

## GALE LIBRARY REPORT

There has been a lot of activity going on at the library this year. There have been many programs and events for patrons of all ages. We are now linked to the official Town of Newton website. This site will provide news and event information regularly. The address is: <http://www.newton-nh.gov>.

The year started off with a Winter Reading Program for children entitled, Snow is Falling, Books are Calling. Patrons read and received prizes for reaching their goals.

This year's Summer Reading Program, Camp Wannaread, had 110 children registered. There were 890 books read and many prizes given to the participants. Gratitude is given to Mrs. Sue Mears, our Children's Librarian and Assistant Director, for her outstanding planning and creativity. A Kids, Books, and Arts grant of \$325 was obtained by Mrs. Mears from the NH State Council on the Arts, the NH Library, the Byrne Foundation, the Cogswell Benevolent Trust, and the Madeline G. von Weber Trust. The money received allowed the performance of Jody Gourlay to sing and dance with the children on a camping theme.

For our adult readers we held a Cabin Fever contest to chase away the winter blues. This was a fun way to pass the time during the cold weather months.

Elly Becotte of Kingston, NH delighted audiences with her slide show programs. Her presentations are very informative and well-attended.

Tom and Nora McElroy of the Newton Greenhouse gave a Planning Presentation to kick off the gardening season. Techniques and tips on planting were given to attendees.

National Library Week was celebrated from April 10-16 this year. During this week, the Friends of the Gale Library sponsored the annual Art Show and Open House. Local artists displayed their works and met other community members.

The annual Basket Raffle and Christmas Party were held on Sunday, December 18 with a special visit from Santa!

Various other programs were given throughout the year with the assistance of staff and parents. There have been many volunteers who contribute and donate to the ongoing works of the library.

The Friends have shown tremendous generosity in assisting the library. They have purchased passes to the New England Aquarium in Boston, an air-conditioner, supplied seasonal decorations, purchased books for high school summer reading, bound a rug for us, and provided computer chair mats. In addition they have purchased rope for our flag, a DVD with VHS player and a 27" television for the children's room. They hold fundraisers and book sales to provide the extras to supplement our budget. There is so much that they do throughout the year. The trustees, staff and patrons appreciate all their efforts for the library.

An Outdoor Reading Garden was established for reading and craft sessions seasonally. This new area has a picnic table and flowers to relax and enjoy.

The front porch and railing was painted. New traction treads were installed on the steps for safety. A new set of steps for access through the basement was constructed.

Projects are ongoing and we will continue to update as necessary.

The library continues to be a great value to those seeking novels, books on CDs and tape, movies, magazines, music, and a variety of non-fiction subjects. We have been fortunate to receive many donated materials and financial assistance throughout the year. New items have been purchased for circulation. There is something for everyone. We will continue to provide service and a smile to our patrons. Be sure to stop by and visit us soon!

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa E. Caswell, Library Director

Pam Hallock, Chairperson  
Rebecca McGowan, Secretary  
Carol Szot, Treasurer  
Beverly Batchelder, Alternate  
Board of Trustees

## Library Statistics -2005

**TOTAL REGISTERED USERS: 3,356**

**CIRCULATION: 22,611**

Adult Fiction	3,331	Juvenile Fiction	1,482
Adult Non Fiction	1,643	Juvenile Non Fiction	829
Adult Paperbacks	265	Juvenile Paperbacks	426
Large Print Books	115	Early Reader Fiction	5,861
Periodicals	1,669	Early Reader Non Fiction	962
VHS	1,938	Early Reader Paperback	1401
CDs	281	Juv/Early Audio	231
DVDs	1532	Graphic Novels	63
Adult Audio	471	Miscellaneous Materials	111

**USAGE OF EQUIPMENT: 909**

Museum Passes	24	Meeting Room Use	512
Internet Access	282	Tables/Chairs	10
Productivity Station	79	Projector/Projector Screen	2

**INTERLIBRARY LOAN: 491**

Books borrowed from NH libraries:	143
Books loaned to other NH libraries:	348 * figure already included in circulation #

**TOTAL CIRCULATION & USAGE: 23,663**

**ADDED BOOKS:** **1,838**  
 Gifts/Donations: 777  
 Reference: 63  
 Purchased: 998

**ADDED AUDIO/VISUAL** **228**  
 VHS: 87  
 Audiobooks/cassettes: 61  
 CDs: 19  
 DVDs: 61

**2005 LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

Story Hours  
 Book Review Circle  
 Evening Story Hours  
 Angel Tree  
 School Outreach Programs  
 Read Across America  
 Stamp It Workshops  
 Pumpkin Carving  
 Holiday Basket Raffle with Santa Visit  
 New England Slide Show Program  
 Bingo for Books

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:** **2,205**

Crafts  
 First Graders' Night  
 Young Adult Activities  
 April Open House  
 Art Show  
 Winter Reading Program  
 Cribbage  
 Food for Fines  
 Start Your Garden Presentation  
 Cribbage

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Camp Wannaread  
 Build A Bug Contest  
 Camp Fire Sing-along  
 Tie Dye T-Shirts  
 Origami

Jody Gourlay Music  
 and Dance Performance  
 Ice Cream Party Grand Finale  
 Stepping Stones Craft  
 Fishercat Mascot Visit  
 Thermometer Craft

**STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Meetings Attended: 32

**LIBRARY FINE FUNDS:**

Balance January 1, 2005 \$329.31  
 Fines Fund Received \$1,922.85  
 Balance December 31, 2005 **\$2,252.16**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Theresa E. Caswell  
 LIBRARY DIRECTOR

## BUILDING INSPECTOR

### DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFETY

The building industry was very busy during the year of 2005. Many sub-divisions completed the planning phases early in the year and are in the building process. We are anticipating a slower building season for the year of 2006. We are hoping to put more time into our training efforts to obtain more certifications. As a result, that will help to create a safer community and lower the cost of the homeowner's insurance rates for new construction.

The team approach in the Department of Building Safety has worked well for the year of 2005. Ron Lemere is continuing as the primary Assistant Building Inspector. Kris Emerson is continuing as an Assistant Building Inspector with responsibilities in structural inspections and plan reviews. Mike Hartnett has been appointed as an Assistant Building Inspector with responsibilities in plumbing, gas, and mechanical inspections. All the inspectors have life long experience directly related to the building construction, and maintenance industries.

#### **A total of 569 permits were issued in 2005:**

Certificate of Occupancy	41	Replacement Roofing	9
Foundations	61	Demolition	5
New Homes	63	Swimming Pools	12
Remodeling/Additions	51	Well/Pump	48
Sheds/Detached Garages	15	Electrical	154
Replacement Siding	5	Plumbing	79
		Gas and Mechanical	64

Please remember to call for the inspections of the projects at home and work. Do not forget you pay for code compliant work and that the inspection process can help assure that those requirements have been met.

Thank you for continuing to help the building department create a safer community for all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael J. DiBartolomeo  
CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

## **ROAD AGENT**

This was another productive year for the Highway Department. We all worked hard and made a lot of changes around the town.

Some of these changes consisted of widening the shoulders on Smith Corner Road. The width of the road was 15 feet – 17 feet wide; now after the work has been completed it varies from 22 feet – 24 feet wide. While doing so, we replaced three culverts with head walls and we had Smith Corner Road reclaimed and repaved from Brimstone Circle to Williamine Drive. We also reconstructed the Pond Street and Whittier Street intersection, making a potentially dangerous intersection into a safe T-intersection. This intersection was an ongoing problem which needed and received a major improvement.

The road crew had another busy season as well. They worked hard at keeping up with the overgrowth caused by Mother Nature. This task was difficult because of the extremely wet spring and summer seasons. The crew also had time to clean out drainage swales, culverts and catch basins.

The Highway Department still has safety issues that I am working on for next year. Maple Avenue and Heath Street are just two of the many roads that are on the top of the list, as well as New Boston Road needs more work.

The Highway Department would like to thank the residents of Newton for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank E. Gibbs  
Road Agent

## **NCAT-20**

The Cable Committee (NCAT-20) has seen some changes in 2005. With the sale of Adelphia to Comcast, we are still waiting to see how this will affect the service to the town. Newton still has six years left in our current contract.

The news that Verizon is going to wire the town for DSL (Internet access) and their hope to get this service to us by the spring of 2006 is also encouraging. Verizon also has plans to offer Cable TV to the town sometime in the fall of 2006. The Cable Committee is in negotiation with Verizon in regards to this service.

The Cable Committee needs new members to help in the taping of various events and meeting for both the town and school meetings and events. If you have some free time and wish to add a little income please join the Cable Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew P. Morse, Chairman  
Newton Cable Committee

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. The Conservation Committee has completed many achievements this past year. Our committee is comprised of volunteers that are appointed by the selectmen. According to state law, it is our responsibility to protect the natural resources of the town. Our membership is made up of six regular members, three alternates, and one Selectmen Ex-Officio representative. It is because of their positive energy and innovative ideas that we have continued to protect our natural resources. Our members have a wide range of knowledge concerning wildlife, vegetation, shoreline and wet soil issues and are not afraid to think out of the box to accomplish the tasks we are presented with.

The Conservation Committee has the important assignment concerning the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and protection of watershed resources, including but not limited to shoreline protection, wet soil issues, site walks (when responding to citizen concerns), and endangered species protection. We continue to work with the State Wetland Bureau concerning any issues in our town as well as our input on all dredge & fill permit applications. The Scenic Roads in town also come under the charge of this Commission, as described in RSA 231:157 and RSA 231:158. The list of Scenic Roads are, Gale Village Road, Currierville Road, Maple Avenue, Goulds Hill Road, Heath Street, Bartlett Street and Thornell Road. The various boards in our town continue to keep us informed on issues and permits that come before them. We enjoy the good working relationship with all the town boards and committees.

One of our accomplishments this year has been under the direction of conservation vice chairperson, Alicia Raddatz. In May of 2005, we hosted our first identification process of bio monitoring of wet soil areas on the Busch Farm, and invited residents (adults and children) to get involved. It was a great success. We will expand this to other areas in town. Our goal is to include students from Memorial School, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts in our next bio-monitoring event. We invite participation by all, and guarantee that it will be a fabulous learning experience, (and fun for all ages).

Members of the conservation commission were able to participate in the 2005 Law Lecture Series. This series included three lectures: 1. Off-Site Exactions and Impact Fees, 2. Ethics for Lane Use Board Members, 3. Land Use Regulation. Our members continue to attend informative and education meetings, when ever possible.

The Conservation Commission was invited to participate in a local community event that was sponsored by the School Nurses in the Town of Newton and Town of Kingston. The purpose of this event was to educate our youth in health, nutrition and exercise. Our committee was able to provide a slide show of Newton Conservation and Recreation Land. We supplied town maps showing conservation land that would be great for hiking, cross-country skiing, exercising your dogs, bird watching, wildlife observation or just a simple picnic. The public is encouraged to use and enjoy this open space. One of our largest parcels is the Busch Farm that has over 47 acres to explore. This area is open to the public and includes off street parking. The easiest access is from Rte 108 (north of New Boston Road), on the right side by the pipe gate. We are working on getting a sign at the entrance.

Of course we are very proud of the conservation easement on Hidden Acres Farm, located on Thornell Road. As a result of years of hard work by current and past conservation committee members, selectmen, and the landowner Forrest Reynolds, this easement was the conclusion of our application to the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, (LCHIP). One of the requirements of this program was the formation of the Stewardship Committee. This committee was appointed by the Selectmen and is comprised of five members that remain on the committee with staggering terms as follows: Mary Marshall-Chairperson expires in 2006, Nancy Slombo-Vice Chair expires in 2007, Mike Seacamp-Treasure expires in 2008, Trisha McCarthy-Secretary expires in 2009, and Pat Wonson who expires in 2010. This is a wonderful piece of Newton History that we have the ability to protect. We continue to work with the homeowner, (Mr. Reynolds) and monitor the easement and activity on it.

On a sad note, the Conservation Commission lost a very long time member Steve Cushing. Steve retired from the commission earlier this year. He is an enormous loss to the commission. His knowledge and expertise is greatly missed. Steve was instrumental in many of the accomplishments of protecting our natural resources, including but not limited to the acquisition of the Busch Farm and the Hidden Acre Easement. He volunteered his time, tools, equipment and vehicles, without hesitation. The immeasurable energy he had overflowed onto the rest of the commission, making us a spectacular team. Of course we realize, that life goes on, (even after you leave the conservation commission), and we sincerely wish him the best that life can offer.

This committee meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The meetings are held in the rear of the Town Hall at 7:30pm. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage anyone that is interested to attend. Feel free to log onto the town web site for access to minutes of our meetings.

We look forward to another prosperous year, and encourage your input.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trisha McCarthy, Chairperson  
Conservation Commission