

## BOARD OF HEALTH

The following permits were issued through this Department.

### Septic Systems:

Residential	New Construction	36
	Replacement/Repair	16
	New Commercial	4

### Building Permits

Residential	37
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### Occupancy

Residential	39
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### Other

Foster Care Inspection	1
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All permits were issued in compliance with Town and State requirements.

All concerns regarding potential health issues submitted to this office were addressed and the findings as well as the course of action were reported back to the Office of Selectmen.

The 2013 annual water testing of Country Pond was conducted and was found to be acceptable by state standards.

DES posts beach advisories when sample analyses result in bacteria levels above the state standard, indicating the possible presence of disease-causing organisms, or a toxic cyanobacteria scum. These advisories are recommendations to the public to avoid water contact activities at the beach until further analyses reveal safe conditions.

Residents should be aware of any *postings* at town access points. Should swimming be prohibited signs will be posted at the entrance to the town beach and public boat launching areas. Beach inspections will resume as of Memorial Day, 2014.

The Department of Environmental Services Dept. issued a revised fished consumption advisory for Country Pond due to a review of the risk based on fish tissue sampling conducted by EPA in 2009. For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/org/og/443247.pdf>

Residents are once again encouraged to have their domestic water tested annually by a state certified lab. Some well water in New Hampshire may contain contaminants such as radon, uranium, and arsenic, which occur naturally in our bedrock. The NH Department of Environmental Services would suggest homeowners with private wells have the quality of their water tested periodically for a comprehensive roster of contaminants.

You can learn more about this by visiting the N.H. Department of Environmental Services' web site at [www.des.state.nh.us/wseb](http://www.des.state.nh.us/wseb), You may obtain a sampling bottle with instructions through this office.

**New Hampshire Arbovirus Surveillance Results**  
**This was the last Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin for the 2013 Season**  
**October 13, 2013 – October 19, 2013**

**Complete Arbovirus Surveillance Results Can Be Found At:**  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/documents/arbotestresults2013.pdf>

<b>HUMANS</b>		<b>Number Tested</b>	<b>WNV Positive</b>	<b>EEE Positive</b>	<b>Other Positive</b>
<b>Humans Tested</b>	Week	2	0	0	0
	YTD	29	1	0	0

<b>ANIMALS</b>		<b>Number Tested</b>	<b>WNV Positive</b>	<b>EEE Positive</b>
<b>Animals Tested</b>	Week	1	0	0
	YTD	24	1	3

<b>MOSQUITOES</b>		<b>Number Tested</b>	<b>WNV Positive</b>	<b>EEE Positive</b>
<b>Batches Tested</b>	Week	99	0	0
	YTD	5316	14	24

\*Data provided are those for which final results are available.

**Comments:**

**MOSQUITOES:** Mosquito batches were submitted from Cheshire, Hillsborough, and Rockingham counties and Keene.

**HUMANS:** One human case of WNV was identified in Chesterfield.

**ANIMALS:** Three EEE positive horses were identified in Derry (1), Ossipee (1), Deerfield (1).  
 One WNV horse was identified in Belmont (1).

**YTD:** Positive mosquito batches for **WNV** and **EEE** have been identified as follows:

<b><u>WNV</u></b>		<b><u>EEE</u></b>		<b><u>EEE</u></b>	
Newton	1	Newton	2*	Greenland	1
Hampstead	1	Auburn	1	Litchfield	1
New Castle	1	Brentwood	2	Londonderry	1
Kensington	1	Sandown	1	Derry	1
Nashua	2	Newington	3	Hampstead	1
Pelham	2	Manchester	1	Raymond	2



Stratham	2	East Kingston	1	Kingston	1
Sandown	1	No. Hampton	1		
Raymond	1	Exeter	2		
Keene	1	Kingston	1		
Brentwood	1	Pelham	1		

**\*As a result of the positive test pools the Town Selectmen and Health Department were pro-active and implemented high risk area spraying twice in 2013.**

**Use the following link to view the locations of positive test results and regional risk maps:  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/arboviral/results.htm>**

For more information regarding this data contact Beth Daly, Chief, Infectious Disease Surveillance Section at 603-271-4927.

This department will continue to monitor State notification of positive test results and work closely with Town Officials and Dragon Mosquito to implement the best course of action to reduce the mosquito population.

***Please remember your first line of defense against WNV and EEE is Prevention***

Since State health officials continue to confirmed positive test results in various parts of the state for the WNV, EEE this past year, they strongly urge residents to eliminate mosquito-breeding opportunities around their homes this spring by taking the following steps:

- Remove all discarded tires. The used tire has become the most important domestic mosquito producer in the country.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar water holding containers.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left out of doors.
- Make sure gutters drain properly.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. If not in use keep empty and covered.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens are fashionable but become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and change water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property. Use landscaping as needed.
- If outside during evening, nighttime, and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, children and adults should wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
- Consider the use of an effective insect repellent, such as one containing DEET. A repellent containing 30% or less DEET (N,N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluamide) for children and adults. Use DEET according to the manufacturer's directions. Children should not apply DEET to themselves. Repellents that contain Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus have also been determined to be effective.

- Vitamin B, ultrasonic devices, incense, and bug zappers have not been shown to be effective in preventing mosquito bites.

Anyone wishing to learn more about West Nile Virus / EEE may call the Department of Health and Human Services, West Nile Virus Information Line at **(866) 273-6453** between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or login at [www.dhhs.state.nh.us](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us) or for specific questions about WNV in horses, please call the Department of Agriculture at **(603) 271-2404**.

### **Dragon Mosquito Control**

1-603-964-8400

### **DHHS Provides Recommendations on Food Safety During Power Outages**

Even if food doesn't smell bad, and looks safe, it may have been out of a safe temperature range long enough to be contaminated with dangerous bacteria. A good rule to follow in this situation when in doubt, throw it out."

The US Department of Agriculture recommends taking the following steps during and after a weather emergency:

- Never taste food to determine its safety
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature
- The refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened. Full freezers will hold the temperature approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it's half full and the door remains closed)
- Food can be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is at 40 degrees F or below
- Get block ice or dry ice to keep your refrigerator and freezer as cold as possible if the power is going to be out for an extended period of time
- Discard refrigerated perishable food such as meat, poultry, fish, soft cheeses, milk, eggs, leftovers and deli items after 4 hours without power
- Retail establishments with questions about safe food handling during a power outage please visit the DHHS website at:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/FOODPROTECTION/default.htm>



## **Informational Web Sites**

**Town of Newton Official Website**    [www.newton-nh.gov](http://www.newton-nh.gov)

**State of New Hampshire Official Website**  
[www.nh.gov](http://www.nh.gov)

**NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**  
[www.dhhs.nh.gov](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov)

**NH DHHS Directory for Programs and Services**  
[www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/Programs+Services/default.htm](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/Programs+Services/default.htm)

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES)**  
<http://des.nh.gov/index.htm>.

**NH DES Directory to Programs and Services by Subject Telephone Number**  
<http://des.nh.gov/sitemap/index.htm>

**H1N1 Information**  
[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
[www.dhhs.state.nh.us](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us)

Should you have any question or concerns you may contact me at any time. You may reach me by calling 603-498-8028 or through the Selectmen's Office at 382-4405.

It has been my pleasure serving you as Health Officer for the past year and I will continue to enforce the Public Health Laws and rules in the future in order to safeguard the Public Health for the Town Of Newton.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert R. Leverone  
Health Officer

## **FOOD PANTRY AND WELFARE OFFICE**

The Welfare Department is available to provide information, as a referral resource and to assist those in financial crisis, on an emergency basis. Please feel free to contact the Welfare Department at 382-0398 with any questions or concerns you may have.

The Newton Food Pantry is available for any resident who is in need. The Pantry continues to be well stocked with donated, non-perishable food items. To access the Food Pantry please call the Welfare Department to arrange an appointment. As always, all inquiries are kept confidential.

This year the Newton Food Pantry was able to help 20 families with Thanksgiving dinner, 24 families with Christmas dinner and 24 children with their Christmas wishes.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have been so very generous this past Holiday Season with their donations to the Newton Food Pantry. The donations came from many places, both residents and local businesses. It began with the Sanborn Regional Schools, with the High School donating many Thanksgiving Dinners and the Elementary School collecting so many canned goods and gifts.

The Newton Turkey Trot also gave Food Pantry items as well as helped local families with the holidays, organized by the Rich and Kahlil families. I would also like to thank the Newton Police Department and Ocasio's who helped with Thanksgiving dinners. Planet Fitness in Plaistow held a Food Drive, donating many needed items. CBI held a hat and mitten drive with plans of a food drive in the spring. The Lions Club of Plaistow donated five Thanksgiving dinners and made Christmas wishes come true for many children in town. The Boy Scouts donated Thanksgiving dinners as well. Empower Martial Arts in Newton held a very successful food drive to benefit the Newton Food Pantry. The Newton Learning Center staff and families gave Christmas gifts and gift cards, helping a family complete their Holiday. The Gideon Lodge in Kingston made a very generous donation that will enable the Food Pantry to get items needed by many. The Merrimac Savings Bank continues to keep a shopping cart in their lobby for donations, and their patrons regularly fill this cart. The Newton Historical Society also supported the Food Pantry with monetary donations throughout the year.

As always, the Gale Library and Newton Post Office worked hard organizing Food for Fines month and both had Angel Trees – everyone who took a tag off the trees helped to brighten Christmas for so many children. Thank you so much to the staff and patrons of these places for your generosity year after year.

There were also countless residents, some known and others not, who have given selflessly both at the Holidays and throughout the year. Please know that the Food Pantry wouldn't be able to help as many as it does without your kindness. Again, thank you.

Tina O'Rourke  
Welfare Agent  
Town of Newton

## **RECREATION COMMISSION**

2013 was a year of transformation for the Newton NH Recreation Commission, with 100% new volunteers making things happen for Newton residents of all ages.

Diane Morin, Sally Woodman and Marilyn Landry, who all serve in multiple capacities in town, joined Sue DeMercurio to continue recreational activities in town. We are always looking for volunteers to join us!

Each commission member takes point on one event. Diane served as Secretary and ran Vacation activities and discount tickets. Sally organized Senior Activities. Marilyn often acted as Chair. Jessica Brasier served as Vice-Chair, and ran Town Day. John Neveux worked to get the new raft at the Town Beach. Annie Collyer became Chairman, and worked on our town trails and Greenie Park. Ray Thayer as Selectman liaison actively helped with every event.



We continued the time-honored traditions of providing discounted tickets to Canobie Lake and Water Country and added snow tubing at Amesbury Sports Park this year. We administered the Warrant Article for Senior Events, and put on both a HOB0 RR tour and a Holiday Luncheon.

Recreation again staffed the town beach and provided swim lessons. We are arranging to outsource our “learn to swim” program in 2014 at a tremendous savings.

Recreation maintains the fields at Greenie Park, but the playground, picnic, skate park and parking area have been neglected for several years, due to budget constraints. After a long search, we selected Natural Playgrounds to design a master plan for Greenie to be implemented over 5 yrs. We are planning a Golf fundraiser for the fall and reallocating a portion of our operating budget to improvements and maintenance at Greenie.

The Recreation Commission hosted some other activities: Vacation Events for ice skating and roller skating in December, February and April. We had a disappointment with the Halloween Party. With the newer town-mandated receipt policy for reimbursement, the BSA request for funding was not brought to us in time. Both Recreation and the BSA plan to have it back in 2014. We identified a gap in that Recreation has done little for our Adults of all ages, and we have made plans to put on a dinner dance at Haverhill Country Club in the spring of 2014.

As we ended the year, we have added new Commission members, and we continue to be a vibrant and healthy group going into 2014. We want and need volunteers and donors. To do so, please call the recreation department at Town Hall, or email us with the link on the Recreation page of the Town website. We look forward to working with you and making more exciting and fun things happen in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annie Collyer, Chairman  
Recreation Commission

## **ASSESSOR**

I am pleased to announce that the Town’s assessment record cards went online in 2013. In the past the records were only available by coming into the Town Hall and viewing them through our public computer terminal. The Town realizes that finding time or the ability to take time off work can be very difficult; because of this, it was decided that we would provide this service to the public. To access the assessment records go to the Town’s website at [www.newton-nh.gov](http://www.newton-nh.gov) home page and click on View Assessment Cards. There you will be able to locate the data by either owner’s name, location of the property or map and lot. In addition to the assessment cards, the Town’s tax maps are also available through the Assessing website. The public computer terminal will still be available at Town hall for those that do not have access to a computer.

Also in 2013, the Assessing Department was host to a presentation in conjunction with the NH Department of Revenue Administration on the exemptions and credits that are available to the town’s taxpayers. The presentation included elderly and disabled exemptions, veteran and veteran’s surviving spouse credits and the blind exemption which are currently offered. If you

missed the presentation, either in person or on cable television, you can view the data on our Website or contact the Town Hall at 603-382-4405 ext 14 for additional information.

And lastly, one-third of a five year project for data verification was completed. 400 properties of the 1,995 were visited to verify that the data currently on file at the Town was accurate. As an alternative to hiring an outside firm that lacks familiarity with the Town, the Town Assessor is conducting the project. The end result will be that every property in Town will have been visited and verified for data accuracy prior to the mandated 2015 update of values.

As the Town Assessor, I am committed to ensure that all 1,995 parcels are assessed fair and equitable in accordance with New Hampshire laws governing taxation.

In conclusion, I will reiterate that my door is always open and I welcome any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions.

I have been very fortunate to be employed by the Town for fourteen years and I hope many more, and I want to thank the Town of Newton for the trust that you have put in me to be your Assessor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea S. Lewy, Certified New Hampshire Assessor  
Newton Town Assessor

## **NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

In 2013 the Newton Historical Society celebrated the 42<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1971. The society was officially incorporated two years later in 1973.

- ✿ The major project of accessioning / cataloging our documents and artifacts continued. In 2013 our Archivists completed the accessioning of the vast majority of items at the Primary School Museum. The society received several boxes of local newspapers from the family of Myrtle Rogers, who was a founding member of the society. The papers were distributed among members of the society who searched them for articles pertaining to Newton. The selected articles were arranged by month and year and are now waiting accessioning.
- ✿ The Fall Festival fund raiser was again held in mid October, on a lovely fall evening, hosted and sponsored by the Merrimac Savings Bank. Although we still suffer from a soft economy, this year's festival yielded the highest net profit in the seven years we have been conducting the event. Ninety-nine percent of the funds for operating the society come from this single event. Thanks to all our sponsors and attendees.
- ✿ For the third consecutive year the society conducted a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The event took place on Sunday Dec. 8 at the Primary School Museum. Like last year the adults and children enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate. Santa Claus and his Elf were also on hand to hear what the children were hoping to get for Christmas.

Again this year photos were taken of the children on Santa's lap and distributed to their parents.



- ✿ Three historical type presentations were held at the town hall. 1) Two Old Friends, 2) That reminds me of a Story and 3) Lizzie Borden took an Axe, or did she? All were free to the public, very entertaining and very well attended. Three presentations have already been scheduled for April, July and September of 2014.
- ✿ This year a decision was made by the membership to take all donations received at our presentations, match the amounts received and present the funds to the Newton Food Pantry. These donations along with our annual Christmas donation allowed us to become a serious supporter of the Food Pantry.
- ✿ The two town museums, the Marshall House and the Village Primary School museums were opened to the public in June and September.
- ✿ Fifteen VCR tapes of Newton activities spanning the past 20 years were converted to DVDs. The plan is to set up a program to broadcast these on our local Channel 20.
- ✿ It was determined that the barn on the Marshall House property needed structural and aesthetic repairs. Whereas the building belongs to the town, the society contacted the Board of Selectmen and a plan is being worked out to get the necessary repairs done in 2014. Until the repairs are made, the building has been emptied and locked.
- ✿ Currently the society has a web page on the Town of Newton web site. A committee has been formed to design and implement a society controlled web page on the internet that will be able to contain much more information than is currently possible. The site is planned to be operational in 2014.
- ✿ The society unanimously voted to support a group of Kingston and Newton residents who were seeking to obtain grant money from the "Seven to Save" organization to renovate the historic Seminary Building in Kingston. Their application was successful.
- ✿ Our grant application to the NH Preservation Alliance to have our two stage curtains restored, they currently hang in the town hall, was rejected. The reason given was that the curtains "...must be owned by the town, not a private organization". Steps are being taken to return ownership of the curtains to the town and the application will be resubmitted in 2014. Hopefully we will be successful in preserving these historic artifacts. One was painted in 1935, the other in 1891.

*"History is what you make it"*

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – [newtonhistoricalsoc@comcast.net](mailto:newtonhistoricalsoc@comcast.net) - 603-382-0949

Bill Landry - President