

Newbury Update is published by the Town of Newbury to offer residents a view of the town government operations and activities. Copies are available at the town office, library and transfer station, but we strongly encourage you to 'get your copy' at the town website: www.newburynh.org.

If you would like to receive a copy via e-mail, send your request (and any comments or suggestions) to: newburyupdate@gmail.com.

In no particular order, a collection of news and happenings in Newbury town government...

Community Spirit – Some have mentioned a shortage of community spirit, also called a sense of community. Well their wishes are answered. It's all over town. It's at the fire department, the recreation committee, recycling committee, the Friends of the library, the Old Home Day committee, in fact virtually every group in town is eager for new members. All are welcome to join the Newbury community!

The secret was kept – The meeting room in the town office was full on April 27 when Shelly Candidus arrived that evening, and she was surprised to discover all were there to wish her farewell. It had been her last day as administrative assistant in the selectmen's office, a position she held for 11 years. Proclamations were presented from several town departments and the governor, and, after some difficulty extricating it from its box, a captain's chair with the town seal engraved on its back was given to Shelly.

Donna Long – Newbury's new administrative assistant, Donna Long, began training with Shelly mid-April and is now at her post. She had been director of community affairs for the Veterans Home, leaving to care for her young children. They will both be in school next fall, so the timing for this job opening seemed perfect, and her experience fit the requirements. She and her family live in Bradford where she also runs a photo studio, Long Lasting Memories.

We know beans – One development out of the town meeting was definitive proof that people in our town know beans. The ham-and-bean dinner spread offered an impressive array of pots with many styles of bean from which to choose. It should also be noted that many diets met their downfall, however briefly, at the dessert table.

Town Meeting results – The short version: Most everything passed. Voters decided they did not want to sell the former highway garage, and they did want to donate \$75,000 to the Center Meeting House renovation. Those two choices require a change in town administrator Dennis Pavlicek's estimate of our tax rate, which will be officially set by the Dept. of Revenue Administration later this year. Dennis's updated projection is that we will have a tax increase after all, between 25-30 cents per thousand.

Speaking of tax bills – Tax bills will be mailed out the middle of May, reflecting one-half of the previous year's tax rate multiplied by the assessed valuation.

Newbury, a natural winner – Our town has been awarded, for the second time, a Community Beautification Award by the NH Arborists' Assoc. The governor made the presentation in the Executive Council chamber at the State House in Concord on Friday, May 4, with selectmen and members of the Newbury Beautification Committee accepting. This award for 2006 will join the one the town received in 2000.

Newbury has also again been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to community forestry. A presentation for this is set for May 16 at the governor's mansion. In addition, Bartlett Tree Service, in recognition of its 100th anniversary, is giving a crab apple tree to each of 22 so-named towns in NH.

April Storms Bring May FEMA

The mid-April storms stalled commuters, stranded some in their homes and kept others from reaching home, rerouted traffic and toppled trees, some into power lines. Some were without electricity for a couple days.

Town office employees, police and fire members were busy dealing with traffic control and accidents, and calling people cutoff by flooding and road damage to ensure they had food and other needs.

Power was lost on Bowles Road when a big pine tree took down wires and blocked the road, which also took out Ramblewood which gets its power from Bowles Rd. Cheney Road lost power too.

There was extensive road damage throughout town. Winding Brook Road, a single-access road, was the worst-hit in town, with a significant portion of the road washed away and 14 homes cutoff.

Also high on the damaged roads list: Rollins, Bartlett, Morse, Cheney, Baker Hill, Haynes, Stoney Brook, Province, Gerald, Mountain, Brown and roads in Chalk Pond. A large number of other roads show the storms' effects to varying degrees.

Many people were diverted by the damage on Rte. 103A between King Hill Rd. in New London and Blodgett's Landing that had through traffic closed for several days.

Our highway department had all its equipment mobilized, and hired some work out to local contractors. The repairs at Winding Brook Road at one point had three 10-wheel dump trucks, a bulldozer and a vibratory roller busy. It is now roughly restored and is passable.

At press time, highway administrator Cal Prussman reports that the roads damaged during the rain storms are all now passable. His crew continues working on Cheney and Province roads and others for further improvements.

The board of selectmen is not sure how the town will handle the costs of repair and continues to assess the extent of the damage. Total damage to town roads during the mid-April rains will likely amount to \$100,000-\$200,000 in repairs. Some re-arrangement of the highway budget may be necessary.

Selectmen feel the combination of weather and extensive tree cutting results in this type of situation. There is not a solution at this point, but it is a growing problem. Prussman is making a list of the recurring road problems and prioritizing them for the select board for further discussion.

The silver lining in the rain clouds that outdid themselves in April is that the president signed the disaster declaration, which means we will be eligible for reimbursement for a good part of the damage to the town roads. Town and FEMA representatives will meet to qualify and quantify the damage. When the repair estimates are set, 75% of the cost will come from federal funds, which Dennis Pavlicek said usually come quickly. The state will contribute 12.5% but that takes up to a year as the legislature has to appropriate the money. The remaining 12.5% for the town's share is usually covered by its mobilization of personnel, equipment and administrative costs.

The town is looking for FEMA to agree to mitigation funds as well, to upgrade culverts, drainage, materials and the like, as well as engineering consults, to minimize or prevent such damage in future.

Residential & Business Flood Relief Aid

Newbury residents who suffered flood damage could also be eligible for federal disaster relief. Federal funds are available in the form of grants for home repairs and to replace personal property not covered by insurance. For residential or business losses not fully covered by insurance there are low-interest loans.

For details on all the available federal assistance or to start the application process, contact FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or online at www.fema.gov. The toll-free telephone number will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

Emergency management director Paul Groulx reminds Newbury residents that information on flood recovery and links to the FEMA website, as well as other emergency preparedness and response, are available on the Emergency Management page of the town website, www.newburynh.org.

Dennis Pavlicek pointed out that this is the type of event where Reverse 911, for which voters provided money at town meeting, could be effectively used to call people in affected areas with announcements and updates of information relevant to them.

Green Up Day – At press time the selectmen just cleaned up the roadside trash on the two miles of Rte. 103 from Village Rd. to 103A, the section they signed up for under the Adopt-a-Highway program. Saturday, May 5, was the first of four pick-up days this year.

Residents are encouraged to ‘improve the view’ in their own neighborhoods as well. Grab some bags, gather family and neighbors – many hands make light work – and help Newbury look her best. Be sure to exercise caution on the roadsides, wearing a bright color and keeping an eye out for traffic.

Slips up? – Back in 1991 the Wetlands Bureau gave Newbury the go-ahead to include 20 boatslips when the harbor area improvement was done. The full number wasn’t put in at the time – and don’t get ahead of the game here – but the selectmen are checking to see if the approval still holds. If it does, they may look at the feasibility and advisability of pursuing building additional boat slips.

Sidewalk takes another step – Following the sidewalk project approval at town meeting, 20 engineering firms have indicated interest in the job. All have visited town for a walk through and RFQs (requests for qualifications) and RFPs (requests for proposals) were due by May 2.

The town will then shortlist the firms by May 15, the firms will be rated and the town will enter into negotiations with the top-rated firm for a fee proposal for engineering services. If not mutually agreeable, the next-rated firm will be approached and so on until agreement is reached.

The project will occur, and be put to bid, in two phases. Phase I will include the design and engineering of the project and projected construction costs. It’s anticipated that by early fall a public hearing on the plans and design will be held. Phase II will consist of the construction and completion of the project. Timing will hinge on the availability of the grant funds, but construction should occur within 2-3 years.

The project includes a sidewalk (aka pedestrian improvements) along Rte. 103 from Bell Cove caboose to the Bald Sunapee property, a pedestrian bridge, site amenities, drainage and streetscape design.

Watch for bear and eagle-to-be – As part of the process for a boy scout to earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout, he must select and design a community project, get approvals from the appropriate authorities, and organize its successful completion. For his Eagle project, Michael Drew of Sunapee has won the approval of Fire Chief Hank Thomas and the board of selectmen to construct a forest fire dangers sign, complete with Smokey the Bear, beside the safety services building. Watch for him and fellow troop members at work in the coming weeks.

Food al fresco – A vendor permit has been approved for Mark Moran. He will set up his cart on the left side of the beach parking lot adjacent to the gazebo. He plans to sell Italian sausages and hotdogs on Thursday evenings during the concerts and on Saturdays. The rest of the time his children will man the cart, selling Italian ices.

Diverting work – The town has taken advantage of free help with its spring cleaning, using so-called diversion workers to put out the

picnic tables, spread bark mulch at town buildings, sweep sand from parking lots and other clean up.

See yourself in print – The town is looking for a volunteer to write weekly articles about the town and its activities for the newspapers in the area. If you’ve always wanted a byline, please contact Dennis Pavlicek at the town office.

Formal Department – The selectmen are meeting with Fire Chief Hank Thomas to continue discussing his department’s organizational structure and a draft policy document created towards the goal of making the fire department a full town department, pursuant to the warrant article tabled at town meeting. Together they are developing position descriptions and policies. Later it will be reviewed with the other fire officers, then the full membership.

Saving more energy – Dennis Pavlicek got a go-ahead from selectmen to follow up on the options in PSNH’s ‘New Hampshire Saves’ program including various types of energy-saving lighting for office and outdoor use.

Park 10 Lots – Following town meeting approval for their sale, selectmen decided to dispose of the four lots in Park 10 by sealed bid. Abutters and people who have expressed interest will be notified of this by early summer.

Chalk Pond – To solve long-standing drainage problems, the Sunapee Hill Assoc. has engaged with the Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) for erosion-control work around Chalk Pond. DES has provided \$14,500 in funds for the first year, requiring a 40% town match which is being met by time expended by town officials and others involved in the project.

The effort is looking at stabilizing every building site in the Chalk Pond area to reduce the impact of run-off. It involves 77 lots.

The goal is to develop a storm management plan as an overlay district for the Chalk Pond area. This, in turn, could lead to formulating an ordinance for the whole town to be developed from the measures taken to control the local problem at Chalk Pond. The association is working to get a draft overlay plan in place as an amendment to the zoning ordinance, to be presented at next year’s town meeting.

DES is looking to encourage such overlays all over the state, using the Lake Sunapee area as a model. The plan is to develop a watershed comprised of all the communities around the lake, and to involve the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition (SAWC).

Old Home Day

Plans for this year’s Old Home Day, set for Saturday, July 14, are taking shape at enthusiastic meetings already. Anyone interested in helping or participating is more than welcome and should call the town office. The next scheduled meeting is at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 23 at the town office.

An important heads’ up for now: The dinner menu includes Buzz Call’s famous roast beef and the Newbury Fire Dept.’s also popular chicken. There will be enough to serve roast beef to 300, and 100 chicken. Tickets will be available in advance for \$4 and will guarantee-tee you a plate; tickets are \$5 on the day. Tickets for hotdog meals for kids will be \$2 in advance, \$2.50 on site.

Note: Tickets are not ready yet. Watch for notice when they are. Any community organizations that would like to participate in the day’s events should contact Linda Powell, 938-2228

Fishersfield Park

Dick Wright, who is the select board's point person on this project, has the ball rolling on plans for our town park on Old Post Rd. He's talking to contractors about the access road and field layout. He is also going to investigate time and costs involved in having an engineer oversee the work.

The first priorities are the access road, recreation fields and parking. Wright cautions that funds may fall short of completing all the planned parts of the project at this time given that all the estimates in hand are three years old. [The funds in hand amount to about \$178,000 and derive from a DRED grant and funds appropriated by the town some 3-4 years ago.]

Several steps are needed to begin the project, including getting more fill, leveling and rolling the recreation areas, and final grading and shaping. Selectmen suggested that the highway crew could build the road and put in two culverts.

In the interim, the highway crew will be asked to move the wood chip piles to the back landing area.

After establishing the recreation and parking areas, selectmen have discussed adding a well, power and an irrigation system. It was suggested that, in the future, volleyball and tennis courts might be situated behind the playing field and a basketball court near the road.

Selectmen also mentioned that part of the Selectmen's Project this year could be moving the greenhouse from the Bald Sunapee property to a level area at Fishersfield, as a first step in establishing a community garden in 2008.

Interested in Recycling?

Selectmen are considering reactivating the Recycling Committee to build on the success of our recycling efforts so far. The committee might further explore how other area towns are recycling, consider the cost efficiencies of baling or shredding plastics to save volume, and separating metals for greater revenue. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact town office.

Transfer Station

Several individuals responded to the ad for the new position of transfer station supervisor and the applications were reviewed by the selectmen. Interviews are now under way. The position is responsible for the general operation of the facility. Duties will include assisting the public to recycle disposable materials, enforcing rules and regulations pertaining to the use and operation of the facility and supervision of attendants.

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee has been busy this spring planning summer programs and camps for Newbury youngsters.

The committee is looking for new members. If anyone is interested they should contact Peter Newbern at 763-4940 or PeterNewbern@yahoo.com. Their next meeting is Monday, May 21, at 7 p.m.

Swim Lessons

Swim lessons are being offered again at the harbor with Nicole Wallace. She will be holding lessons from July 2 through July 13. Cost is \$25 per child (additional siblings are \$20 each). Applications can be picked up at the town office after June 1.

Ecology Exploration Camp

This summer, Newbury will be offering an Ecology Exploration Camp for 9 to 12 year olds. The camp will be held at the Fells from August 6-10 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The instructor will be Laura Ryder who is a watershed exploration specialist with the Fish and Game Dept. She has developed a curriculum for students to learn about the ecology of invertebrates in pond and stream environments. The Newbury Conservation Commission has assisted in promoting this educational, creative endeavor. An application may be picked up at the town office after June 1. The cost will be \$60 per child with a maximum of 12 campers.

Golf and Tennis Lessons

We will once again be offering golf and tennis lessons for young people at Baker Hill Golf Club and Mountainside Racquet Center. For more details contact Marilyn Hill (contact info below).

Summer Concert Series

Our Summer Concert Series will begin on Thursday, June 14th at the gazebo in the harbor. Concerts will be held every Thursday evening at 7 p.m., except for 8/23 and 8/30, when they will begin at 6 p.m. If there is a cancellation due to inclement weather, the rain date will be the following Wednesday.

Special concerts are set for Old Home Day on July 14, and on Love Your Lakes Day on Aug. 12 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. during the antique boat parade. We have a great line-up of talented musicians which promises to be a lot of fun for the whole family.

Women's Health & Wellness

Following the results of the Recreation Survey which was sent out last summer, the Recreation Committee will be offering workshops and lectures on women's health and wellness. The schedule has not been completed as we go to press, but we are planning to have monthly workshops offered at the Newbury town office. The dates and times will be posted on the website and advertised

--Marilyn Hill, 763-4940 x210, marilyn@newburynh.org

2007 Summer Concert Schedule

Rain dates for the Thursday concerts will be the following Wednesday.

June 14	7 p.m.	Pirizzoli & Putnam	Jazz & Pop
June 21	7 p.m.	Karen Morgan/Pony Express	Country
June 28	7 p.m.	Tammy Jackson	Country
July 5	7 p.m.	Kid Pinky/Ruthless Nights	Blues
July 12	7 p.m.	Saylyn	Reggae
July 14	3-6 p.m.	Lunch at the Dump	Pop
July 14	7:30 pm	Bruce Marshall Group	Blues/Pop
July 19	7 p.m.	The Flames	Oldies
July 26	7 p.m.	Mink Hills Band	Bluegrass
Aug. 2	7 p.m.	Chris Kleeman	One-man Band
Aug. 9	7 p.m.	Kan Tu Band	Blues
Aug. 12	12:30	Roxanne/The Voodoo Rockers	Rock
Aug. 16	7 p.m.	East Bay Jazz Ensemble	Jazz
Aug. 23	6 p.m.	Saylyn	Reggae
Aug. 30	6 p.m.	Captain Fiddle Trio	Cajun, Banjo

Farmers' Market

The town is loaning space this summer at the Bald Sunapee property (next to the library) for a farmers' market. It will be open, rain or shine, every Friday from 4-7 p.m. It's set to open on June 29 through October 5.

The market is looking for an energetic individual(s) to manage the market. This individual would need to manage the weekly organization of the market and be there on site each Friday to facilitate.

Anyone interested should contact Marilyn Hill at 763-4940 x210 or marilyn@newburynh.org.

Newbury Public Library

There are two newer opportunities at the library for those interested in poetry or genealogy.

Poetry Jams – Local poet Dianalee Velie invites all to bring their poems to share the last Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

If you like to write haiku, ode or verse
Come to the Poetry Jam to converse
Enhance your writing with Dianalee Velie
It's more easy than you think, really

(Very Anonymous)

Genealogy Research Help – Need help digging up your roots? Come to the library on Wednesdays from 2-4 p.m. and Margie Weiler will share her expertise. She's also available by appointment; call her at 938-2892.

Summer Plans – Librarian Rosie Johnson reports several programs are in the works for the summer, some new and some old favorites.

Preschool Children’s Story Hour continues through the summer every Wednesday.

Stories and Ice Cream for Hot Summer Days, the summer reading program for children in grades 1-5, will run on Tuesday afternoons in July and August.

For young adults, YA librarian Janet Rucker has a program in the works to help students with their summer reading lists and book reports.

The family program Supper-time Stories for Summer Evenings is in the planning stages as is the continuation of the adult book discussion series.

Watch for details on these and other offerings. The Friends of the Newbury Public Library have their traditional events on tap as well – **Memorial Day Book and Bake Sale**

This annual fundraiser, sponsored by the Friends for the benefit of the library, will occur on Saturday, May 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the event of rain the sale will move into the town office building.

Please note: The bake sale needs your help. The Friends are looking for donations of baked goods for the sale. If you’re willing to bake something, please drop it off at the library the day of the sale between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Need plants? Walk down to the greenhouse on the Bald Sunapee property where, also from 10-2 on May 26, the Newbury Beautification Committee will be holding its Spring Plant Sale to support its efforts.

July 4th Parade – Start gathering the red, white and blue for decorating you, your dog, your bike, whatever you can propel down Village Rd. in South Newbury on July 4th. Watch it or be in it, the choice is yours, but it’s traditional patriotic fun for all.

Town Clerk / Tax Collector

Linda Plunkett, town clerk, reports that based on last year’s numbers, not everyone has yet complied and registered their dogs. All dogs over three months old should have been registered by April 30. If you missed the deadline, RSA 466:1 sets a monthly penalty of \$1.00 and civil forfeiture of \$25.00 after May 31, 2007. The forms are available at her office, or can be downloaded from the town website. The fees are noted on the form and range from \$2 - \$9. Be sure to include the rabies tag number and expiration date as proof of your dog’s current rabies inoculation.

Remember you can get boat registrations and hunting and fishing licenses at the town clerk’s office.

Linda Plunkett, tax collector, stands ready to receive payment of the tax bills going out mid-May. If you want a receipt, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your payment.

Save yourself a wasted trip and note that the office is not open on Monday mornings. To accommodate those who can’t come during the day, the office is open on Mondays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The hours for Tuesday through Friday are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.

Highway Dept.

Highway Administrator Cal Prussman met with the board of selectmen on April 23 to discuss road damage and repairs following the April storms. (See separate article on storms.) He assessed all roads that incurred storm damage, necessary repairs, and a preliminary estimate for costs of materials, labor, and contractors. A schedule with dates of completion is being prepared. He and the selectmen will be looking into long-term improvements to prevent storm damage in the future.

Bridge Repairs: Following a vote at town meeting the applications for state aid for bridge repairs on Sutton Rd. at Ring Brook and Village Road at Andrew Brook are approved and in the queue for funding. The funds should be available in 2012 or 2013.

The highway administrator is lining up equipment and contractors for mowing and road sweeping, part of the usual spring maintenance.

Cemetery Commission

In conjunction with the NH Old Graveyard Assoc., the cemetery commission will sponsor a walking tour at 1 p.m. on Sept. 15 of its cemeteries, meeting at the Newbury town office. There will be a business meeting at 9:30 followed by talks from Mary Bachelder on the various graveyards and Chuck Crickman updating his research on the Simon tomb. All are welcome. For more information call John Warren at 938-2960.

Health Officer

Health Emergency Planning Workshop – May 16

The Newbury Health Officer in conjunction with the Greater Sullivan County All Hazards Region Committee will conduct a health emergency planning workshop on May 16, 2007. The workshop will be held at the Newbury town office from 7-9 p.m. and is open to all Newbury residents as well as residents of neighboring communities.

This session follows up on the Town of Newbury community emergency planning sessions held in 2006, when a number of attendees asked about what was being done to prepare for the possibility of an Avian Flu Pandemic.

Workshop speakers will include representatives from the NH Dept. of Health and Human Services, health-care providers as well as the Greater Sullivan County All Hazards Region Committee. The intent of the workshop, which is being conducted as part of a state planning grant, is to familiarize residents about what the state and the region are doing to prepare for a pandemic.

It will also provide information on what families and individuals can do in preparation for and in the event of a pandemic. Complete details of the workshop will be available shortly on the Town of Newbury website, www.newburynh.org, and at the town office.

Newbury Health Officer Wayne R. Whitford has been heavily involved in the preparation for the Town of Newbury as well as an active member of the Greater Sullivan County All Hazards Region Committee. Newbury was one of the first towns in the state to develop a health emergency plan and over the last several months has been a major player in the regional planning effort.

Information on the Greater Sullivan County All Hazards Region Committee and pandemic planning can be found on the Health Officer’s page on the town website. The website contains the latest Avian Flu fact sheets and information from the NH Dept. of Health and Human Services, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other resources.

Additional Town of Newbury community workshops will be conducted throughout the year on personal safety, health and family emergency planning topics. Again this year, Town Clerk Linda Plunkett will be helping to coordinate the planning for these sessions. Watch for notices on the town website and at town office for details.

Flooding and Health Issues

With the recent flooding throughout the town and especially the flooding of basements, Health Officer Wayne R. Whitford wants to remind Newbury residents about some of the health issues associated with flooding.

> Be cautious around areas that have flooded. Always consider that floodwater may be contaminated. Disinfect any items which have come in contact with floodwater, using one-quarter cup of bleach per gallon of water as a disinfectant.

> If your well has been impacted by floodwater, have it tested and disinfected if necessary.

> Flooding and high groundwater levels can affect your septic system. Groundwater can enter a septic tank or saturate a drainfield

causing problems or even damage to the system. Contact your septic system contractor to examine the system if you suspect problems.
> One of the more serious issues resulting from flooded homes is the development of mold. Mold results naturally when areas of the home, such as basements, are not completely dried following flooding like the recent storms or even broken pipes. Mold often occurs within the walls or carpets, which may appear to have dried out but dampness still remains. Often a professional cleanup company or contractor is needed to remove the water-soaked material so the mold will not develop. Once mold starts to grow, health problems can occur, such as nasal and sinus congestion, cough, wheezing/breathing difficulties, sore throat, skin and eye irritation and upper respiratory infections.

Another serious result of flooding is that areas where the storm water remains trapped, such as old tires, plastic containers, pools and ceramic pots, result in breeding grounds for insects. Of most concern are the mosquitoes that can carry diseases such as West Nile Virus and EEE. Be sure that standing water is drained from all parts of your property.

--Wayne Whitford

Emergency Management

At the end of March, Paul Groulx, Newbury's director of emergency management, presented the selectmen with the town's Emergency Management Directory / Operations Plan Manual. It was a joint effort involving input from the highway, police and fire depts. and the town administrator. Copies of the manual, to be updated yearly, are available at the safety services building, town office and on CD ROM.

Community Emergency Response Courses

The storms and flooding were examples of when Community Emergency Responders might have been called for help. Newbury and seven other area towns are forming a regional Community Emergency-cy Response Team (CERT), made up of citizens who will be trained and prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster.

The group held an informational meeting on April 25 and drew an audience of more than 60. The goal is to train people to provide assistance in an emergency event, and those who would like to help will be asked to take a free local 20-hour training course offered by the NH Office of Homeland Security. The course covers topics including advanced first aid, CPR, shelter management and other activities to aid our communities in the event of an emergency.

The first training course is being held May 5-6. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for May 12 & 19 in Newport, mid-June in either New London or Grantham, and a fourth in the fall.

Anyone interested in more information or attending a session should contact Newport Fire Chief Peter Lamb, newportfd@nhvt.net.

Police Dept.

Chief Bob Lee has been certified as a firearms instructor and can now conduct in-house training that will save trips and tuition at other sites. In other department news:

Not So Fast!

The speed / traffic control trailer approved at town meeting got its first workout the day it arrived, April 25, and has been kept busy ever since then. The cost was partially offset by a highway safety grant. The unit is solar powered, which is good environmental news.

It's been used from one end of town to the other to advise drivers of their speeds, but also for traffic control and roadwork warnings.

Watch for its varied use in the weeks to come.

Heat News

The police department was awarded a federal CEDAP grant of about \$30,000 from Homeland Security. CEDAP is a program designed to provide small agencies with specialized equipment they couldn't otherwise obtain.

Chief Lee opted for thermal imaging equipment as it has broad uses from fugitive and evidence recovery at crime scenes to search and rescue of lost people to pollution control (a pollutant in the lake can be detected through its different heat signature) to fire department use in finding 'hot spots' from wires or burning inside a wall. The grant includes training on the device.

Chief Lee said the program is a limited-time opportunity and the equipment has enormous potential.

Sit! Stay!

With the summer months approaching, and more potential for people out and about, the public needs to be aware of their responsibilities regarding pets – especially dogs. Animals cannot be allowed to leave the boundary of the owner's property, and when walking with your animals, they must remain in your control.

While these rules have been loosely enforced in the past, an increase in population, densities, and pets have yielded a more aggressive approach to the way these offenses will be handled this summer. Chief Lee notes that complaints about pets have been outnumbering calls the department receives about traffic complaints.

You are also reminded that registration of pets is a state mandate, and should have been completed by the end of April. Don't put yourself in a position to have these regulations, and their fines, imposed on you.

Fire Department

The first quarter of 2007 was a busy one for the Newbury Fire & Rescue Department, with calls for assistance up over 20% from 2006. Calls for motor vehicle collisions and other storm-related emergencies were up because of the snow and ice after a mild start to the winter.

Recruiting New Members

With increased activity and the busy summer season ahead, the Newbury Fire & Rescue Department is interested in recruiting new members. Previous firefighting or emergency medical service (EMS) experience is preferred, but not required as training is available, both in-house and through the NH Division of Fire Standards and Emergency Medical Services. Firefighter/EMTs are paid by the town on a per-call basis and for attending training and meetings. Applicants must be willing and able to be on call and respond nights and week-ends and to attend the required training and meetings. Applications are available at the fire station on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. For more information on the department, visit the website, www.newburyfd.org.

EMS Conference

As part of their ongoing training, several Newbury firefighters and EMTs attended the 7th annual EMS Conference at Mount Sunapee Resort the weekend of April 27-29. The conference, which is sponsored by New London Hospital, NH EMS District C5 and the New Hampshire Bureau of EMS, featured classes and workshops presented by national as well as state experts on emergency medical care.

Old Home Day Plans

Again this year, the Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. will be heavily involved in the Old Home Day celebration on July 14th. In addition to the public safety information, demonstrations and food at the Safety Services Building, this year Smokey the Bear from the NH Division of Forests and Lands will be on hand for the children to meet. As last year, the department will coordinate the fireworks over the harbor in the evening, assist with the barbecue and provide safety and first aid, should the need arise.

Fire Permits Required

As we get into the time for spring cleanup, the Newbury Forest Fire Warden, Dave Smith, wishes to remind everyone that permits are required for all outdoor burning. Please contact Dave at 938-5925 for

a permit application or if you have questions. Information on the fire permit rules and regulations is available on the department website, www.newburyfd.org.

Street Numbers

Don't forget to replace your house or driveway address signs or street numbers that may have been damaged during the winter weather. Town ordinance requires that street address numbers are visible from the road to enable the police, fire or ambulance to locate your home in an emergency. If you have a dock or boathouse on Lake Sunapee, you should have your address listed there as well. The Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. responds with the fireboat to all emergencies at lakeside properties, except during the winter months.

--Wayne Whitford

Blodgett Sewer

The storms created some pumping problems with volume and a septic company was called to pump out 5,000-6,000 gallons, mostly storm runoff. Dennis Pavlicek said he hopes FEMA will reimburse at least part of the cost.

Meanwhile, United Construction has been working on the lines. They have video-viewed the lines and are in the process of making repairs in the pipes and have started working on manholes. This portion of the project is expected to be complete in early June.

Engineering plans are being worked on for repairs and installation of pump stations, which will be the next phase, likely to start this fall.

Assessing Office

The assessing office staff is busy on a variety of projects. There are 32 filed, formal abatement requests being researched to make recommendations on disposition to the selectmen. Informal requests, which come in sooner, have also been processed from last year's updates.

They are also dealing with an update of current use, elderly exemptions and veterans' tax credits, reviewing the files for completeness and ensuring individuals meet qualification standards. Assessor Norm Bernaiche explained these updates are required for certification by the Dept. of Revenue Administration. It's a large undertaking but once the files are updated, maintaining them will be much easier.

Nearly finished is the assessing update of properties with open building permits, to determine any change in the property between April 1, 2006 and April 1, 2007 to update the values on which the tax rate will be set.

In the 'done' column is a housekeeping review and update of all the town property files.

Code Enforcement Officer

Paul LaCasse, code enforcement officer and building inspector, notes that building in Newbury has slowed down for this time of year, but it could well be due to the weather. Let's see what May and June bring.

Conservation Commission

Town forest

At town meeting, voters approved establishing a town forest within part of Fishersfield Park under the management of the conservation commission. To start the process and begin discussing the appropriate boundaries and how to set it up, the commission has met with Dick Wright, the select board's point person on Fishersfield Park; Peter Newbern, chair of the recreation committee, and Chuck Crickman, unofficial 'trailmaster' at the park. They all plan next to walk the site and flag where boundaries might be.

Conservation Plan

Ann Poole, an environmental consultant hired by the Conservation Commission to produce a town-wide conservation plan, is hard at work making field studies of Newbury. Her car, marked "Poole Environmental," will be seen parked around Newbury as she

develops field data for all areas of town. Her results will be presented to the commission in a preliminary draft of the plan in a few months.

The Newbury Recreation Committee, with the Newbury Conservation Commission, will be conducting a one-week conservation camp for children this summer. See the Recreation section of this issue for details.

Pillsbury-Sunapee Ridge Forest Project

The Society for the Protection of NH Forests conducted a hike Sat., April 28, of the 845-acre site on Mt. Sunapee overlooking Mountain Road in Newbury it is working to put under conservation easement. Leading the hike were Forest Society acquisition and field experts, as well as Don Clifford, whose company North Woodlands has purchased the land. Dave Anderson, the Forest Society's education specialist, discussed the numerous species of trees and the multitude of wildlife sign – particularly bear sign – observed during the two-hour session.

The Newbury Conservation Commission is contributing \$200,000 from the Conservation Fund toward protecting the land in Newbury. The Forest Society is striving to raise an additional \$190,000 to cover the cost, including expenses, of purchasing the conservation easement from Clifford on the 845 acres in Newbury and on 250 acres he owns nearby in Goshen. Deadline for the fundraising effort is May 15.

May 14: Public Hearing on \$200,000 Contribution

At a public hearing on Monday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. the Newbury Conservation Commission will propose to contribute \$200,000 from the Conservation Fund towards the purchase of a conservation easement on 845 acres off Mountain Road. The hearing will be held at the town office building.

--Frank Perrotta

Zoning Board of Adjustment

There were two open seats on the ZBA for which no candidates registered, and which were won by write-in votes by Helen Wright, for the one-year term, and William Cluff, for a three-year term.

Recent hearings and meetings of the ZBA

At the ZBA meeting of Feb. 12, the board addressed an Appeal from an Administrative Decision from Robert Mills, abutter to Richard and Suzanne Rothstein, for the ZBA's decision on Dec. 18, 2006. Since the decision to grant the variance was the ZBA's decision, the ZBA as the responsibility to decide whether or not there is something compelling enough in the appeal to grant hearing the appeal. After discussion the board voted 3-1 not to rehear.

Feb. 12 – George H. McLean Jr., for property located at 11 Great Island, sought a variance to waive the shore frontage requirement of 200 feet per dwelling. The purpose was to create a 50-foot strip to be annexed to the abutting piece of land. These are two non-conforming lots; the annexation would make the larger lot more non-conforming in trade for making the smaller lot less non-conforming. The board voted unanimously to grant the variance as presented and subject to all the conditions and materials presented.

Feb. 12 - Robert L. and E. Diana Morris, for property located at 83 Bowles Road, sought a special exception to allow for an accessory apartment over an existing garage attached to a one-family dwelling unit. The apartment would be used by a family member. The board voted unanimously to approve the special exception with a condition that there be a septic approval for two bedrooms and that all documents and testimony as presented be followed to plan.

Planning Board

On April 17, during an update on the status of the town after the April 15 storm, it was reported there was extensive road damage throughout town. The combination of weather and extensive tree cutting results in this type of situation. There is not a solution at this point, but it is a growing problem. It was noted that one of the things the planning board is trying to work on is 'zero run-off' for subdivisions.

Master Plan Update

On March 20, consultant Ken McWilliams gave planning board members copies of the study, Housing and School Enrollment in NH: An Expanded View, which is the document used to research the data in the Community Characteristics chapter of the Master Plan. This study factually supports the theory of a potential future decrease in school enrollment.

On May 1 and June 5 the board will be reviewing the Community Facilities and Services chapter of the Master Plan. The August 7 agenda calls for a review of the draft Historic Preservation chapter.

A public forum to review proposed land use for the town will be postponed from this spring until after the town center 'visioning' work so it can be incorporated.

Town Center Design

The board is working with Patricia Sherman, architectural and planning consultant, and the selectmen to develop a plan for the town center and town-owned buildings. The public meetings to develop a vision for the town center and the plan will be scheduled in the summer in order to have maximum contribution from all town property owners, including summer residents. This sub-chapter of the Master Plan is related to and will help to inform the land-use chapter of the plan.

Recent Planning Board Hearings

Planning board hearings are listed in case-number sequence and show date-sequenced hearing summaries by case.

Case 2006-006 – Jon Feins, Harborview regional-impact subdivision in Sutton (secondary access: Haynes Rd., Newbury)

On Feb. 20, the board discussed recent activities, including an on-site visit made by Barbara Freeman, board chair, to Haynes and Baker Hill roads, where both roads seemed to be in bad shape. The board decided to notify the Sutton Planning Board that in the opinion of the Newbury board, the subdivision is a 'scattered and premature' development.

On March 20, it was noted a mass of documents was received from the Sutton board for review by this board. The applicant has not indicated if he intends to meet any of the offsite requirements requested by Newbury.

On April 17, communication from the Sutton Planning Board indicated that board does not feel that there is any specific problem to address. This despite the fact that Cal Prussman, Newbury's highway administrator, was fairly specific about what needed to be done to the access road(s).

Case 2006-011 – George H. McLean Jr., et al, final hearing on subdivision / annexation for property located at 11 Great Island

At a hearing on Jan. 16 it was determined a variance was required on the nonconforming lot issue before the planning board could continue. Also, the planning board would get legal counsel on whether the building envelope requirement applies in this case. The hearing was continued until Feb. 20.

On Feb. 20, the board noted that annexations aren't considered new lots, therefore density calculations aren't required. Also, the ZBA granted the variance to waive shore frontage requirement. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve.

Case 2006-012 – Kurt and Janet Dutcher, final hearing for a lot-line adjustment for property located on Blye Hill Landing

On Jan. 16, at a conceptual review, plans were presented for a proposed lot-line adjustment that results in an exchange of land between Blye Hill Landing Homeowners Assoc. and the owner of Lot C12, Kurt Dutcher. The proposed house location encroaches on the common land. The board advised it will need an affidavit affirming 75% of the home owners in the development's association have agreed to this proposal.

On Feb. 20, it was noted there is now a letter from the homeowners assoc. giving permission for the encroachment into the common area. The application was accepted as complete with a condition. The board said the proposal, including putting a driveway in the common

area, does not fit the allowed use of common area per the Newbury Zoning Ordinance. The applicants, the board felt, are asking for a considerable violation of the intent of the cluster development and not giving a good reason. The board voted unanimously to deny the application as presented on the basis that there is no hardship with respect to the lay of the land.

On April 17, Dutcher presented a revised plan that proposed a 10-ft. wide driveway crossing through the 50-ft. common land buffer. The previous decision said the board will not permit a driveway in the common area. There was discussion of alternatives and interpretation of the regulations. The board voted in the majority not to reconsider this application. Chairman Freeman offered to make a site review as a courtesy to Dutcher.

Case 2006-018 – Scott Falvey, conceptual for a subdivision off Southgate Road.

On 2/20/07, Falvey said at his last appearance he was asked to try to determine how many lots his 160 acres off Southgate Rd. can support. He determined the entire lot could support 49 building lots or 55 cluster units, which would require building 10,000 ft. of road.

He wants to propose 10 building lots with a substantial amount of open space as long as he has the board's backing for certain waivers. These would include a waiver of the maximum length of [dead-end] access road to be increased from 1,500 ft. to 2,000 ft., necessary due to topography and terrain. He also asked for a waiver to not be required to upgrade Southgate Rd. as 10 additional lots would increase its traffic burden by only 4 lots over its design capacity of 30. His conceptual plan would use 30 of the 160 acres. Falvey also stated there would be 10 lots only and forever.

The board said Falvey should come with a preliminary application, then both sides can discuss the issues with more detail.

Case 2006-018 – Preliminary Review – Briott, LLC (Scott Falvey, owner), Major Subdivision, Wild Acres aka Deer Pines, off Southgate Road

On April 17, an application for a preliminary hearing for a major subdivision was submitted and found to be complete with the exception of the fire chief's sign-off. A motion to accept it as complete was followed by discussion.

Falvey reviewed brief history of prior attempts at determining what best to do in completing his project. He has two scenarios. One scenario is for a 10-lot subdivision if certain waivers are granted, and the second scenario is a 55-lot subdivision if the waivers are not granted in order to financially recover his investment. He further explained that he purchased the abutting property, which would enable an access as required by the subdivision regulations to the 55 lots. He stated that he believes the 55-lot plan would be a waste of land, which would mean 10,000 ft. of paved road. The 10-lot plan with waivers would mean a shorter road, less clearing for road access, less road maintenance, less traffic over Southgate Road, less impact on the infrastructure.

He stated that he cannot follow through with this minimal 10-lot venture and make the project economically viable if he is has to make required improvements. Certain things, he said, need to be negotiated in order to allow the 10-lot design to happen. He is requesting waivers: 1) for a 2,000-ft. road, which is 500 ft. longer than the current subdivision regulations allow as a maximum length for a dead-end road, citing constraints of the site; 2) from making improvements to Southgate Road and 3) from the requirement to pave the 2,000 ft. of the proposed road.

The sense of the board was that the board was not ready to vote on granting or denying the waiver request. More discussion followed a motion to continue the hearing.

One member commented that in his mind, it is not clear on what is the best way to approach this dilemma. There is a definite potential to create many more lots. The conservation commission was just involved in an extraordinary effort to protect 800 acres at a cost of \$200,000. Perhaps through negotiations, the town can get a

conservation easement that would protect the back land forever. If the waiver is denied, we give up the opportunity. He stated that he thinks the board needs to think about it more and ask more questions.

A majority vote continued the hearing until May 15 at 8 p.m.

Case 2007-002 – Diane Heller, trustee of Rheta Heller Revocable Trust, application for final hearing on minor subdivision / annexation for property located on Bartlett and Rollins roads.

On Jan. 16, at a conceptual review, plans were presented for a simple subdivision of approximately 6 acres off 81 acres to create two lots of record with road frontage on Bartlett and Rollins roads. The 6-acre lot is under agreement for sale to the abutter.

The board advised it would be more advantageous to present a plan for subdivision / annexation at the same time because the proposed 6-acre lot does not meet the proportion requirements of width to depth required by the town subdivision regulations. The only way the applicant can get this lot approved with the proposed dimensions is to subdivide and annex all at once.

On Feb. 20, it was noted five waivers were also being sought. The board granted all five and the application was accepted as complete. The Hellers' intent is to subdivide 6.21 acres out of 83.46 and sell the 6.21 acres to the abutter. The remaining 77.25 acres are to stay under forest management. The board voted unanimously to approve, with the condition the tax map and lot number be corrected on the final plan and mylar.

Case 2007-003 –Mary Webb, preliminary hearing for a major subdivision for property located off Newell and West roads.

On Feb. 20, it was noted the application included a request for a waiver for a drainage plan map. Applicant explained the fire protection plan discussed at a previous hearing is still in progress. The waiver was granted given there will be no moving of earth. The application was found incomplete and the hearing was continued.

On March 20, the application was accepted as complete contingent upon submission of a contour map with flow arrows. According to the density calculations, the estimated maximum density permitted for development on this parcel is eight units; Webb is proposing six. The proposed fire protection plan was a major talking point. The hearing was continued.

On April 17, it was noted the requested contour map was received. The key talking point was whether or not requiring sprinklers in the individual homes was an acceptable method of fire protection. Alternatives of a fire pond or cistern were covered, pro and con. The board asked that a solution be found for fire protection that does not require the homeowner to install a sprinkler system. The hearing was continued until May 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Case 2007-004 – DLB Family Limited Partnership, general partner Dexter Burley, for property located off Mountain Road, submitted an application for a final hearing for a subdivision / annexation.

On Feb. 20, the application was accepted as complete with two waivers. Of two existing lots, one is 94 acres with only about 75 feet road frontage, the other is 95 acres with 1,000 feet road frontage. The annexation/lot merger will result in 139 acres with 500 ft road frontage and 50 acres with 500 ft. (all numbers approximate). The non-conforming lot would become conforming. The board voted unanimously to approve.

Case 2007-005 – David and Sarah Hemendinger, application for a subdivision / annexation and lot merger for property located at 43 Gerald Drive and 26 Hilltop Drive.

On Feb. 20, the application was accepted as complete. The applicants own two lots, one empty. It was discovered the abutter's septic system is on the empty lot. This will increase the Hemendingers' lot by .21 acres, eliminate the empty lot as a lot of record, and increase the abutter's by .07 acres and locate her septic on her own property. The board voted unanimous approval.

Case 2007-006 – George M. Gordon, final review of subdivision / annexation and lot merger for property located off Lakewood Manor Road and Route 103, will submit an application for a final hearing for

a subdivision / annexation and lot merger.

On Feb. 20, it was explained that the intent of this annexation is to make nonconforming lots more conforming, which will also result in three lots of record becoming two. The application was judged incomplete and the hearing was continued.

On March 20, the application was accepted as complete. The board voted unanimously to approve with the condition precedent to correct the plan by adding the abutters' data on each lot.

Case 2007-009 – Carl Christiansen, conceptual for a minor subdivision for property located on Proctor and Newell roads.

On March 20, Christiansen explained his plan is to subdivide 50 acres into three lots. Lot 1 is to be 11+ acres, lot 2, 2+ acres, both frontage on Newell Rd.; and lot 3, 37+ acres on Proctor Rd. He would like to sell lots 2 and 3 and keep lot 1 to build a new home for himself. The board gave the applicant suggestions for the next step.

Case 2007-010 – Jeanne McCaldon, conceptual site plan review for Birch Lane Lodges, LLC, Route 103.

On April 17, applicant was not present.

Conceptual – George Carafa, simple subdivision on Newell Road

On April 17 this conceptual was presented as a subdivision on Newell Road at the Newbury/Bradford town line. The deed cites a 30-acre parcel, with 9.53 acres in Newbury and the remainder in Bradford. The applicant only wants to subdivide the section of land in Newbury. He was advised he needs to apply for a minor subdivision and that the Town of Bradford needs to review the application and comment on the adequacy of the lot remaining in its town. The remaining land in Bradford should be delineated on this plan.

Conceptual – David & Julia Friedline, simple subdivision on Old Sutton Road

On April 17, this conceptual was presented as a subdivision on Old Sutton Road, involving the Newbury/Bradford town line. There was previously a lot-line adjustment and the lots have road frontage in both towns. It was pointed out that there is not enough contiguous road frontage, though if the proposed lot line were moved, the 200 ft. of contiguous road frontage requirement could be met.

Conceptual – Matthew McClay, site plan review for 588 Rte. 103A

On April 17, Matthew McClay explained he is interested in purchasing the Harwood property on Route 103A as a home that would provide features conducive his landscaping business, Pleasant Acres. There will be no customers or materials on site. Employees would meet there in the morning and return at the end of the day..

The board voted that if McClay is going to run a business in which the work is done off-site and there are no employees engaged on-site it is not then a cottage industry and therefore does not require a special exception or site plan review. It would be considered a home occupation.

Pending Planning Board hearings at press time:

Tuesday, May 15: George Carafa for a minor subdivision off Newell Road; Mary Webb for a major subdivision off Newell Rd.; Briott LLC for a major subdivision off Southgate Rd.

For the Full Story

These are *very* brief summaries of hearings of the planning board and ZBA. You are encouraged to read the minutes – in full – of ZBA and planning board meetings and hearings, which are available at the town office.

The top five reasons to E-subscribe to *Newbury Update*:

5. Save trees, copier electricity, computer ink...
4. Reduce waste paper
3. It's easier to share with friends
2. You don't have to wonder if you missed one
1. You can increase the size of the type

To receive a copy of *Newbury Update* by email as a Microsoft Word document the day it's released, send a request to newburyupdate@gmail.com.