

Newbury Update is published by the Town of Newbury to offer residents a view of the town government operations and activities. Copies are available at the town office, library and transfer station, but we strongly encourage you to 'get your copy' at the town website: www.newburynh.org.
If you would like to receive a copy via e-mail, please send your request (and any comments or suggestions) to: newburyupdate@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(see the referenced page for details)

- Oct. 29 Halloween fun at Newbury library (page 4)
- Nov. 2 Climb Mt. Everest with Rick Wilcox (page 5)
- Nov. 4 Election Day – vote 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at town office
- Nov. 4 Flu vaccine clinic at town office, 8-10 a.m., 4-6 p.m.
- Nov. 6 Historical society meeting, 7 p.m., town office
- Nov. 7 Flu vaccine clinic at town office, 3-5 p.m.
- Nov. 8 Road clean-up (page 3)
- Nov. 8 Boating safety class (page 3)
- Nov. 22 Holiday greening of Newbury by NBC
- Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Celebration (page 1)
- Nov. 27 Town offices closed
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VOTE on November 4

It's official. On Oct. 14 the board of selectmen signed the election warrant form stating that voting will take place at the Newbury Town Offices on Tuesday, November 4 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The people who show up will be electing a state legislator, state senator, U.S. representative, U.S. senator and the president of the United States of America. It's an important job. Be there. Be informed.

FAMILY SERVICES

Our town is extraordinary in its willingness to help others, according to Gail Bostic, Newbury's family services director, who sees that giving as a service to the community that we love. As the holidays and winter approach there are two familiar programs and a new one being offered through family services.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets

Would you like to donate to help with the holiday food baskets for Newbury residents this year? Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets again will be given out to those who have a need, in a coordinated effort of the South Newbury Union Church and Newbury Family Services.

There is a basket in the town office lobby for food items, anything that would be needed for a holiday dinner such as:
stuffing cranberry sauce piecrust mix vegetable juice
gravy pie filling canned fruits fruit juice

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please call Bostic at the town office, 763-4940.

Recipients of the baskets are ascertained from referrals from school nurses, visiting nurses, hospice, counselors, social workers and others. If you know of a family that might benefit from these baskets, please call Bostic. There is no limit on the number of families to be helped, and no questions are asked. Privacy is honored and respected. Bostic said the goal is to make sure that no family in need goes without.

The Giving Tree

Come to Newbury town office and see the Giving Tree, another program jointly sponsored by the South Newbury Union Church and Newbury Family Services. Bostic says this tree is an opportunity for the generous and giving residents of Newbury to take a snowflake with a wish on it, and make a child's dream come true.

Each of the snowflakes decorating the tree has a child's wish for a holiday gift along with the child's age and sex. There are no names; it's an anonymous exchange. Select a snowflake, buy and wrap the present, and be sure it's back under the tree – with the snowflake attached – no later than Friday, Dec. 5.

The South Newbury Union Church is planning a *Breakfast with Santa* fundraiser on Dec. 6, and the money that's raised will be used to make sure that no child will be forgotten. For more information, you can reach Bostic through the town office at 763-4940.

Heating assistance available

On October 19, at Fishersfield Recreation Area, the community got together to cut and stack firewood to help those who might not be able to keep up with the rising cost of fuel. Newbury family services will distribute the wood to residents who are eligible for fuel assistance.

If you have wood that you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact Dennis Pavlicek at 763-4940, x204.

If you have a need to supplement your fuel assistance and are in need of the donated wood, please contact Gail Bostic, family services director, at 763-4940 and leave a message.

Residents with a need for fuel assistance, weatherization and electric assistance should call the Merrimack Community Action Program Center in Warner at 456-2207. They will help you with income-eligibility guidelines.

There is also a program available to help with small projects around your home. If you have a need, call 1-800-856-5525 and ask to speak with the "fix-it" program.

Gail Bostic, family services director

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Town Greening

On Saturday, Nov. 22, the members of the Newbury Beautification Committee will be hanging all over town. When they're done, wreaths and roping will adorn buildings, poles and cemetery gates, and the tree will be up in the gazebo.

Thanksgiving Celebration

On Sunday, Nov. 23, from 3-5 p.m. in the town office meeting room, the Center Meeting House group is again hosting a community Thanksgiving celebration. Chuck Kennedy will present a short program, Vickie Schubert will sing and the local schools have been invited to participate. Refreshments will be offered by the Newbury Beautification Committee. You are asked to consider bringing items for the food pantry.

Wreath Sale

On Saturday, Nov. 29, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the town office, the Newbury Beautification Committee (NBC) will again be selling wreaths to help cover the cost of greening the town and other works of the group.

Plain, double-sided wreaths will be sold in various sizes, from 12” for \$8.50 to 20” for \$14.50. There will also be a small number of larger ones. You can purchase decorations – bows, ornaments, pinecones – to create your own masterpiece or purchase a signature wreath created by NBC members.

In addition to wreaths you can shop for kissing balls and hostess gifts. Roping is available by special order; call 763-6017 or, after Nov. 10, 938-5865.

The pewter ornaments designed with a representation of the Center Meeting House will be available for \$20 each. It is a joint fundraiser for the NBC and Center Meeting House.

Lighting of the Tree

Come celebrate the annual lighting of the tree with caroling, followed by cookies and cider in the town office meeting room, on Sunday, Dec. 7 starting at 6 p.m. Meet around the tree in front of the Center Meeting House on the corner of routes 103 and 103A. The Newbury Beautification Committee is sponsoring the event this year, which includes paying for the electricity for the tree lights through the season. [For the record, it is ‘Alice’s tree,’ since Alice Lynn, who lives around the corner, planted it some 30+ years ago.]

From the office of the NEWBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Town Facilities Study

The town facilities committee selected the firm Dennis Mires, P.A., The Architects from the three finalists after interviews conducted on Sept. 30.

A meeting on Oct. 15 laid out a preliminary schedule and first steps. Throughout October and November The Architects will: a) analyze the safety services requirements, current space and operations, b) examine the buildable area on the Bald Sunapee and Camacho properties, c) assess gravel reserves on the properties and d) assess water / septic requirements. With those steps done, the firm will work up options and budget projections, with a target date of early January for a final report. There will be regular update meetings with the facilities committee during the process.

On Oct. 21 an engineer met the town highway crew to do a thorough series of test borings around the properties and on Oct. 24 the design team was meeting with the fire chief for a walk-through and assessment of the safety services building and Vets Hall.

Other information is being gathered for the firm’s use including data on the existing water and septic, the sidewalk project plans, survey maps and seasonal and year-round population figures.

The selectmen made the point to the firm that the goal is to address needs, not necessarily fulfill wish lists. They want to see a fiscally conservative approach and a realistic cost estimate.

Newbury Harbor Pedestrian Improvements

With the low bid, approval by the state and ratification by the selectmen, Piscopo Construction of Winnisquam got the nod on the sidewalk project on Sept. 29.

At the selectmen’s meeting that night Pavlicek also reported that he had reached agreement with the state to have the benches and barrels to be placed along the sidewalk credited toward the town’s matching funds for the project grant. He reports that several local businesses are offering to sponsor them.

Powell voiced concerns that the overall cost not increase, and Pavlicek said he believed all aspects had now been covered. Savings in mobilization with reduced fuel prices would likely match any potential for increases, such as the price for concrete for sidewalks and curbing.

Piscopo Construction will begin work this fall and go for as long as the weather permits; the project will be completed next year. The construction will start with mobilizing of equipment the week of Oct. 27. The construction office trailer will be by the information booth. Work on the drainage elements and the abutments at the culvert extension are expected to happen first, while the lake’s water level is low. There’s always paperwork, so the contractor will be preparing a stormwater pollution prevention plan for the state. Piscopo also hopes to get started on the footbridge before the snow stops them.

About the tax rate...and watch the due date

You received the bill; now get the details behind the Total Due. Below are this year’s and last year’s tax rates per \$1,000.

	2008	2007		
Town rate	\$3.41	\$3.71	DOWN 30 cents	-8%
Local school rate	\$5.13	\$4.63	UP 50 cents	+10.8%
State school rate	\$2.32	\$2.30	UP 2 cents	+87%
County rate	\$2.66	\$2.38	UP 28 cents	+11.8%
Total rate	\$13.52	\$13.02	UP 50 cents	+3.8%

Your tax payment is due by Monday, Dec. 1. If you plan to pay in person, please note that the tax collector’s office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 27 & 28. On Monday, Dec. 1, the tax collector’s office is open 1-7 p.m.

Wild Goose – The town received a letter from NH Fish & Game stating that two subsurface geotechnical borings in Lake Sunapee would be taking place for investigation purposes on land owned by Fish & Game. That was the extent of the communication but judging by the letter’s source and the borings’ location, it would seem the Wild Goose boat launch project is under way.

Sign is covered – A vendor has been selected to replace the Newbury Town Office sign and the new one will have a roof-like covering to deflect rainwater that contributed to the rotting of the last sign. Peter Maurer of Sunapee, who has done other work in and for the town, was awarded the job.

Park grant paid off – The final payment of \$25,414.20 has been received from the state Dept. of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) for the Fishersfield park project. The \$100,000 grant was a federal pass-through of the Land & Water Grant program.

Winning annual report – The Town of Newbury won first place in the Excellence in Annual Report Awards Contest for towns with populations of 1,501-3,000. The contest is run by the NH Local Government Center (LGC). This makes two years in a row for the award, and the lion’s share of the credit belongs to administrative assistant Donna Long, who pulls it all together. The award notification said, “This award recognizes excellence in the production of annual reports – publications that are creative, accurate, informative and easily understood by the average citizen.” The awards will be presented at LGC’s annual conference during a luncheon on Nov. 13 in Manchester. Kudos, Donna.

Wood Bee on Oct. 19 – A dozen Newbury residents gathered at Fishersfield park on Sunday morning, Oct. 19, to cut and stack firewood. The logs mostly came from clearing done at the park and trees cut from the road right of way by the highway dept. At least 6 cords were done from roughly half the logs piled there.

The firewood will be distributed to residents in Newbury that might not be able to keep up with the rising costs of fuel, families that are eligible for fuel assistance. If you or someone you know needs help contact Gail Bostic, family services director, through the town office at 763-4940.

If you are interested in donating wood, you can contact town administrator Dennis Pavlicek, 763-4940 x204 or townadmin@newburynh.org.

With thanks to the neighbors who showed up: Rick Kent, Rich Seabury, Deane Geddes, Marilyn Geddes, Linda Powell, Dennis Pavlicek, Dick Wright, Rick Wright, Carl Steinfeld, Brian Bostic, Gail Bostic and Travis Dezotell, along with a number of Merrimack County diversion workers.

Fiber optics initiative – Newbury’s selectmen will be joining those from the other towns in the fiber optics initiative – Hanover, Lyme, Orford, Springfield, Enfield, New London and Sunapee – in New London on Nov. 6 to review the current status of the effort, projected costs by town and to discuss next steps and direction.

Road clean-up – The selectmen rescheduled their Adopt-a-Highway clean up of Rt. 103 to Saturday, Nov. 8 at 9 a.m. If your neighborhood is looking a little sketchy, grab a bag and join them in spirit.

Boatslips’ price tag – Watermark Marine Construction submitted an estimate of \$82,000 for construction at the Newbury public docks of additional boatslips. The project is on hold until further notice. The town is still awaiting wetlands board approval; having the permit will leave the option open for another 5 years for the town to add up to 11 slips. There are no immediate plans to pursue this.

Mt. Sunapee emergency plan – Wayne Whitford, Newbury’s emergency management director, reported to the selectmen on Sept. 29 that the town’s emergency departments have worked out a plan of agreement with Mount Sunapee Resort for how various incidents and emergencies will be handled.

Hazmat handling – On Oct. 14 the board of selectmen approved and signed a grant application in the amount of \$2,000 to be used to get help on hazardous material spills. It will enable the fire department to analyze hazardous material and develop a hazardous material plan. Pavlicek said that the town only needs to put in 5% as the local share and that this money will be allocated by the fire department.

How to handle emergencies – At the Sept. 29 selectmen’s meeting, Wayne Whitford, emergency management director, and Henry Thomas, fire chief, presented new federal guidelines for municipalities since the Sept. 11 attacks. NIMS (National Incident Management System) was developed to provide some management standards to responses to emergencies and disasters, to better coordinate activities of different agencies in that response, and ensure intercommunication. The state has a resolution regarding NIMS and it must be made part of the town government in order to be official.

Federal grants will now depend upon municipalities adopting and being in compliance with the new guidelines. Some of these guidelines include designated contacts, specific training and inventory of all necessary equipment. The fire department is already 80% in compliance, the police department is almost 100% in compliance, and the highway department is in the process of changing over to be in compliance.

Wright stated that he was definitely opposed and that this is a blatant use of control by the federal government. Powell recommended scheduling a public hearing, on a Monday night during a selectmen’s meeting, to present this to the town. Thomas added that this information should be made available immediately for the public’s review. Copies are available on request at the selectmen’s office, and it will ultimately be on the website as well.

Boating safety classes – There are two Saturday sessions of the boating safety class scheduled at the Newbury town office, according to the website of the Dept. of Safety’s boating education group. The dates are Nov. 8 and Dec. 13; both run from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Be sure to call to sign up, as dates are dropped if sign-up is too low. Call the NH Marine Patrol at 603-267-7256 or 888-254-2125. The class fee is \$10 and preregistration is required. More information is available at: www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/boatinged/index.html.

TOWN ASSESSOR

Town assessor Norm Bernaiche reports our equalization ratio is going to be a little higher, showing property values have gone down slightly. He expects it to come in at the 95% range, a difference of 2-3% from last time. It seems to be more in the new housing starts, he said, as vacant land doesn’t seem to be selling as before. There may be fewer sales and more properties on the market, but compared with the numbers nationwide, he doesn’t see that 2-3% as painting that bad a picture.

The equalization ratio numbers are factored by the state. They are basically a comparison between assessed values and actual sale prices. The target is to be between 90 and 110

percent. The number is an average, so some individual properties will be above and some below the average. At about 95% for Newbury, it means that on average homes are selling for 5% more than their assessed value.

Bernaiche said that when they were updating the values in 2006 they expected the market would flatten, which is why they shot for a 92% level. That gave some room for the market to decline and still keep our assessments under 100%. The only changes the assessors made to valuations this year were to physical data – e.g. additions to a house, measurements, outbuildings, finished basements and the like.

There were five sales this month, all selling for close to their assessed values (88%, 92%, 95%, 98%, 107%).

He also noted there are no outstanding appeals at the state courts or Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) at the moment.

PARKS & RECREATION

Recreation Committee: Inge Lee, Jane Pratt, Marilyn Hill, Jennifer Sweet, Gail Bostic, Katie Seabury, Mark Cashin, Monica Valovic, John Valovic

Would you like to add your name to the list above? Call any member or Travis Dezotell, recreation coordinator, at 763-4940 x210.

Cross-country ski, skate, snowshoe

The recreation committee plans to warm everyone up this winter with lots of outdoor action. There will be adult and youth cross-country skiing and organized snowshoe hikes for beginner to advanced levels at Fishersfield all winter, snow permitting.

Sharpen your skates so you're ready to get out and glide on the fire pond next to the safety services building. But there's no free lunch – bring your shovel or snowblower to help get and keep the surface clear.

A winter festival is in the works and the recreation committee says details are forthcoming.

e-Alerts on Recreation

If you would like to be added to an e-mail alert list for recreation activities and programs, last-minute details and general recreation news, send your request to travis@newburynh.org.

Adopt-a-trail at Fishersfield

Recreation coordinator Travis Dezotell reports there are several commitments for maintaining half-mile sections of the Fishersfield trails. Outspokin' Bicycle & Sport has taken on two half-mile sections, WrightWay Landscaping has committed to a section and to spearhead a covered bridge project. Frank Perrotta has signed on as well, and Dezotell said several other interested parties have contacted him.

Be advised: The building and bathrooms will be closed for the winter after the fall festival on Oct. 25.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR New way to pay

Linda Plunkett, town clerk and tax collector, said that a new 'remote capture' system will allow her to feed checks into a machine and the funds are transferred right away, automatically direct-deposited into the town's account. She won't miss filling out deposit slips that can run to 12 pages or more. Even getting to the bank can be an issue during busy

times of the year, having to close the window to get the deposits to the bank. Plunkett expects to have the machine and begin training soon and be operational with it some time in November.

At the end of September, town administrator Dennis Pavlicek had reported to selectmen on his meetings with Lake Sunapee Bank regarding this remote-banking option. The paper checks would be held for 90 days after deposit. The selectmen approved this agreement with Lake Sunapee Bank.

Pavlicek is looking into another new program called LINK2GOV that would also enable a quick transfer of funds from residents' accounts to the Town of Newbury. It enables people to pay online with a direct debit to the town checking account, the same as paying other bills online. Providing there is no cost to the town, Pavlicek thinks it could be a convenient option to offer.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots can be obtained from the town clerk up until end of business on Monday, Nov. 3, as long as they are returned by then as well. The request for an absentee ballot must be made in writing.

TRANSFER STATION 2009 Dump Stickers are available

The 2009 transfer station tags are available at town office from the selectmen's office or the town clerk. It's easiest if you bring your old tag.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of directors: Bob Morris, Barbara Steward, Mary Thayer, Margie Weiler, Bill Weiler, Shelly Candidus, Deane Geddes, Alice Lynn, Dennis Pavlicek

The Newbury Historical Society website is launched. You can find it at <http://www.newburyhistorical.org/>.

It was developed by a committee including Rich Cole, Bill Weiler and Margie Weiler and headed by Bruce Healey. Special thanks are extended to the website design and development company, Symbolic of Fairport, NY, who worked on this project on a pro-bono basis.

The next meeting of the historical society is Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at the town office, and all are welcome.

NEWBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Newbury Public Library trustees: Regina Almond-Albro, Paula Falkowski, Liz Tentarelli. Friends of NPL officers: Liz Moul, Ken Tentarelli, Mickey Noyer

Halloween Story Hour on Oct. 29

Special guest Susan Cancio-Bello is coming to lead the group in spooky song, rhythm, rhyme and Halloween fun. She'll join the preschool story hour on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 10:15 a.m.

Trustee and Friends openings

There will be an open trustee position come the March elections. Paula Falkowski will be stepping down from her position as trustee and treasurer of the library. If you have any interest in the library and its mission, and especially if you have a background in accounting, please give some thought to running. The library trustees will next meet on Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. and all are welcome.

The Friends of the library are in urgent need of a secretary. The job includes no heavy lifting, just minutes at the meetings and help with the newsletter once or twice a year. Contact Liz Moul, Friends president, 763-9833.

Journey to the Top of the World

Famed Everest and world climber Rick Wilcox of Conway will share his slides and experiences of that mighty peak and other mountain-climbing exploits. He was one of the first four people from east of the Mississippi to summit Mt. Everest.

The Friends are hosting this special talk on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2 p.m. in the town office building. Seating is limited so please call the library for a reservation at 763-5803. Donations will be welcome.

To learn more about Everest stop by the library and pick up a copy of *No Shortcuts to the Top* by Ed Viesturs or *High Crimes: The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed* by Michael Kodas. In *No Shortcuts to the Top*, Viesturs takes the reader with him on his climbs to show the many risks and the possibility of death that constantly surround a climber at those great heights. *No Shortcuts to the Top* does a great job relating the constant challenge of weighing the desire to push for the summit versus preserving one's safety. Time and again Viesturs states his motto, "Reaching the summit is optional. Getting down is mandatory."

Michael Kodas's *High Crimes* tells two narratives, first journalist Michael Kodas's Everest summit journey and second, a separate concurrent summit bid in which an elderly climber was led to his death by a sociopathic, inexperienced, freeloading guide. Kodas combines these two experiences to make his case that Everest is a modern-day pit of greed, crime, and manmade disaster waiting to happen at every turn.

Book Discussion: Wilcox's presentation will take the place of the November book discussion.

It's a veritable e-library

Visit newburylibrary.net and you can reserve a book, renew an item, see what new books are in, search the catalog, check the periodical database – it's easy to 'visit' the library.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway administrator Cal Prussman reports that the reclaiming of the second half of Baker Hill Road was postponed until the week of Oct. 27 by the contractor. The highway crew is still working on ditching and they're ready for winter. Good thing as high elevations in Newbury have already seen the first snowflakes.

Ice treatment on trial

Prussman said the town is trying out a new product that will be added to the road salt this winter. Paved roads will be pretreated with the new mix before snowstorms, with the expectation that it will keep snow from bonding to the pavement. The additive has a working temperature down to minus 35 degrees, while rock salt is ineffective below 18 degrees. It's hoped it will reduce, if not eliminate, the need for sand on paved roads. That will help protect the lakes and streams, Prussman said, because they now say the phosphorous in sand is worse than salt.

The other benefits would be cutting down on costs and time during ice and snowstorms. The product is currently used in Keene and Salem to good effect. Powell said that he thought this product had a lot of potential. He explained that the

highway department would go out less frequently for each storm. Prussman said that he believes that although the product is more expensive than plain salt, it will save costs on sweeping, overtime and maybe maintenance on vehicles. The select board approved a trial for a cost of \$3,080.

Keep town right-of-way clear

The Town of Newbury has issued a public notice stating that, effective November 1, 2008, the Town of Newbury will no longer be responsible for any damage to objects placed within the right-of-way of any town-maintained road. This includes, but is not limited to: mailboxes, fences, stonewalls, lawns, driveways, vehicles, basketball hoops or any other objects that may be placed within the right-of-way. The Town of Newbury shall have the right to remove any object placed into, or within five feet of, the traveled way of any Class V or Class VI roadway. Per order of the Board of Selectmen.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

It's becoming old hat for Police Chief Bob Lee. On Oct. 7 he received notification that the Newbury Police Dept. has been awarded another CEDAP grant.

His application to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) "achieved a qualifying score," the letter said. It also explained that the National Preparedness Directorate within DHS FEMA sponsors and funds CEDAP. The United States Army, Electronic Proving Ground, Special Programs Office in Arizona administers the program. (This information included to reassure everyone that acronyms and bureaucratic nouns are alive and well.)

In response to Lee's application, the Newbury Police Dept. has been selected to receive Stedi-Eye binoculars, which provide "reduction of input motion" (aka image stabilizing for use while moving) and night vision capability for use during law enforcement and search & rescue operations.

Lee expects to receive the Night Vision Kit, valued at \$13,650, in March 2009, after military requirements for the equipment are met.

FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Wood-Heating Fire Safety Workshop

On October 16, the Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. and the state Fire Marshal's Office conducted a Wood-Heating Fire Safety workshop at the town office. This was done in conjunction with the theme of Fire Prevention Week, "Prevent Home Fires," for Newbury residents who may have installed or be considering installing wood-burning heaters because of the high cost of oil and propane.

It was pointed out that 32% of the home fires result from heating appliances and that number is expected to increase this winter with more people heating with wood. The marshals showed a presentation on the different types of wood-burning appliances, such as pellet stoves and fireplace inserts, and discussed the hazards of gas and electric heaters.

They stressed that all types of heating equipment must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Homeowners should have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed, maintain proper clearance around heaters, be sure the appliances are properly vented and be sure the

chimney is cleaned and the appliances properly maintained. The installation of residential fire sprinklers is encouraged and will be a requirement of the new building code. The new requirement for licensing gas fitters was also covered as well as new EPA requirements for outside wood-burning furnaces.

Chief Henry Thomas spoke on the town ordinances which deal with fire safety and stressed that permits and inspections are required for wood-burning stoves and heaters as well as gas- and oil-burning furnaces. He also discussed the things that he looks for when inspecting a heating appliance and some fires in Newbury that were caused by heating equipment.

Applications for permits are available from the code enforcement officer at the town office and on the NFD and town websites, www.newburyfd.org and www.newburynh.org.

The chief reminded attendees that all fire alarms that go through a central station must have a permit from the town and that several residents who have had false alarms have recently received \$100 fines for having an unpermitted alarm. The alarm permit applications are also available on the websites.

The town website contains a new section on winter heating safety and other information of interest to Newbury residents.

Change your batteries

Remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when you change your clocks back to standard time the weekend of Nov. 1-2.

Aircraft safety training

Newbury firefighters along with their counterparts from the surrounding towns recently took part in small aircraft safety training at the Newport airport. Small-aircraft pilots based at the airport conducted a presentation on some of the newer safety equipment on small planes and demonstrated emergency actions to take to minimize the danger in the event that a small aircraft makes an emergency landing in their town.

--Wayne Whitford

HEALTH OFFICER Influenza

The influenza season is rapidly approaching and Newbury Health Officer Wayne Whitford encourages all town residents that it is not too early to get your flu shot. The influenza vaccine is not expected to be in short supply this year as it was in the last couple of flu seasons.

The Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Assoc. will be holding flu clinics at the Newbury town office on Election Day, Nov. 4 from 8-10 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. and on Friday, Nov. 7, from 3-5 p.m. Additional flu clinic locations are listed on the VNA website, www.lakesunapeevna.org.

According to the NH Dept. of Health & Human Services, people who should get vaccinated each year are:

--all children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday
--pregnant women

--people 50 years of age and older

--people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions including but not limited to:

--heart disease, lung disease, asthma, metabolic disease (diabetes)

--muscle or nerve disorders (seizure disorders or cerebral palsy)

--weakened immune system caused by HIV/AIDS or medications

--children 6 months to 18 years of age on long-term aspirin treatment

--people who live in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities

--people who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:

--healthcare workers

--household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu

--household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children younger than 5 years and adults older than 50 years of age.

Preventing the flu

The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each fall. Contact your healthcare provider to find out if you should get a flu vaccine. To prevent transmission of the flu:

--Wash hands frequently with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds

--Rinse and dry hands with a disposable towel and use towel to turn faucet off

--Use an antibacterial hand gel for the times you cannot wash your hands with soap and water

--Use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, then dispose of tissue and wash your hands

--Stay home from work or school if you have flu-like symptoms until 48 hours after symptoms stop

--Refrain from visiting a nursing home if you have flu-like symptoms

--Eat right, exercise and get plenty of sleep

--Do not share utensils, such as silverware

-- Wayne Whitford

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Paul LaCasse, code enforcement officer and building inspector, advises homeowners to be sure their gas installers are licensed, and to be sure they get a permit before work begins. It's a fairly new state law that requires a permit to install and operate gas- and wood-burning equipment. LaCasse advises that the state is doing spot checks, so be sure you have your permits before the work starts.

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