

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. As always, all inquiries are kept confidential.

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.

This year the Newton Food Pantry was able to help 22 families with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and 27 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 High School donating many Thanksgiving Dinners. Ocasio's Martial Arts also donated many dinners. Planet Fitness in Plaistow held a Food Drive, donating many needed items. The Lions Club of Kingston and the Lions Club of Plaistow helped with Christmas gifts. The Boy Scouts donated Thanksgiving dinners as well. The North Shore Bank continues to keep a shopping cart in their lobby for donations, and their patrons regularly fill this cart – the Bank also donated ten turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners. Terex held successful drives, both Food and coat/cold weather items. The Newton Historical Society continues to support the Food Pantry with monetary donations throughout the year. The Food Drive held by the Newton Police Department at the Tree Lighting helped to fill the Pantry with much needed items. As always, the Gale Library worked hard organizing Food for Fines Month, Angel Tree, and the Newton Town Clerks Office and Bookkeepers Office helped with the Giving Tree at the Town Hall – everyone who took a tag off the trees helped 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina O'Rourke
Welfare Agent

FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

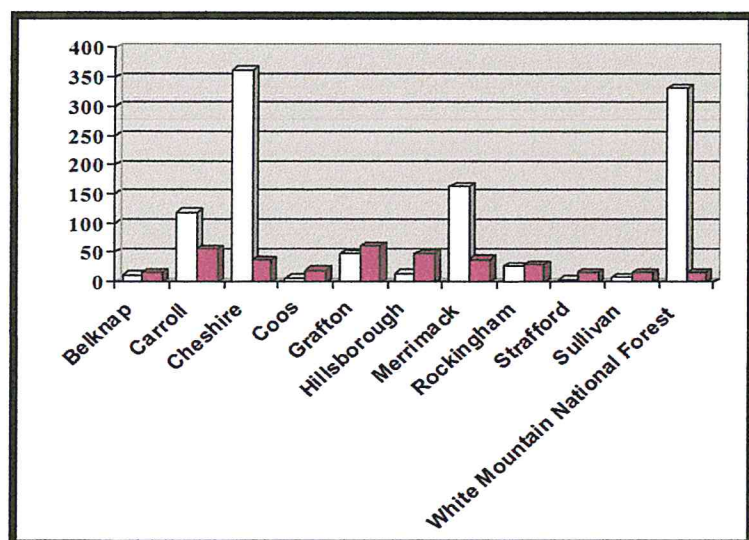
Over the past two years, New Hampshire has experienced its busiest fire seasons since 1989. 1,090 acres burned during the 2016 season. The White Mountain National Forest experienced its largest fire since becoming a National Forest, burning 330 acres in the town of Albany in November. Fires falling under state jurisdiction burned 759 acres, with the largest fire of 199 acres occurring in Stoddard. The extremely dry summer led to a busy fall fire season with large fires occurring into mid-November. Drought conditions hampered fire suppression efforts and extended the time needed to extinguish fires. Your local fire departments and the Division of Forests & Lands worked tirelessly throughout the year to protect homes and the forests. The statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers continues to operate on high fire danger days. Our fire lookouts are credited with keeping many fires small due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. The towers fire detection efforts were supplemented by the NH Civil Air Patrol when the fire danger was especially high.

Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wildland fuels intermix. Several of the fires during the 2016 season threatened structures, and a few structures were burned, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildland fire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department, and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

As we prepare for the 2017 fire season, please remember to contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a fire permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Under State law (RSA 227-L:17) a fire permit is required for all outside burning, unless the ground is completely covered with snow. Fire permits are also available online in most towns and may be obtained by visiting www.NHfirepermit.com. The burning of household waste is prohibited by the Air Resources Division of the Department of Environmental Services (DES). You are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 603-271-3503 or www.des.nh.gov for more information. Safe open burning requires your diligence and responsibility. Thank you for helping us to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. For more information please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, or online at www.nhdfl.org.

2016 WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of December 2016)



HISTORICAL DATA		
YEAR	NUMBER of FIRES	ACRES BURNED
2016	351	1090
2015	124	635
2014	112	72
2013	182	144
2012	318	206

□ Acres
■ # of Fires

CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED								
(These numbers do not include the WMNF)								
Arson	Debris Burning	Campfire	Children	Smoking	Railroad	Equipment	Lightning	Misc.*
15	85	35	10	12	2	18	9	148

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!

GALE LIBRARY REPORT

This has been another exciting year filled with activity at the Gale Library!

The Board of Trustees gave a warm welcome to Jeanne Maggio who is currently serving in the role of an Alternate member. Jeanne joins Lynne (Chairperson), Kathy (Treasurer), Anne (Secretary) and Julie (Alternate) on the Board of Trustees to provide knowledge, guidance, advocacy, and library support. A note of appreciation is extended to these members for the many hours of service they provide throughout the year!

Due to the diligence of the Friends of the Gale Library, new carpeting was installed on the second floor of the library. This large renovation project was in the planning stages for quite some time. With many raffles and book/bake sales over the years, their financial goal was finally reached to provide the funding for this project. All, are in agreement that the Youth Room and Early Childhood Room are now much brighter and appealing. Thank you to our wonderful Friends!

Downloadable eBooks and audio books and digital periodicals may be found at:

<http://nh.lib.overdrive.com>. (Please contact us for your prefix number to log in.)

This literary service offers online availability from your electronic devices. As of November's statistics, there has been 53% more online patron usage this year for audiobooks and eBooks. In addition, there has been 24% more online patron usage this year for digital periodicals.

Our online catalog can be located at: <https://galelibrary.follettdestiny.com>. Renewals and holds may be placed remotely and the site is available at any time.

A reminder that we also offer Interlibrary Loan service for additional materials: <http://www.nhupac.library.state.nh.us/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=>.

Requests may be made in person, by phone, or our email at galelibraryreads@comcast.net.

A genealogy online subscription to Ancestry Library edition can be located at:

<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>.

Our patrons conducted over 10,000 Ancestry searches this year. The library subscribes to this online service to provide our patrons with an economical research opportunity.

Please visit: <http://nhlibrarians.org/calculator> and determine for yourself the financial savings that can be realized by visiting your library.

We offer a variety of programs of interest to all age groups. There are ongoing weekly programs such as Tuesday morning Story-hours, Wednesday evening Cribbage Games, and Friday afternoon Crafting Sessions.

Throughout the year there are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs for youngsters that are both fun and educational. Other note-worthy programming events offered include: winter and summer reading programs, movie matinees, author visits, book discussion groups, cooking presentations, musical presentations, craft workshops for children and for adults, health and nutrition workshops, themed-parties for children, agricultural presentations, pumpkin carving, and a one-woman play.

Our gratitude is expressed to the Board of Trustees, Library Staff, Library Volunteers, Friends of the Gale Library, Library Patrons, and Town of Newton for their assistance in carrying out our mission statement of providing community access to educational, recreational, and cultural resources.

We hope you'll stop by to visit us in 2017 for the latest bestsellers, technology resources, music, games, movies, non-fiction titles, programs and much more!

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa E. Caswell, Library Director
Lynne Camp, Chairperson, Anne Banks, Secretary, Kathy Meserve, Treasurer
Julie Lamere, Alternate, Jeanne Maggio, Alternate
Gale Library Board of Trustees

Library Statistics - 2016

Total Registered Users	5,048
Total Library Visitors	11,286
Library Holdings	30,822
Total Registered Users	5,048
Total Library Visitors	11,286
Library Holdings	30,822
Materials Added	1,494
Materials Weeded	947
Interlibrary Items Borrowed from NH Libraries	398
Interlibrary Items Loaned to NH Libraries	542
Total Programs Offered	257
Adult	141
Children	116
Total Program Attendees	2,322
Adult	616
Children	1,706
Museum Passes	46
Computer Sessions	1,085
Online Database Searches	11,831
Total Circulation	27,842
NH Downloadable Books	2,144
Books	18,678
Audio Visual Materials	5,505
Periodicals	1,495
Miscellaneous	20

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa E. Caswell
Library Director