

# The Newport Times

Newport's Good News Paper

Serving the Town of Newport, NH

September/October 2023

Est. January 2022

*"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"*

~ Mr. Rogers



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Mike Smith, Eric Callum, Mike Boucher, Dorothy Currier, Amy Benson, Larry Eaton, and Jan Whalen presenting the proceeds check to benefit the Senior Center and Sullivan County's Meals-on-Wheels program.

## It Takes a Village... and a Golf Tournament

Brenda Burns

The Newport Senior Center sits just on the outside of the center of town at 76 South Main St. Often unnoticed and misjudged until one realizes what a gift the Newport Senior Center truly is.

This realization typically comes into vision when one needs socialization, nutritious meals, health clinics, medical equipment, transportation, and *fun and games*. Our largest program is the Meals-on-Wheels (MOW) program provided through Sullivan County Nutrition Services (SCNS).

SCNS prepares and provides 500 meals per day. Recently, SCNS was forced to make difficult decisions due to funding reductions. The decisions included beginning a wait list for individuals in need of nutritious meals and the elimination of weekend meals.

When the staff of Sturm Ruger heard about this unfortunate turn of events, they came out swinging with ambition,

enthusiasm, and commitment to help find a way to fill the recent gap in funding. Ruger designated the Newport Senior and Sullivan County MOW as the recipients of the proceeds of the Annual Ruger Open Golf Tournament held in August.

For now, take a moment to think back to last week when you went grocery shopping. What did the faces of other shoppers look like to you? Were they young and vibrant?

Look around you in the present. You are rewarded with the gift of friends and family as you create memories that will one day become a treasure. Fast forward 30 years from now. You look like many of the faces you see inside at the Newport Senior Center. Maybe, with a few laugh lines, silver in your hair and your eyesight not what it used to be.

Your children are grown and busy with their own family. Maybe they have moved away and left you all alone. Your grandchildren are carving their own paths and your friends are in nursing homes now or no longer with you.

*Continued on page 2*



Kellie and David Collise

## Future Apple Farm: A Friend to Man

Mel Reed

I was at Future Apple Farm this week to meet with David Collise. Word on the street was that he and his wife Kellie do a whole lot for their neighbors and others who were in need. They donate food to those who need it, take in children from foster care, rescue animals, plow the elderly out, basically whatever it takes to help. I came with my bucolic vision of sitting on a sun-filled deck overlooking pristine farmland, lemonade in hand, chatting with the owners of Future Apple Farm firmly in place. Oh well. At least it wasn't pouring.

David met me as I drove into the yard. He is a

disabled veteran, (as is his wife), but he looks like a football player. His handshake is firm and his smile is easy. He was wearing khaki shorts and a sleeveless t-shirt. His arms were covered with glorious tattoos – I was immediately suffused with tattoo envy.

I asked predictable questions about coming to Newport – they moved to NH from Ohio and spent more than a month looking for the 'right place' which turned out to be Future Apple Farm. Then he asked where I would like to do the interview. I looked around and, despite a slow drizzle, suggested we could walk around the farm, and he could introduce me to the animals while we talked.

*Continued on page 8*





Thomas Bouffard purchasing the 'Lie Improvement Package'



Dj Joslin and Bill Putman

Who is going to be there when you can no longer drive? Who is going to be there to listen to your stories? Who is going to be there when you can no longer cook for yourself or do not want to cook for one? Who is going to be there to encourage you to get off the couch to exercise? Who are you going to be able to trust and rely on as you face the challenges of aging?

The answer is simple and one many choose to avoid or ignore because it is easier than facing the truth when you wake up one morning asking yourself, "Where did my youth go?" That answer is simply, Newport Senior Center and Sullivan County Meals-on-Wheels. But we cannot do it alone.

With the tenacity and guidance of Ruger staff for this fundraising event, this experience has proven that it truly takes a village to come together to ensure all seniors are able to experience aging in a positive, safe, and healthy environment. This event has given

us the opportunity to create a network of relationships that we hope will bind us together for years to come.

Many businesses, too many to list here, and golfing heroes chose to be active participants of our village for this event. There are no words to express how grateful the Newport Senior Center and Sullivan County Meals-on-Wheels is for their support and commitment to preventing senior hunger.

As a result of the Ruger Golf Tournament, help from our legislatures, commitment from municipalities, local businesses, and community members, we are proud to announce that **there is no longer a wait list** in place.

Any senior experiencing food insecurity, whether ongoing or temporary, should call our Elder Support office at 603-863-6770. The Elder Support staff will be happy to assist individuals in completing the state application for services.

## The Tournament By-the-Numbers

The 2023 Annual Ruger Open held on Saturday, August 19th at the Newport Golf Club was a huge success. This golf outing offered first class fun at the new and improved Newport Golf Club and raised desperately-needed funds just in time to benefit the Newport Senior Center and Meals-on-Wheels Program that serves all of Sullivan County!

**Total amount raised:** \$35,000.00

**Total number of golfing participants:** 116 golfers

**Team organization names:** 29 teams, several Senior Center volunteers, Bar Harbor Bank volunteers, CoWorx volunteers, and One Credit Union volunteers

**Winning team/individual:** Sigs Inside with a -14 Par (Chandler Wentzell, Matt Bocko, Andrew Preston, Nate Latourneau)

If you are looking to meet with friends or make new friends, congregate meals may be an option for you. If you are 60 or older, feel free to join us each weekday at 11:45 am for a delicious hot meal. Reservations can be made by calling 603-863-3177.

Please visit our Facebook page at Newport Senior Center, Home of Sullivan County Nutrition Services, to learn more about additional activities available at your friendly Newport Senior Center. Monthly newsletters are available at the center and local businesses as well.

The importance of working together as a team and community is necessary in order to be able to continue to be the lifeline for older adults for years to come.

Thank you to all those involved in this extraordinary event. The Newport Senior Center looks forward to being a place to call home for another 51 years. ■



Nooo.... Dan Thomas, Matt Downey, Mike Bouchard, and Frank Saunders



Graham Rockwell, Diane Sullivan, Tom Sullivan, and Lee Strobridge







## Student Spotlight Connor Clark, 10th grade

Which country would you like to visit?  
Peru

What is your favorite movie from childhood?  
*Surf's Up*

If you could save or protect one animal, plant, or part of our earth, which would it be?  
The Amazon Rainforest

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

What is your motto in life?  
More of a quote than a motto but: "The core of man's spirit comes from new experiences."



## Student Spotlight Katie Renner, 10th grade

Which country would you like to visit?  
Greece

What skill would you like to master?  
Erhu [a spike fiddle, or Southern fiddle]

What is your weird food combination?  
Cheezits and Oreos

What is your favorite movie from childhood?  
*The Iron Giant*

If someone gave you \$1,000, what would you spend it on?  
Video games, clothes, savings, and stocks.

If you could save or protect one animal, plant, or part of our earth, which would it be?  
Either the oceans or the Amazon.

If you could have dinner with any famous person who would it be?  
Christopher Robert Evans

If you could be invisible for a day, where would you be?  
At the adventure park at Mt. Sunapee

What is your motto in life?  
This too shall pass" or "make people smile."

What's your biggest fear/phobia?  
Spiders or the dark



## CTE Renovations Coming Along

Exciting things are happening in the CTE center at Newport Middle High School! The renovation started in the early summer and there are quite a few changes being made to the program. The purpose of the CTE renovation is to give students in the program more relevant and hands-on experience in the CTE classrooms. The renovation will polish and revive the current programs within the CTE center, and allow space for a new program to be added. The transformation is expected to be finished by next school year. The renovations allow for new, modernized equipment specific to each program's needs, allowing for easier, and more hands-on classroom instruction. ■



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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

### It's a Beautiful Day In This Neighborhood...

Wowie, it's September already and it hardly felt like we had a summer! But, this Busy Town called Newport has been as productive and charitable as ever, despite the seemingly non-stop rain and subsequent postponed or canceled events.

While it wasn't my original intent to include the Ruger Open Golf Tournament as a cover story, Brenda Burns of the Newport Senior Center submitted such a beautiful article about the event that it really deserved to be front and center. And, the photos provided by Amy Benson of Sturm Ruger, spoke more than a 1000 words! Thanks to both for their submission and to all who participated in making it such a 'whole village' event.

The Collises at Future Apple Farm also deserve top-billing for their under-the-radar and unadulterated giving to their neighbors and beyond. Writer and Newport resident, Mel Reed, did a fabulous job capturing the spirit of the farm and of David and Kellie and how they live their lives in service to 'man and beast.' Please read their story and, if you feel compelled, donate to the Karl Collise Memorial Fund.

Also, please welcome to the *Newport Times*, freelance writer (a sophomore at Newport High School), Noel Beauchaine. A big shout out to Stacey Hammerlind for connecting us! I am happy to share Noel's article about her experience with the 4-H organization on page 9, and look forward to new submissions from her in future issues.

You will also notice that we have a few new features in this issue. In order to get to know your friendly Town employees, we included a "Meet Your Neighbor" page featuring Cemetery, Buildings and Grounds manager, Jonathan Flynn, and Assistant Town Clerk, Suellen Leischner, on page 16. Have fun reading about stuff you would never ask them yourselves!

Speaking of Town employees, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to former Town Manager, Hunter Rieseberg, for introducing me to Newport and for helping to bring this publication to the community. I wish him the best in his retirement and look forward to the next chapter of Newport Town leadership. ■

~ Jen MacMillen



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## The Newport Times

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And all of the representatives of the community organizations featured

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and especially all of the contributors in each issue.

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

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## Free Leaf Collection in Newport

Your Newport Conservation Commission met on August 16 and had an informative discussion with Arnold Greenleaf, Superintendent/Chief Operator of the wastewater treatment facility and Jonathan Flynn of the Newport Buildings and Grounds Department. The wastewater facility on North Main Street accepts leaves and some yard waste (e.g. grass clippings, fine brush) and the town has a leaf collection operation every fall. Some of us on the Commission were not aware of the existence of this town service and these gentlemen gave us a great 20 minute overview.

Fall leaf collection is a service that the town Highway Department offers. The collection dates vary slightly year to year but are most generally in October and early November and continue for 4-5 consecutive weeks. Collection of leaves is confined to the "downtown" neighborhoods. Leaves should be bagged in brown paper and not plastic or other non-compostable bags. Fine brush and grass clippings that are similarly bagged will be collected. Brush, twigs and small branches must be less than an inch in diameter to be accepted by the collectors. Town residents who live

outside the collection zone may bring their bagged leaves to the wastewater treatment facility any time throughout the fall and spring. The gate is generally open during normal daily hours of operation. Bulk unbagged leaves and yard waste are also accepted if brought to the facility. Again twigs and limbs must be less than 1 inch diameter and yard waste must be free of household trash. Also the facility discourages residents from bringing very large volumes of fresh grass clippings. These clippings actually make a good amendment to your lawn when the grass is mowed with a mulching blade.

Mr. Greenleaf also informed the Commission that this organic debris is composted on site. The piles of leaves are turned periodically providing aeration which aids the decomposition process. Eventually the piles become rich compost which is an excellent amendment



Jonathan Flynn of the Newport Buildings and Grounds

to the garden soil. Town residents are welcome to get compost from the treatment facility during hours of operation. Going forward, the Conservation Commission hopes to further work with the Public Works Department and the wastewater treatment facility to promote this valuable service. For more information on the leaf collection and leaf drop-off service, residents may call the facility or the Building and Grounds Dept. (863-4338 or 863-8022).

The Commission thanks Mr. Greenleaf and Mr. Flynn for giving their personal time to attend our meeting and inform us on this public service; they are valuable assets of and to Newport. ■

~ Larry Schissel



Town residents who live outside the collection zone may bring their bagged leaves to the wastewater treatment facility.



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## Polishing as an Artform

Here in the Newport Ruger facility, a beautiful hand-carved wooden stick adhered to a plaque is hung up on the wall. This “Walking Stick” is presented to the employee with the most tenure. The first honoree recognized was Ricky P. who started working for Ruger on December 6th, 1971. He had been working for a company that did routine layoffs during the winter, so he decided on something more stable and came to work for Ruger. He started working as a polisher in the “old building across the river.” He worked with parts from various product families like Single Action Revolvers, Double Action Revolvers, and several of the company’s rifle lines. “There isn’t anything in this facility I haven’t worked on,” states Ricky. Ricky’s skillset around hand polishing requires artisanship, as do other similar specialties such as hand engraving, hand checkering, etc. These skills are simultaneously beautiful and inefficient. Many of these processes are now automated or machine-processed. In 1983, the internal Ruger newsletter had an article titled “The Polisher’s Art” which articulates this sentiment well by stating that “The overall finish and appearance of a firearm has long been noted in the American gun industry as an indication of the weapon’s quality along with its functional durability. Ruger firearms have consistently ranked well in the ‘looks’ category...What a polisher does, in short, is to take a raw casting, or machined surface of a part and transform that part into a finely polished piece that conforms to the standard finish established for it.”

I asked Ricky if he had always wanted to be in the polishing department of Ruger and he told me what he always wanted to do growing up was work with metal. “It wasn’t challenging for me” Ricky says of his somewhat natural affinity

towards polishing. “I worked in the machine shop three times per week, made my own parts to bring into the polishing department on second shift.” This was well before the days of lean manufacturing were introduced to Ruger.

Ricky jokingly remarks that he has worked here longer than most other employees have been alive. What he did not say is that he has an equal amount of passion and pride for his work. It is evident in the way he speaks of it and in watching 50 years of knowledge at play as his hands run the metal back and forth over the sanding belt. He admires the quality of our Ruger guns and genuinely enjoys being a part of it. Moreover, hand polishers are no small part, in fact, polishing is an extremely difficult and nuanced skill to train and develop in newer associates. The “Polisher’s Art” article goes on to describe, “Endurance, speed and care for the quality of the work produced are the attributes of a polisher and the dedicated crew of the polishing department will ensure that Ruger firearms are of the same fine looking standard they have been and always will be.” ■



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## ANIMALS RULE

### Wags and Wiggles

#### Strut Your Mutt 5K: Fun was had by all for a good cause!

On August 12, 2023 participants from as far away as Oklahoma and California gathered with our local community to support Wags and Wiggles Rescue in our second annual Strut your Mutt 5K. From wiggly Labrador butts to tenacious Terriers, each canine participant was gifted with homemade treats from Tux’s Tasty Treats and toys from our generous community sponsors at Petsmart in West Leb. Our human participants were gifted swag bags from our Big Dog sponsor, Ruger, along with additional items from Bar Harbor Bank and Trust. We thank everyone for donating raffle items, sponsoring our event, and for participating in another successful year.

#### Thank you to our sponsors:

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#### Thank you to our community donors:

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We couldn’t do this event without the countless hours provided by our volunteers, PJ Lovely and also Dana Waterman and his fantastic crew from Pinnacle Timing for maintaining the trails and keeping everyone safe. Here’s to Strut your Mutt 2024!  
~ Christiane Dionne



# Coronis Market: A Corner Store with a Rich Legacy



Acherished business in the heart of our Town, Coronis Market stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of family-owned businesses for nearly six decades. Since its inception in 1943, this corner store deli has become an integral part of the town's identity, thanks to the unwavering dedication of the Coronis family.

The Coronis Market story dates back almost 80 years, when Charles Coronis and his brother, Spiro, decided to establish a local store that would cater to the needs of Newport's residents. Starting out as a modest space offering basic necessities, the store quickly earned a reputation for personalized service and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. What began as a business venture evolved into a lifelong

commitment to their community.

As Newport evolved, so did Coronis Market. The business expanded to include a deli, serving up delicious sandwiches made with the finest meats and cheeses, with fresh ingredients and attention to detail becoming the hallmark of their offerings. Over time, John Coronis embraced the legacy and continued its name in 1963. John Coronis created the famous grinder to be a sandwich version of the greek salad – and a staple of the Newport diet!

## Brian Coronis: Carrying the Torch Forward

In the present day, Coronis Market is under the stewardship of Brian Coronis, the son of John and Marlene Coronis. Brian's journey into the world of family

business was a natural progression, guided by a sense of duty to preserve his family's business and a passion for upholding the values that have defined Coronis Market for decades.

Brian remembers spending his childhood in the store, absorbing the essence of what made it special. "Growing up, it was just a place to hang out and catch up with friends," Brian shares.

The store isn't just a place to purchase goods; it's a place to connect. From remembering a regular customer's favorite sandwich to engaging in

conversations about local events, the Coronis family has mastered the art of making every visitor feel like family. "Everyone used to hang out with my Dad, and people just had good conversation – like they do now," Brian says jokingly, "We solve all of the world's problems."

Looking ahead, Brian Coronis envisions a future where Coronis Market continues to be a haven for the community, a place where people come not just to shop, but to connect and share experiences.

Coronis Market's story is a reminder that behind every corner store lies a tale of passion, dedication, and community spirit. As you enter Coronis Market to enjoy this family-owned gem, pause for a second and think about the important message in their iconic saying: "Always Imitated, Never Replicated." This mantra is more than just a catchy phrase. It shows how Coronis Market has created a special feeling for the people of Newport, in the past, present, and future. ■

~ Allison Browning, ECON Coordinator  
Town of Newport



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"Let's start with the girls," he pointed up the driveway to a hen-house.

The "girls" saw him coming and strutted towards us en-masse, eagerly crowing trilling, and squawking. "They think I have grain," he chuckled, then grew serious. "I had to bring in some new baby girls this year. The fox got a bunch of them last year...but they are coming along nicely."

"And ducks!" I was proud to have noticed there were non-chickens among the throng of adoring birds.

"The ducks pretty much come and go as they please, but they contribute eggs, so they are welcome."

So welcome that he built them a pond and sluiceway. I noticed the ducks were launching themselves into the fast-moving water at the top and riding the current down to a small pond full of mothers and ducklings. When I mentioned as much, he pointed out that he also built a pond for the pigs. Pond? Pigs? My face must have registered my confusion. "Pigs and ducks?"

"Pigs love to splash around in the water. You should see them – pigs bouncing around in a pond!" He pointed to a spot in the distance. "The pig-pond is over there." He glanced down at my feet.

"Hey – I wore my boots!" I protested. I looked 'over there' and realized I would have needed waders. As I said – it rained a lot this year. "Perhaps another time..."

I tried to imagine 500 pounds of pig cavorting in a swimming hole as we moved on to the horses.

"We have three horses...one standard mare and a mother-and-daughter mini pony pair. I want to train the daughter to pull a little cart. She's about ready." He paused to grin at my unspoken question. "She needs a job. Everyone on the farm has to have a job. It's important to have a job – to do work."

I suddenly found myself teetering on the edge of an exchange that transcended ducks, chickens, pigs, and goats but before I could grab control of the conversation, we headed over to the goat enclosure.

Another polite stampede ensued. Twenty or so goats crowded towards the gate headed for their version of 'Lord-and-Master.' There were little ones, big ones, long and short-eared ones. There were white, brown, black and various combo-colored ones. And they all obviously adored David.

"Where do you get all your animals?"

"Most of them are rescued."

"Rescued?"

"Folks have to move and can't keep them; folks don't realize what it takes to care for a farm animal once the cute little kid, colt, chick, or pig gets full-grown; and some folks just get too old to do the work anymore. They hear about us, and we take them. We get them healthy and hand them along to other people who

need them."

"What if you can't get them healthy?"

"We rescued a doe once who was really, really, sick. She was too weak to deliver her babies, so I took her out right here," he pointed to where we were standing, "and shot her. Kellie was right there with me to cut her open. We saved her babies."

His answer was a reminder that farm life is not for the faint of heart.

"How do people find you? You don't have a website..."

"We don't have a website because we were NOT a business." My face was getting good at telegraphing confusion.

"We don't 'sell' things to make a profit – or even break even. We are pretty much self-sustaining. The last couple of years have been tough with COVID and all, but things are looking better."

"But you accept money?"

"Oh, sure we do, donation. But every cent goes into our son's memorial scholarship fund." ([www.facebook.com/Karlsdad9840](https://www.facebook.com/Karlsdad9840))

"Memorial Fund?"

"Karl drowned in the Sugar River in 2008."

I was rescued by Kellie coming down from the house to join us. She was

*Continued on next page*



### The Karl Collise Memorial Fund

On Saturday evening, June 7, 2008, 16-year-old Karl Joseph Collise drowned in the Sugar River. A junior in high school, he regularly volunteered with the American Red Cross at blood drives and had recently been recognized as "Industrial Arts Student of the Year."

How can anyone possibly understand the devastation the death of a child can wreak upon the parents of that child? Especially a child who has not yet reached the age when he would 'become' the man he was meant to be. This writer certainly cannot. I think that I – and probably many others – would just curl up into a ball and stay that way. Eventually, most of us would learn to endure.

But David and Kellie Collise are made of sterner stuff found a way to honor their son and help others. They created a memorial fund dedicated to Karl. All proceeds, (cash and in-kind donations), egg, milk, cider and apple sales go to the Karl Collise Memorial Fund (<https://www.facebook.com/Karlsdad9840/>). The fund provides scholarships, school supplies, food, clothing and more to the community.

And they didn't stop there. They donated Karl's organs to the New England Organ Bank. As of 2013, the organ bank reported that over 60 donations had been delivered to recipients from all over the United States.

Karl was what we all like to call "a good kid." He left us too soon. Bonnie Arbon perhaps said it best: "You are a piece of the puzzle of someone else's life. You may never know where you fit, but others will fill the holes in their lives with pieces of you."





followed by a horde of dogs. Well – six to be exact. But they made up for a lack in numbers with enthusiasm. They wiggled, jumped, barked and yodeled all around us. I was of special interest because I was new and smelled of a stranger-dog and cats. Whenever they got a little too rambunctious, Kellie would tell them: “Go wash your feet!” in a ‘she who must be obeyed’ voice. As one, they would all turn and run up to the top of the driveway and prance around in a little stream – washing their feet.

Karl’s brother, DJ, and several foster kids complete the Future Apple family. DJ is living in the family’s camper-trailer at the moment. He had two goals after high school: to become a chef and to be a professional bass fisherman. He accomplished the first one and is now working on the second.

Once home from my adventure at Future Apple Farm, a bit soggy but still smiling, I was faced with deciding how to start my article. There was a lot to say. The Collises are the ‘real deal’: they attempt to do whatever they can for folks in need in any conceivable way possible. I am still not sure I found the best way.

But there was one thing I WAS sure of. I knew exactly how I wanted to end it.

Sam Walter Foss (1858–1922) was a New Hampshire Poet. He wrote a poem titled: “A House by the Side of the Road”. With apologies for the dated use of the generic pronoun “man,” a famous line from that poem is:

*Let me live in my house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.*

If you read the entire poem, you will see that it describes David and Kellie in a nutshell. They seek no notoriety: no payment for any good works; no recognition for doing what they believe is right. They believe every person has a responsibility to be a friend to their neighbors, and anyone else in hailing distance, for that matter.

My drizzly morning trek through a homestead full of dogs, horses, goats, sheep, pigs chickens, and ducks – (I especially liked the crazy dogs) – who were all immaculately well-kept and obviously equally well-loved, was a humbling experience. ■

## KIDS DOING GOOD THINGS

# The Many Intangible Benefits of 4-H

Noel Beauchaine,  
Sophomore at Newport High School

4-H is a non-profit organization that provides a supportive setting for youth and is made possible through the University of New Hampshire. The organization encourages young people from all walks of life to pursue their interests and explore things they love through projects, while also getting leadership opportunities, serving the community, and learning valuable life lessons. Many of the youth involved, including myself, say that the 4-H program not only allows them to do things they enjoy while collaborating with others, but gives them a sense of belonging. It is important for kids and teens to feel a sense of belonging, and 4-H provides that for everyone involved. 4-H has a mission to inspire youth to be their best selves, gain knowledge, and help them become productive, contributing members of society.

The 4-H program in Newport is a wonderful one, with many thoughtful volunteers, and positive role models. From baking, cooking, learning how to care for animals, arts and crafts, and so much more, 4-H really does offer something for everyone. The 4-H program in Newport also gives teens a chance to experience things they might not have gotten a chance to experience before, including taking a trip to the University of New Hampshire recently.

Besides the hands-on learning activities, 4-H teaches important character-building values. Their anthem, which is recited before every meeting, promotes 4-H’s main message:

*I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, my health to better living.*

By engaging the whole person, those who participated in 4-H as a young person look back with fond memories and walk away with valuable life skills.

The 4-H chapter was originally founded in Clark County Ohio in 1902 by a man named A.B Graham. From that point on has continued to make a tremendous impact on young adults and children alike. Throughout the history of 4-H, they have provided their members with not only important skills, and knowledge. but also opportunities that many people otherwise would not get.



4-H is dedicated to servicing both its members and the community, through scholarship money for members who go to college, food drives, and so many other services for those in need. 4-H not only encourages youth to step outside their comfort zone, try new things, and even take on leadership roles in the group, their school, and their community, but often provides resources helping them do so. While participating in 4-H, many students report that they gain a new feeling of confidence, not only with 4-H members, but with their family, friends, and peers as well.

Despite everything 4-H has to offer to both youth, and the community, there is still a struggle to find volunteers. Those who volunteer should be well-rounded individuals, good role models for youth, and regularly uphold 4-H’s core values. If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact your community’s 4-H office to get involved. ■



Noel Beauchaine



## One Very Special Day

During my time at 4-H, we did a variety of fun things over the years, but there is one that sticks out to me the most.

I’ve always loved arts and crafts, and this day, in particular, was one of the craft days where we were instructed to make cards for people in the nursing home. What made this day so special for me was that I loved that I got to make other people feel good, do something I enjoyed, and hang out with my friends all in the same place. Most of the time, you can only do one of those things at once but, at 4-H, it was possible to do all of them together.

Throughout my time at 4-H, I also came to have a new-found self-appreciation. I genuinely felt like I could do anything, and with the help of 4-H’s amazing volunteers, I could. This was proven to me again after a very overwhelming day at school. I just wanted to go home. As soon as I walked past the room where 4-H was taking place, I changed my mind. I smelled the brownies we were making that day, and decided to stay. Who doesn’t love a good brownie after a long day? But, in this moment, it wasn’t only the brownie that made my day better, but the way everyone greeted me when I walked into the room. I sometimes had a hard time communicating effectively with my peers but, when I came to 4-H, that was no longer a problem for me. I was allowed to talk about my opinions on certain topics, share about my day, and just be myself. After having a hard day, that was all that I needed. 4-H has really impacted my life in a positive way. ■

~ Noel Beauchaine



# Adult Programming Planned

## All possible at the new Community Center

In one of our last editions, we talked about programs for the kids in the new community center. Here we will touch on some of the adult programs we have slated to be offered with the new center.

What does the new community center have in store for our adult population? Let's explore some ideas.

First, our community center will be for all ages, as they say from crib to coffin. Maybe not perfectly politically correct, but you get the idea. We want to have programs for everyone.

**Basketball** – We plan to continue to operate our Monday night basketball drop-in night. With an additional court, we can house up to 30 adults for the night. They will all get plenty of court time. In addition to drop-in, we will try to operate two additional adult basketball programs. One being a women-only drop-in night. We also plan to try an over-35-league (co-ed) for those looking to play knowing they have to go to work the next day, and just want to get some good exercise in with some like-minded athletes. Nights for some, and if demand warrants it, we will have a noontime hoop hour.

**Volleyball** – We presently have a men's and women's league and plan to keep those operational. We will also add an additional night of drop-in during the year for those who don't want to commit to a full season of volleyball. If interest does arise locally, we will also try a co-ed league.



**Wrestling** – We will have a drop-in night for adult wrestling as well for those looking to roll for fitness.

**Ping-pong** – The addition of extra space at the new center will allow us to have Ping Pong both during the day and at night. As of now, it will be a drop-in type program, but a league is a strong possibility as well as tournaments now and then. We plan to have 3 tourney-worthy tables.

**Pickleball** – Oh yes, it's coming to Newport. We plan to have at least 2 courts in the gymnasium with a possibility of 3 courts. We will have league pickleball as well as drop-in (during the day) for those who do not want to commit to a full season. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports and we would like to be able to offer lots of options in the new center. There is a good possibility of a Sunday league throughout the winter months.



**Adult Senior Exercise** – This program is designed for seniors (ages 50+) and is presently offered at the rec center. A great way to meet new people, socialize and get a little bit of soft fitness 3 days a week.

**Line Dancing** – We plan to continue our line dancing program for adults. This is a great way to get out and enjoy some exercise with friends and great music.

**Bootcamps** – We will offer a variety of group fitness classes like bootcamp. Our new fitness room will be smaller than the present one, but group fitness and bootcamp can utilize not only the multipurpose rooms and gymnasium, but also many bodyweight exercises to keep you fit and prepare for whatever comes next in your life. Exercise in a group setting and share the pain with others. Morning, noon and nighttime hours.

**Walking clubs** – In the winter months, we will open the gym for walking hours 3 days per week.







Adults who normally walk the outdoor track during the great weather months will be able to use the gym for walking when the snow is just piled too high.

Old School PE – We will bring back the famous Old School PE program in the new center. A great way to feel young again and play some PE games of yesteryear. Co-ed. Spouses encouraged.

Other programs – We are always looking for the next great program, and when it comes along, we will hopefully have the space to make it happen. We will try to offer programs that are new and will not duplicate other programs offered in town. Sometimes demand will pick our programs for us. Space was our biggest need for a new center, and now we will have the ability to do 2-3 programs at one time, a luxury



we have never experienced. Some of the programs under strong consideration based on feedback: Badminton league/drop in; Chess nights; Family Game nights; Indoor Soccer. Got a great idea? Drop us a line.

Outdoor Programs – Being adjacent to the new little league field will open up new possibilities. One of the main ideas is to operate a kickball league in the fall for adults. A great way to get out and enjoy your friends while competing in an old fashioned kickball game.

Fun? Yes. Dust off your shoes and get ready to participate in some fun recreation in the Sunshine Town. ■  
~ PJ Lovely



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# Art is Everywhere in Newport



This year's judges of the Apple Pie Crafts Fair; Harold LaValley, Paul Brown, and Allison Browning.



Basket Workshops with instructor Ray Lagasse



Past Quilt Shows at the Library Arts Center

The Apple Pie Crafts Fair signifies the end of summer and beginning of fall in Newport. This, the largest annual one-day event in town, is put on by the Library Arts Center, brings thousands of community members and visitors to the Newport Town Common to enjoy over 120 booths of handmade craft, live music, fair food, and the legendary Apple Pie sale. The event, in its 49th year, exemplifies the Library Arts Center's commitment to building community and economy through the arts. Over 60 volunteers, led by volunteer chairs of the Fair, Peggy McKenney and Kathy Niboli, worked to bring the event together. The town was alive with excitement, community and creativity.

Winners of the legendary Apple Pie Contest were: First place – Sarah Bock; Second Place – Ashley Whitehead; and Third Place – Carol Dodge. All three winners are Newport residents. Newport Notables who served as this year's judges for the pie contest were Paul Brown, Allison Browning, and Harold LaValley.

With the Fair signifying the start of fall for Arts Center programming, there is a whole new lineup of studio art classes ranging from afterschool slight of hand/magic classes for kids, to classes for adults including basket weaving, mixed media, watercolor, letterpress classes, and master painting classes. There

are also weekly and monthly drop-in art groups including Open Studio, Differently Abled Adult Art Group, and Mixed Media Open Studio. Free monthly art kits as well as our free monthly drop-in art sessions in the gallery continue year round. To see what and when those kits and sessions are, check out the website.

The Library Arts Center also hosts the Soo Nipi Quilters' Guild's biennial quilt exhibit in the gallery September 9 through October 11. This exhibit, sponsored by Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, is a community favorite and draws hundreds of visitors to the gallery.

The Gallery of Gifts opens November 4 and runs through December 23. This annual show brings the work of well over 100 craftspeople to the gallery. Gallery of Gifts transforms the gallery into a pop-up style boutique selling locally handmade gifts for the holiday season. For more information on entering your work into Gallery of Gifts visit [libraryartscenter.org](http://libraryartscenter.org).

From classes and exhibits, free kits and drop-ins to the Apple Pie Crafts Fair and the new mural, the Library Arts Center is bustling with activity, both in its facility and throughout the town, bringing art to the community in ways that engage community members of all ages, and from all different backgrounds. ■

## September and October at the Newport Opera House

With the long anticipated construction being completed on the handicap accessible ramp and the emergency exit outside the back of the Newport Opera House, we are looking forward to a busy and exciting 2023 – 2024 season!

Our sold-out July 30th "Murder Mystery on the Lake Queen" event embarks again for an encore, on

Sunday, September, 24th from 2 – 4PM on the M.V. Lake Queen! Passengers will enjoy a two-hour boat cruise, appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages (a cash bar is available) and an interactive 1920's inspired murder mystery performance. This is your opportunity to become a detective and to figure out "whodunit!" Our September 24th event is generously sponsored by

Carroll Concrete. A few tickets for this event are still available...you don't want to "miss the boat!"

The Newport Opera House Association in partnership with the United Way of Sullivan County, presents the "Dylan Tenney Magic Show" at the Newport Opera House on Sunday, October 1st at 2PM. A fun show for all ages, Dylan brings his own version of "street magic," illusion performance, positive energy and wit, which will leave the crowd roaring!

Artist Patti Warren returns for a "Corbin Covered Bridge" watercolor "paint & sip," on Thursday, October 26th to benefit the Newport Opera House Association. This event is limited to 30 participants, so don't hesitate in purchasing your tickets!

"Last Kid Picked" will be back this year for our annual masquerade Halloween Dance, which will be on Saturday, October 28th (a 21+ event)! Last year's event sold-out.

A few other surprises are in store for October. Check our website and Facebook pages for updates

Volunteers are needed at the Newport Opera House, so if you're interested, please contact us at [info@newportoperahouse.com](mailto:info@newportoperahouse.com) or fill out our volunteer form at [newportoperahouse.com](http://newportoperahouse.com).

We'd like to thank our community, members and patrons for their continuing support of the Newport Opera House Association where "there's a place for you!" ■

Purchase tickets at [newportoperahouse.com](http://newportoperahouse.com) or call the box office at 603-863-2412.

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# Welcome to Newport

The Library Arts Center and the Newport Public Art Collaborative – a newly-formed partnership with the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce – has worked to create a new vintage postcard-style mural that was recently installed in downtown Newport. This large-scale public art piece, created in the same style as the popular “Greetings from” postcards, depicts the Corbin Covered Bridge in the fall, as well as popular scenes from around town (skating on the Common, the Opera House, the Library and more). The mural was painted by artist Heidi Lorenz-the lead artist of the Newport Community Heritage Mural Reproduction in 2022.

“We look forward to this vibrant art piece welcoming residents and visitors to the Newport Downtown Historic District” comments Fran Huot, Library Arts Center Marketing Director. The mural, on the back side of the building which houses Petal Patch, is visible when entering downtown from Sunapee Street.

The Arts Center received a generous grant from the Claremont Savings Bank Foundation in support of the Mural, as well as many generous donations via the #NHGives campaign earlier this summer.

This mural, painted by artist Heidi Lorenz, was installed on the building by Lorenz with help from volunteers Greg Yong and Chris Boyd. Before

being installed the mural received a thorough automotive grade sealant coat of UV Ray protection which was done by Cameron Mull.

“We are so excited to have this new mural in town” comments Kate Luppold, Executive Director of the Library Arts Center, “Not only is this a gorgeous new public art piece, but it signifies the start of five years of the Newport Public Art Collaborative’s commitment to bring new murals to downtown Newport each year.

The Library Arts Center, and Newport Chamber of Commerce formed the Newport Public Art Collaborative based on examples around the state and country where downtown areas have built community engagement and pride, as well as economic development through the addition of substantial public art to downtown districts.

Much like the postcard mural, all the murals added to the downtown area through this collaborative will have a historic feel and will be themed on what is special about our town and region. “As this work is rooted in community engagement, the Newport Public Art Collaborative will be looking to community members to decide what should be depicted in future murals,” states Luppold. Opportunities to bring ideas forward, and ultimately vote on what will be depicted in the upcoming murals will

begin later this summer. There will also be many opportunities for community members to be involved in this process as artists and as volunteers and sponsors to help make this all possible. More information on how to become involved will be available at [libraryartscenter.org](http://libraryartscenter.org) the coming weeks. ■



Cameron Mull stands by the mural panels in his shop



Artist Heidi Lorenz stands in front of Newport's new “Postcard Mural” that she painted. The piece was installed on this building in downtown Newport (home to Petal Patch) in mid-July



THE SOO NIPI QUILTERS' GUILD

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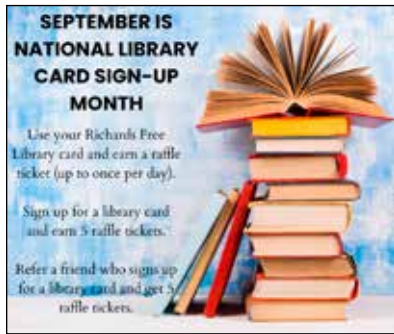
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# Richards Free Library Sign-Up Raffle and More!



Happy National Library Card Sign-Up Month! The Richards Free Library is partaking in a state-wide challenge to get the most new and returning patrons to use the library in September! We have six pretty amazing raffle prizes: a 3D printer and supplies, a Podcasting kit, a basket of brand new adult books, a basket of brand new teen books, and a basket of brand new kids books. Each time (limited to once per day) that you use your library card this month, you'll earn a raffle ticket! If you're new to the library and sign up for a card, you get five tickets. If you already have a library card, but bring a friend who signs up for a new card, you'll get five tickets for sharing the library love! Remember, if you live or work in Newport, a library card is free! If you're from out of town, you can still get a library card for \$50 for a year. We hope to see you and some friends at the library soon, and we hope to have a fancy trophy to show off in October!

The Richards Free Library is pleased to announce once again the "Warm Up Sarah" Community Knit Project! This event will officially begin Tuesday, October 24th, Sarah Josepha Hale's 235th birthday. A new twist this year: community members are invited to make scarves, hats, mittens or other woolens which will be donated to help warm those in need.

Want to contribute, but can't commit to a garment? You can submit a piece of knitted work that measures eight inches in width, just like last year. We'll add it to the large scarf to be displayed on 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.



These contributions, as well as completed garments, will be accepted through Friday, November 18th. After which finished pieces will be donated and the large display scarf finished off for placement on the statue.

Have you noticed that the library looks a little different inside? We've been moving collections around as different materials grow or reduce in circulation. We've created a map to help you find your favorite things in the library. As always, we hope you'll chat with a staff member if you have any questions about where we've moved your favorite book, movie, or game!

It's Hale Award time! The Richards Free Library is proud to host a night with this year's honoree, Chris Bohjalian. Tickets for dinner are on sale at the library for \$50 per person. The awards ceremony is free and open to the public. The ceremony begins at 7pm and will take place at the Newport Opera House.

If you haven't yet read one of Chris Bohjalian's books, be sure to stop by the library! He writes popular fiction that takes place in New Hampshire and Vermont. One of his earlier novels, *Midwives*, is our 2023 community read, but we have all of his other novels as well.

After ten years at the Richards Free Library, Debbie, one of our beloved front desk staff, retired on September 1, 2023. Debbie has been a staple at the library and has shared her love and knowledge of movies with everyone who stops by. Her customer service skills have endeared her to many. She will be missed, but we hope she'll be back once-in-awhile to sub for us! Thank you, Debbie. Best of luck in your next chapter! ■

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# Good Things Come To Those Who...

This summer has been very busy at NCTV. I've been completely revamping the television schedule to prepare for a new and interesting TV program lineup. Currently, NCTV has over 12,000 programs in our vault. Around 2,000 of these are Newport created programs from town government and school events, church services, and concerts to sports and independently produced shows such as *Yankee Chronicle*. The rest are culled from other regional public access stations that we think are interesting, original, and different enough from other station's programming to be of interest to our viewers. None of these were available on NCTV before I took this job in 2017. Partly because it wasn't in the previous director's game plan, and partly because other public access stations weren't uploading as much material as they do now.

Up until now, we programmed a 'catch as catch can' policy using general subject headings and not really identifying what was next on TV. It was never as targeted as it should be.

## Hold on to your remotes, Newport. A change has come!

I have spent the past few weeks cataloging every program in this vast collection to define the subject, the content and the length so that we can lay down a diverse schedule of entertainment, information and interest that I guarantee you won't find anywhere else on your TV dial or online in one place.



This, of course, is on top of our local meetings, sports and other events that you have come to expect weekly.

My next task is to create a consistent daily and weekly schedule that you can count on. Here's what I mean...

Local live meetings will appear on their scheduled week nights. When there is no meeting that night, a

meeting of the same committee will be scheduled (Selectmen on Monday, Planning Board on Tuesday, etc.). Recent local meetings will also be broadcast at midnight and 9:30 every morning on channel 10. A "Week in Review" program will appear on Saturdays and Sundays for folks who miss them during the week. During the seasons, this will include our high school sports as well.

For non-meeting programs, our categories include Arts, Music, Politics, Science, Outdoors, Exercise, Movies and more. These categories already exist but were generic and not consistent. Now we will show subcategories so, for example, a daily science show might have astronomy on Monday, wildlife on Tuesday, current issues on Wednesday, etc. This will be true of all subjects. Much of this programming has yet to be seen on NCTV.

I hope to complete this scheduling by the time this article appears. You can find it on our website, print copies in the town office, and appear in the *Eagle Times*. Please tune in and watch us on Comcast channels 8 and 10, and at [nctv-nh.org](http://nctv-nh.org) (channel 10) and [nctv8.org](http://nctv8.org) (channel 8). ■

~ John Lunn, Exec. Director, NCTV

## GOOD FOR BUSINESS

# Chamber Happenings

As we head into Autumn, we'd like to say thank you for your understanding about our summer events. This summer was a wet one and, unfortunately, a few of our events were postponed or canceled due to rain.

The summer kicked off with our 9th Newport Nano Brewfest! This popular event was scheduled to be held on the Newport Town Common on June 17th, which happened to be a complete washout in town. There were rivers flowing down the common and roads washing out all throughout town. In true fashion, this town came together and held a successful Brewfest, thanks to the Newport Golf Club. With little notice, the Golf Club very generously allowed us to hold the event in their pavilion. The beer vendors, food vendors and patrons made the most of the rainy day and had a blast! Newport is one of the most resilient communities. People come together to make things happen, and that's exactly why it's such a great place to live, work and play.

Our 3rd Annual Wings and Wheels Car Show was postponed two times before eventually being canceled, but we're already starting to work on next year's event! *The Block Party that was supposed to take place in July will now happen on Friday, September 29th from 4-7pm, so mark your calendars.* The good news is that this will kick off Homecoming Weekend. There will be live music, food trucks, vendors, the Farmer's Market and Newport Recreation's Backyard Olympics! The good thing to come out of this is that we usually don't have many fall events, so now we have something great to look forward to.

All Summer long, our Concerts on the Common



series continued to be a well-attended, long standing local tradition. Visitors brought their blankets, lawn chairs, snacks, and dinner, while they enjoyed wonderful music in the open air of the Newport Town Common. We love presenting these free concerts to the community and thank our local sponsors for making this happen every year.

Our Newport Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours events have been extremely popular this year, as well. Local businesses like MJ Harrington's, Newport Senior Center, LaValley's, the Old Courthouse and many others opened their doors and hosted the business community. This is a great networking opportunity and a fantastic way to learn more about the local companies in our area. Newport is very lucky to have such a supportive business environment, as we all know we all need each other, especially in this new world we find ourselves in.

Taking the moment to really reflect on what a fun

and prosperous year 2023 has been so far makes us realize that events we have been associated with have become "must see" events. Winter Carnival was one of the busiest in the past decade. Dancing with the Stars was such a blast! the Citizen of The Year / Business Of The Year / Non-Profit Of The Year awards night was heartwarming, funny, and tear-jerking. Without the backing of our committed business community, and the involvement of this enthusiastic community, all our events wouldn't be as incredible. We hope, looking ahead, you don't miss any of what Newport has to offer, including our 'Twas Just Before Christmas event in December, Newport's Homecoming festivities, all the shows at the Newport Opera House, and so much more. Life is what you make of it and, in the Town of Newport, we are proud to make the absolute best around! ■

~ Shannon Obey, Executive Director, Newport Chamber of Commerce





# Meet Your Neighbor



**Jonathan Flynn**

Cemetery, Buildings and Grounds Manager;  
Town of Newport

**What fictional place would you like to visit?**

Star Wars Universe

**Which "real" place would you like to visit?**

Ireland

**What skill would you like to master?**

Bladesmithing: the art of making knives, swords, daggers and other blades using a forge, hammer, anvil, and other smithing tools

**What would be your first question after waking up from a 100-year sleep?**

Where am I?

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

At home, in the woods

**What is the best way to start the day?**

A bowl of cereal

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

The Town of Newport

Jonathan, aka "Flynn" is originally from Orlando, Florida and moved to Newport with his family in 2021. He has been working for the Town since then. ■

**What weird food combinations do you enjoy?**

"Ranch goes with everything"

**What's the last book you read?**

Did you like it, love it, or were you just happy to be done with it?

*The Art of War: Sun Tzu* – Loved it!

**What is your favorite movie from childhood?**

*Jurassic Park*

**What is your motto in life?**

Amat victoria curam" or "Victory loves preparation"

**If someone gave you \$1,000 right now, what would you spend it on?**

To buy materials for a building project.

**If you could save or protect one animal, plant or part of our earth, which would it be?**

Wolves

**If you could only eat at (or takeout from) one local restaurant for the rest of your life, which one would it be?**

Mi Jalisco

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

Manipulate reality

**If you could have dinner with any famous person (alive or dead) who would it be?**

Teddy Roosevelt

**In general, do you follow or break the rules?**

Follow, generally

**What's your biggest fear/phobia?**

Spiders and anything with a stinger



**Suellen Leischner**

Assistant Town Clerk; Newport

**Who is the most "famous" person you know in Newport?**

Sarah Josepha Hale

**What fictional place would you like to visit?**

Sesame Street

**Which "real" place would you like to visit?**

Belize

**What skill would you like to master?**

Patience

**What would be your first question after waking up from a 100-year sleep?**

What is there to eat!

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

Brunch at the Courthouse Restaurant, shopping, show at the Opera House, dinner at Salt Hill pub.

**What is the best way to start the day?**

Enjoy a cup of coffee on my porch with the quiet morning sounds of nature.

**To which organization/person/group do you donate your time/resources?**

American Cancer Society

**What's the last book you read?**

*Where the Crawdads Sing*. I loved it!

**What was cool when you were younger, but not now?**

Playing outside with friends

**What is your favorite movie from childhood?**

*Wizard of Oz*

**What is your motto in life?**

Live everyday like it's your last!

**If someone gave you \$1,000 right now, what would you spend it on?**

Stuff for around the house.

**If you could save or protect one animal, plant or part of our earth, which would it be?**

I would like to protect the Lady Slipper flower.

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

Village Pizza

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

Police Detective

**If you could be invisible for one day, where would you be?**

At home

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

Mind reader

**If you could have dinner with any famous person (alive or dead) who would it be?**

Michelle Obama

**In general, do you follow or break the rules?**

I try to break the rules when I can!

**What's your dream future look like?**

Retired, sitting on a beach with no cares in the world!

Suellen Leischner moved here from Londonderry, NH after retiring from being a school nurse and started her second career as an Assistant Town Clerk here in Newport. ■



# Sunshine Town Shining Brightly

Our historic and stunning Opera House has reopened its doors for business after an extensive two-year renovation project. During this period, significant improvements were made to enhance the building, with a particular focus on the interior. We are excited to share the following enhancements:

The Opera House now boasts brand-new flooring and upgraded restroom facilities, providing a more comfortable and modern experience for our patrons. These changes were undertaken to not only increase the building's capacity but also to enhance its aesthetic appeal, preserving its status as a cherished community landmark.



In addition to interior upgrades, we've also revitalized the exterior of the Opera House. The roof has been refurbished, and the building has been given a fresh coat of paint, restoring its grandeur. Safety remains a top priority in public spaces. We've significantly improved safety measures by restructuring the entrance at the rear of the Opera House. The old ramp, which provided access for individuals with disabilities, has been completely overhauled, making it safer and more accessible. Furthermore, an additional emergency exit has been added to the rear of the structure in the form of a robust steel step structure on the exterior.

These collective efforts have resulted in a new and improved Opera House that continues to be a source of pride for the Newport community.

In other news, our town has faced the challenges posed by a wet summer, resulting in both physical and financial strain. Widespread road damage has occurred, requiring our various town departments to work tirelessly to repair washouts and damages. We are pleased to inform you that a disaster declaration request has been submitted by the Governor to the federal government, with the potential for at least 80% reimbursement for infrastructure repairs once approved.

Furthermore, the committee overseeing the search for a new town manager has been diligently working on defining search criteria and creating a comprehensive town profile for prospective



candidates. We are confident that these efforts will lead to the selection of an outstanding individual to serve our community.

In closing, we extend our congratulations to the Library and Library Arts programs for hosting yet another successful Apple Pie Festival. We had a booth at the festival, and it provided an excellent opportunity for community members to engage with us and discuss the latest happenings in town. A good time was had by all. ■

~ Barry Connell, Selectboard

## From the Town Clerk

The Newport Town Clerk's Office will be closed for 3 days – Wednesday, October 11 through Friday, October 13 – so that the entire Town Clerk's staff can attend training at the NH City & Town Clerk's Association Annual Conference.

Please make sure to plan on this timing if you are purchasing a vehicle or if you have purchased something new and will need to register, transfer, etc.

We will be open Monday October 9th and Tuesday October 10th from 8-4:30 so please make sure to plan ahead for this closure. You cannot register through another Town and you cannot register at DMV.

You can renew online, order replacement decals, and duplicate registration; license a dog, enter and upload paperwork for a new dog; order a vital record (certified copy of a birth, death, marriage, or divorce) at [www.newportnh.gov/town-clerk](http://www.newportnh.gov/town-clerk).

We thank you for your patience, and please remember that we do this training so that we may best serve the residents of our town. ■

~ Liselle Dufort, CTC; Town Clerk

**LISELLE DUFORT, CTC**  
TOWN CLERK  
PRESIDENT - NHCTCA

603.863.2224  
tnc 603.863.8008

[clerk@newportnh.gov](mailto:clerk@newportnh.gov)

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# NEWPORT, NH

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# "Welcome to Newport" Mural: A Burst of Color and Joy Unveiled

The Town of Newport has been graced with a vibrant new masterpiece that is spreading joy, inspiration, and a sense of connection throughout the community. The captivating "Welcome to Newport" mural has been unveiled, adding a burst of color to the town and igniting a collective sense of pride.

Positioned at the corner where Petal Patch Florist meets the Sheriff's Department, the mural pays homage to Newport's most cherished landmarks. From the iconic Richards School to the Skating on the Common scene, the mural weaves a tapestry of memories that have shaped the town's identity. The Monument on the Common, a symbol of unity and history, stands prominently amidst the vivid panorama. Meanwhile, the depicted Historic Opera House, the inviting Library, and the charming Gazebo complete the captivating composition.

Heidi Lorenz, the lead artist behind this extraordinary creation, displayed her craft in bringing Newport's essence to life on this large canvas. Months of meticulous planning and dedicated support from the Library Arts Center helped bring Lorenz's ideas to



and installation crew, played a pivotal role in ensuring the mural's fitting location. Cameron Mull's UV coating expertise will ensure the mural remains vibrant for years to come.

As Newport residents and visitors gather to bask in the radiance of this mural, there is a profound sense of gratitude in the air. "It's like a visual love letter from our town," remarked one community member.

life. "I attended a month-long educational experience on developing Public Spaces to bring awareness to how public art can create spaces where communities want to be," Lorenz described. "We (Library Arts Center, and Chamber of Commerce) wanted to talk about ideas for the future of public art in Newport & how public art can support economic growth...I loved the way it turned out," she said.

The project would not have been possible without the support of benefactors such as the Library Arts Center, the Claremont Savings Bank Foundation, and numerous individual donors who believe in the transformative nature of art.

Greg Young and Chris Boyd, the skilled building

The "Welcome to Newport" mural beckons passersby to pause, appreciate, and be captivated by its beauty. It's a reminder that art has the remarkable ability to transcend boundaries, connect hearts, and uplift spirits.

So, dear residents and travelers, take a leisurely stroll to the corner of Petal Patch Florist and the Sheriff's Department, and check out the "Welcome to Newport" mural! Let its colors infuse your day with a little extra brightness and its scenes stir a sense of belonging. This mural is a celebration of Newport's past, present, and future, and an embodiment of the Newport community heart. ■

~ Allison Browning

## YOUNG AT HEART

### Grateful for Our Past and Looking Forward to the Future

The Ruger Golf Tournament that took place on August 19th, was a fantastic success! The Newport Senior Center is the beneficiary of this year's proceeds. Thanks to the many volunteers, the Newport Golf Club for hosting and to Ruger for organizing and sponsoring this annual event, many of our patrons will continue to receive the Meal-on-Wheels deliveries they have come to rely on and look forward to.

Looking ahead, while it seems too early to talk about the holidays, we do have to prepare for the 12 Days of Christmas Raffle. This is where many generous businesses donate money in amounts that permit us to raffle off cash daily for the first 12 working days in December. Tickets go on sale in October, so be on the lookout! For any business wishing to make a donation to this fundraiser, contact Brenda Burns at 863-3177 or 863-5139. This fundraiser is also for our Meals-on-Wheels program.

Also thinking ahead to the holiday season, the Senior Center will be holding its annual Holiday Craft & Bake Sale, as well. The proceeds from this event help the center with utility costs and other expenses. Crafters who would like to rent a 8X8 space for the upcoming Holiday Craft Fair & Bake Sale should contact Sandy Cornish at 603-843-8364. Spaces are priced right at only \$25 per 8X8 space.

The Senior Center Trip program is back and will be running four trips in 2024. The outings will include trips to MGM Casino, the Deerfield Fair, Hart's Turkey Farm, Yankee Candle and Bright Nights at Forest Park.

*Anyone interested in any of the trips should call 603-863-4422. Leave your name and number and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. All trips will be affordably priced between \$20-\$25. For more information, contact the Newport Senior Center at (603) 863-3177 or scnsnsc@gmail.com.*

*Be sure to check out our Facebook page; Newport Senior Center Home of Sullivan County Nutrition Services for up-to-date information.*



## NEWPORT MONTESSORI

### School is Back in Session

It's back to school time! We are thrilled to welcome back all our students, both familiar faces and new friends. Our Montessori philosophy continues to guide us as we create an environment that fosters curiosity, independence, and a love of learning from Pre-K through Grade 8.

In our Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms, children engage in Montessori-inspired activities, rich in sensory experiences, which encourage them to develop foundational skills while allowing their creativity to flourish.

In the elementary grades, multi-age classrooms foster a sense of community, where older students mentor younger peers, creating an environment of collaborative learning. With a focus on hands-on experiences, students actively engage with subjects, becoming confident problem solvers and critical thinkers.

Middle schoolers in Grades 6-8 delve into more specialized subjects and projects. Our students are empowered to take ownership of their education, setting goals and managing their time effectively, preparing them for high school and beyond.

The Montessori approach is not just a curriculum; it's a way of life that nurtures the whole child – mind, body, and spirit. This approach cultivates a deep love for learning and builds life skills like problem-solving, empathy, and independence.

As we step into the new school year, we're excited to continue our journey of growth, learning, and discovery. Here's to a year filled with laughter, curiosity, and boundless possibilities! ■

*For more information about our Montessori programs and enrollment, please visit [www.newportmontessori.org](http://www.newportmontessori.org).*



# Where Culinary Excellence Meets Community Spirit

Allison Browning

In the heart of Newport, The Old Courthouse Restaurant stands as more than just a dining establishment – it is a testament to history, family, and the enduring connection between a restaurant and its community. Owners Jane Rastallis, and her daughter, Karen Doucette, have combined history, community, and their unique experiences into this culinary gem, making it a quintessential Newport experience.

The journey of The Old Courthouse Restaurant began with a vision brought to life through the passion and dedication of Jane Rastallis. In 2003, Jane stumbled upon the former courthouse and saw an opportunity to create something truly unique – a restaurant that would honor its historical roots while incorporating creative American cuisine for its patrons. And that's exactly what she and Karen have accomplished.

What truly sets The Old Courthouse Restaurant apart is its unwavering commitment to community engagement. Jane and Karen have championed the spirit of togetherness, expanding far beyond the confines of their dining room. Through their active participation in local events such as "Dancing with the Stars" and Winter Carnival, the restaurant has become a hub of activity and excitement. Jane explains, "It's about showing our deep connection to the Newport community." The involvement doesn't stop there. The Old Courthouse Restaurant hosts many corporate events, historic talks, and community fundraisers. Their involvement has transformed The Old Courthouse Restaurant into a hub where locals and visitors unite to share laughter, stories, and create memories.

Yet, what makes The Old Courthouse Restaurant truly exceptional isn't just its history; it's the unique blend of experiences that Jane and Karen bring to the table. Jane's background as a consultant infuses meticulous attention to detail into every corner, ensuring that every element, from decor to service, exudes



*Daughter/mother duo owners, Karen Doucette and Jane Rastallis*

warmth and sophistication. On the other hand, Karen's journey as a travel agent has granted her a cosmopolitan understanding of quality above all else.

But amidst the professional dedication, it's the essence of family that radiates through. Beyond Jane and Karen's hands-on approach, family members step in at various junctures, embodying the essence of a true family-owned operation. From cousins to grandkids, uncles to brothers, the Old Courthouse family is there every step of the way. Whether it's pitching in during bustling holiday hours, serving as weekend bartenders, or lending a hand at catering events, every family member plays a crucial role in maintaining the restaurant's authentic charm. "We take pride in our family-oriented style," Jane says with a smile. "It's not just about us – it's about the collective effort that makes The Old Courthouse Restaurant what it is."

The devotion of Jane and Karen to their patrons mirrors their deep gratitude for the community they serve. "Our patrons are diverse and endearing," Karen affectionately notes, acknowledging the loyal customer

base that frequents their establishment. From familiar locals who've woven themselves into the restaurant's narrative to curious travelers seeking Newport's essence, The Old Courthouse Restaurant opens its doors with a warm embrace for all. "It's heartwarming to see how appreciative our patrons are of our restaurant... and to receive continuous support from other local businesses shows that they are very thankful we are here as well," Jane adds.

As The Old Courthouse Restaurant continues to evolve, its commitment to Newport and its people remains unwavering. With every dish, every event, and every heartfelt gesture, Jane Rastallis, Karen Doucette, and their family exemplify the spirit of Newport's Hometown Heroes. They remind us that a restaurant is more than just a place to dine – it becomes a sanctuary where history, flavor, and togetherness intertwine. ■



*Family lends a helping hand during catering event*



*The Old Courthouse Restaurant*



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