

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](http://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](mailto:newburyupdate@gmail.com).

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### Fall Festival – Sept. 30

Bring your family and join the fun – Newbury’s Fall Festival will premier on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a range of activities to suit many interests and ages. Enjoy relay races for the kids, flea and farmers’ markets, the Bradford Elementary PTC offering grill favorites, and more plans are still taking shape. It’s sponsored by the Recreation Committee, whose members invite you to exercise your community spirit. Events will take place around the town office building and at the Bald Sunapee property.

### Registered & Ready to Vote?

– The primary is coming up Tuesday, Sept. 12 and the general election Tuesday, Nov. 7. Candidates are running for U.S. representative, governor, state senator and representative, executive councilor, county commissioner and more. Polling hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Newbury town office.

Watch the local newspapers for a notice when the supervisors of the checklist will be taking additions and changes to the voter checklist. To register you’ll need proof of US citizenship, age and domicile (something with your street address, such as a driver’s license, rental agreement or utility bill). If you don’t have documentation for citizenship or domicile, you may sign an affidavit declaring such. You can also register to vote on election day.

Absentee ballots can be requested from the town clerk. There are forms available that ask for your name, address, party affiliation (if undeclared, indicate which ballot you want sent), and the address where to mail the absentee ballot if needed. You must certify that you will be unable to vote in person because of employment obligations or you will be absent from Newbury on election day or that you will be observing a religious commitment which prevents your voting in person, or that on account of physical disability you are unable to vote in person.

**Lighting up the Streets** – The cost of the streetlight conversion in town came in at \$26,410, much less than estimated, which brings the payback period to less than 5 years. Residents may notice the metal halide lights generate a whiter light than others, and they have guards directing the light down and reducing light pollution into the sky.

**Picking up the Streets** – To recap and update, three two-mile segments of Route 103 have been adopted now under the Adopt-a-Highway program coordinated by the state. Baker Hill Golf Course will be cleaning up the two-mile stretch on Route 103 from the Mt. Sunapee traffic circle to Route 103A, the Newbury Board of Selectmen is picking up the next two miles from Route 103A to the north end of Village Road and the South Newbury Union Church has the next two miles toward Bradford.

The selectmen will do their first pick-up on Saturday, Sept. 23, and welcome fellow residents to join them. If you’re interested call Dennis Pavlicek or Shelly Candidus at the town office for details.

Route 103A is still available for any interested parties. The commitment is to clean up two or more miles of road four times a year. The state provides the bags, reflective vests, and signs warning that litter pickers are ahead, and picks up the filled bags at the roadside. The state will also post a sign at either end of your section with the name of your business, organization, family, whatever.

To encourage residents to help keep other town roads trash-free, selectmen approved a concept of a “Green-up Day” for a general town spring clean-up. The date is tentatively set for the third Saturday in April.

**Roads Scholar** – The Board of Selectmen notes with great pleasure that Calvin Prussman, highway administrator, has achieved the highest level of Master Roads Scholar from the UNH Technology Transfer Center. The mission of the program is “to foster safe, efficient, environmentally sound local roads in New Hampshire by increasing road managers’ knowledge of technology and management through education and training...on subjects essential to local road management.”

**Park 10 Lots** – A property owner has deeded four small lots in Park 10 to the town as gifts. Selectmen accepted the property transfer and will propose at town meeting that the lots be sold, along with another lot in Park 10 that is pending tax deeding to town.

**Old Highway Garage** – In June the board of selectmen discussed selling the old highway garage and agreed to place an article on the warrant for the 2007 town meeting. Town counsel confirmed there is no impediment to using a real estate agent to sell town property. Thus, an agent could be used if sale of the old highway garage is approved by the town. Various feedback indicates the site is an issue and of town-owned facilities, it presents the best sale opportunity. The sale would reduce overhead costs and add to the tax base.

**Beach Posting** – In July the state advised the town that the town-owned Blodgett’s Landing beach had a bacteria count over 400 ppm and had to be posted. Dennis Pavlicek quickly contacted DES and it turns out the state had a new sample collector who, unaware of the location of the town beach by the dock, did the test at the COA beach. The COA was immediately notified of the problem. A new test of the town beach came in with a reading of 2 ppm and the posting was removed. The state beach was also closed a couple days this summer. The high bacteria readings are attributed to runoff from the heavy rains.

**Diverting Work** – Workers from the adult diversion program have been clearing brush from the area behind the town office and library this summer. Pavlicek would like to continue to clear off this area and selectmen approved, suggesting the workers might also work at cleaning up the transfer station area.

**Sizing up Town Facilities** – Town department heads were queried on their space status by Deane Geddes, a member of the planning board, as input for the master plan update. His results were also shared with the selectmen and the CIP committee.

Town administrator Dennis Pavlicek said the recent expansion and renovation of the town office space will take care of staff and work area needs for at least the next 10 years.

Highway administrator Cal Prussman reported that the new highway garage site is being fully used by the garage, fuel tanks, sand shed and driveway/parking lot. He continues to store the sanders on hanging racks behind the hearse house. Other town departments are using the old garage site for storage, and sand for residents’ use on winter ice is stored in the old salt shed.

Fire Chief Hank Thomas said he needs more space for work and for storage. There is insufficient office space to file reports. He presently stores some equipment and gear at the Blodgett’s Landing substation and at the Bald Sunapee property, the old highway garage and the Vets’ Hall.

Police Chief Bob Lee reported that he needs office space and a larger evidence room. At present there is little privacy, desks are shared and there is no separate area for meetings or training.

**Walking the Line** – It's in state law (a very old statute) that selectmen shall walk the town boundary line (called perambulation) every seven years. The main part of the exercise is to ensure the boundary monuments are still there and properly placed. Each line is walked in company with selectmen from the abutting town, with the older town issuing the invitation.

When the question came up in a June selectmen's meeting, Pavlicek researched and discovered a number of lines are due or overdue to be walked. As senior town, Newbury facilitates the perambulations. Dick Wright will walk the Sutton line with one of the men whose names Sutton submitted. The walk will be done in the fall, after foliage has thinned out. Jim Powell will perambulate the common town line with Fred Gallup from Sunapee. Great Island will be included in the perambulation. As to the others, Bradford is not due yet, New London is done, and we're still awaiting responses from Goshen and Washington.

**Next Art Showing** – The exhibits of the artistic talents of our residents continue at the town office, with a display of the photography of Lynn St. Louis, *Nature Escape*, complemented by the pottery of Steve and Sue Russell, to open Sept. 11 and run through Oct. 27. A reception will be held Sunday, Sept. 10 from 6-8 p.m.

**Town Summer Informational Meeting** – This meeting, held on July 29, attracted an audience of four. Their questions were addressed and the meeting was adjourned after 45 minutes.

**Good Time Had By All** – The selectmen noted with pleasure the success of Old Home Day. They had positive feedback from residents, with special notation of the outstanding fireworks display. Donations covered the cost of the barbecue, and individual groups and town organizations also raised considerable funds. Input was noted to include more up-to-date music next year.

**Fishersfield** – With receipt of the engineering report, the town was finally able to submit the 'alteration of terrain' application to the state DES for a site-specific permit needed in order to proceed with work at the Fishersfield site on Old Post Road. DES has 90 days to respond once a permit has been submitted. When the town has the permit in hand, work can proceed on such projects as constructing the playing field, courts, roadways, snack shack, parking, septic system and well.

The areas where construction is to occur have been cleared. Clean-up and seeding has been done to help stabilize the site.

**Update on Tax Rate** – It looks like the county is asking for an additional \$37,000 from Newbury, which based on current property values will mean an increase of 3-4 cents per \$1,000 at the most, Pavlicek estimates.

The school portion of the tax bill looks to be going up 15 percent, extrapolating from the amount the district is billing for the monthly payments. School revenues are down dramatically; they had a large surplus last year to offset the tax impact.

### **Fiber Optics Project**

*Synopsis: Eight towns, including Newbury, Sunapee and New London, have formed a consortium to study the feasibility of laying a 50-mile fiber optic cable between Orford and Newbury that would bring not only high-speed internet access and a townwide network but also telephone and cable TV services, with cost savings, among other benefits. Visit WCNH.net.*

Selectmen from the eight member towns of the WCNH consortium met in Enfield on Aug. 30 to hear PacketFront, the contractor hired by the consortium, give an overview of the project and its progress to date on the feasibility study. The vendor also offered suggestions, methods and costs for next steps. PacketFront has looked at specifics of the local situation, including an asset report, topography, and other elements involved in laying the fiber optic cable. Engineering is needed next to better evaluate costs. Activities were proposed to expand the cooperative's funding with individuals, groups, educational institutions, businesses and other towns willing to invest in the system. The possibility of grants is being explored also.

All those at the meeting, including Jim Powell and Dennis Pavlicek for Newbury, agreed it would be worthwhile to take the next step and were to return to their full boards with that message and request for pro-rated share of next-step cost. The answers to some concerns they had – including breadth of coverage in Newbury – will be addressed in the next phase; they think if it's workable for Newbury it will be very positive, and the cost to continue at this point, expected to be no more than \$3,000, is worth the investment.

The next phase will go into more detail on all aspects, prepare better cost proposal data and more detailed answers to questions on how it would work in each town, what technology could work to pull in those areas you can't reach with fiber optics.

There was discussion about the benefits of the project and why it's important. One attendee likened it to the early days of electricity, telephones, the highway system. Each started out costly, supported and used by few; today few can imagine life without them.

As to cost recovery, savings will come from the high-speed internet access, telephone and cable, all via the fiber optic connection. Jessie Levine, New London's town administrator and chair of WCNH.net, figures the average household will recover the hook-up cost in eight years, based on the preliminary ballpark figure of \$3,000. It can be used to monitor people's medical condition using telemedicine, so-called, enabling people to remain at home vs nursing homes. There are cost and service advantages for business and education too.

### **Wild Goose**

*Synopsis: Fish & Game plans to construct a public trailered-boat launch at the Wild Goose site off Birch Grove Rd. The selectmen have concerns about the safety of such a use with current F&G plans.*

There has been no substantive change in status, particularly the state's level of communication with the town.

At the end of May the selectmen received a letter from the Town of Sunapee selectboard stating its support for Newbury's concern with traffic safety related to the placement of a public boat launch at Wild Goose. A copy of the letter was sent to the governor. There has been no response to date.

On June 26, selectmen signed a letter to DOT Commissioner Carol Murray expressing their concerns with the proposed trailered boat access at Wild Goose. A copy of the town-generated Pathways Engineering report on traffic on Route 103 was enclosed. Copies of the letter went to the governor and other state officials.

At the selectboard meeting of July 10, Dennis Pavlicek reported on a telephone conversation he had with Lee Perry, executive director of Fish and Game, to clarify the town's concerns with using the current plans for the Wild Goose boat launch. Pavlicek reiterated that the selectmen's major issue is safe access to and from the site via Route 103 by cars pulling trailers. Pavlicek also expressed the board's displeasure with a report in a recent newspaper article which gave the impression that, according to Fish and Game, delays in opening the site were due to obstacles raised by town officials to prevent fishermen from other towns having access to enjoy the lake and casting the town as the bad guys. He verified the concern is the issue of safety.

Current understanding garnered from telephone conversations, nothing direct or in writing, is that F&G intends proceeding with developing the site for trailered boat access next year.

Inquiries made by Steve Winter regarding the town's jurisdiction of the access road into the property off Route 103 and the state's authority to override local ordinances was considered inconclusive at best and the board is taking no action on it at this time. Issues would be the town's approval for driveway access off its road, as well as the state plan currently intending to make the town road a one-way road.

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## **NEWBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Library director Rosie Johnson and her staff offered a number of activities for kids, pre-schoolers through high school, this summer and reports they were well attended. More than 120 kids and family members enjoyed the grand finale for all the summer reading

programs featuring make-your-own sundaes. The success of the programs shows the interest is there, so Rosie and her staff, including children's librarian Jane Moss and young-adult librarian Janet Mancuso-Rucker, plan to continue programs for children through young adult throughout the year.

Adult readers aren't being overlooked. There's a new program, and an old one with a twist coming this fall.

Poetry Night will be held monthly beginning Monday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. for people to share their favorite original poem. Newbury poet Diana Lee Velie will moderate.

The Book Discussion Series is adding a twist, slide programs, to explore a theme of Rivers and the American Imagination. The books will be Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* and Norman MacLean's *A River Runs Through It* and discussions will examine the critical role the rivers and their adjacent landscapes play in these works. Meetings are on Mondays, Sept. 25, Oct. 16 and Nov. 6, and will be led by Stephen Cernek, a professor at Daniel Webster College and a Newbury resident.

On your next library visit, be sure to check out the library's August newsletter for even more information on programs and events.

The Friends of the Library will hold its annual meeting at the library on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 5 p.m.

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## TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR

**Fish & Game Calendars** – The town clerk's office has 2007 calendars from Fish & Game for sale at \$5 each. They are designed for those who like hunting and fishing seasons pre-marked, all the dates noted for free fishing day and the moose lottery, when to prep the muzzleloader, and let's not forget scallop season. It's also a nice holiday gift for those who enjoy photos of loons, trout, bobcat, squirrels, frog, common tern, bear, owls, deer, and birds. The supply is limited so view the sample at the town clerk's office and reserve your copy now, before you miss your shot at it.

**Blodgett Bills** – Sewer bills went into the mail to Blodgett sewer users on Aug. 28, at \$896 per hookup. Payment is due by Sept. 28.

**DOCK BUBBLERS NEED PERMIT** – If you use an Aquatherm unit (aka 'ice eater' or bubbler) at your dock, you must have a permit, available at the town clerk's office for a whopping fee of 50 cents. The form asks for the type of unit, and your property lot number (you can check that at the town office). You will get a "Danger – Open Water" sign to post at your dock.

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## HIGHWAY DEPT.

Weather has not been a friend to the highway department this summer, so playing catch up with the scheduled work takes some doing.

Among the projects completed this summer are grading and paving of the roads and replacement of several culverts in Ramblewood, and paving in Marshall Cemetery. In preparation for the paving on South Road, the box culvert near Mountainside was replaced in August.

Some major road work scheduled for September is grinding and paving Old Post Road; reclaiming, grinding and paving South Road; and crack sealing in various locations. Plans also call for cleaning out the ditches on South and Old Post roads and taking the material to Fishersfield for fill.

In early September work will be done on the first bridge on Mountain Road, and roadside mowing is under way.

In July Prussman discussed with selectmen the status of the roads accepted at 2006 town meeting as to their meeting town requirements, a condition of acceptance. He reported that Whitney Way had some severe drop-off areas and no shoulder in some places; the developer promised to fix these problems at an early date at which time the road will be acceptable. Allwood is fine. The roads in High

Meadow (High Meadow, High Point and Cloudland) have met the specifications for town acceptance.

The roads in Southview still need some work. Guardrails need to be installed on Eastridge and Hearthstone roads, and a culvert on Hearthstone needs to be extended and the shoulder widened. There's also an open issue relative to a culvert on Cheney Road that needs to be replaced as a condition of the Southview development.

Prussman will be repairing a sinkhole in Blodgett's Landing, the result of a past problem with a town drainage system. Because of the limited working area, Prussman said repairs would have to be done by hand. The town can only undertake the repairs after permission for access is granted by the immediate abutters, which has been obtained.

Action has been taken regarding work on Sutton Road at Andrew Brook where flooding from the heavy rains damaged the bridge. Pavlicek reported money available in the highway budget to cover the \$11,000 engineering fee for recommendations to improve the bridge area and selectmen approved the expenditure. Prussman suggested planting vegetation might help direct the flow of the brook and protect the bridge, buying time until repairs can be made. That was approved and he's since installed erosion-control blankets of vegetation; the grass is growing. Provan & Lorber will inspect the site this fall.

Dennis Pavlicek is applying for a hazard mitigation grant to cover 75 percent of the work on various metal culverts on Cheney Road.

Prussman is getting quotes for replacing the guardrails on Mountain Road which were damaged in a traffic accident. Meanwhile, warning cones are in place.

At the work site for replacing the culvert on South Road, all the traffic barrels, detour signs and flashers were removed by unauthorized taking. This loss was reported to the police dept.

Also, work on the culvert on Province Road was hindered by drivers ignoring the signs, the workmen and driving over cones. A license plate number was referred to the police.

The town places traffic counters on various roads periodically to assess traffic. Sometimes the counter will also be used to measure speeds on the roads such as this summer on Baker Hill Road where a resident reported speeding. In that case the average speed was found to be 26 mph, well below the posted limit.

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## TRANSFER STATION

At their July 24 meeting, the selectmen noted that a recent traffic count at the transfer station documented 1,764 cars in one week of operations.

Selectmen have been discussing problems and possible solutions at the transfer station, centered around insufficient headcount and how to gain compliance with procedures. More help is needed; sometimes there's only one person working there on a weekend day. Two are needed from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays because of the volume and workload. The transfer station staff also is responsible for picking up the trash from the harbor on weekends, which pulls someone away.

Selectmen are considering including in the 2007 budget a third person at the facility to greet and direct people, collect tickets for disposal fees, answer questions and generally help smooth operations, plus other duties as assigned.

Another issue is the problem some people are having putting the proper recyclables in the proper places. New signs are posted near the recycling areas to help people dispose of trash properly. It adds to the cost of processing if the employees have to sort through all the bins, since the vendors won't accept it.

We do recycle lots of different items – corrugated cardboard; all other paper products; glass containers such as jars and bottles; tin and steel cans plus #1 and #2 plastic; aluminum soda and beer cans. It just takes a few minutes to get them in the right containers. Thank you.

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## POLICE DEPT.

Joshua Costa was sworn in as a full-time patrol officer at the board of selectmen's meeting on June 26. Costa has experience as a part-time officer for the state Dept. of Safety and has worked in related fields. He is currently attending the NH police academy in Concord and is due to graduate in November. The new position was approved at town meeting, and Costa started work on July 3, in time for expanded patrol hours for the summer.

Officer William "BJ" Hardy will be attending the part-time police academy starting in Sept.

A note was received by Chief Lee, thanking Officers Costa and Hardy for assistance they provided to a visiting family on July 9. The note was shared with the board of selectmen, and copies placed in the officers' files.

Chief Lee is reviewing all the town ordinances to evaluate and reorganize them. Selectmen agree that many need updating. When they are organized they'll be checked for validity. They can then be placed in a book with an index for easy reference.

School is in session, and Chief Lee reminds everyone to watch out for children on the streets early to catch busses. His officers will again be out on early patrol to help keep things safe.

### Area teenagers explore law enforcement

He would have liked the opportunity, so Corporal Brad Wheeler decided to offer it to area teenagers – a police explorer post.

The Newbury Police Explorer Post 375 meets twice a month. The members learn anything from writing a report to how to initiate and run a traffic stop to processing a crime scene or defusing a situation, some through role-playing scenarios Cpl. Wheeler sets up and some through participation in actual events and ride-alongs with officers. They also get the chance to try their hand at the shooting range, firing the same weapons the police use, Sig Sauer 40-calibre handguns.

With money from a fundraiser the post was able to buy uniforms and you might have seen them assisting with traffic details at the summer concerts, the bike race and at Old Home Day.

Cpl. Wheeler has a roster of six right now, and new members are more than welcome. The age range is 14 to 20 years old and youth from any area towns can join. He said that with a few more members the post can compete in law enforcement challenges with other state posts.

The program allows the youth to see what a law enforcement career entails and experience it, Cpl. Wheeler said. He started the program two years ago because he likes working with youth and he would have liked to have had the opportunity himself, "so it seemed like a good idea. It lets area kids see that we aren't just about harassing people, to see the job we do in a more professional way."

The Explorers even have their own cadet academy so they can get a taste of the real police academy. It's held once a year and runs a week, recently at Hesser College in Manchester. Cpl. Wheeler said it's "pretty rough, like bootcamp." Two of his Explorers went through it this summer, Charlie Marston and Elliot Brown. Other members include Dan von Recklinghausen, Wayne Harling and Nadine Clement.

New members are welcome, and you can link to information about the program from the department's website, [newburypd.org](http://newburypd.org), or call the police department at 763-4104. The only cost is \$7.20 to Boy Scouts of America for insurance purposes.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

On Aug. 18-20, representatives of the state Bureau of Fire Standards and Training were in town to present a firefighter certification workshop personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). This training was provided for the new equipment the department received through the Dept. of Homeland Security

Assistance to Firefighters grant. The state brought in a special training trailer for the weekend, and firefighters from other towns joined in as well for the classwork and training. The trailer had a two-level, pitch-black maze that firefighters had to work their way through in full gear, through small spaces and trap doors. The exercise left everyone sore and tired but better trained, and the experiential training was a good confidence builder.

On Aug. 29 the fire and rescue crews drilled on water rescue at the town dock. In October there will be a session with a class A burn trailer from the state fire academy, involving burning pallets, hay and one-room fires, with contents, for firefighters to practice on, again in full protective gear. It's a progressive step from the August session, adding heat and fire to the scenario.

What could be described as a series of petty and grand thefts – but were actually good and legal deals – occurred at the safety services building on August 27, during the annual fundraising auction conducted by our firefighters. Winning bidders walked away with deals (rhymes with 'steals'). Mark your calendars now for next year, the last Sunday in August, so you don't miss out.

### House & Dock NUMBERS = FASTER RESPONSE

After a recent fire emergency call, it became clear to the firefighters responding in the fire boat how useful it would be if residents on the lakes were to clearly post their street house number on their docks. It would quickly and clearly let firefighters know they'd reached the right location. On the call in question, but for other firefighters who happened to be on the dock, the fire boat would have been delayed.

And don't forget Newbury Town Ordinance requires your house number to be visible from the street too.

### Portable Fireplaces, Firebowls, Chimeneas --- Need a Permit!

Call them what you will, those portable fireplaces that some people use on a deck or porch or in the yard can be a serious hazard and are considered open burning. They require a fire permit. The fire dept. has had some calls about them already.

With fall approaching, and yard cleanups, remember that permits are required for all outdoor burning. A quick recap:

You are required to obtain a written fire permit before starting any outside fire unless the ground is covered in snow. Even if it's raining you need a written fire permit. You can get a permit for the season for the portable outside fireplaces, as well as campfires. A gas grill or charcoal fire in a container up and off the ground does not require a permit. Any question, call to be sure.

Even with a permit, daytime burning is not allowed (between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.) unless it is actually raining. There is an exception for small two-foot-round campfires, with a permit, if conditions allow.

For a permit, a brochure or with questions, call Newbury's forest fire warden Dave Smith (938-5925) or John Croteau (763-2679), one of his deputies. Please call at least one day before you plan to burn; leave a message and they'll get back to you. Permit information and requirements can also be found on the fire department website at [newburyfd.org](http://newburyfd.org).

### Prevent cooking fires: Watch What You Heat

The Newbury Fire Dept. reminds residents that Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8-14. This year's theme is "Prevent Cooking Fires – Watch What You Heat," which is focused on cooking fires in the home. The National Fire Protection Assoc. reports that:

- > Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.
- > Three in 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen, more than any other place in the home.
- > Two out of three reported home cooking fires start with the range or stove.
- > Electric ranges or stoves have a higher risk of fires, injuries and property damage compared to gas ranges or stoves, but gas ranges or stoves have a higher risk of fire deaths.

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## BLODGETT SEWER

The paperwork part of the Blodgett Wastewater Treatment Facility renovations is nearing completion.

At the end of July, the selectboard signed a certification of approval for the bond to cover the work by Stantec. The 20-year bond will carry a rate of 3.48 percent.

Selectmen also approved a letter to all property owners at Crofts Beach advising them of the work to begin on the wastewater treatment plant and asking them to sign an easement to cross their property. The construction easements are coming in.

The state is now approving engineering plans from Stantec to put out to bid the collection system repairs at Crofts Beach and Blodgett's Landing. There is an expected 400 hours of work involved. Residents may have noticed the required Environmental Review notice in the newspaper the week of Aug. 21.

The first phase of the work is scheduled to begin this fall. Dennis Pavlicek said they hope to do the pump system this winter, the amphidrome plant in spring.

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## SPEND LESS ON YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS

Introducing the Merrimack County Prescription Discount Card with free enrollment for county residents ... average savings of 20% ... no limits ... no age requirements ... no income requirements ... family coverage ... and you do not need to be a Medicare beneficiary to enroll. You can use it any time your prescription is not covered by insurance.

*Easy...*Simply pick up a card at the town clerk's office – no enrollment form, no membership fee, one card, immediate use. Present your card at a retail participating pharmacy and save an average of 20% on your prescription drugs. Finding a pharmacy is easy; 8 out of 10 pharmacies nationwide accept your discount card. (A list of regional pharmacies is available at the town clerk's office.)

*No Limits...*You and your family may use your prescription discount card any time your prescription is not covered by insurance. Use the card if you don't have prescription insurance, or if your insurance doesn't cover a medication your doctor prescribes for you. There are no restrictions and no limits on how many times you can use your card.

*Extra Savings...*As part of this program you will also be eligible for higher discounts on select medications, as well as high-tech and injectable drugs. For details of these programs and a mail service program which offers an average of 50% on a 3-month supply of select medications call the toll-free number or visit the website mentioned below.

*For Pets Too...*If your veterinarian prescribes a medication for your pet that is also consumed by humans – such as insulin or Celebrex – you can use the discount card at a participating pharmacy to fill it for your pet.

Stop by the town clerk's office at the town office building for your card. This program is offered in a joint effort of Merrimack County and the National Assoc. of Counties (NACo). For more information call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <https://naco.advancercx.com>.

This plan is not insurance. Discounts are only available at participating pharmacies. By using this card you agree to participate in a program in which a pharmacist may discuss safe, effective alternative drugs that could provide you with additional savings. Prescription claims through this program will not be eligible for reimbursement through the state Medicaid program.

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## RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Recreation Committee hired Marilyn Hill to fill the new position of town recreation coordinator. She started in June in the year-round post, which is part-time with a major summer emphasis. Speaking of summer, your recreation team...

> Had the most swimmers ever – some 35 children – take part in the swim program this summer. Instructor Nicole Wallace and her pupils had to face a few chilly windy mornings, but lessons were well attended by both long-time and new part-time residents' children.

> Arranged group rates for four lessons – golf at Country Club of NH and tennis (for kids 7-11) at Mountainside Racquet. Fans took a bus to the Fisher Cats baseball game on Aug. 22 and enjoyed both great weather and a home-team win.

> Recruited victims for the Old Home Day dunking booth from the ranks of town officials and others. It was noted by some that balls seemed to be thrown with more vehemence than necessary. They made \$350 on the tank and shirt sales to go into the recreation fund.

> The summer concert series continued as popular as ever. Marilyn held 50/50 raffles during the concerts to raise funds.

Marilyn and the Recreation Committee have been brainstorming ideas for other programs and activities, such as the Fall Festival.

The group mailed out a survey in early August trying to gauge residents' preferences for recreation activities and their levels of interest in participating, to better target the committee's energies in creating offerings. There seems to have been a glitch in the mailing as some have reported not receiving one. If you didn't get one, the survey is also available at the town website, [www.newburynh.org](http://www.newburynh.org), or you can e-mail comments to [marilyn@newburynh.org](mailto:marilyn@newburynh.org).

Responding to the survey will let us take advantage of the enthusiasm of Recreation Committee members Peter Newbern, Bob Morris, Mark Cashin, Deborah O'Byrne, Gail Bostic, Jane Pratt and Jay Tucker, so your participation will be appreciated.

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## HEALTH PLANNING:

### Pandemic Flu, EEE, West Nile

Wayne Whitford, Newbury's health officer, reports that the Pandemic Flu Emergency Response Plan for the town is nearing completion. Topics addressed include emergency communications, quarantines, and continuing government functions, among others. The next steps will be to coordinate the town's plan with those in our neighboring communities, New London Hospital and the state Dept. of Health and Human Services. Newbury's Pandemic Emergency Plan generated a good deal of interest at the recent family disaster planning workshop.

With Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus found in birds or mosquitoes this summer in part of the state, information on these two diseases and ways to protect yourself have been posted by the health officer on the town website. Information on EEE, West Nile Virus and other public health topics is also available in postings and fact sheets that are available at the town office. The best protection against these diseases is to protect yourself against mosquitoes, especially at dawn and dusk, by using insect repellent and wearing clothing that covers the arms and legs where a mosquito may bite. Remove standing water on your property where mosquitoes may breed. Although August may be the most active time, precautions should still be taken until the first frost as mosquitoes remain active. Please check the Health Officer page on the town website for the latest public health information.

## LOCAL EMERGENCY PLAN

Paul Groulx, our emergency management director, reports that the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan has been accepted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the selectmen. It addresses all natural hazards from ice storms to flooding and qualifies the town for disaster-recovery funds. His update of the town's Local Emergency Operations Plan manual for disasters is nearing completion and should be done by the end of September. It coordinates the response for all safety services – police, fire and medical – as well as the highway dept. Both plans can be checked out from the town clerk's office for review and comments are welcome.

## Do You Have a Disaster Plan for your Family?

Linda Champy attended an emergency planning conference and was struck by one point in particular – the success of disaster plans at any level of government will rest in good part on individuals and their level of readiness. That involves being equipped and knowing where to go if there's a need to evacuate or being ready to 'shelter in place' at home if required. If people are informed and prepared, there's less confusion and chaos which strains the plans that governments have put in place.

Champy, a member of Newbury's emergency management plan committee, said the goal is to make people aware of the importance of each household having a disaster plan. Ultimately, she said, they want families to be able to 'wing it' for a week on their own. To help achieve that, she arranged for Family Preparedness workshops this August, with help from Rebecca Barnes and the South Newbury Union Church, which sponsored the program.

In the course of three 90-minute sessions, the group addressed potential disasters, both manmade and natural, and how to be best prepared to cope with the disruption of any or all services for an extended period of time.

The presenters included Wayne Whitford covering pandemic issues, Paul Groulx on Newbury's emergency management plan and emergency shelters in town and Dan Brennan, director of emergency services for American Red Cross.

Among the tips picked up: You need a stay-at-home plan and supplies and also an evacuation plan and grab-it-and-go supplies.

Remember that you also need to be ready for a disaster that could be very close to home – no water if your pump leaks, no heat or water because the power is out, and the like.

The August sessions were well attended – some 40 people – and because of the level of interest, plans are being made to offer more workshops some time in the fall. Residents interested in attending should contact Linda Champy.

In the meantime the town website has links to several sites with family preparedness information, including an online copy of *Preparing for a Disaster*, a publication from FEMA/American Red Cross used in the workshop. Click on 'Emergency Management' at the left on the homepage of [newburynh.org](http://newburynh.org). Copies of that and other pertinent handouts from the workshop are also in the meeting room at the town office while they last.

## Community Disaster Volunteers Sought

In a related effort, Linda Champy is trying to compile a list of people with various skills that could be needed in different types of emergency. For example, in a pandemic we could be quarantined and need nurses to give injections. Some who've signed up are crisis intervention counselors, others have medical backgrounds, or experiences that lend themselves to helping at shelters (including cooking). Other skills include construction, mechanics, search & rescue, bus or truck drivers, plus people who are just basically willing to help out. Forms are available at the town clerk's office and on the town website to fill out and return to the town clerk's office, listing any skills you have to offer.

Champy said the goal is to cover as many bases as possible, and have it organized and ready to use, just in case, so if you're willing to assist the town in an emergency, let her know.

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## Newbury's Assessing Office

The Town of Newbury Assessing Office is a combination of many different individuals that make the process work. The setup is new to Newbury after the formation of the tri-town (New London, Newbury and Sunapee) agreement which constitutes a five-member joint board comprised of the managers and/or administrators from the three towns and, on a rotating basis, a selectman and a citizen from one of the three towns. The first of its kind in the state, this arrangement is being observed closely by other NH communities that share some common element such as a school district. We are all hopeful that it

becomes a model for others. The cooperation among the three communities has been admirable. This is the key to the success of the tri-town relationship.

In Newbury the office is staffed by myself, Norm Bernaiche, assessor; Dan Fitzgerald, assistant assessor; Patricia Sweet-MacDonald, assessing coordinator; Debbie Prussman, finance director, and Shelly Candidus, administrative assistant. Debbie and Shelly help us with various tasks throughout the year, for which we are very grateful. Don't be alarmed at the number of people performing the assessing task because everyone here has many other duties and responsibilities which is common in a smaller town. The main contact for questions or answers is Patricia. She is new to the job (August 2005), but has exhibited great eagerness to learn and has been very quick to master many of the functions associated with the position. Dan and I are scheduled here and usually available on Tuesdays. The other days Dan and I will be rotating among the three communities including additional days in Newbury.

I have over 20 years' experience in the appraisal/assessment business. Dan has about 15 years in the business. Dan and I are both certified NH assessors. I think you will find the process now and in the future to be informative, open and professional.

## What to expect for 2006: Market Update (aka Statistical Update)

Since the 2003 revaluation, we have noticed that most property in Newbury continues to sell above assessed value. By the end of 2003, properties were assessed for an average of 90% of their sale price. The market continued to improve and in 2004 properties were assessed for 77.4% of sale price. Sales in 2005 reflected a continued increase to overall market value compared to assessed value of 72.7%.

We are in the process of completing the market analysis to correct disproportionate assessments. We expect to conclude the review and analysis by the end of August or early September and will mail out and publicize the new values shortly thereafter to allow for an informal review process between our office and you the taxpayer. We will not set the 2006 tax rate until the statistical update is complete, so we cannot yet project the impact of this review on your overall property tax bill.

In reviewing the assessed values as they relate to actual sale prices it appears that non-waterfront land is under-assessed the most, averaging about 50% of market value. Single-family non-waterfront homes are averaging in the range of 73%. Waterfront property, especially the larger-dollar properties, appears to be running closer to 100% of market value. The lower-valued lakefront properties, say under \$500,000, appear to be performing well and should see an increased assessment as a result of the market update.

Based on the assessment ratio of 72.7%, the average assessment will increase in the neighborhood of about 35%. Land will probably increase in assessed value about two times and larger lakefront properties should not see a significant change in assessment. The reason for this is, since the revaluation in 2003, Lake Sunapee lakefront actually saw a downturn in the market, but has since recovered to pre-revaluation levels.

The good news is that the entire market has been cooling off with larger inventories of property available. Basic economics tells us that when supply is high, prices drop. While we all hope to enjoy the equity in our homes that comes with rising values, none of us want to pay higher taxes because of it.

## What you can expect from us in the future

1. Every year we will conduct a physical inspection of a certain percentage of properties in town to continually improve the accuracy of our database. This means that at least every five years, all property in Newbury will be inspected.

2. Every year, we will conduct a market analysis to determine the current ratio of assessments-to-sales. If the analysis shows that the fair market value of property is changing (i.e., either going up or coming down), we will adjust property values accordingly. This means that in a rapidly changing market environment, the assessed value of your property could change every year.

3. Every month we will inspect properties that sold during the previous month. Actual sales are the basis on which we conduct the annual market analysis, so the more accurate our database of sale properties, the more accurate the annual sales analysis will be. In the past, assessors inspected sale properties only during a revaluation or market update, so their inspection was often one or two years after a property sold. Monthly inspections will give us more information about the condition of the property when it actually changed hands (experience indicates that most properties undergo significant change close to the time of a sale).

4. We will be particularly diligent in reviewing any evidence of disproportional values between classes of property. All classes of property must be at the same proportion of fair market value.

5. We will notify you as soon as your property value changes due to construction, renovation, market update or abatement. You will not have to wait until you receive your property tax bill to know how your value changed.

We will no longer conduct revaluations in the traditional way, on a town-wide basis every five (or more!) years. Going forward, the valuation of property will be a two-part process consisting of valuation and inspection.

**Valuation:** The assessment on your property is based on its market value as compared to other similar properties (i.e., for what would your property sell?). New Hampshire law (RSA 75:8) requires that we annually review and make adjustments to property value to reflect any change in market value. In the past, many towns and cities simply had not conducted any market analysis until it was necessary to conduct a town-wide revaluation, a 10- to 15-year gap in many communities. To keep property assessments fair and proportional, towns should conduct an annual sales analysis and make necessary adjustments if a neighborhood or category or property is under- or over-assessed. We want to stress that any market adjustment will be made for a whole neighborhood or the whole town and not for individual properties. We cannot, for instance, re-assess a property at \$500,000 simply because that property recently sold for that amount. This method is called 'sales chasing,' and although it is followed in some states it is not allowed in New Hampshire.

**Inspection:** Since property value is based on market comparisons, the purpose of inspection is to be sure that the information we have about your property is accurate. We concluded that it would be more efficient to inspect 20-25% of property each year than to inspect all property in one year. The inspection itself will not result in a change in property value unless we pick up changes to your property or correct errors in our records. The inspection data will also be used for neighborhood market analysis, which may be used at a future date to adjust values. Inspecting a portion of the town each year allows us to manage the cost of inspection while minimizing the coordination and disruption of a mass revaluation and inspection.

Newbury's total grand list (the total value of all property) including exempt property is about \$551,697,771 right now. Of the taxable property, 43% is residential non-waterfront, 49% direct waterfront, 2% condominiums and 6% commercial. There are about 21,908 acres represented by almost 2,512 separate & distinct parcels in Newbury. 6,780 acres or 31% of the landmass is enrolled in the state's Current Use Program, its purpose to promote open-space land.

This office is here to serve the taxpayer. We believe that transparency should be evident, openness a must and customer service a top priority.

*A special note for the security-minded:* When our assessors are making property inspections, they will not ask to come in to the home unless they had scheduled a prior appointment. Our assessors, who will carry identification cards and whose license plates are registered with the Police Department, may knock at the door and ask you to verify data on the property tax card and may measure the exterior of the property. They will not ask to come into the house unless they had made a prior contact with the property owner and were expected. If someone comes to your house claiming to be a town assessor and asking for indoor access, please contact the Police Department.

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## CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER / BUILDING INSPECTOR

Requests for building permits are down year to year. By July 2004 there were 60 permits issued, 64 by July 2005, but the number dropped to 46 by July 2006 (19 were new houses). Code enforcement officer Paul LaCasse said it's slow everywhere in the state, which he attributes to rising interest rates.

As building inspector, LaCasse checks construction against the 2000 international building and residential codes, covering plumbing, wiring, foundations, carpentry and insulation to insure all are being installed to the code standards. He is a certified residential building inspector and has more than 20 years as a licensed electrician.

As code enforcement officer he enforces the town's zoning ordinance, with authority from the selectmen to issue building permits and approve septic design plans.

Some issues he runs into and some clarifications:

> Foundation bonding: if a foundation has rebar it must be connected to the electrical system.

> Staircases: must be built properly as to risers, stair width and tread dimensions per IRC 2000.

> Electrical permits: remember to get a permit for service changes. PSNH will not connect without approval.

> Electrical and plumbing permits: must include contractor's license number, name and address.

> Setbacks: frequent issue meeting setbacks, especially on accessory buildings. There's a 15-foot side and rear setback from the property line, and 30 feet from any right of way or the street, and 75 feet from lake or wetlands.

> If a building is more than 200 square feet you need a permit and must meet setbacks. If it's under 200 sf and on blocks or not on a permanent foundation, you need a permit (for which no fee is charged in this case) and must meet setbacks.

> Interior repairs or renovations: You don't need a permit if you're changing cabinets, or changing a sink but not the plumbing. If you move any plumbing or electrical, cut a hole in a bearing wall or change a window opening, a permit is required because you're changing the structure.

> Call for inspection: Some people, after a permit is issued, fail to call for inspection at appropriate points during the work. To get a certificate of occupancy, you need to have the inspections done along the way. Nothing should be closed in before inspected. It's up to the homeowner/contractor to arrange for inspections and please give proper notice. Inspections are required prior to backfill, of framing, prior to sheetrock, of insulation, after sheetrock, and final inspection.

> Demolition permits: you need a demo permit to tear down a structure. Good motivation to comply – if you don't, you'll still pay taxes on it. You have two years to replace a torn-down structure or it's no longer grandfathered.

LaCasse's office hours are Monday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Wednesday 12 noon – 6 p.m. He can be reached online at paul@newburynh.org.

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## ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

*ZBA members: Thomas Vannatta (chair), Betsy Soper (vice chair), Elizabeth Ashworth, Kathryn Holmes, Alex Azodi, Ernie Pagragan, Helen Wright ; alternates: Bill Cluff, Lacy Cluff*

Recent hearings by the ZBA:

May 15 – Ann Thornburg, for property located at High Meadow Rd., Newbury, sought a special exception to allow for construction of a dwelling unit within a previously cleared perimeter area on an existing lot. It was the first application to the ZBA regarding the skyline ordinance. The board voted unanimously to grant the special exception.

June 19 – Ronald and Jeanne Williams, for property located at 310 Bowles Rd., sought a variance to permit moving an existing non-conforming building to a new location within the 75-foot setback from the lake. The board voted unanimously to grant the application as presented.

Aug. 21 – Ralph and Kathleen Verni, for property located at 115 Grace Hill, sought a variance to construct a new home that encroaches in the 75-foot normal high water setback. The board voted to grant the variance with conditions.

Aug. 28 – Richard and Donna Matte, for property located at 50 Alsubet Court, sought an appeal from an administrative decision of the code enforcement officer to deny a building permit to construct a shed on the property. The hearing was continued.

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## PLANNING BOARD

*Planning board members: Barbara Freeman (chair), Bill Weiler (vice chair), Ron Williams, David Thayer, Al Bachelder, Travis DeZotell, Lacy Cluff (alternate), Deane Geddes (alternate), and Ken McWilliams (consultant).*

The Newbury Planning Board has been hard at work updating the town Master Plan. It was last done in 1997 and state law requires that master plans be updated every 10 years. As you know from previous town newsletters, the planning board conducted townwide workshops to develop a 'vision' for the future of the town. In addition, the board mailed survey forms to each resident and/or property owner. These surveys have been tabulated and will provide guidance for the development of recommendations for the future of the town.

This spring and summer have been dedicated to reviewing the recommendations that were in the 1997 Master Plan. The board is determining which recommendations have been accomplished, which are yet to be accomplished and should be included in the update and which should be left out. Then new, additional recommendations are being formulated. Draft recommendations completed include: community services and recreations subheadings: cemeteries, fire protection and ambulance services, library services, police protection service, social services, transportation and recycling services, town water and sewer services and educational services; housing, and natural and cultural resources. In addition chapters on community characteristics and regional context have been drafted. These have yet to be finalized by the board.

If you wish to participate in the master planning meetings, they are held every first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the town office large meeting room. Materials and handouts from the work to date and next to be addressed are available on a display rack in the lobby of the town office.

Once the board has reviewed the drafted recommendations they will be scheduling a public forum to discuss the results of the survey, community characteristics and the recommendations.

The board has also been busy conducting public hearings for the review of subdivision and site plan review applications. The Field Stone Ridge major subdivision off of Gillingham Dr. and Old Sutton Rd. (Case 2003-011, Pickman & Sons Development LLC) was approved Aug. 15 with conditions. This project is in both Sutton as well as in Newbury and was determined to have regional impact by the board. It required extensive review and has been in process since 2005. Field Stone Ridge has 30 house lots in Newbury and seven in Sutton. All are accessed from Newbury.

Other recent hearings:

Case 2005-023 – On June 6, a conceptual review for Bill and Karen Carruth on a B&B at 1424 Route 103. They would like to improve the property and have a B&B. They were requesting a waiver from site plan review because the property had been approved as a B&B in the past and they felt the use should be grandfathered. The property is in the commercial district. The board voted to waive the site plan review based on the 1986 approval and that the number of bedrooms was going to be decreased from seven to five.

June 20, a conceptual hearing for Maureen Clement relative to Park 10 right of way/paper road. She wants to build on her lot but needs to know how to access it; currently there's only a paper road. She was told she could build the road to the required town standards. The board also discussed septic and well setbacks with her.

Case 2006-011 – A conceptual review was held on July 18 for George McClean, for an annexation/lot-line adjustment at 11 Great Island that would put an existing boat house entirely on the smaller of

two lots. He also wants to be able to advertise the smaller lot as a buildable lot. The board said the lot is grandfathered; as long as they were able to fit everything in the building envelope, they could build on it. In their final application, they will need to address a septic question.

Case 2006-010 – On July 18, final review for Roger Hardy Construction, LLC, for a minor subdivision at 176 South Road. The application was missing several items. In addition, a house was currently being constructed on one of the lots. The board was concerned because the existing house was not built on one contiguous acre and there was a feeling this was a way of getting around the regulations. This will need to be addressed in the regulations. The application was not accepted as complete. This hearing has been continued to Sept. 19.

Case 2006-012 – Conceptual hearing for Kurt Dutcher, annexation/lot-line adjustment at Blye Hill Landing, to accommodate his house plans. He was told he first needed to get approval from the association, then go before the ZBA for a variance because he was encroaching in the 50-foot setback around the cluster development, and then he would apply to the planning board for a lot-line adjustment.

Aug. 15 – A final hearing for Eric and Debra Fuchs for property at 193 Route 103, for a lot line adjustment/annexation. At a conceptual hearing June 20, applicant wanted to end up with two buildable lots, adding lake frontage to one. The application was approved with conditions.

Sept. 19 – The board will receive an application for a final hearing for a lot line adjustment from Ann Thornburg, for property located at 240 High Meadow Rd.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The planning boards CIP subcommittee members started meeting mid-August to review and update the CIP. With town department heads they go over capital projects proposed for the next 15 years.

This year's members are Ivor Freeman, Ron Williams, Deane Geddes, Ken McWilliams, Jim Powell, Dennis Pavlicek and David Thayer.

Once final the committee's recommendations will go to the full planning board for review and approval. The report will then be given to the board of selectmen for its consideration in building the budget and determining warrant articles for presentation at town meeting.

The purpose of the capital improvements program is to aid the selectmen in their consideration of the annual budget. By forecasting and prioritizing the capital needs and plans of the town's departments, looking out up to 15 years, the CIP helps anticipate expenditures and stabilize the cost of town government. The CIP is reevaluated annually.

According to the RSAs, the purpose and description of the CIP is to "classify projects according to the urgency and need for realization and shall recommend a time sequence for their implementation. The program may also contain the estimated cost of each project and indicate probable operating and maintenance costs and probable revenues, if any, as well as existing sources of funds or the need for additional sources of funds for the implementation and operation of each project. The program shall be based on information submitted by the departments and agencies of the municipality and shall take into account public facility needs indicated by the prospective development shown in the master plan of the municipality or as permitted by other municipal land-use controls."

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## Newbury Update via e-mail

Newbury Update is created as a Microsoft Word document, nothing fancy, so it's easy to send and receive via e-mail. Think of the advantages, such as being able to enlarge the type size or saving a tree or not having to wonder when a new issue is available. To get on the distribution list, send an e-mail to [newburyupdate@gmail.com](mailto:newburyupdate@gmail.com).