

Sept.-Nov. 2007

NEWBURY UPDATE

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 old town hall, but you're encouraged to get your copy at the town web site: www.newburynh.org or to receive a copy via e-mail, send your request (and any comments or suggestions) to: newburyupdate@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday	Dec. 24	Transfer station closed
Saturday	Dec. 29	Register to vote
Wed.	Jan. 2	Public hearing on zoning amendments
Tuesday	Jan. 8	Presidential primary
Thursday	Jan. 10	Town history committee meeting
Monday	Jan. 14	Recreation volunteer meeting
Saturday	Jan. 15	Boating safety class (more inside)
Monday	Feb. 11	Public hearing on 2008 town budget

NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE? – The supervisors of the checklist will be meeting 11-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 29 at the town office to register new voters. It is too late to change parties for the presidential primary. Also see the town clerk section in this issue for information about absentee ballots.

HOLIDAY GIVING – The Giving Tree in the town office lobby repeated its success of last year. Every snowflake with a child's gift wish was chosen and wrapped gifts are stacked up under the tree for distribution. The Giving Tree is a coordinated effort of family services and the South Newbury Union Church so that residents can help out families in need at Christmas. They also work together on holiday baskets. If you'd like to inquire about other needs, please contact Gail Bostic at 763-4940.

THANKS TO NBC – Selectmen want to thank the members of the Newbury Beautification Committee for decorating the town center with holiday greens and wreaths and the decorated tree in the gazebo.

GREEN UP DAY – Speaking of sprucing up the town, the selectmen did their fourth roadside clean-up on Dec. 1, clearing eight bags of debris from the roadside along Rte. 103 from Village Rd. to Rte. 103A.

BUDGET SEASON – The selectmen, town administrator and budget committee members Joy Nowell, Ivor Freeman and Tom Vannatta have been reviewing budget requests for presentation at town meeting. A public hearing on the budget is set for Feb. 11.

Volunteers Needed

The town is still looking for people for volunteer needs in a variety of areas. Besides the two new committees below, interested residents are needed for the fire/rescue dept., Friends of the Library, recreation committee, emergency planning, ZBA, planning board and many more. Anyone who would like more information on the opportunities is asked to contact Dennis Pavlicek at townadmin@newburynh.org or 763-4940 x204.

ENERGY COMMITTEE – Selectmen are looking for members of the community who would be interested in joining an advisory group to look into ways the town and citizens could save energy.

VETERANS MEMORIAL – Bob Clark approached the selectmen on Nov. 26 to discuss having a war memorial plaque for the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, as there are for WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. Selectmen agreed to start a committee to work on this project. The selectmen mentioned that there has been discussion about moving the Veterans Hall across the street from its present location and adding a memorial in front of it. An ad was placed in local newspapers looking for members for this committee. Anyone interested should contact Dennis Pavlicek at 763-4940 ext. 204 or via email at townadmin@newburynh.org.

ALICE LYNN honored as one of state's top volunteers

Alice Lynn was presented a Volunteer-of-the-Year Award by the NH Local Government Center (LGC). The award honors six municipal volunteers, nominated by their communities, for outstanding commitment and dedication to their local communities. With an entourage of town officials, family and friends, Alice was recognized at LGC's 66th annual conference on Nov. 8 at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester.

Over the years, Alice, who turned 90 this year, has maintained a high level of involvement in town, from membership on a variety of boards and committees to working at the library and being integral to the historical society and Center Meeting House – where she planted the evergreen tree more than 35 years ago. When residents are asked to participate in forums, visioning sessions and town meetings, Alice is there.

"LGC's Municipal Volunteer-of-the-Year Awards honor a select group of New Hampshire residents whose tireless efforts and dedication to community service are a model for volunteerism and this year's awardees truly fit that description," said Dave Caron, chair of LGC's board of directors.

"We're proud to present these awards annually to honor New Hampshire citizens who benefit our communities greatly through exemplary acts of volunteerism," said LGC Executive Director John B. Andrews.

Thanks for showing us how it's done, Alice.

Newbury Wins Award for 'Excellence in Annual Reports'

Newbury was recognized by LGC for publication of an outstanding annual report for the 2006 budget year, one of 20 NH towns and cities so awarded. The LGC selects annual reports that are creative, accurate, informative and easily understood by the average citizen. Newbury won 1st place for towns with populations 1,500-3,000.

"These award-winning publications are all excellent examples of how municipalities can effectively communicate important financial, statistical and community-oriented information with their constituencies," said LGC Chairman David Caron.

SIDEWALK – Mike Vignale of KVPartners has been busy working through the remaining signoffs with a variety of departments within the state and DOT. At his suggestion the select board sent a letter to DOT requesting moving up the advertising date for the project bids and is awaiting word. Best case, construction to begin by summer.

ANTI-IDLING POLICY – The select board signed an anti-idling policy for town vehicles to save on fuel and operation expenses and reduce environmental impact from emissions. The policy is that no town vehicle or equipment should be left running when the driver is not present, with some specific situational exemptions.

FIBER OPTICS – The vendor for the regional project for fiber optics, PacketFront, is working on the plan for the cooperative model. Depending on progress, there may be a related warrant article at March town meeting.

HARBOR SLIPS – The town is continuing to investigate whether and how it might put additional slips at the harbor. An earlier permit from the state allowed slips on the back side of the land behind the train station. Watermark Marine Construction recently presented concepts to the selectmen, pointing out that the previously identified location had several issues including steepness of the shoreline. The company suggested that slips be added off the end of the dock and also off an extension of the boardwalk below the gazebo. These

would offer deeper water than currently available in the slips now off the dock. Watermark will present a revised plan with cost estimates for construction to the selectmen which they will look at in the coming weeks. If they approve it Watermark will prepare a wetlands permit to the state, with the premise that slips were previously approved and this just adjusts to a better location. No activity is planned for 2008; the permit, if granted, is good for five years.

LAKE CARE – June Fichter gave an update from the Sunapee Association Watershed Coalition to selectmen on Oct. 1. Her slide presentation outlined everything done by the coalition to date. Asked if the state has made the buffer zone more stringent and whether the town of Newbury is doing enough, Fichter replied that Newbury is adhering to all the current rules put forth by the state.

Fichter also reported on the Lake Sunapee Protective Assoc., stating that they have had two confirmed saves and possibly four saves from milfoil. The saves were at the state beach and Sunapee harbor. She mentioned that the lake hosts have increased their hours and days.

FISHERSFIELD – In October the selectmen chose the bid of Hayes & Hayes to construct the storage/service building and work began in October. There is now temporary electricity in the building, and the building has been painted. The next element will be installation of the septic system.

A gator-type four-wheel-drive Kubota was purchased for use at Fishersfield and by the fire department. A grill was purchased for use at the snack shack. The greenhouse frame has been removed from the Bald Sunapee property moved to the park for possible relocation there in the spring.

The stonewall and gate have been installed by the highway dept. Wright stated that he has been very happy with the work that everyone has put into it and made special mention of town employee Joe Branch for his innovative ideas during the construction of the stonewall.

The lock has been installed on the gate to prevent vehicle access at night. Keys are held by the transfer station, the highway, police and recreation depts. and town office.

PLAYGROUND – Dianalee Velie and Holly von Svoboda have advised the selectmen that their group chose Game Time to create the Velie Memorial Playground. The selection was based on the firm's outstanding reputation and a matching grant they offered for additional equipment. Game Time's costs include the professional installation. Selectmen signed a contract with the Velie group so it may proceed with the work. They requested to use town gravel and piping for the drainage work that must take place, to which the selectmen agreed. The town will store the play equipment at the site through the winter until it can be installed in the spring. It is due to be delivered by Jan. 1. The town will own, maintain and insure the playground equipment.

TOWN MAP FROM 1818 – Richard Perkins and his sister Janice Perkins Pauling are donating a map from 1818 of Fishersfield, as the town of Newbury was then known. It is being restored and specially framed, and once ready will be formally presented to the town by the Perkinses. The restored map will be appraised for insurance purposes.

NEWBURY TO BE RECONSTITUTED – Newbury owns a rare copy of a document from 1787 – an original printed copy of the United States Constitution. The NH Div. of Records Management and Archives said this copy of *The Constitution of the United States as Recommended to Congress* was “printed by John Melcher of Portsmouth, NH, in 1787. This is believed to be one of the 400 copies ordered printed by the state legislature in December of 1787 to prepare for the convention to consider ratification. This is one of only a few copies known to still exist.” The legislature had copies printed

and sent to the towns so the proposed Constitution could be read before delegates voted on whether to ratify it at the state convention.

Newbury's copy was apparently stored, and found in 1989 by Michael Munroe, then president of the historical society. In April 1990 it was deposited with the state archives. This November, Newbury's selectmen wrote the state requesting the return of the document, stating in part, “We think it is very important for the town to honor this strong piece of Newbury history. We have plans to safely display this historical document.”

BLODGETT SEWER UPDATE – Most of the paving related to the final stage of the collection / distribution system work is done but for a small amount to be finished in the spring. This part of the overall project came in \$30,000 under budget. The engineers continue to work on the design for the pump systems, which had been hoped to go out to bid this fall. They've run into more issues than expected with the Blodgett Landing pump station which would drive the cost too high. The current direction is to not perform a complete re-do of that station, but rather to pump effluent to the Croft Beach pump station – which will get a complete re-do – and pump effluent from there up to the sewage plant. The revised plan will need state approval before it can go out for bid, which is now aimed at early spring. Meanwhile Stantec is trying to make the state comfortable with the relatively new concept of the amphidrome design, still targeting late fall 2008 for taking the project to bid.

BOATING SAFETY CLASSES – New sessions have been scheduled in Newbury for the boating safety classes due to the success of the earlier offerings. The spring dates each will be held at the town office building.

Saturday	Jan. 19	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 23	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	March 15	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Mon & Wed	April 14 & 16	6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday	April 26	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tues & Thur	May 13 & 15	6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday	May 24	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	June 7	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Call the NH Marine Patrol at 267-7256 with any questions or to sign up for one of the sessions. There is a \$10 registration fee.

Important note: Beginning in 2008, everyone over 16 years old must have a Safe Boating Certificate from this course to operate a boat. The certificate is good for your lifetime.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

The recreation committee is closing the fall season on a successful note. The Fall Fling 5K road race & walk and Foliage Festival on Sept. 29 were both successful and had positive feedback. There were 62 racers and the entry fees and Tshirts netted \$940 for the committee's Fishersfield fundraising effort. Thanks go to Outspokin' and Black Bear Promotions for their sponsorship. The entire event, festival and race together, netted \$449.25. Recreation coordinator Travis Dezotell is already planning improvements for next year.

The fall hiking program at the Fells for elementary school students, held Oct. 3, 10 and 17, drew some 20 children. It was held after school and the children were transported on the school bus that regularly goes up 103A. Dezotell said they would like to do the program again in the spring, and the Fells is interested in hosting again. He extends thanks as well to the Bradford elementary school and principal Jim Spadero for help with the program.

The Wellness Workshops are taking a hiatus for the winter, and will resume in the spring.

Dezotell has attended two training conferences this fall. In recreation sessions at the Local Government Center conference they discussed how to improve quality of life through wellness programs and getting children and adults involved in outdoor activities. At a

technology conference he focused on learning to put together online forms for recreation programs with credit-card payment online. In January there is the possibility of three Colby-Sawyer students serving as unpaid interns in the recreation department here in Newbury. They would help with administrative tasks that will have the various programs ready to hit the ground running when their time comes, such as developing registration forms and event flyers and other time-consuming logistics.

Other things are in the works. The town is applying for a grant from the state of NH for trail maintenance at Fishersfield. Dezotell is exploring a 'wellness walk' along the trails at Fishersfield, a series of stations trailside for fitness buffs. The possibility of a winter or spring festival is still being explored as another fundraiser.

The trail system is open at Fishersfield Park and maps are available at the town office, the library and on the signpost at the park's front entrance (except occasionally when demand outruns resupply efforts). Trails are posted and blazed. This is a carry-in, carry-out facility. Please stay off the athletic field and tennis/volleyball/basketball areas while they are under construction.

The Newbury Recreation Committee hopes to provide a small amount of groomed cross-country ski trails at Fishersfield Park as well as ski lessons available to both adults and children. They will be trying to groom the trails on a weekly basis and are shooting for 3-5 kilometers. An informational meeting for X-C skiing was held Dec. 10; on the agenda were the trails, Bill Koch Youth Ski League organization, and adult ski lessons.

Plans are set to have the skating rink, on the pond by the safety services building, up and running as soon as possible, largely dependent on the weather. Banks of lights for evening skating are possible. Check the town website (newburynh.org) for more information in the coming weeks. Dezotell said they will be looking for occasional shovelers.

Volunteer Meeting – Please come to a recreation volunteer meeting on Monday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the town office. The activities and events all need extra hands to help prepare for and run them. The goal is to coordinate and organize a list of volunteers they can contact when the need arises so they can gather the needed help.

Dezotell reeled off a list of near-term things such as shovelling at the ice rink, grooming cross-country trails (someone with a snow machine to pull a track sled would be great), chaperones to help with the spring hike program at the Fells, and other programs still in the works.

If you can't make the meeting but would be willing to have your name on the call list, please contact Dezotell. It would help if you indicate the type of help you might offer.

--Travis Dezotell, 763-4940 x210 or travis@newburynh.org

NEWBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The trustees and librarian Rosie Johnson welcome Shannon Storm as the new part-time librarian. She lives in Sutton and joins Newbury Public Library with experience that includes work at the library at Colby-Sawyer College.

At press time the library is planning a Happy Book Day party on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 1-3 p.m. to celebrate the arrival of 66 new books with refreshments and fun activities for the whole family. The books – children's picture books, easy readers and young adult titles – were received from a Libri Foundation grant and matching funds from the Friends of Newbury Public Library.

The book discussion series continues on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the library. The book for Jan. 7 is "The Woman Who Ran for President: The Many Lives of Victoria Woodhull" by Lois Beachy Underhull. Discussion leader will be Liz Tentarelli. The session on Feb. 4 will feature "The Chocolate Wars" by Robert Cormier. Nancy Marashio will lead the discussion. Copies of the books will be available at the library.

Poetry Night will take December off and meet again in January; check at the library for the date to present your work or listen, either way an entertaining evening.

The Friends of Newbury Public Library have new officers: Liz Moulton is president, Ken Tentarelli treasurer, and Michelle Noyer and Jen Sweet are sharing secretary responsibilities.

The Friends held the annual holiday tree lighting on Dec. 2 with a good number of people carolling around the tree until the lure of warm cocoa in the town office won out over the cold. Inside everyone enjoyed the holiday talent of the KRHS Jazz Band.

The library brought children, a dog and books together for a Paws-to-Read program on Nov. 26. Calypso, a certified pet therapy dog, and her handler, Sheila Sabo, met with children at the library. The program helps improve the literacy skills of children with the assistance of certified canine companions in a fun and relaxed environment. It's been successfully proven that when children read to a dog, they begin to relax, and feel less self-conscious or nervous. They quickly learn that their canine companion will not judge them or their abilities; and soon, they begin looking forward to reading, and want to do as much of it as they can. Anyone interested in this program should talk to Rosie Johnson at the library.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the historical society's board meeting on Nov. 1 the following directors were elected to serve one-year terms: Bill Weiler, president; John Grocott, vice president; Margie Weiler, treasurer and Dick Matte, secretary. Last summer at the annual meeting, Alice Lynn, Dick Matte and Bob Morris were elected to the board of directors for three-year terms.

As part of a history collaborative with The Fells, The Barn Playhouse and the Sunapee and New London historical societies, plans are in the works to open the caboose and freight station on July 12 and 13 (in conjunction with Old Home Day) and again on August 9 and 10 (during the craftsmen's fair). Family hikes and a special display of pictures related to guest accommodations, trains and stations, steamships and landings are being considered.

Four historic houses have been identified to date as part of the society's House Marker Project. Members decided to extend the search to include all the 18th- and 19th-century homes and to other historic structures in town. A design was selected for the house markers, which will depict only the year built.

Margie Weiler presented a revised proposal from Museum and Collector Resource for cataloging the collection of old documents at Sherman Hall. She is exploring various options for financing this \$45,000 effort.

Members are trying to think of ways to reach out to the community and encourage interest and involvement. If you have ideas or interest, they'd appreciate hearing from you.

Town History Committee

A number of residents have been meeting, drawn by a common interest in recording the history of Newbury. On Nov. 29 local historian Ron Garceau displayed his multitude of old photos of Newbury, and participants have been sharing photos from their family albums.

For its first effort they are considering a pictorial history of Newbury sites, people and places along with some oral histories. Committee member Dennis Pavlicek said there are publishing companies that would put the book together and print it at no upfront cost; their profit would come from the sales with a commission to the town. After this the group would then look at preparing a more detailed history of the town.

The committee is now looking for photos (photos not donated will be scanned and returned to the owner), oral histories, and more people interested in helping with the elements of the project. The next meeting is set for Jan. 10, 7 p.m., at the town office. All are welcome.

TRANSFER STATION

The board of selectmen has engaged Elizabeth Ashworth, a Newbury resident and civil engineer with background and experience in solid-waste management, to evaluate transfer station operations and best management practices.

There has been growth not only in the town and its waste stream but also in the level of specialized knowledge needed to best manage it. It has grown to the point that selectmen realized that from how best to recycle, to the general physical plant layout, operation, and traffic flow, the town would be best served by guidance from someone with the right credentials.

Ashworth will be looking at data on the transfer station and recycling such as current programs and costs, transportation costs, recycling quantities, trash quantities, age of equipment, and number of employees. She will be given an allowance of up to \$1,000 for a report on her findings and recommendations to the board by year-end.

Important Notice – We are making more money on our recyclables – the price for corrugated cardboard is up to \$90/ton and for mixed paper its gone up to \$70/ton. The math is simple: trash costs us, recyclables make us money. Do the math and recycle.

2008 Dump Stickers –The transfer station stickers for 2008 are in and can be picked up at the town office from Donna Long, administrative assistant, or Linda Plunkett, town clerk. Please have your old sticker, your license plate number, your vehicle registration or proof of residency.

Got Leaves? – The compost pile for leaves has been relocated from the transfer station to an area at Fishersfield Park. Remember, just leaves, no branches – and take them out of the plastic bags, please. Residents may only dispose of leaves there when the transfer station is open. A transfer station attendant can direct you to the right area.

Newbury Transfer Station – Holiday Schedule:

Sat., Dec. 22	Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 23	Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 24	Closed for the holiday
Wed., Dec. 26	Open 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 29	Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 30	Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 31	Open 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

ASSESSING OFFICE

Assessors for the Town of Newbury, Norm Bernaiche and Kris McAllister, will be going to properties that have taken out a building permit and or have ongoing construction. If the property owner is not home, they will measure the improvement and estimate the percent complete. The homeowner will then receive a letter from the town asking for an appointment to verify the finished work. The assessors have picture IDs issued by the Town of Newbury.

Those folks that have not returned their current use packets that the assessors sent out this spring please do so because they will be sending out a second request soon.

Some basic statistics: There have been approximately 64 bona-fide sales transactions since October 1, 2006 to date. Bona-fide means that they were arm's length sales, not relatives and not a transfer to a trust. Five properties listed over \$2,000,000.

Presently there are approximately 71 residential properties on the market ranging from a low of \$180,000 to a high of \$6,900,000 (the latter for the Cressy Point property). There are 45 land parcels on the market with a low price of \$39,000 and a high of \$1,395,000.

Bernaiche and MacAllister are continuing to make sure the data in the property files are accurate and complete. Their current project is reviewing the tax maps for plots without a valuation, or in the system with nothing on the tax map. It requires cross checking the tax maps, the system and other files where, for example, they might find

property listed as two lots when they had previously been combined in an annexation.

The assessors recently received the *preliminary* equalization ratio numbers from the state. At about 90% for Newbury, it means that on average homes are selling for 10% more than their assessed value. Bernaiche cautions that the numbers are preliminary and are still being analyzed. On the face of it the ratio would show property is still appreciating in value; on the other hand, the time period measured is Oct. to Sept. and most of the sales were earlier in that period. Another factor is that the number of properties on the market has dropped from the 60s to 50s, and they are on the market longer, which is more in line with the real estate market slowdown. Last year Newbury's ratio was 93.5%. Bernaiche's target is to come in around 95%.

Congratulations to Kris MacAllister, who is now a certified NH assessor. Her certification was awarded at this fall's state assessor conference held during the LGC annual conference in Manchester.

Check your property card

Bernaiche wants to remind folks again to check the information on their property cards. Assessing data is available on the town website, newburynh.org, and copies are at the town office. There is a computer terminal for public use in the town office lobby as well. If you find an error, a correction can be made to your current-year tax bill. Since corrections are not retroactive, it's worth checking each year, he suggests.

TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR

Absentee ballots – Some absentee ballots for the January 8 presidential primary have already been mailed out and Linda Plunkett said it's not too late to request one if you will be unable to vote in person that day. All you have to do is fill out the request form and, if you're registered as an independent, indicate whether you want the Republican or Democrat ballot. You can hand deliver the completed ballot to the town clerk by 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 7, or if you'll be returning it by mail, it must be mailed in time to be in the mail delivery to the town clerk by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 8. In fact, if you find out at the last minute that you can't vote in person Jan. 8, you can handle the whole process at the town clerk's office on Monday, Jan. 7 right at the window – fill out the request form, get your ballot, fill it out and hand it back in. Just be there before she closes at 7 p.m.

Vehicle Registration – By mail if you want – Beginning with those with a birthday in January, residents will get a vehicle registration packet in the mail in 2008. It will have instructions on how to renew your registration(s) by mail (a \$2 service charge will be added), or you can register in person with the town clerk as usual without the service charge. The Dept. of Motor Vehicles will prepare Registration Renewal Mailers on a monthly basis and the town clerk will mail them out. Residents who would like to take advantage of the mail-in service will be charged \$2 extra to cover the cost for the mailer and the postage. Residents who prefer to come into the town office will be charged the regular amount.

HIGHWAY DEPT.

The town was able to proceed with part of the work on Baker Hill Rd. that had been postponed to effect repairs on roads hit with flooding damage. Baker Hill Road has been reclaimed from Rte. 103A to Stony Brook, and paving is set for the spring.

Highway administrator Calvin Prussman reported work was completed on Rollins Road, including geotextile fabric, a total of 3,300 feet from the end of the pavement up past Bartlett Road, followed by 2,165 tons of 1-1/2" ledgepak and 1,124 tons of ¾" ledgepak. Newell Road was ground, culvert replacements were completed in Winding Brook and Mountainside and small drainage problems were resolved around town. Ditching was done on Mountain, Baker Hill and Rollins roads. Some ditches were lined with 3- and 6-inch stone where there have been erosion problems.

The crew also installed the stonewall and gate at Fishersfield Park, performed general maintenance and readied equipment for winter.

Prussman reported to selectmen that the cost to put up chain-link fence around the diesel fuel tanks would be approximately \$3,100. Prussman explained that DES is requiring these fences. The board agreed to move ahead with the project so the town will not be penalized. The fence was completed the first week in Dec.

HEALTH OFFICER

Flu Shots – Newbury Health Officer Wayne Whitford wishes to encourage all residents of Newbury, especially those who are older or in poor health, to get their flu shots. It is not too late to get the flu shot and unlike the past couple of years, there is plenty of flu vaccine to go around. The Visiting Nurse Association recently held a clinic at the Newbury town office and continues to hold clinics around the area, or you can see your own physician.

Public Health Concerns – There have been a number of public health concerns in the news lately. An outbreak of Community-Acquired Pneumonia, sometimes called walking pneumonia, was recently identified in parts of New Hampshire. The symptoms of this respiratory tract infection are fatigue, cough, difficulty breathing, fever and chills. There has also been a recent outbreak in the state of staph infection that was identified in a number of schools and a number of food product recalls because of potential contamination. Information on all of the public health concerns can be found on the Health Officer's page of the Town of Newbury website www.newburynh.org or in NH Dept. of Health & Human Services Fact Sheets that are available at the Newbury town office lobby.

Greater Sullivan County All Hazards Region Committee – The Greater Sullivan County All Hazards Region Committee continues to develop and test a health emergency plan for the region that includes most of Sullivan County and the towns of New London, Newbury and Sutton. During November, the committee will hold a tabletop exercise to test the plan for setting up an Acute Care Center (ACC). In the event of a major health emergency, such as an influenza pandemic, most hospitals would be overtaxed and not be able to accommodate the number of people seeking medical attention. An Acute Care Center would be set up in another location to assist people who were ill, but not requiring a hospital's emergency services. This would allow the hospital to focus on those that are most in need of medical attention.

The committee has also hired a public relations company to assist in getting information to the public on health emergency planning. The company will be setting up a website, setting up newsletters and press releases and other means of providing public information on family and business emergency planning. The community outreach of the committee started last spring with a public meeting at the Newbury town office. Newbury Health Officer Wayne Whitford is the town of Newbury's representative to the committee and has been heavily involved in the planning process over the last year.

Health Officers Association – Newbury Health Officer Wayne Whitford recently attended the NH Health Officers Assoc. annual conference, held in Concord. The continuing education conference for health officers throughout the state featured sessions on the new smoking prohibition law, pests in restaurants, a legislative public health update and new subsurface rules.

--Wayne Whitford

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management Office is still looking for volunteers to assist on an interim basis, such as helping out if we initiate a shelter or just an information station during an emergency. If you are interested in helping your neighbors, call Paul Groulx at 763-4803 or the town clerk at 763-5326. Judy Fech has joined the emergency management team and is a tremendous help. We still have lots of items to address and we could use more help.

We plan on scheduling a Family Preparedness Emergency Planning training course in early February.

The NH Fire Academy in cooperation with Newbury emergency management will be hosting a radiation training session for the fire and police departments on Jan. 15 at the fire department.

The emergency management office is also coordinating with the fire academy on a training course to review our local emergency plan. Our local safety officials, from the fire and police to highway, health officer and other town officials, will be tasked to 'function test' our local Emergency Management Plan. This scenario is planned for February. *Paul Groulx, emergency management director*

POLICE DEPT.

All is quiet and under control in town, as reflected in the crime rate which is down about 17% through September.

Chief Bob Lee urges everyone to use caution on the roads, especially keeping an eye out for children.

On Oct. 1 the selectmen and Police Chief Lee presented Citizen's Awards to Newbury residents Margorie Johnson and Sally Hisler. The awards were given for their generosity in retrieving several thousand dollars that accidentally blew off the top of a local retail owner's car. Chief Lee thanked the two women and said that their generosity and honesty not only speak highly of them, but also speak highly for the town of Newbury. He said that their action put a very positive look on the town and presented each of them with a Citizen's Award. Selectman Jim Powell congratulated Johnson and Hisler for the board and said they are a wonderful example for the town of Newbury.

FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Issues and Costs Associated with False Alarms

During 2007 the Newbury Fire and Rescue Department has seen a significant increase in false fire alarms over previous years, with false alarms close to 20% of the department's total calls for the year.

False alarms not only cause unnecessary wear and tear on the fire apparatus that must respond, but also result in additional payroll costs to the town, and its taxpayers for the on-call fire fighters who are paid for their response to a call. There is also always the possibility that the crew at the false alarm could be delayed in responding to a medical call, traffic accident or actual fire.

Most false alarms are accidental, often resulting from burned food or a malfunctioning fireplace, wood stove or furnace, or a defective smoke detector. In these cases the firefighters will assist the resident in confirming that there is no fire damage or hazard to the building and possibly with the removal of smoke from the home. Responding to these types of alarms, even when there is no fire, is part of the fire fighter's duties and what they are trained and paid to do. These calls are counted in the false alarm total, but are not the area of concern for the department.

Many Newbury residents have a fire alarm system that transmits the alarm directly to a central station alarm monitoring company. The central station contacts the local fire department through the dispatch center, which pages the fire fighters, when a fire alarm signal is received. These systems are very effective because of the prompt dispatch of the fire department when a smoke detector is activated, avoiding any delay in someone dialing 9-1-1 or even worse if no one is home, a neighbor calling 9-1-1, when they see smoke coming from the house.

Because of the immediate fire department notification by these alarms, they often result in accidental false alarms and department response, as discussed above. When most residents realize that a false alarm was sent to the alarm company, they call the alarm company to inform them that there is no actual fire. The central station contacts the dispatcher and the information is relayed to the fire department. The officer in charge would likely reduce the response from the multiple engines, a tanker and a rescue that would

be sent to the report of a fire, to one fire unit that will respond to make sure everything is OK.

In addition to calling the alarm company, it is a good idea to call the fire dispatch center at **763-2221** and inform them that the alarm is false or exactly what the situation is. This will enable them to cancel, reduce the response or provide the responding fire fighters with information on the situation.

Remember, in the event of an actual fire, do not delay leaving the building to make a call, or to fight the fire, but rather get your family out and make the call to 9-1-1 from a neighbor's phone or cell phone, once safely outside and away from the building.

Unfortunately some residents with alarm systems do not call or may have smoke detectors or alarm systems that malfunction and are not repaired. This results in multiple false alarms from the same location. These are the false alarms that result in unnecessary costs to the town.

In order to reduce these multiple false alarms, the Newbury Board of Selectmen enacted an Alarm Ordinance (Chapter 30) in 2007. A full copy of the ordinance, which addresses security and fire alarm specifications, installation and registration of central station companies, can be found on the town website www.newburynh.org. Section 35 of the ordinance addresses Fire Alarms and requires a fire alarm permit, issued by the fire chief, for all residential and business fire alarms. Alarm permit applications are available at the Newbury Police Dept. during normal business hours, or can be downloaded from the town website. There is no fee for a fire alarm permit. Builders and residents hiring alarm companies to install fire alarms should inform their alarm contractor of the Town of Newbury's Fire Alarm Ordinance.

The ordinance also establishes penalties for violations of the provisions including multiple false alarms: \$100 for operating a fire alarm without a valid permit; \$100 for central station, answering service, or proprietary system notification of an alarm not possessing a valid permit; \$100 for the fourth false alarm in a year; \$200 for the fifth false alarm in a year, and \$300 for the sixth and successive alarms in a year.

Please review the alarm ordinance on the website for complete information on the requirements. Contact Fire Chief Henry Thomas during fire dept. office hours on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. or e-mail Fire Prevention Officer Wayne Whitford at wrwhitford@newburyfd.org if you have any questions.

Ice Safety Information – The cold weather upon us and it's only a matter of time until the lake starts to freeze over. Many lakefront property owners are thinking about installing Aqua Therm or other water-circulating devices that prevent the freezing of ice around wharves and docks. The Newbury Fire and Rescue Dept. wishes to remind people who have or are considering installing these devices that NH state law requires the registration of all Aqua Therm devices with the local town clerk. In Newbury, information on these devices and the resulting areas of thin ice is used by the Newbury Fire and Rescue Dept. in the event of rescues on the lake.

Heating safety – With the cold weather upon us, many people are using wood stoves and fireplaces that may not have been used since last spring. In order to prevent chimney and house fires the stoves should be maintained in good condition and chimneys cleaned. All heating appliances can produce carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can cause unconsciousness and even death to anyone breathing it. Install a carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home to provide early warning of any buildup of carbon monoxide.

New Rescue Equipment – The Newbury Fire and Rescue Dept. has received and continues to train on the new rescue equipment purchased with funding provided by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the US Dept. of Homeland Security. In October cold-water training was provided on the ice-rescue suits that will protect

firefighters who must go into the cold water to rescue someone who may have fallen through the ice.

The department has also received and is training on the new vehicle accident hydraulic rescue tools and vehicle stabilization equipment. A thermal-imaging camera, which will enable fire fighters to locate a fire within a wall of a building or even find a lost hiker in the woods, has also been purchased and is expected to be delivered shortly. All of this equipment will greatly enhance the rescue capabilities of the department at very little cost to the taxpayers of Newbury.

Congratulations – Congratulations to longtime Newbury Fire & Rescue member Ken Burnell, who was recently appointed fire captain and department training officer.

Procedures Update – Over the last several months the Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. officers have been working to update and formalize the procedures of the department. At the request of the board of selectmen, they have been developing position descriptions and qualifications for department officers as well as for firefighters. The new human resources standards will bring the department in line with other town departments.

Mutual Aid Drill – The Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept., along with other area fire departments, took part in a mutual aid drill at the new Kearsarge Regional Middle School in Sutton. The purpose of the drill was to familiarize area fire departments with the new school, which will open next year, in the event that there was fire or other emergency at the school. The drill also allows firefighters from different towns to train and work together the way that they would in a major emergency.

Midwestern NH Hazardous Materials Response Team – The Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. continues to be one of the more active members of the Midwestern New Hampshire Hazardous Materials Response Team, which is made up of fire departments in a number of communities from Hillsborough to Lebanon. The team provides metering devices, spill containment and additional resources and manpower to fire departments in the event of fuel spills, or the need for decontamination of firefighters. Also provided is hazardous material response training to member fire departments. In October, three members of the Newbury department participated in a class on Responding to Utility Emergencies along with firefighters from a number of other departments.

Local Government Center Annual Conference – In November, three members of the Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. attended the annual Local Government Center risk management conference. The conference had sessions on building codes, emergency medical service and NH law and regulation impacting the fire service.

Help Wanted – The number of emergency responses for the Newbury Fire & Rescue Dept. is already well ahead of any year in the department's history and this increased activity is expected to continue as the town continues to grow. This increased activity has resulted in the need for additional firefighters and rescue personnel. Chief Henry Thomas encourages anyone who is interested in finding out more about becoming a member of the department to stop by the Safety Services Building any Tuesday evening to pick up an application. Information on the Newbury Fire & Rescue Department can be found on the department's website at newburyfd.org.

--Wayne Whitford

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Nov. 6 Bill Weiler, chair of the conservation commission, presented the Newbury Conservation Plan to the planning board. The plan, drafted with the assistance of consultant Anne Poole, will be incorporated into the town master plan. The goal of the conservation plan is to create a basis for recommending what resources need to be protected. The commission wants to consult with the planning board and the public before it decides on recommendations.

After a public hearing held Dec. 11, the commission voted to expend \$7,763.81 from the conservation fund to reimburse Thomas and Joy Nowell for expenses incurred in donating a conservation easement on 157 acres of their land to the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests. This easement helps protect additional land in the high-value area where the 800 acres was protected earlier this year by SPNH and the commission.

-----LAND USE BOARDS-----

Following are *very* brief notes on meetings and hearings of the land use boards. You are encouraged to read the full minutes of ZBA and planning board meetings/hearings, available at the town office.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Board Appointments – On Oct. 1 the ZBA voted to appoint Barbara Richmond to fill William Cluff’s term as a full member until the next annual town meeting election. On Nov. 19 the board appointed Suzanne Russell as an alternate to the zoning board of adjustment.

Other issues discussed at the Oct. 1 meeting:

Rules of Procedure – Chair Elizabeth Ashworth asked the board members to review the Rules of Procedure and be prepared to make comments for changes and updates at a future meeting, advising them that some of the rules are based on the RSAs and cannot be changed. It was pointed out that the issue of whether or not alternates should participate in discussion has had differing opinions and should be clarified and put in the Rules of Procedure.

Application Fees – Ashworth commented that the fees for an application need to be updated to reflect the current postage rates charged by the post office. She planned to recommend having the charge for abutters reflect “current postal rates” instead of a set dollar amount.

Variances: Transferable? – Kathryn Holmes queried the board on the legality of property owners obtaining a variance when it is their intention only to sell the property with the variance and permits acquired. It was pointed out that a variance is granted based on the conditions of the property and therefore is transferable.

Steve Russell informed the board that a property sold only two months after coming to the zoning board. He thought it a little bit disingenuous when someone comes to the board seeking a variance and then sells the property with permits. He commented that there are stipulations in the regulations regarding “option holders.”

Ashworth stated that Barbara Freeman, planning board chair, commented about the number of variances being granted by the ZBA, and if the board seems to be giving lots of variances, then the town needs to look at changing its regulations.

Holmes offered to email the board members an article that describes what a town can do to strengthen its regulations.

Buildable vs nonbuildable lots – Ashworth commented that it would be a very involved process to differentiate between buildable and non-buildable lots. Aside from the zoning changes, the tax structure would also have to change to reflect the revised values of the non-buildable properties.

Inter-board consistency – Holmes re-iterated that all building activities in the shoreland buffer zone should come to the zoning board of adjustment with or without state permits. She emphasized that it is important to maintain consistency among the boards and the building inspector/code enforcement officer. The building activities need oversight and follow through to verify that conditions of approval are being met. She stated that the Newbury building inspector needs to be allotted more time for code enforcement.

Ashworth agreed to initiate a joint boards meeting in an effort to resolve some of these issues. [Note: One is scheduled for Jan. 9.]

Helprin hearing – On Oct. 15, Ashworth informed the board that the Helprin hearing would not be heard by the ZBA this evening. After discussing the issue with Bill Weiler, planning board vice-

chair, it became evident that the Helprin application is an issue that needs to be addressed by the planning board for a conditional use permit for work in the wetland buffer zone area.

Holmes said that the town boards have to work together, not in each other’s stead. She said that if the Helprins get a blessing from the planning board, then they should have to come to the zoning board for a special exception or variance. The town oversight needs to continue; DES cannot be everywhere, and it depends on the town to be its eyes and ears.

Board members were asked to review the cases that have been heard by the ZBA this past year and develop a list of questions in preparation for the joint boards meeting. Interpretation of intent and/or questions about clarification of the regulations in specific cases will be most helpful.

Recent ZBA Hearings

Cindy & David Lapp, for property at 103 Bay Point Road, sought two variances: to permit reconstruction of a home on an existing non-conforming lot situated within the 75’ shoreline setback, and within the 15’ setback from the side & rear property lines.

Aug. 27 – These hearings were continued from Aug. 20. The board voted unanimously to grant the Lapps’ application for the shoreland setback variance as presented, contingent upon the zoning board receiving a copy of the signed shoreland waiver from DES.

Addressing the second variance to setback distances, the board voted unanimously to grant the Lapps a variance as presented contingent upon the zoning board receiving a copy of the signed waiver from DES.

Oct. 1 – Request for re-hearing – The Lapps’ abutter Ann Ryan made a request for a rehearing on the Lapp case to voice her safety concerns for the setback variance. The board considered whether this appeal had enough merit to grant a rehearing. They voted 4-1 to hear Ryan’s appeal to the setback variance because the safety concern has merit.

10/15/07 Appeal of Administrative Decision regarding Lapps’ property at 103 Bay Point Rd., relative to the variance granted to the 15’ setback from side & rear property lines.

Ann Ryan, appellant, said she objects to the proposed house being located closer to the property line primarily for fire safety issues. The board voted unanimously to grant the variance with the following conditions: that a one-hour-rated firewall be used in the construction of the Lapps’ new home and that site improvements adhere to the buffer zone regulations in Article 7.6 of the Newbury Zoning Ordinance. This vote upheld the board’s original decision.

The Ashworth-Hafer Trust, for property located at 195 Mountain Road, sought a special exception to permit operation of a pet care facility out of residence.

Nov. 19 – [Elizabeth Ashworth, ZBA chair, excused herself from the board for this hearing and turned the meeting over to Kathryn Holmes, vice-chair.] All members voted in favor of continuing this hearing until Monday, Jan. 28, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. for more information on noise, waste disposal, runoff and property values

PLANNING BOARD

Driveway Ordinance – Driveway vs. Road – On Oct. 2 it was noted there are several situations in town where paper roads exist and homes are being built on substandard roads which are designated as driveways in order to obtain building permits. The question arises: How many homes may be built on a driveway before the driveway changes designation to a road? It was noted there might be a supreme court decision which states no more than three homes may be on a driveway, also that the Emergency 911 system likes there to be only two homes on a driveway. This issue will be researched and clarified in order to avoid future problematic situations.

Policy and Procedures for Class VI Roads – On Oct. 2, the board discussed building permits on Class VI roads and also the issue of paper roads that may later be brought to the town by a developer to be developed.

Recording Easements and Restrictions – On Oct. 2, it was noted that often when easements and restrictions are recorded on the plat they go unnoticed because title searchers do not look at plans, they look at documents. Therefore, any conditions that the board wants the homeowner to follow should be recorded at the registry of deeds in a separate document and referenced in the deeds. Town counsel will be consulted about what needs to happen to make that a requirement.

Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act – On Oct. 2, the board noted its intention to look closely at the revised Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) to be adopted in April 2008 and make sure the town regulations are in line with the act. It was suggested that the board assess Newbury's regulations in relation to the CSPA in conjunction with the Sunapee Area Watershed Committee's suggestions.

Regional impact notice from Town of Bradford – On Nov. 20 Freeman advised the board that the Bradford Planning Board meeting minutes were sent to her and reflect the Bradford Planning Board's decision to consider the proposed Dunkin' Donuts on Main Street in Bradford as a regional impact application.

Zoning amendments hearing – The board has planned a public hearing on its proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance for Wednesday, Jan. 2, dealing with storm water management. A future issue of *Newbury Update* will provide more information on the topic.

Recent Planning Board Hearings

CASE 1997-017: Preliminary Site Plan Review – David Long - Captain's 1st Choice – 546 Route 103

Oct. 16 – It was clarified that the zoning board of adjustment had previously ruled that the auction hall is considered a retail sales use, therefore there is no need for a special exception for change of use from the White Star Auction Hall to Captain's 1st Choice. A new, full site plan review application was submitted which showed the addition of a 10 ft. x 90 ft. covered porch with parking, a greenhouse and an outdoor display area.

Nov. 20 – At the hearing for the final site plan review, the board accepted the application as complete and granted four waivers. The plan showed additional details as a result of the preliminary hearing on Oct. 16. Discussion included questions about restaurant and office space uses. Long explained the only food service would be accessory, and the office space is for his own use. It was noted these do not require planning board approval. The board approved the application as amended to remove the restaurant and office space categories.

CASE 2003-001: Major Subdivision - Fieldstone Ridge – Pickman and Sons – land between Gillingham Drive and Old Sutton Road – Open Space Management

Nov. 11 – At a board of selectmen meeting, David and Jim Pickman talked to selectmen about having the town be the easement holder for a large area of land in the wetland portion of their subdivision. Pickman said that about half of the 165 acres in this development is included in wetlands. A joint meeting was planned between Pickman & Sons, the board of selectmen, planning board, and the conservation committee on Nov. 20.

Nov. 20 – Dave Pickman explained that his development needs to meet the stewardship requirements for mitigation for crossing wetlands and maintaining wetlands, per NH DES rules. He said that everyone he has approached does not want to take on this stewardship. Before the development can move forward, the state requires a steward. Extensive discussion continued on the issue.

CASE: 2007-012: Final Review - Friedline Family Trust – Minor Subdivision – 96 Old Sutton Road

Oct. 16 – The Friedlines would like to subdivide one lot of 10.84 acres into two lots of 5.14 acres and 5.70 acres. Lot 1 of 5.14 acres has 261.3 ft. of road frontage on Old Sutton Road in Newbury, and Lot 2 of 5.70 acres has 201.32 ft. of road frontage on Old Sutton Road in Newbury and 166.70 ft. of road frontage on Old Sutton Road in Bradford. The driveway for Lot 2 will enter from the Bradford portion of frontage and 1.01 acres of Lot 2 is in Bradford.

The board voted unanimously to approve the subdivision subject to concurrence of the Bradford Planning Board and a signature block for the Bradford Planning Board approval shall be indicated on the plan.

CASE: 2007-0013: Preliminary Review – Land of the USA (John Hay Wildlife Refuge – Minor Subdivision – 456 Route 103A

Oct. 16 – The United States of America, Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service owns a 164-acre tract of land between Route 103A/Bowles Road and Lake Sunapee and would like to subdivide that parcel into two lots of record, Lot 1 to be 83.80 acres +/- and Lot 2 to be 79.81 +/- acres. It is the intent of the owner to retain ownership of Lot 1 as the John Hay National Wildlife Refuge and convey Lot 2 to a non-profit organization, the NH Audubon Society, to serve as an intermediary to facilitate the final transfer of Lot 2, including all of the historic infrastructure, to the Friends of the John Hay Refuge. The next step is for the applicant to come back to the planning board for a final presentation.

CASE 2007-017: Conceptual – Baker Hill Golf Club – Preliminary plan for various improvements at 101 Baker Hill Road

9/18/07 Applicant explained that certain issues have evolved that need to be addressed for safety and/or convenience. Among them were the parking area, cart storage facility, meeting room, office space, pro shop, expansion to the kitchen and the clubhouse and an additional driveway entrance. The sense of the board was that a site plan revision needs to be brought to the planning board for review.

CASE 2007-019: Conceptual Minor Subdivision – Scott Hill – 145 Stoney Brook Road

Oct. 16 – Scott Hill would like to subdivide one lot of 8.97 acres into two lots of undetermined size. He was advised that he needs to apply to the planning board for a 2-lot minor subdivision and follow the guidelines in the subdivision regulations.

CASE 2007-020: Peter & Erika Helprin, for property located at 611 Mountain Rd., sought a conditional use permit for a driveway

Nov. 6 – The Helprins proposed building a 300-foot driveway to reach a garage with living space above; it starts 18' from a stream. The board said the stream is in fact identified as a permanent stream in the Newbury Zoning Ordinance and therefore this application is subject to the 50-ft. buffer of shoreland overlay regulations plus it is within the 75-ft. buffer of the wetlands regulations. The board voted unanimously to deny the application for conditional use permit to construct a driveway in the proposed area conditional upon the applicant obtaining a variance from the zoning board of adjustment for work in the buffer zone.

CASE 2007-021: Conceptual Lot-Line Adjustment – Town of Newbury Lakeside Cemetery – Route 103A

Nov. 20 – Mary Bachelder, cemetery commissioner, presented a lot-line adjustment plan between Lakeside Cemetery and its two abutters to the west. The commission would like to move the existing property line 1 ft. and transfer the remaining strips of land to the abutters. Bachelder was advised she first needs to go to the selectmen to have an article placed on the March 2008 town meeting warrant to authorize the disposition of the strips of land to the abutters. The planning board cannot hear or approve the application until the town's people have given permission to give up the ownership of the strips of land.