

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, transfer station and post office, but we strongly encourage you to 'get your copy' at the town website: www.newburynh.org. To receive a copy via e-mail, send a request (and any comments or suggestions) to: newburyupdate@gmail.com.

From the desk of the Newbury Board of Selectmen

*Jim Powell, Gary Budd, Dick Wright
and town administrator Dennis Pavlicek*

Wild Goose boat launch – NH Fish & Game is pursuing state permits – shoreland, wetlands and terrain alteration – for its planned boat launch at the Wild Goose site on Birch Grove Rd. off Route 103.

In mid January the Newbury Board of Selectmen sent a letter to the commissioner of Fish & Game reiterating concerns about developing the Wild Goose site. These concerns include highway safety and the foreseeable demand on the Newbury Police Dept. because the site will be open and lighted 24 hours a day. The selectmen also agreed to a request from the Lake Sunapee Protective Assoc. (LSPA) to support its legal action against the project.

Old Home Day – The January meeting for Old Home Day planning was rescheduled to Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. in the town office meeting room. Anyone who would like to help is invited.

Town ordinances codified – At a public hearing on Jan. 26 a pile of memo sheets with no particular order officially became structured. The town ordinances dealing with traffic, alarms and public conduct have each been given their numbered place within a new framework.

The advantage of Police Chief Bob Lee's work on this project sounds simple to those that didn't have to deal with the prior non-system – you can actually have a single place where it's easy to look up any given ordinance. The benefit is most seen at court, where before the officers had to write out long explanations with a copy of the memo. Now the courts have a copy of the ordinance book and officers can refer to sections by number.

Chief Lee pointed out that residents can also now more easily come in and look up the rules for alarms, fireworks, permits that they are expected to follow.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Requests to help keep roadways clear

Highway administrator Cal Prussman has three requests to make keeping the town roads clear of snow easier all around:

1. Please do not plow or snowblow into or across the town right of way. This is a town ordinance, to wit: "No person, firm or corporation engaged in the operation of snow plowing, blowing or removal shall allow or cause any accumulation of snow to obstruct or impair any town-maintained street, roadway, parking lot or right of way, unless such operations are approved by the Newbury highway administrator, nor shall any snow be placed or caused to be placed upon any hydrants in the Town of Newbury."

2. Do not park in the town right of way, as per the winter parking ordinance (parts paraphrased for brevity):

"No vehicle or obstruction shall be parked or placed in any manner upon or along any street" located in the town from Nov. 1 – April 30. "...A violation of this provision shall yield the removal of such vehicle or obstruction by any duly authorized employee or contracted agent for the Town of Newbury, with such expenses for said removal and subsequent storage to be incurred upon the owner of the vehicle or property removed."

3. If residents would keep the areas around their mailboxes clear it would give the snow a place to go when the town plows go by so the chances of damage to their mailboxes would be less likely.

The highway crew appreciates your help.

IN THIS ISSUE

Town budget for 2009

Information on the proposed operating budget and other 'money' articles for the 2009 warrant, in preparation for the budget hearing.

The next issue will be available the beginning of March and will review the entire warrant including any changes made to what is presented here.

Winter Festival – Saturday, Feb. 21

The schedule of events – outdoors and indoors – celebrating both recreation and culinary arts. Come play, watch and eat!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mon. Feb. 9 Budget hearing for Newbury (see page 2)
- Thu. Feb. 19 Historical Society meeting (see page 5)
- Sat. Feb. 21 Winter Festival (see page 5)
- Mon. Feb. 23 Poetry Jam at library (see page 6)
- Tue. Feb. 24 Wizards Workshop at library (see page 6)
- Tue. Feb. 24 Penny-a-Page kickoff at library (see page 6)
- Thu. Feb. 26 Animals in Winter at library (see page 6)
- Thu. Feb. 26 Old Home Day meeting (see page 1)
- Sat. Feb. 28 Voter Checklist session (see page 1)
- Tue. Mar. 10 Town meeting voting, 1-7 p.m.
- Wed. Mar. 11 Business portion of town meeting

Voter Checklist Session

Supervisors of checklist will be in session on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 11-11:30 a.m. to register new voters and update the checklist at the town office. Please bring your driver's license for proof of identity, age (must be over 18 to vote) and residency. If your license shows a non-Newbury address, bring other proof of residency. Per the Supervisors of the Checklist: Al Bachelder, Clayton Johnson and Sue Russell

Three contested races for Newbury town posts

Town clerk Linda Plunkett reports that as of the closing of the filing period on Friday, Jan. 30, the following individuals filed for open town positions:

Selectman	Gary Budd
	Thomas Vannatta
Town clerk/tax collector	Linda Plunkett
Trustee of Trust Funds	Claire Vannatta
Library trustee, 3-year term	Pamela Ritchie
	Claire Vannatta
Library trustee, 2-year term	Patricia Sherman
Supervisor of the checklist	Albert Bachelder
Cemetery trustee	Judith Healey
Planning Board (2 seats)	Travis Dezotell
	Bruce Healey
	Ron Williams
Zoning Board of Adjustment	No candidate filed

There are contested races for selectman, library trustee for 3 years, and for the two open seats on the planning board. No one filed for the open seat on the zoning board.

Budget hearing Feb. 9 – The public hearing on the proposed 2009 annual town operating budget has been set for Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. in the town office. Information about the operating budget and appropriation articles that will be reviewed at the budget hearing follows.

ANNUAL BUDGET	2008	2009
1. Executive	\$175,886	\$178,522
2. Elections	11,067	4,802
3. Financial Administration	437,999	440,795
4. Legal Expenses	25,000	23,000
5. Personnel Administration	2,800	2,800
6. Planning	50,349	46,726
7. Zoning	13,017	13,006
8. General Government Bldg.	51,981	53,271
9. Cemeteries	25,780	25,610
10. Insurance	50,865	52,100
11. Other General Govt.	14,000	14,000
12. Police Department	438,848	450,288
13. Fire Department	139,968	159,875
14. Forest Fire	1,038	1,053
15. Code Enforcement	28,124	28,813
16. Emergency Management	4,478	4,413
17. Highway Maintenance	565,980	578,780
18. Highway Reconstruction	243,000	232,000
19. Street Lighting	14,040	14,600
20. Transfer Station	290,418	284,805
21. Health Agencies	31,324	33,616
22. Welfare	16,294	22,894
23. Information Booth	6,565	6,689
24. Parks & Recreation	72,644	77,648
25. Library	81,297	85,494
26. Conservation Commission	1,603	1,495
27. Historical Society	1,000	1,000
28. Tax Anticipation Notes	100	100
29. Sewer Department	141,825	137,440
30. Bond/Note Principal	195,000	165,000
Bond/Note Interest	58,675	49,000
31. Safety Communication Svcs.	35,708	34,045
32. Capital Outlay	0	0
TOTAL:	\$3,226,673	\$3,223,680

Points to note about the operating budget --- 2009

The budget committee – Jim Powell, Gary Budd, Dick Wright, Dennis Pavlicek, Joy Nowell, Ivor Freeman and Tom Vannatta – met the goal of keeping the budget even with or lower than last year’s. The total operating budget is down \$2,993, just under one percent.

Selectmen budgeted an average of 3.7% overall for wage increases, to cover both cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and merit raises for town employees. The total 2009 budget amount to cover the salary increases and related benefits is \$33,469 across all departments. COLA is based on the consumer price index (CPI) which for the period 11/07 to 11/08 is 1.7 percent. Health benefit rates are down, a small amount but down, which is a positive change for a factor that tends to drive higher budgets.

Town administrator Dennis Pavlicek said we are looking at decreased revenues, particularly from motor vehicle registrations, yield (timber) tax and interest earned on investments. He doesn’t expect a decrease in state and federal monies.

Fuel costs are still making a good-sized impact. The prices are lower than they were a few months ago, but they have begun going up again. Vehicle fuel and heating oil – and other items affected by petroleum costs, such as tires and paving – are up from what was budgeted last year (before the height of increases), but lower than what we actually had to spend in 2008.

Back to better news, the amount of overlay – money set aside for abatements and refunds – should be down because our assessors have assessments where they should be so fewer abatements are anticipated. The Dept. of Revenue Administration looks at this number when setting our tax rate.

All things considered and at current valuations, Pavlicek figures that, if all the money articles pass, the town portion of the tax rate will go up no more than five cents. The town tax rate is \$3.41/\$1,000 right now.

Background on Operating Budget, by line item:

1. Executive \$178,522 – up \$2,636 – 1.5%

This line largely reflects an increase in salaries and related benefits. Other items covered by this line include the town website, supplies, postage, mileage, telephone, publications, training, computer service, server, copier rental, advertising and organization dues.

2. Elections \$4,802 – down \$6,265 – -56.61%

The reduction in this line – which covers elections, registration and vital statistics – mostly reflects fewer scheduled elections.

Line includes election supplies (such as ballots), advertising, and wages/benefits for supervisors of checklist, moderator and ballot clerks. The pay rates were increased for ballot clerks (up 75 cents to \$8.00) and supervisors of the checklist (up 50 cents to \$8.50).

3. Financial Administration \$440,795 – up \$2,796 – 0.64%

Increases are mostly in salaries/benefits, and largely offset by other reductions. The line covers the finance director, treasurer, town clerk/tax collector, assessors and assessing clerk as well as expenses of these offices including tax maps, auditor and printing and mailing of tax bills.

This line includes the full cost of the tri-town assessing office, which will be offset by Sunapee and New London shares, a combined total of about \$170,000 that we will be reimbursed. Our share is about \$70,000, less because we have fewer lots than the other towns.

There are other minor increases such as tax maps (\$2,500 to \$3,500) and software and computer services and support (\$13,525 to \$15,300), though much is unchanged.

4. Legal Expenses \$23,000 – down \$2,000 – -8.00%

Reduced to better reflect recent spending levels.

5. Personnel Administration \$2,800 – no change

Once the line for all employee benefits, this line now is largely for state unemployment insurance and unreimbursed medical.

6. Planning \$46,726 – down \$3,623 – -7.2%

Largest changes in this line are the completion of work on the master plan for a reduction of \$7,000 and a decrease in consultant fees of \$1,500 for a new total of \$15,000.

7. Zoning \$13,006 – down \$11 – -0.08%

Overall balance of minor changes

8. General Government Buildings \$53,271 – up \$1,290 – 2.48%

Increased are wages/benefits up \$290, heat up \$700 and electric up \$300. Larger ticket items that remain level: general repair (\$10,000), mowing/landscaping (\$7,500), vehicle fuel (\$2,880) and supplies (\$2,850). Includes use of town office and meeting room plus maintenance, repairs and mowing for town office and South Newbury town buildings.

9. Cemeteries \$25,610 – down \$170 – -0.66%

Advertising reduced by half to \$100 and cemetery signs reduced from \$800 to \$10. General repair remains at \$2,000,

restoration/cleaning remains at \$3,500, trees and mileage are unchanged. Mowing is up \$720 to \$17,520.

10. Insurance \$52,100 – up \$1,235 – 2.43%

Workers' comp is up 3.35% from \$15,965 to \$16,500 as a function of wage increases. Property liability insurance is up 2% from \$34,900 to \$35,600 based on the increase in the number of buildings and vehicles covered: new fire truck and the snack shack and storage building at Fishersfield Park.

11. Other General Government \$14,000 – no change

All items in this line remain level funded: town report printing \$3,900, newsletter \$100, selectmen's project \$10,000. The selectmen's project money in 2008 was spent on Fishersfield Park and the playground. The selectmen's project funding is for a town enhancement project. The money gives the selectmen the option to act on opportunities that present themselves during the course of the year to visually or functionally enhance the town and benefit its residents. If unused, the money goes back to the General Fund.

12. Police Dept. \$450,288 – up \$11,440 – 2.61%

There is a \$7,800 increase for the third leased car, so the cycle is completed and costs will remain level while cruisers rotate out. Going with a leased fleet vs buying out of a capital reserve fund saves money. At the end of three years, we own the cruiser and in the interim we have the advantages of the finance program, not the least of which is full insurance coverage. For example, if a car is damaged it gets replaced; there's no out-of-service down time while it's repaired. Chief Lee has also instituted a practice where each cruiser's maintenance is the responsibility of a particular officer, creating more accountability for the vehicles' upkeep.

In addition to the lease, cruiser equipment is up \$1,000 to \$4,500 reflecting the escalating cost of the lights, electronics and other gear. The lines for salaries and related benefits have changed as the result of cost-of-living adjustments and insurance updates.

The Crimestar costs are down two-thirds from \$8,350 to \$3,000. Last year covered putting the software system and initial licensing in place. Now the line is for all software licensing year to year.

The other items are flat or show smaller changes up and down, but overall operating expenditures have remained stable.

13. Fire Department \$159,875 – up \$19,907 – 14.22%

Two new pieces of equipment account for most of the increase. A 12-lead heart monitor / defibrillator will replace a 3-lead model and cost about \$17,000. A hydraulic pump to run the auto and building extrication tools is included at \$9,000. Each has other expenses for service and/or supplies.

Also up are training by 22% to \$3,900 and the wages / benefits lines.

With less building maintenance and repair scheduled or expected for this year that line is decreased 36% (\$4,300 to \$2,750). Vehicle repair is down 10% to \$5,900 now that the old tanker has been replaced. Radios have gone from \$3,000 to \$2,120, nearly a third lower.

14. Forest Fire \$1,053 – up \$15 – 1.45%

Reflects increase in wages/benefits. The state reimburses 50% of this expense incurred mostly for issuing fire permits.

15. Code Enforcement/Inspection \$28,813 – up \$689 – 2.45%

Increase in salary/benefits. Rest remains the same. Costs are largely offset by permit fees.

16. Emergency Management \$4,413 – down \$65 – -1.45%

This line covers the emergency management director and health officer stipends. There are decreases in health office supplies of \$425,

an increase in miscellaneous expenses from \$600 to \$1,000, and the rest is unchanged, such as training and the emergency operations center (EOC).

17. Highway Maintenance \$578,780 – up \$12,800 – 2.26%

Vehicle fuel is up \$12,000 to \$48,000 which is still less than last year's actual costs. Heating oil is up some as well as the salary and benefits line.

Salt is doubled to \$20,000. Fuel prices increased the cost of salt last year, and this also covers the pretreatment product Ice Magic that is being used on all paved roads now. The test uses of Ice Magic in town at the start of winter worked out very well, making it worth the extra cost.

Tires line is up 300% to \$16,200. The grader needs six new tires and the front-end loader needs a couple, and they are expensive.

Several areas were reduced or cut entirely. Blasting was cut in half to \$2,500 because less will be needed for the work on Baker Hill Rd. Cracksealing was zeroed out (was \$8,000) as a place to save money. Guardrails (\$4,000) and engineering (\$1,000) were both zeroed out because there's no need for either this year. Dust control was cut 80% to \$1,000 to save money; it won't impact service for places that need it. Equipment rental is down 75% to \$1,000 in light of less expected need.

18. Highway Reconstruction \$232,000 – down \$11,000 – -4.53%

Two items make up this line. Gravel is down, from \$35,000 to \$25,000. Paving/grinding is relatively flat, down \$1,000 to \$207,000.

The planned projects are: Repaving the first approximately 980 feet of Haynes Rd (the part reclaimed last year). Repaving the second half of Baker Hill Rd., from Stony Brook Rd. to the Sutton town line. Gravel for Fishersfield Rd. Reclaiming about 4,000 feet of Newell Rd. beginning from just beyond Brown Rd. to where work left off the last time. Reclaiming the paved portions of Brown and Proctor roads.

19. Street Lighting \$14,600 – up \$560 – 3.99%

Reflects PSNH rate increase. Once we pay off the metal halide lights in a few years this expense will decrease by about half. Until then, our savings from using less energy are paying for the equipment/ installation over that period.

20. Transfer Station \$284,805 – down \$5,613 – -1.93%

Broken down by categories...

Solid Waste Collection \$144,755 – up \$787 – 0.5%

Salary/benefit increases, but also nearly \$8,000 saved with a correction to a health plan selection. That saving largely balanced out this line, including the heating oil up \$700 to \$2,200 and a \$6,000 increase for more concrete pads.

Disposal \$132,950 – down \$2,000 – -1.48%

Equipment (compactors) rental, trucking and tires remain unchanged. Disposal is down \$2,000 to \$82,000, because the Lebanon landfill rate is unchanged and the amount of trash (in tons) is down.

Recycling \$7,100 – down \$4,400 – -38.26%

Largest decrease is a two-third reduction in hazardous waste day expenses, from \$6,000 to \$2,000 to save money. There are reductions of \$200 each in recyclables disposal fees and equipment rentals. Trucking stayed level

Costs are mostly for trucking when needed and pods and are in part offset by fees charged on electronics and revenue from the sale of some of the materials. Plastics and tin cans are often being picked up with paper for disposal, which cuts expense.

21. Health Agencies \$33,616 – up \$2,292 – 7.32%

This line is for health agencies and community/school programs. Funds go to the following organizations:

New London Hospital Ambulance \$18,220 (up \$1,995 / 12.3%)

Visiting Nurse Assoc. \$5,628 (up \$297 / 5.57%)

Rescue/Ambulance \$1,500 (unchanged)
Kearsarge Area Preschool \$3,000 (unchanged)
Community Action Program \$2,768 (unchanged)
Kearsarge Area Council on Aging \$2,500 (unchanged)

22. Welfare \$22,894 – up \$6,600 – 40.5%

The line covers welfare administration (unchanged at \$2,944) and direct assistance for rent, food, utilities, gasoline and misc. which is increased by \$6,600 to \$19,950 based on anticipated need.

23. Information Booth \$6,689 – up \$124 – 1.89%

Increase reflects wage/benefit increase. Line also covers expenses for telephone, public service and repairs.

24. Parks & Recreation \$77,648 – up \$5,004 – 6.89%

Increased wages / salaries plus related benefits, and increased hours for part-time recreation coordinator.

Old Home Day is increased from \$14,000 to \$17,000, with the biggest expense being fireworks. Revenues help defray some of the cost, and sponsors are being sought to defray fireworks.

There are decreases in allocations for advertising (\$1,000 to \$300) and concerts (\$7,500 to \$6,500); both usually get some sponsorship, and the number of concerts is being lowered.

Funding for programs is being cut \$700 to \$100 due to a greater accent on fee-funded programs. The line for trails is down 40% to \$300

Funding remains level in many areas including supplies (\$3,500), Public Service (\$2,500), equipment (\$1,000), maintenance & repair (\$3,000) and landscaping (\$3,000).

On the waterfront(s), dock fingers switchover is going from \$960 to \$1,100, swimline costs are up (\$800 to \$1,000), bubblers are static at \$100 and beach sand is level at \$200.

This line also includes \$3,500 for Bradford / Newbury / Sutton Youth Sports.

25. Library \$85,494 – up \$4,197 – 5.16%

Reflects increases for heat (\$400) and PSNH (\$300) plus wage/salary increases with related benefits. There is also some increase in part-time hours.

26. Conservation Commission \$1,495 – down \$108 – -6.74%

Mostly a reduction in hours needed for recording secretary.

27. Historical Society \$1,000 – unchanged

The line is for supplies (\$750) and building (\$250).

28. Tax Anticipation Notes \$100 – unchanged

For potential debt service/interest

29. (Blodgett) Sewer Dept. \$137,440 – down \$4,385 – -3.09%

Salaries and related benefits are up (raise plus increase in hours). Waste disposal is down from \$3,000 to \$2,000 because of work done to the distribution system which cuts down on infiltration and hence the waste needing disposal. Repair and maintenance are down for the same reason, from \$10,000 to \$8,000.

Water testing is up \$500 to \$2,500 because the state is requiring additional testing to monitor the nitrate level.

Bond issuance costs are down 62.5% (\$8,000 to \$3,000) because the work to upgrade the treatment plant hasn't begun yet. Bond issuance costs won't appear before 2010.

This line is covered 100 percent by user fees.

30. Bond/Note Principal \$165,000 – down \$30,000 – -15.38%

Bond/Note Interest \$49,600 – down \$9,675 – -16.49%

The line covers bonds of town office and highway garage; library bond has been retired..

31. Safety Communication Svcs \$34,045 – down \$1,663 – -4.66%

Dispatch fees declined 2.49% to \$25,945. This year's dispatch fees were calculated using the same formula as last year: a base fee of \$3,000 per town plus a usage fee based on each town's 3-year average call volume.

Other items, including radios and pagers, are unchanged.

The overall decrease is largely from the elimination of \$7,300 for Reverse 911 carried in last year's budget but unspent. The town is looking at a cheaper option through New London Dispatch.

With Reverse 911 we could call people in the event of a localized emergency, such as an oil leak into the lake or an ice storm, with announcements and updates of information relevant to residents in the affected area.

Other Money Articles

The other articles on this year's warrant that appropriate money will also be discussed at the Feb. 9 budget hearing. An overview follows:

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$159,000 to be placed in the following capital reserve funds: (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Fire Equipment	\$ 45,000
Highway Equipment	\$111,000
Ambulance	\$ 3,000

There are two changes in this article from last year that result in a net decrease of \$22,000. The bridges allotment of \$35,000 is not needed as enough money is now reserved for our share of those projects. Highway equipment is up \$13,000 to cover the increased cost of that equipment as reviewed by the capital improvements program (CIP) committee.

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be placed in the following existing RSA 31:19-a maintenance expendable trust funds previously established: (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Docks	\$ 12,000
Town Office Equipment	\$ 6,000
Town Buildings	\$ 7,000
Milfoil Control	\$ 5,000
Fire Dept. Personal Protection	\$ 10,000

Money is regularly put in these expendable funds to cover maintenance and replacement needs in these categories. The amounts are level with last year but for Docks which is up \$4,000. As the town docks (in the harbor and Blodgett's Landing) age they've needed more repair and replacement, and costs to do that are up. We've been spending more on them every year.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$148,000 to expand the town office parking lot, connect the parking lot to Fishersfield Road, reconstruct and pave Fishersfield Road, conduct further studies for future uses of town center property to be brought before future town meeting(s) and remove the oil tank that is buried in the safety services lot.

Town office parking lot is not large enough, people end up parking around its edges and along Route 103, and amount of traffic in and out of the lot is a safety issue of concern to both the police chief and the fire chief. The selectmen have watched the problems grow over the last several years, becoming more of an issue with increased activities at the town office and in town center. The selectmen and the chiefs would like to solve the problem now.

In addition to enlarging the parking lot, another access via Fishersfield Road will be created. Following a question posed at a public hearing, United Construction has confirmed it will cost less than \$20,000 to pave Fishersfield Rd. Traffic flow for the parking lot safety issue is under review. The facilities committee and vendor are considering, for example, having traffic flow in off Rte. 103, out via Fishersfield Road, among other possibilities.

This article also includes \$20,000 to continue the process of defining the needs and refining the plans to best accomplish the goals at reasonable costs. Time and effort now spent looking at the details of what, where, when and how will ensure the best result. Many possibilities are currently on the table that need to be narrowed down. Removal of the oil tank from the safety services lot is a safety and code issue, best done now.

7. *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$146,537 to purchase a six-wheel dump truck equipped with dump body and sander and authorize the withdrawal of \$141,537 from the highway equipment Capital Reserve Fund and a trade-in amount of \$5,000 for the 1986 Mack. (Recommended by the Selectmen.)*

The replacement of this truck has been pushed off a couple of years but it's become less reliable so its time has come.

Highway administrator Cal Prussman has looked at both Mack and International models. Most of our highway trucks are Macks, but he hears good things about International from colleagues who use them. The Mack price is included above, the International is about \$8,000 lower. Prussman and the selectmen will offer the choice to the voters at town meeting.

9. *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to remove and replace the existing chain-link fence approximately 500 feet along the front of Chandler Cemetery and to remove and replace the two existing gates.*

Chandler Cemetery is located on Route 103B by the traffic circle. The cemetery trustees report that while the fence posts are in good shape, the rusty fencing is not, so they want to change the chain-link. One side of one of the gates is completely off and doesn't align; the other is in bad repair.

10. *To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,700 to be placed in the Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund and authorize the transfer of \$3,700 from the December 31, 2008 undesignated fund balance for this purpose. Said sum represents the sale of cemetery lots in the prior fiscal year. (Recommended by the Selectmen.)*

This is a regularly appearing housekeeping article that transfers revenue from the sale of cemetery lots into the appropriate maintenance trust fund.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.newburyhistorical.org

The Newbury Historical Society has completed, with success, the first phase of identifying and presenting historic dated markers on twenty-one historic properties in Newbury. Nineteen residents whose homes dates from circa 1790 - 1899 have been given these dated markers. Property owners researched and authenticated the dates of their properties when submitting their application to the Society. Two town-owned properties, Old Town Hall, c. 1876 in South Newbury, and Train Station, c. 1871, located in Newbury Harbor, also have historic dated markers placed. Committee members who worked on this project are Rich Cole, Judy Healey and Diana Morris, chair. This project will continue with new chairs, Gay and Marty Sheary, who residents may contact for applications at 763-4746 or e-mail, sheary@msn.com.

The Society has decided to extend its reach into the community to gather memories of past events and to chronicle how life was lived by presenting "We Remember Newbury" sessions. To this effort, Shelly Candidus and Barbara Steward are planning a number of open forums which will bring townspeople together to share their reminiscences about such topics as old school days, natural disasters, life on the farm, summers at Blodgetts Landing, etc. Plans for structuring the meeting and other details are being worked out, and the first session

is tentatively scheduled for early spring. Watch for notices publicizing this event, and in the meantime, tap into your memories.

The Society is also planning a membership drive to generate interest, gain support and involvement of community residents in achieving its mission summarized below:

- > Promote the collection, identification, preservation and display of artifacts and documentation of historical significance
- > Support the preservation of architectural assets and other manmade features of the town
- > Develop interest and provide educational programs
- > Collaborate with other local and regional organizations

The Society will meet on the following Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the town office meeting room: Feb. 19, May 7 and June 18. The annual meeting will be held at the town office on Sunday, July 19, at 1 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend and share their ideas for programs and projects.

Newbury Winter Festival – Sat., Feb. 21

Hosted by the Newbury Recreation Committee
On Saturday, February 21, there will be all kinds of outdoor activities – and then a Crockpot cook-off of comfort food.

At Fishersfield Park

Family Sledding – The fun starts at 10 a.m. Come experience the hills of Fishersfield Park and watch a demonstration of 'free sledding' -- then try it yourself. Mad River Rocket, a free-sledding company, is bringing experts to perform tricks and jumps and will have their 'rocket sleds' available for the public. There will be plenty of fun 'regular' sledding, and sleds, available too. Bring a helmet as there will only be a limited number available. This is a free event, sponsored by Sunapee Outfitters.

Bonfire – A warming fire will be lit at 10 a.m. by the park's pond. Park at the entrance and walk, snowshoe or ski out to the pond. It's about one-quarter-mile over flat ground. Bring a picnic lunch and blanket. You should have a good view of the sledding demo from here.

Snowshoe Tour – Strap on your snowshoes and join a guided tour of the historic Colburn farmstead which dates to the early 1800s. The tour will start at 11 a.m. and run 30-60 minutes. One of Newbury's original farmsteads dating to the early 1800s. Count on only a couple pair snowshoes on site; it's best to bring your own. Gather for this free tour by the bonfire. After the tour explore the rest of the park at your leisure. Trail maps will be available. Bring a blanket and have a winter picnic.

Hot Drinks – From 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. there will be Hot Cider and Hot Chocolate available at the snack shack near the park entrance.

Town Center

Ice Skating – Come glide and figure-8 on the fire pond between the Vets Hall and Safety Services Building. As ever, the skating quality will be dependent on the weather cooperating.

Ski Rental Savings – For those who prefer downhill skiing, Outspokin' in Newbury Harbor will offer 50% off a daily downhill ski rental for Newbury residents on the day of the festival. Just bring some proof that you have or rent a home in Newbury. Sponsored by Outspokin'.

Crockpot Cook-off – Local cooks are invited to bring their best cold-weather, warm-food recipes to do battle to pick the town's favorite comfort food. It starts at 2 p.m. in the Newbury town office meeting room. Come taste and vote for your favorite. The 'crowd' vote combined with 'professional' judging will determine the outcome. For information and sign-up contact Travis Dezotell at 763-4940 x210 or travis@newburynh.org.

NEWBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Newbury Public Library trustees: Paula Falkowski, Liz Tentarelli.
Friends of NPL officers: Liz Moul, Ken Tentarelli, Mickey Noyer*

Poetry Jam

All poets and poetry lovers are invited to join the Poetry Jam on Monday, Feb. 23, held in the library at 7 p.m. Dianalee Velie will lead the session.

Wizards Workshop!

Grand Wizard Gregory McAdams will teach the children how to perform real magic tricks. He's a certified Wizard instructor, and will send the new young wizards home with their own bag of tricks and the tools to perform them. The program is designed for children ages 7 and up. Join the fun at the library on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m. Class size is limited so please call the library at 763-5803 for a reservation.

Penny-a-Page

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln in 2009, and the upcoming release of the new Lincoln Bicentennial Pennies, Lake Sunapee Bank is announcing a yearlong effort to raise money for libraries in our area. It's called the "Penny-a-Page" program and the bank will introduce it at the Newbury library on Feb. 24 at 3 p.m., following the Wizards Workshop.

Children and adults who want to participate can raise funds for the library by getting sponsors to donate one penny for every page they read. The goal will be to read one million pages raising one million pennies, or \$10,000.

Lake Sunapee Bank will provide pledge sheets, a new Lincoln Bicentennial Penny, and a fact sheet about the new pennies to each participant.

For the library, the bank will provide a container to collect the pennies, monthly penny facts, and suggested activities to sustain interest in the program. The bank will also provide a special savings account to keep track of the money donated.

Lake Sunapee Bank will also have collection containers in its branches to support interested readers who are not able to get a sponsor from elsewhere.

Every three months in 2009 when a new Bicentennial Penny is released, the library and local bank branch will hold an event to feature the new coin, and track progress of the fundraising. This could include reading aloud a story about President Lincoln, activities around the concept of one million, or recognize leading readers at that point in the year.

Finally, in December, Lake Sunapee Bank will hold a celebration at the library which has raised the most money that will feature a display of all the pennies raised delivered to the library by armored trucks. The top seven children who have read the most pages will be invited to serve as a guard (of the pennies) and will be given a commemorative black T-shirt and sunglasses.

Just as Abraham Lincoln taught himself by reading books from his local libraries, Lake Sunapee Bank recognizes the value of self-directed reading and the vital role of libraries in this process.

Animals in Winter: How Do They Do It?

Can you imagine spending the whole winter outside? Our animal neighbors do! Find out how from Kathleen Stowell, who will use activities, games and stories all about how animals cope with winter's snow and cold. Come prepared for fun both inside and outside. The program, geared for grades K- 5, will be at the library on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. Call the library at 763-5803 for information and reservations.

FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The year 2008 turned out to be a very busy year for the Newbury Fire & Rescue Department. The number of fire and rescue calls, 270, was almost 10% above 2007, a record year for the department. This made 2008 the busiest year in the department's history and an increase of 125% from the call level of 2001.

Ice storm aftermath

The December ice storm was one of the reasons for the large number of responses, with over 60 calls in the week following the ice storm. Many of those calls were public assistance, checking on senior residents, and assisting the public with problems with generators, fireplaces, wood stoves and smoke detectors. There were numerous calls for false alarms, wires down and also a number of motor vehicle accidents. During this period, firefighters also assisted the New London Fire Department with two building fires. Crews were on duty for up to 18 hours a day for the first days following the storm and the fire station remained open and staffed by department members throughout the week for residents to come in and get water and information on concerns with generators, and wood stoves and fireplaces.

Alternate heating methods: permits for safety

Many town residents who did not have alternative heating sources, such as wood stoves and emergency electric generators, are now considering purchasing these items. Please be aware that all types of heating equipment, including wood stoves and fireplace inserts, require a permit from the Town of Newbury. Permits applications may be obtained from the code enforcement officer or the fire department, and the applications can be downloaded from the Newbury website www.newburynh.org. The installation of a wood stove, pellet stove or fireplace insert must be inspected by the fire department prior to using the appliance. Be sure to retain the specifications that came with the equipment or were provided by the installer as this information will need to be reviewed by the inspector. The permit requires that there are smoke detectors in place in the building and it is highly recommended that carbon monoxide detectors be installed as well.

Generator tips

For residents considering purchasing emergency power generators, it is recommended that a licensed electrician do the installation. Generators being permanently installed must be outside the building and portable generators must be outside the building when they are in operation. Be sure that the generator is of sufficient size to power the furnace, water pump, refrigerator and a few lights. The electrician should install a transfer switch for the generator and separate circuits for the generator-powered equipment. A generator should never be wired directly into the house electrical system. All homes with generators should have carbon monoxide detectors.

Please contact the Newbury Fire Department with any questions on wood-heating equipment, generators or any fire safety concerns.

Alarms: No permit could mean fine

Following the storm the fire department received a number of false alarm calls as the power was restored. Some of these alarms were from unpermitted central-station fire alarm systems. Just a reminder that Newbury Town Ordinance requires all fire and security alarms that are monitored by a central-station alarm company must have an alarm permit. A fine will be assessed for any false alarm call received from a home or business with an unpermitted alarm. There is no charge for the alarm permit and applications are available at town office, the police department or on the town website.

Knox Box can aid emergency response

As many residents were staying with friends or relatives when the power went out, there was no one home when the alarms sounded to let the firefighters in the house. When an alarm is received, the procedure is to inspect the house from the outside and if there is no visible smoke or fire, to try to contact the owner and not to break doors or windows to fully check the house. Generally if there is no problem after some time and the owner does not arrive, the firefighters will return to quarters.

One way to provide emergency responders with access to the building is with a Knox Box secure emergency access system, now available through the Newbury Fire & Rescue Department. The owner places a door key in the Knox Box, which can only be opened by a special key that is kept locked on the fire truck. In the event of a fire alarm call when no one is home, firefighters can access the building and confirm there is no problem.

On one alarm call last year, firefighters found that water leaking into the house from roof damage had set off the alarm. The owner was able to repair the leak, preventing further damage to the home. This problem would not have been found if responders had not searched the home as there was no visible problem from outside. Information on Knox Boxes is available on the fire department website www.newburyfd.org and the Knox Boxes can be ordered online at www.knoxbox.com.

Other emergency response tips

With this winter turning out to be another snowy one, Chief Thomas wants to remind all residents to be sure that there is access to your property in the event of an emergency. When the snow is plowed, be sure long driveways are plowed wide enough to accommodate the rescue truck or ambulance. Check to see that the street address number continues to be visible from the street and turn on outside lights that can be seen from the street when you call 911. Turning on all the inside lights can help identify the house as well.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

As would be expected the Newbury Emergency Management office was busy during the December ice storm. Several Newbury residents that did not have heat or power were sheltered at Colby-Sawyer College in a joint effort with the Town of New London. The Newbury Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was in operation on the day following the storm and Newbury emergency management director Wayne Whitford remained in contact with all of the town officials and departments, as well as the NH Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management with daily conference calls during the week following the storm. With the possibility that the Town of Newbury would be eligible for federal disaster assistance, damage reports were submitted to the state and town officials met with representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to review response costs associated with the storm.

Although the state received a federal disaster declaration, it has not been determined if there will be any federal disaster aid available for individuals. Should FEMA make disaster assistance available to individuals, information will be provided on radio and TV. At that time, Newbury residents who had property damage from the December ice storm that is not covered by homeowner's insurance can fill out a FEMA disaster assistance application form at town office or a special FEMA office.

Emergency Contact List

An emergency contact list of senior and disabled residents, put together by the police and fire departments, was used to check on Newbury residents who may not have had heat or electricity and possibly no transportation to a shelter. Members of the Newbury Fire Department called these residents to check on their condition on the

days following the storm. If the person could not be contacted by telephone, firefighters were sent to their home to check on them. When the calls were made, the residents were asked to check on their neighbors who might not be on the list.

If you are a Newbury resident who was not called following the storm and would like to be part of the Town of Newbury Emergency Contact system in the event of future storms, please contact the town clerk, Linda Plunkett, or Deborah Lacombe at the police department.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Katheryn Holmes, chair; Eric Unger, vice-chair; Bill Annable, Chuck Crickman, Deane Geddes, Suzanne Levine

The conservation commission reviews wetland permit applications and intents to cut. Other recent topics follow, from the minutes (some draft) of recent meetings.

Tree cutting permits in the buffer zone

The Town of Newbury requests that landowners apply for a tree cutting permit in the buffer zone for any tree cutting. It is not required in all circumstances if they comply with the written regulations, but still requested. Holmes suggested that the importance of filing permit applications for various activities, specifically cutting in the buffer zone, should be more widely publicized.

Holmes stated that the Town asks the property owner to fill out a Cutting in the Buffer Zone Application mainly for the purpose of education and awareness to homeowners around the Lake and for maintaining records in their property file.

Workshop highlights

At the Nov meeting, Crickman gave highlights of the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions workshop held Nov. 1. A new piece of information he shared was that conservation commissions cannot spend money to purchase buildings or anything that is not natural. The primary emphasis for spending money is on natural resources.

Other sessions covered the CSPA and 'dark skies preservation.' This last focused on light pollution and practices to reduce night lighting.

Town forest management

One session was on forest management. According to the information presented at the workshop, the town forest management is the duty of the conservation commission. There should be an inventory of trees and a plan of how the forest will be managed. Crickman said there should be a separate fund designated as the management fund so that if there are profits from the sale of wood, those profits would be used for management costs. A boundary map and a forester are needed. Crickman was elected as the conservation commission's chair to a town forest committee, and Unger as a member. There are also state regulations that need to be researched that direct the commission's responsibilities. Crickman agreed to research the subject and report back with a suggested plan to address the commission's responsibilities of the town forest.

The Fells Parking Lot

In November, Holmes said that the Fells parking lot project was at a standstill. June Fichter from the Lake Sunapee Protective Assoc. sent a letter explaining the effect this project will have on Bartlett Brook and the area watershed.

NEHSA building, access plans at Mt. Sunapee

The commission discussed the New England Handicapped Skiers Assoc. (NEHSA) application to the ZBA for a new building on a steep slope within a wet area near Beck Brook at Mount Sunapee.

Access changes are also proposed. On Jan. 13 Holmes said there are still requirements that must be satisfied. She informed the CC that LSPA has submitted comments to the Wetlands Bureau regarding Beck Brook and Lake Sunapee's subwatershed. The state Wetlands Bureau would like the Newbury Conservation Commission to weigh in on NEHSA's application.

Wild Goose boat launch

On Jan. 13 the commission discussed Fish & Game's proposed boat launch at the Wild Goose property on Birch Grove Road. Holmes said that Fish & Game had received an approval for a shoreland permit with several conditions. The permit was submitted to the DES on Dec. 18, 2008. The dredge and fill application that was also submitted on Dec. 18 to the Wetlands Bureau had yet to be decided upon by the bureau. The commission, she said, should submit its comments to the Wetlands Bureau as soon as possible. Holmes said she would distribute a copy of the LSPA letter to DES on this project.

Holmes said that F&G should not be permitted to overturn state and local shoreland protection regulations. They should be role models, not violators.

Annable said that the plans do not address how the proposed boat launch will be operated or when the "improvements" on Route 103 will take place.

Geddes said that he has objections regarding the egress onto Route 103 and the highway safety; whether the impervious surface will allow water flow and runoff from Route 103 to get into the lake, and that one of the ramps does not need to be extended into the water because the water is very shallow in that area. He said the "large rock" the plans refer to is actually two pier pilings from the steamship landing, which creates a major underwater obstacle for boats. This area, he said, is still an ideal stop for car-top boaters only; trailer parking is not necessary.

Unger said that the cutting of the stand of pines would not be in the best interest of the lake and the surrounding area. There is an appreciation for dark sky preservation that should be observed, and light pollution should not be increased. The increase of aquatic dangers to the lake will increase if the boat traffic increases.

The CC also recognized the increase in demand that would be inevitable on Newbury Safety Services. In addition, it was noted, the Wild Goose area is identified as "highest-ranked habitat by condition in NH" per NH Fish and Game.

Annable said that the commission should get clarification from DES as to how a shoreland permit can be approved without local conservation commission input as in the case of the proposed boat launch at Wild Goose.

Holmes pointed out that Fish & Game still needs to obtain a permit for alteration of terrain, and perhaps the commission can weigh in on that application.

Wildlife Action Plan

At the commission's Jan 13 meeting, Amanda Stone from the UNH Co-operative Extension Outreach Team and others were present to discuss helping Newbury to prepare a Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). Stone has been contracted by NH Fish & Game to help communities create and use a wildlife action plan to enhance their conservation plans. The outreach team chose adjacent communities to work with in order to take advantage of larger tracts of land through collaboration between towns.

A wildlife action plan is a document that would help identify and preserve biodiversity in NH, which involves thousands of species of plants and animals and their habitats. There are 127 species of concern that are either threatened and endangered or declining in population. Also, there are critical habitats that are the habitats for those species of concern.

Stone said that the WAP program contains a wealth of information that was drawn from federal, state and local resources involving large-scale state efforts and expertise. The best scientific personnel

and resources are available and funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Services. NH is being used as a model for other states. The WAP can also be used as a tool to receive federal and state grants.

Stone said that the outreach team can also help the commission start implementation of the conservation plan if desired.

Please note –

The planning and zoning board sections first present topics the boards covered at work sessions and other administrative actions. This is followed by summaries of hearings, arranged by case numbers and date sequence within each case.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Elizabeth Ashworth, chair; Katheryn Holmes, vice-chair; Barbara Richmond, Steve Russell, Helen Wright. Alternates: Alex Azodi, Sue Russell

From the draft minutes of Jan. 12:

The ZBA discussed whether or not alternate members could or should participate in zoning board hearings and decided that alternate members may ask questions during a hearing but not participate in deliberation and voting.

The board reviewed procedures for the ZBA and agreed that a worksheet should be included in the application and filled out by the applicant in order to make sure the correct type of application is being made and all of the criteria are being addressed.

Discussion on NEHSA decision

Also at the Jan. 12 meeting, Holmes emphasized the importance of site reviews. She said that although the testimony in the NEHSA hearing (see below) indicated that the wet areas were not very wet, the land is very spongy and water can be seen running, even with snow cover. The board agreed that it is difficult to observe wet areas during a winter site review when the ground is covered with snow.

Holmes informed the board that June Fichter and Robert Wood from the Lake Sunapee Protective Assoc. have written a letter to the NH Wetlands Bureau regarding the potential negative impact of the NEHSA project on Lake Sunapee and its subwatershed.

Later in the meeting, Holmes said that she does not agree with the board's decision of granting the two variances to NEHSA. [Holmes was not present the night of the hearing.] She stated that there were many defining terms that are deceiving such as 'the public good.' Beck Brook runs directly into Lake Sunapee. If Beck Brook is negatively impacted, then that will have a direct affect on Lake Sunapee, which is not for 'the public good.'

In addition, she said, there is a lot of water in that area and the stability of the retaining walls along the access road and proposed parking area is questionable. The board needs to look at the spirit of the ordinance which is in concert with the master plan.

Ashworth said that the board felt it was making a fair decision based on the information it was given. If there is more information that should have been considered, then an appeal should be made.

Holmes said that she decided not to appeal because of the depth of the application and of the other boards that will have to weigh in on the project.

NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development (DRED)/ agent: New England Handicapped Sports Association (NEHSA), Bill Johnson – for property located on Mount Sunapee, sought a variance to permit construction in and around steep slope areas

12/8/08 – Bill Johnson, volunteer instructor with NEHSA, presented the application for variance needed for a new lodge for the NEHSA program.

NEHSA is now a year-round adaptive sports and recreation program, not just skiing. Last year, NEHSA gave over 2000 ski lessons, he said, and for every student who is given a lesson, one has to be turned away due to the lack of space.

Johnson explained the shortcomings of the current facility and the importance of accessibility. The new facility, he said, needs to be as close to the slope as possible but also enable the student to begin on relatively level ground.

As a result of the planning board's input at a conceptual hearing NEHSA came up with this proposed plan, which was discussed.

The ZBA determined that it would rule on the application based on Article 9.3 of the zoning regulations.

Ashworth reminded the board members that the applicant will also need to go to the planning board for site plan review.

The board voted unanimously to grant the variance request as per Article 9.3 Development on a Steep Slope of the zoning ordinance.

NH DRED/agent: NEHSA, Bill Johnson – for property located on Mount Sunapee, sought a variance to permit construction in and around some wetland areas

12/8/08 – Johnson noted that a NH-certified wetland scientist had already (in hearing above) described the wetlands as being low quality, with no uniqueness, no flora or fauna, and no recreational value. The feature they were asked to protect per the feedback from DES is the existing drainage ditch because it is functional. There was discussion on the wetlands quality and purpose.

There was discussion about the impact, the project's value, the wetland criteria and purpose, and the regulations.

Wright said that the townspeople have voted in these regulations and it is the board's responsibility to comply and enforce them.

Steve Russell commented that if you keep the purpose and intent of Article VIII in mind and use the specified criteria, then this project satisfies the ordinance.

Ashworth said that the intent of this article is to protect the wetlands. The applicant is going to improve the situation. There appears to be no alternative to relocate the building. Although, she said, she is not comfortable with construction in the wetland.

Sue Russell commented that if construction is performed in the wetland, then the damage is done and it cannot be undone. However, she agreed that the reason and intent of the project is good and honorable and does have great benefit.

The board voted unanimously to grant the variance request as per Article 8.4 Uses Permitted in a Wetland.

Joan Morena, for property located at 276 Rollins Road, seeks a special exception to permit part-time massage and therapeutic services as a cottage industry.

1/12/09 – Morena asked the board to continue this hearing to the next meeting. She explained that she just recently learned of deed covenants that are attached to her deed that would prevent her from operating a cottage industry without permission from all 22 lot owners in her subdivision. There is no homeowners' association; she needs more time to accomplish the necessary steps to continue with the application. The board voted unanimously to continue the hearing until Monday, Feb. 9, at 7:15 p.m.

PLANNING BOARD

Tom Vannatta, chair; Barbara Freeman, vice-chair; Travis Dezotell; Deane Geddes; Bill Weiler; Ron Williams; Jim Powell, ex-officio; Ken McWilliams, advisor

Sign Ordinance

On Jan. 21, Vannatta said that the sign ordinance should be a priority on the list of projects for 2009 and amended at the 2010 Town Meeting. Input from the people and boards affected by this ordinance is necessary in order to know specifically what needs to be changed.

Dezotell suggested that local business owners should be invited to a planning board meeting to give input regarding what they need out of a sign ordinance. He commented that the temporary sign ordinance

seems to create a lot of problems for the business owner(s) as well as the code enforcement officer.

Affordable Housing

On Jan. 21, Freeman said that a subcommittee is needed to study the needs of Newbury regarding affordable housing. The board agreed and decided the committee should consist of renters, business people and a family services representative as well as planning board members. Dezotell agreed to be a planning board representative on the affordable housing committee. As such, he agreed to begin organizing a committee.

Proposed amendments to Newbury Zoning Ordinance

The planning board held two public hearings in January on its proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance. The amendments and hearings will be covered in the March town meeting issue of *Newbury Update*.

Summaries of recent planning board hearings, see official minutes at town office

CASE 2004-006: Angel Hawk Subdivision – J. Gould aka Advanced Conception Property Development, LLC – Development Agreement

The planning board continues to deal with issues relating to this subdivision. Those interested should read the full minutes, available at the town office, of the meetings where the topic was discussed. It was a topic on Jan. 21.

CASE 2008-021: Final Site Plan Review – Joan Morena – 276 Rollins Road – In-home massage therapy business

1/21/09 – Morena explained that there were some issues she was not aware of regarding deed covenants when she made the application for cottage industry. Those issues need to be resolved before she can continue with the site plan review hearing. Consequently, she asked the board to continue her hearing until the next meeting. The board voted to continue the hearing until Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

The planning board's next meeting is set for Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

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