and they still had chewing gum from Maine spruce trees at the register! We make our pudding in one of their baked bean pots – check the Internet for their Indian pudding recipe (best with a very modern companion: vanilla ice cream!).

Apple Cider Pressing: An Autumn Tradition

A New England tradition, apple cider pressing dates back to the early years of the colonies. We do it today for the love of the savory taste of cold cider, especially on chilly autumn days, but in centuries past it was also done to preserve the food value of the abundant apple harvest. In the past, most of it was preserved as hard cider kept in barrels, allowing the plentiful nourishment from the harvest to supplement the diet all through the year.

Now, as then, the first step in cider production is to shred the fruit so that the juice can be easily released. This "pomace," the shredded apples, is then pressed with considerable force through cloth or mesh, yielding the cider.

The size and variety of historic presses varies widely; the one depicted here is a modern construction in typical design of the small presses which would have been found on individual New England farms.

One of the pleasant features of pressing apple cider is the economy of being able to use the small and "ugly" apples which would unlikely be chosen for other purposes. Furthermore, the cider invariably seems to taste better with a mix of apples, so that apples can be collected from beneath multiple trees, and it seems to consistently yield a good product. Even crab apples were often thrown in to add tartness and character to the cider.

With this typical press and grinder combination, the grinder is cranked by hand, the task assisted by a flywheel. The shredded apples fall into a nylon mesh bag inside of a wooden press tub, with gaps between the staves.

That tub is then slid into place underneath the press screw, where a stout wooden desk is placed over the crushed apples and pressed downward with great



Final tightening- cider flowing into bucket



A happy autumn ritual

force, using a lever bar to turn the screw. The fresh cider flows into a bucket.

The bucketfuls of fresh cider are then collected and dispensed into containers for everyone to enjoy!

This "sweet" cider will only keep for a couple of weeks before turning, but thanks to modern times, it can be frozen (leave plenty of air space at the top of each container for expansion!). When thawed even a year later, it tastes just as it did on the day it was pressed.

Our own cider is always on our Thanksgiving table, along with as many dishes as we can make from our garden produce. With a fire burning as well, we can feel some of the satisfaction that our forebears did – rejoicing in the the fruit of their own labor. ■

Born in Georgia and having spent my later school years in the Philadelphia area, I fell in love with New England when I came to Boston for my final medical training. In 1999 we had the opportunity to move here permanently, and have been happy to be here in Newport ever since. Blessed with a fine old home with multiple fireplaces and a large barn on a few acres along the Sugar River, it is easy to feel the joy of old New England, both in working on the property and relaxing with a fire crackling away in winter.

RUGER NEWPORT: PROUD TO CALL THIS HOME

Ruger's Toolmaking Apprenticeship Program

Creating Opportunities and Forging Relationships

Toolmakers play an important role in our ability to produce firearms. They fabricate, design, and troubleshoot gauges, fixtures and replacement parts for our production cells. Larry Duval, a long time toolmaker, started at Ruger in 1971 with a background in large research and development projects where a concept was brought into reality through design and manufacturing processes, all on a tight timeline. He was tasked with starting a toolmaker apprenticeship program but moved from the tool room to R&D, then onto troubleshooting for engineering and eventually back to toolmaking before retiring. Although now semi-retired, Larry is a mentor and ring leader for Newport's toolmaker apprenticeship program, which now includes accredited classes that associates can use toward a degree program.

One of the apprentices, Jay West, says his inspiration for taking the course was self-improvement. "I am always looking for ways to increase my knowledge base and make myself into a well-rounded, valuable employee. This

mentorship program gave me a deeper understanding of the job from someone that has lived it. This program has provided me with multiple job avenues within the company."

Another student, Jeremy Hall, says that "with support from Larry, I was able to start in the fellowship toolmaker class. I'm excited to see what our company can do with all our resources, not just the machines and experience but resources of our people. There is opportunity to grow ourselves, help each other learn and set up the cells we work with for success through our collaboration and innovative ideas."

There are mentors for the program that share experience and guidance with apprentice toolmakers. These mentors are critical to the success of new toolmakers. They give guidance while allowing the apprentices to have their own learning experiences and setbacks, but always provide a sounding board to help work towards solutions and foster knowledge building.

Larry describes his passion for the program saying that he "enjoys witnessing a group of individuals given an opportunity to learn a valuable trade, being exposed to metrology,

inspection and design work as well as manufacturing and assembly of components in addition to basic understanding and knowledge of CNC machining."

This program is equipping people to have a better overall understanding of toolmaking, even associates like Scott Fusco who is one of the team leaders for

the Mini14 cell, and recently graduated this class. The course is allowing associates to grow their skillset and learn and experience new areas. It's truly a great opportunity!

Congratulations to all of our graduating toolmakers and thank you to all the mentors and teachers that helped along the way. ■



William Wood learns a thing or two from Larry Duval.



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almost everyone is affected by Eichenauer products on a daily basis. As the Eichenauer website points out:

“Even if it doesn't always say Eichenauer on the outside – Eichenauer is usually on the inside.”

For example, 80% of people in the US own a clothes dryer. None of those folks ever think about the heating unit that actually dries the clothes. In the last three years, Eichenauer has supplied heating units for over two million dryers. And that's not all. They also provide heating units for automotive and industrial applications. There is hardly a mechanical niche in our everyday lives that does not require some sort of heating unit.

The family-owned parent company (Eichenauer Heizelemente GmbH & Co.KG Germany) has thrived for over 90 years. It currently manages subsidiary companies in the US, China, and Czech Republic. The original company, Hartford Elements, we now know as Eichenauer, Inc, was first settled in the US in Hartford, Connecticut in the '60s. During the '80s, the couple who managed that operation summered in the Sunapee area and liked it. A lot. Consequently, they moved themselves and the business to Newport. And here it has remained.

This year, Eichenauer Inc. celebrates its 40th anniversary here in Newport under the Eichenauer umbrella.

Much has changed over those 40 years and continues to change as the company moves forward as directed

on the company website:

“The world we live in today is subject to fundamental changes and technological influences. Wide-ranging inventions across different industries and technologies, both in day-to-day life and in the world of work, require swift innovation on an ongoing basis, making considerable demands of both production processes and staff.” (www.eichenauerusa.com/eichenauer.html)

With that message, Eichenauer Germany set the bar for the transformation of Eichenauer, Inc. into a High Performance Culture, characterized by an environment where employees perform well because they are engaged, motivated, valued, and continually learning. High Performance Cultures value two-way feedback and encourage idea generation. Employees are expected to take ownership of their roles and the performance of them. It's a very 21st century approach to business.

President Gary Dudman has taken up this challenge. He sees this watershed anniversary as the perfect opportunity to transform Eichenauer Inc. from a metrics-focused business to a high performance culture. Gary is not a shy guy – he chats forthrightly on any topic raised. Nor is he understated – he says what he means and means what he says. He appears dapper but reserved in business casual attire, and offers a firm handshake with an easy smile. But all that is window dressing. The overarching sense one gets when meeting Gary is



one of power and determination. He is – to use a cliché – a force to be reckoned with. One can see why his people trust him with their futures.

And he plans to use all the positive force and trust he can muster to transform Eichenauer, Inc.

Future Vision vs. Past History

Past complaints about working conditions at Eichenauer are the proverbial elephant in the room. Gary candidly points out, “We cannot remain in Newport and continue to treat people the way we did.” But, rather than spend time defending the company against past complaints, (some of which are undoubtedly from folks who were let go for valid performance reasons), he instead spends his time outlining his plan for the future.

Dudman has a vision for Eichenauer Inc. “We want to be the employer of choice in our region.” He goes on to say that Eichenauer cannot compete with other large employers on salary alone. “But we can compete by putting safety, stability, culture, and forward-thinking first.” This is not just ‘talk.’ The company has already started to implement four goals to achieve Dudman's vision.

Quality Systems

They are changing Quality Assurance from an inspection-based process to an auditing-based one. Instead of waiting until a product is finished to identify problems or issues, (and punishing the guilty and innocent alike for cost and time overruns), progress at each project milestone (audit point) is evaluated and tested. Issues are identified and fixed at that point.

The result: Problems are caught in real time and more easily solved. Cost is impacted to a lesser degree. Repeat ‘offenses’ are prevented.

Decide, Act, Evaluate, Make Adjustments, Repeat...

“We try to avoid ‘analysis paralysis,’” says Dudman. His team makes smaller changes more often rather than adhering to a longer scheme with many moving parts. “That way if we make a mistake, we can easily correct it, decide on an adjusted course of action, and keep moving forward.” Dudman goes on: “Small failures that can be corrected are preferable to inaction which can result in monumental failures.”

The result: Progress toward goals is constant, evaluated, and continually improved.

“Even if it doesn't always say Eichenauer on the outside – Eichenauer is usually on the inside.”





Facing page: 1st/2nd shift employees; Center: 3rd shift employees; Above two photos: Eichenauer festivities

Workplace and Community Perceptions

In the past, Eichenauer was not recognized as a premier place to work. Dudman admits there were problems. "We ran through people for a lot of years," he says. "If you made a mistake, you were gone. But no more." Dudman has updated management processes, added opportunities for promotion, and...

The result: A partnership now exists between direct employees, assistant leads, leads, supervisors, and management. As a team, they assure everyone understands where a project is going, what needs to get done, and how to do it.

Cultural Change

Since his promotion to President in 2019, Dudman has worked tirelessly to change the workplace culture at Eichenauer from job-focused to

employee-focused. He has instituted employee events that bring workers and management together in a spirit of 'family.' He has hosted such things as cookouts and ice cream socials at all three shifts. And he is aware that different shifts may want or need a different approach to these communal events.

For example, instead of offering grilled hamburgers and hotdogs at 4AM for third-shifters, he asked them if something else would make more sense. They suggested being given the food to take home and prepare later. Dudman readily agreed. "Everything we do has to be done equally for ALL employees and staff," says Dudman, "but we also have to be sensitive to the environmental differences between jobs and shifts."

The result: Eichenauer is becoming a workplace of shared goals, open communication, clear expectations, and a strong sense of accountability.

One Last Elephant in the Room

Hiring, firing, pay scales, and benefits are all of prime importance to potential employees. Confusion about how that works at Eichenauer has contributed to vague discontent within the community. The issue is that the legal employer of Eichenauer workers is not Eichenauer, Inc. Eichenauer uses Hiring Agents to identify and manage workers. The Agents employ the workers – not Eichenauer, Inc.

To help clear up confusion and assure hiring agents are treated equally, Dudman has made them de facto employees-in-training. Agents themselves now have the opportunity to progress through three levels of skills to become Eichenauer employees.

Becoming the "New" Eichenauer Inc.

As difficult as the changes Dudman is implementing are, he is

convinced they must be achieved for Eichenauer to become the "Employer of Choice" of his vision. He acknowledges these changes are sometimes difficult for both employees and staff alike, but remains passionate about the possibilities they can provide. "I know that it's tough, but it's worth it!"

And that appears to be the case.

Profits have increased year over year since 2019. He is routinely greeted with a cheerful "Hi Gary" when he walks the floor. Dudman now sits on the town's economic development board and Eichenauer is recognized for contributing funds to town projects and charitable initiatives. The company employs between 70 and 100 full time staff and is hiring.

Eichenauer, Inc. is well on its way to achieving its goals by cultivating a 21st century culture. ■

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