# A Letter from the Supervisor

# **Town Government**

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Supervisor – Colleen Teal

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Did you know that the Town Clerk’s office maintains an email database that receives all board meeting agendas, meeting minutes and other important documents and updates? If you would like to be added to this database please send request with your email address to townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com. Your email address will not be shared.

Regular Town Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22, New Lebanon, NY, 12125

Mailing Address:

Town of New Lebanon

PO Box 328

New Lebanon, NY, 12125

Town of New Lebanon

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| www.townofnewlebanon.com | **May 2017** |  | Volume 1 Issue 1 |

The New Lebanon Recreation Commission will be sponsoring its 6th Annual Community Picnic on Saturday, July 22nd from 11am – 3pm at The Shatford Park Pavilion. Hot dogs, hamburgers, corn, watermelon, chips and drinks will be provided. Feel free to bring a side dish to share. We hope to see you there!

As the warmer weather is upon us, I hope everyone is enjoying some outdoor time! I want to start this letter by following up on some of the items I addressed in the February newsletter. The total cost to date for supplies and materials for all of the improvements at the Town Hall is $2,393.14. This does not include the paint for the Assessor’s Office, as that bill is not in yet, and it does not reflect the hours put in by our Building Maintenance Staff. This does account for all of the work done on the first floor including the hallway, the Town Clerk’s Office, the Supervisor/Tax Collector’s Office, and the Building Department Office. The response of the public to these improvements has been (continued on page 2) Free Store to open May 1st

The free store will be opening on May 1st, 2017! It will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 5pm through the Town Clerk’s Office. It is open to ALL residents of New Lebanon to come and take whatever you need for FREE! For now, we are limiting donations to clothing and footwear (all styles and sizes) as well as children’s items. A huge thank you to our team of volunteers who have worked hard to set up the storage room, sort and organize the donations, and all that have donated items. We have a huge selection to choose from. Please come check it out! For more information contact Tistrya Houghtling at 518-794-8888 or townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com.

Letter from the Supervisor Continued: very positive. We are now working on the Assessor’s Office on the second floor and have plans for the upstairs hallway (although that may have to wait until late fall/winter as our building maintenance staff is also our park maintenance staff and with beautiful weather, the activity at the park will be picking up significantly).

We are still making amendments to our Zoning regulations. We had our first “Quad Board Meeting” (Town Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Conservation Advisory Council) and attendance was fantastic. We had twenty-two members attend and there was a lot of good discussion. The goal of these meetings is not to make decisions but simply to open communication amongst the various boards and staff members that are involved in land use decisions. We all seemed to be in agreement that amending our Zoning regulations to make them easier and less cumbersome for the applicants is a positive move. We are currently holding a public hearing on the new solar regulations and some minor language changes to other areas of the code that will make a few processes less cumbersome for all involved. The sign regulations have been reworked by the Zoning Re-Write Committee and a proposal has been submitted to the Town Board; we will be reviewing this proposal at a special meeting on April 26th. The Zoning Re-Write Committee will be reviewing the site plan review process over the next several months.

Our *Music in the Park* program is well under way with the dates chosen and all of the bands booked. Next, we will be looking for local businesses interested in providing food and beverages. (See page 4 for more information.)

We are also well into our planning for the Bi-centennial celebration entitled the “NL200.” This is a celebration of our incorporation as a town separate from the “King’s District” in 1818 that will run for several seasons in 2018. There are a number of activities already being planned but my hope is that every business and entity in town will participate in some way. While this is a celebration of our history, let’s also make it a celebration of who we are today! We will help you come up with a way to participate or you can develop an event yourself. We are also looking for volunteers to help coordinate some of the events and activities. (See page 8 for more information.)

There is a lot of activity on our commercial properties. As many of you aware, there is an application before the Planning Board for a Dunkin Donuts next door to Stewarts. The proposed building has a rural cottage look and will be a welcome addition to our “downtown” area not the least of which will be a significant increase to our tax base. There are at least four other commercial properties along the Route 20/22 corridor and along Route 20 heading West that have either recently sold or are close to closing. All of these are either vacant lots or commercial structures that have been vacant for a while. It is exciting to talk to the proposed owners about their plans for development of these properties. Additionally, I have spoken with a couple of our current business owners with some exciting plans for the near future. It feels like we may finally be on an upswing instead of on a downturn. We are also working with the Columbia Economic Development Committee and Columbia County Tourism to find ways they can support current and proposed future activities in New Lebanon.

With so many positive changes occurring, we feel it is imperative to develop a business/commerce/tourism committee that can work to help support, enhance, and promote all of these opportunities, projects and ventures. If you have an interest in serving on this type of committee, please contact me at 518-794-8889 or supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com.

Letter from the Supervisor Continued: To update you on the Broadband situation, there have been some significant changes for our town and for our County. The Town’s and the County’s overall economic health depend on our ability to provide businesses and potential millennial homeowners with proper broadband service. Columbia County received the most funding state-wide from Phase 2 of the New NY Broadband Program. The NY Broadband Program Office (BPO) will begin accepting applications for Phase 3 starting on June 6th with all applications due by August 15th. This is the final phase of the New NY Broadband Program. There were concerns about what was thought to be errors in the maps the BPO was using to make the New NY Broadband Program funding decisions but conversations with the BPO have confirmed that these are not errors. These maps are based on street address data and a number of overlapping programs (federal, state, local) that the BPO is overseeing and areas that may currently have no service but are “colored” as fully served are known to be getting upgrades or build-outs through one of the these programs. In New Lebanon, the two providers are Spectrum (new company formed out of Charter Communications and Time Warner merger) and Fairpoint (recently acquired by Consolidated Communications). Spectrum’s upgrades and build-out are covered by the NYS Public Service Commission’s (NYS PSC) directives in their approval of the Charter/TW merger. Those addresses in New Lebanon that currently have access (not necessarily are customers) to Charter Cable TV will be part of the upgrade to broadband service from Spectrum. I hope we are starting to see the benefits of this by November of 2017 which ends the 18-month time frame the NYS PSC gave for Spectrum to fulfill their mandated upgrade. Whether or not New Lebanon has any of the additional ten percent build-out to new service areas noted as part of the NYS PSC conditions is still not know. At the same time, Fairpoint applied for Phase 2 funding for fiber to the home and was awarded a significant amount of funding for New Lebanon for this project ($2,718,608). According to my conversations with Fairpoint, they too have an 18-month completion time which started in January of 2017. Additionally, Fairpoint is still upgrading with funding they received from the Connect America Fund (CAF). Within the next year and a half, we will see a significant difference in the internet speeds we have available and, I believe based on the level of my involvement with the providers, with competition between the providers. The competition will be seen on a county-wide basis also and this will only serve to improve our ongoing position with regards to broadband.

The County is also working on the problem with opiate addictions. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) created a committee of elected officials, Department Heads and public and private service providers, in order to clarify the nature and extent of the opioid abuse problem in Columbia County, the full measure of public and private resources being utilized to address this problem, the best way to organize and enhance those efforts, and what new initiatives should be considered to complement and/or expand upon those efforts. At the March Full Board Meeting, the Board of Supervisors adopted the *Columbia County Opioid Epidemic Response Plan.* The plan looks at the current situation and notes that *“our incidence of morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorders are alarmingly high, and argue the case for investment in this area.”* The plan also looks at all of the services currently available in the County and those that are lacking (specifically our limited capacity for detox and residential programs) and makes recommendations on how the County should proceed with addressing this issue. This is a good strong first step in addressing this problem. On May 1st, an opioid hotline will be activated (677-HOPE-365 or 677-467-3365) to help connect those in need with available services.

At the April Town Board Meeting, Leslie Whitcomb (New Lebanon Central School District Superintendent) made a presentation on the proposed renovations district-wide. There will be three items to vote on for the May 16th vote including the school budget, a proposed renovation project at the WBH Elementary School Letter from the Supervisor Continued: ($3,100,000) and proposed work at the Junior/Senior High School and the WBH Elementary School ($8,755,000). The school is mailing out detailed information about these propositions so watch for this information. The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 16th from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Walter B. Howard Elementary School gymnasium. Information is available on the school’s website at <http://www.newlebanoncsd.org/renovation-project/> or you can call Leslie Whitcomb with questions at 518-794-7600, Option 3, then Option 1.

Did you know that the 2017 graduating class will be the 100th class graduating from the NLCSD? There are special events included in this year’s graduation program to commemorate this significant benchmark.

There are several other events coming up in town also. In June, we will be holding our annual “Town Clean-Up Day” (See page 6 for more information). The annual Community Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 22nd at Shatford Park from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm; more information will be coming to you about this event. Also, Howie McArdle is looking to bring back the adult softball league in New Lebanon with games held at the softball field at Shatford Park (See page 11 for more information.)

For the first time in quite some time, we are not having difficulty getting people involved in the town government. There are many ways residents can get involved and we always welcome your participation and input. Please always feel free to reach out to me, any of the Town Board members or the Town Clerk if you have an interest in getting involved. We can always find a place for you that will fit with your interests and passions.

Warmest regards,

Colleen

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Music in The Park

This summer, the “Music in the Park” program in the Shatford Park pavilion will consist of free concerts on Sunday afternoons with different performers playing a variety of music genres. A food vendor will sell tasty grub and wine and craft beers will be sold as well. Water and soft drinks will also be available. The final concert will be an expanded festival-style event, with more performances and a greater variety of food and drink.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS so you will not miss this great experience:

Sunday, June 18, 2017 from 1:30 to 4:30 PM

Sunday, July 30, 2017 from 1:30 to 4:30 PM

Sunday, August 20, 2017 from 1:30 to 4:30 PM

Sunday, September 17, 2017 from 1:30 to 6:00 PM

Performers for the June and July concerts:

June 18 – Bobby Sweet and Lara Tupper 1:30 PM

 Linda Worster and David Grover 2:30 PM

 Misty Blues 3:30 PM

July 30 – The Ukeville String Band 1:30 PM

 The Hale Mountain Pickers 2:30 PM

 Shut Up and Dance 3:30 PM

Performers for the August and September concerts will be featured in the August Newsletter. Facebook users should like and follow our page at <https://www.facebook.com/NewLebMusic/> for all of the latest information.

All local businesses are invited to set up an informational table at these events. There will be no sales allowed but you may provide information about your business or group and offer free activities. We will provide a piece of lawn and you would bring everything you need to set up. There will be no political activity allowed. We are also in need of volunteers for the day of each of these events. If you are interested in volunteering or for more information contact Doug Banker at 518-794-9764 or charlesbanker@fairpoint.net.

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From the Conservation Advisory Council

The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) invites interested residents to a public forum to review a draft Natural Resources Conservation Plan (NRCP). The forum has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, starting at 6:00 P.M. at Town Hall. Refreshments will be served and we plan to conclude no later than 7:30 P.M.

The CAC has been working for a year and a half on this first-ever conservation plan for the town. With work on the plan nearing completion, the June 28 forum will offer the public an opportunity to help shape the final plan. Our consultant, Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia, along with five CAC members – Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jack Lancto, Peg Munves and Craig Westcott – will be happy to hear suggestions and answer any questions. All responses to the plan and observations about the town will be welcomed.

The conservation plan identifies important agricultural lands, historic and recreational sites, scenic view sheds, and water and woodland resources throughout the town and will recommend conservation priorities. The plan will also lay out actions that the town and landowners can take to achieve conservation goals. As part of the effort, the CAC has partnered with students in the Hands to Work program at Darrow School to conduct original mapping under the instruction of biologists from Hudsonia Ltd. and the Farmscape Ecology Program at Hawthorne Valley Farm. The team used existing maps and aerial photographs to identify intermittent streams, woodland pools, other small wetlands, and ancient forest patches in the town that had not been previously mapped. To date, CAC members have visited nearly 12% of the town’s acreage to verify the remote mapping, and will continue verification throughout the town this spring and summer. We are grateful to the many landowners who have granted permission for the site visits.

Draft maps for the NRCP are posted on the town’s web site for review. The draft NRCP will also be posted at least a week before the public forum on June 28. Link to the CAC site under “Boards & Commissions” on the masthead. We would be happy to receive responses – the CAC has a mail slot in the copier room at Town Hall. The New York State Environmental Protection Fund provided funding for this project through a grant to the town from the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. We look forward to sharing our work on June 28. Please mark your calendars.

Town Clean Up Day

The Town of New Lebanon will be holding its 4th annual town clean-up day on Saturday, June 3rd from 8am – 2pm. Town clean-up day is a one day event held by the Town for its residents to have access, at no charge (food donations in lieu of fee), to trash dumpsters also known as roll-offs. The roll-offs (dumpsters) are set up in the Town Hall parking lot in the space between the Highway Garage and the basketball courts. In advance of town clean-up day you must obtain a punch card from the Town Clerk’s Office or the Building Department at the Town Hall. One punch card per household allows two trips in any vehicle (10 foot max for truck or trailer) and up to four tires.  When obtaining your punch card we will ask for proof of residency (i.e., driver’s license, utility bill) and your non-perishable food donation to Charlie’s Pantry.

When you load your trash onto your vehicle be mindful that the following items need to be separated out and it would be most beneficial if they were accessible first:  tires, metal, Freon appliances, and car batteries. We cannot accept electronics, household kitchen waste garbage, yard debris or hazardous waste. Electronics can be brought to the Greenport Transfer Station, 51 Newman Road, Hudson, NY (518-828-1442). Provided that we have enough volunteers, there is a possibility that someone may be able to assist residents who may need help with large or heavy items or need a truck. Simply call Cissy Hernandez at 518-794-8884 well in advance to schedule and coordinate assistance as these special pick-ups must occur a day or two before the event is scheduled. If you are interested in volunteering please call Cissy Hernandez at 518-794-8884.

We are making a slight change to the parking arrangement on clean-up day 2017. Instead of coming into the Town Hall parking lot, being numbered and finding a place to park, we are going to ask that folks drive into the Shatford Park entrance off of Route 22 (near the ball field) and travel toward Old Post Road. The first car to reach Old Post Road will stop and wait there and everyone else will form the line behind that vehicle. We will have staff flag the cars in from the line up and into the Town Hall parking lot from the Old Post Road entrance. You will pull your vehicle into the space between the Highway Garage and the basketball court where the dumpsters are set up. Volunteers will then help you unload. Specific dumpsters will be labeled for specific materials (i.e., Batteries, Tires, Freon, scrap metal and General). As you unload your vehicle into the appropriate dumpsters, you will advance your vehicle forward toward the back of the highway garage and exit on the path at the westerly side of the Highway Garage and continue out to the main exit onto Route 22. For more information, including a detailed list of what is and is not accepted, please visit our website at <http://www.townofnewlebanon.com/town-clean-up-day-faq/> or call the building department at 518-794-8884. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the building department.

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**The KISS Program**

The Columbia County KISS Program will once again become available to seniors in New Lebanon from June 12 through June 30. The KISS Program stands for Keeping the Identities of Seniors Safe. It was designed to protect the identities of our seniors while assisting them in the shredding of their sensitive materials. Much of what we toss in the trash should actually be shredded for our own safety. This is a completely free program in which seniors are able to dispose of their sensitive documents. Seniors can bring their sensitive materials (old credit card receipts, bank statements, tax records..etc) to the New Lebanon Town Hall and place them in a locked 64 gallon container. The container is kept secure until Certified Document Security removes the container and brings it to their facility in New Lebanon for shredding. Any questions, please contact the Town Clerk’s office at 518-794-8888.

For Our Seniors

The Lebanon Valley Senior Citizens meet the first and third Friday of each month with a few exceptions. The meetings are held at 1pm in the New Lebanon Town Hall meeting room, 14755 State Route 22. Anyone 55 years of age is eligible to join. If only one member of a couple is 55, both are eligible to join. Come check them out – you’ll meet new friends, enjoy interesting speakers, great trips and refreshments at each meeting. Yearly dues are $10. For more information please contact Pat Burnell at 794-7084.

Some of the upcoming trips are:

5/9 – Villa Roma Lunch and Show – Tribute to the Platters – cost $55 – bus leaves at 7am

6/28 – Essex CT Steam Train and Mississippi Style Riverboat Ride – cost $60 – bus leaves at 6:45am

7/17 – Lighthouse Mansion Tour from CT to Long Island Sound – cost $60 – bus leaves at 7am

To sign up for a trip or for more information please call Pat Burnell at 794-7084.

**Did you know that our website has a page named Lebanon Valley Senior Citizens at** <http://www.townofnewlebanon.com/lebanon-valley-senior-citizens/> **where you can find a schedule of all their meetings and special trips. You will also find contact information for programs and organizations for Seniors in Columbia and Rensselaer County.**

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Free Rabies Clinic at the Town Highway Garage

The Columbia County Department of Health is offering a free rabies clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets at least 3 months of age or older. It will be held on Tuesday, August 8th at the New Lebanon Highway Garage, 14755 State Route 22. Cats and ferrets will be from 4 pm – 5 pm and dogs will be from 5 pm – 6 pm. All dogs must be on a leash and cats & ferrets must be in carriers. Shots will be administered by Dr. Lisa Dietrich from the Nassau Vet Clinic. Donations are accepted.

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2017 Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Fishing Licenses can be purchased at any time of year at the Town Clerk’s Office and are good for 1 year from date of purchase. Spring Turkey season runs from May 1st – 31st and Turkey licenses can be purchased at the Town Clerk’s Office for this year’s season. 2017-18 Hunting licenses go on sale in August (exact date to be determined and will be posted in the next newsletter) and can be purchased at the Town Clerk’s Office. The Town Clerk’s Office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am – 5 pm and office hours will be extended for fall hunting license sales. Stay tuned for the next newsletter coming out in the beginning of August for our exact extended hours.

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Citizen Photographers Needed

The New Lebanon CAC needs citizen photographers! To help complete our Natural Resources Conservation Plan we are actively seeking photos of plants, animals, rocks and formations, streams and ponds and other water resources -- people can be in the photos as well. Almost anything that you have seen or find outdoors. We will be happy to receive anything that you already have or know about and are able to photograph. Please send digital images if possible and include your name, contact number and email, location, a very short description of the photo, and date of image, and send to: Peg Munves, CAC member, at pmunves@panix.com. Please submit by May 30. Feel free to contact Peg with any questions as well.

Help Make NL200 Plans Come to Life!!

Although a year away, it is time to prepare for the 200th anniversary of New Lebanon’s incorporation in 2018. The **NL200** Steering Committee has roughed out plans for our year-long celebration, but getting these plans off the ground will require the involvement of lots of you. We would love your participation to help form, inspire, and enrich the town's history and community. How can you help? Well we’re glad you asked because we’ve broken out volunteer opportunities into several categories designed to suit the interests of just about anyone.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

We're looking for people who want to take charge of specific projects, as well as participate in other ways, small and large. If you wish to volunteer or if you just want to learn more, please send an email to growthevalley@gmail.com. Indicate your area of interest and the best way to get a hold of you. The areas for which we are seeking volunteers are the following:

**Local Business involvement**
Participate in NL200 committee-sponsored projects and events, and develop your own event too. Is there a special 2018 product, service or concept you could offer your customers?

**Nonprofit organization involvement**

Help organize bicentennial-themed project development and coordination. Does your organization offer regular or annual events you could celebrate in 2018 on a bicentennial theme?

**Showboat Dinner Dance (April) -** including food, entertainment, venue and logistics, harking back to NL's famous dance hall that was built like a boat.

**Community Picnic (late July)** – work with picnic planners to enrich the picnic with bicentennial-themed events like a time capsule, community picture and maybe fireworks to mark the year.

**October Event (Halloween)** - including food, entertainment and venue.  Could there be something haunted?

**Passport project** - including developing the concept, printing, distribution, organization, funding and prizes. Imagine people collecting stamps inside an NL "passport" after visiting businesses, sites and organizations.  Completed passports qualify for prizes.

**Publicity and public relations** - including, press releases, advertising, social media, printing and distribution of materials.

**Fundraising**- including, grant applications, raffles, advertising and donations.

…and last but not least!

**Play/Scene Writing**

In collaboration with the Theater Barn, we are hoping to hold performances of original works written by those of you wishing to highlight events in New Lebanon’s past (and present) that inspire you

Do you have skills in these areas and a desire to celebrate life in town on a bicentennial theme?  Let us know at **growthevalley@gmail.com** and please jump in!

Town of New Lebanon Summer Youth Program

**Registration Deadline: June 10th**

**June 26th - August 18th**

**8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday**

#### **at Shatford Park Pavilion, Old Post Road,** **New Lebanon, NY**

**Open to: Children registered for Kindergarten through & including age 13**

**Registration Fees:**

**Fees are determined by residency and the number of children per family participating in the program:**

**Resident** (Town & County Taxes Paid to Town of New Lebanon):

$400/1 child $600/2 children $735/3 children $835/4 or more children

**Local Non-Resident** (Children attend NLCSD but Town & County Taxes Paid to an abutting Town):

$675/1 child $1000/2 children $1,350/3 children $1,600/4 or more children

**Non-Resident** (Children do not attend NLCSD and Town & County Taxes are not paid to Town of New Lebanon):

$1,350 per child

**There are additional fees for field trips and swim lessons. Both are optional.**

**Activities**

**Crafts Board games Cards Puzzles Legos**

**Tennis Basketball Soccer Playground Bike Day**

**Softball Volleyball Ping Pong Kickball Art**

**Football Golf**

**Capture the Flag On-Site Presentations Team Building Activities**

**Field Trips:**

**Great Escape \* Zoom Flume**

For more information, contact Michelle Bienes, Camp Director @ 794-7774 or 788-1150.

Registration Packets are available at the Town Clerk’s office at the Town Hall or online at: http://www.townofnewlebanon.com/summer-youth-program/

Columbia County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

**The Columbia County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 8am – 12 noon at the County Highway Garage, 178 NY-23B, Hudson, NY. There is no charge for County residents and proof of residency will be required. Residents with large quantities (pick up/van loads) must contact the DPW administrative office prior to participating at 518-828-2737. For a full list of what is and is not accepted, please go to** [www.townofnewlebanon.com](http://www.townofnewlebanon.com) **and click on “Columbia County Hazardous Waste Collection Day” on the home page.**

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From the New Lebanon Library

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2017: Summer is one of the busiest times of the year for libraries. It’s nearly summer now, time for a fun-filled program designed to encourage children to read during school break. Teens and adults can participate, too, and as always we’ll have plenty of events for all ages. Beginning Monday, July 1st, through Friday, August 31st, children will be encouraged to come to the library and join the fun. They’ll receive a reading log to track all the books they read and we’ll check it each time they visit the library. Kids will earn prizes for their books and library visits. This year’s Summer Reading theme is “Build a Better World,” which will kick off on July 12th with a special event at Shatford Park. The program, “Conservation Through Education,” will feature a nature presentation and petting menageie by Two by Two Zoo. The rest of the summer will be filled with entertaining and educational programs such as art, makerspace, sound engineering and the science of building, all in addition to our regular events like Legos, Bingo, family movie nights and craft programs. All are welcome!

LIVE AT THE LIBRARY: SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: The concert series, made possible thanks to a grant from Hudson Valley Bank, will kick off with a performance by Linda Worster, who will appear the first week of each month. All concerts will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the library program room, except the Berkshire Highlanders who will appear on a Wednesday on the patio. All performances are free. Donations will be gratefully accepted for the performers.

Fri. 6/1, 7/7, 8/4: **Linda Worster:** Kick off our series with wonderful acoustic music that proclaims the joy and explores the struggle of inner discovery. Linda will perform the first week of each month

Fri. Fri. 6/9: **The Echoes:** An evening of acoustic folk-rock from local trio featuring Doug Banker, Tistrya Hamilton and Judy Zimmer.

Fri. 6/16: **David Grover:** Country, folk and rock from Berkshire County’s most prolific and popular singer-songwriter.

Fri. 6/30: **Atwater-Donnelly**: The highly acclaimed husband-wife duo will present a delightful program of traditional American and Celtic folk songs, a capella pieces, old-time gospel songs, dance tunes, and original works.

Fri. 7/14**: Doug Schmolze:** The renowned guitarist/tenor performs songs of World War I.

Wed. Date TBA**:** **Berkshire Highlanders:** Bring a blanket or lawn chair and get ready to be suffused with the sounds of Scotland by the spectacular pipe band. Weather dependent.

Sun. 7/10: **David Grover & Linda Worster**: Acoustic folk, rock and original tunes from these local favorites.

Fri. 7/21**:** **The Ladies’ Auxiliary Ukulele Orchestra:** Bernice Lewis & company perform originals and reinvented standards for ukulele with a set list that ranges from Mozart to Led Zeppelin.

Fri. 8/11, 6:30 PM**:** **The Limb Shakers:** An evening of old time jazz and swing music.

Fri. 8/18, 6:30p PM: **Bobby Sweet & Lara Tupper:** Two musical virtuosos performing a mix of originals and some folk/pop renditions.

SPECIAL THEATER BARN PERFORMANCE TO BENEFIT THE NEW LEBANON LIBRARY: The New Lebanon Library and the Theater Barn are pleased to announce a special performance of the Agatha Christie play “Spider’s Web” on July 5th at 7:30.  “Spider’s Web,” one of Christie’s best with thrills and comedy, is sure to offer shocks and laughs.  Proceeds from the show will go towards helping the library. Tickets will be available at the Library in June.  We are looking forward to seeing you there.

STORIED RECIPES OF NEW LEBANON: The New Lebanon Library is seeking contributions of recipes and accompanying stories to create a cookbook “Storied Recipes of New Lebanon.” Our goal is to make “Storied Recipes” a book fun to read, to give, even to use! We hope to represent who we are as a community--what we’re cooking and eating at the 200th year of our incorporation as a Town. To be successful, we want as many of you as possible to contribute. Happy or sad, stories are the stars and make the recipes come alive. Recipe formats are available both at the library and the Town Clerk’s office, due June 1. If you have questions or just want to chat, here are names to call: Helen Burton, Jean Crosby, Pat Macias,Betsy Gitter,Debby Gordon, Chris Dreyfus.

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2017 Spring Co-Ed Softball League Looking for Teams

Join our competitive Co-ed Softball League at Lebanon Springs town park for Spring of 2017. Teams consist of 6 men and 4 women. There will be one game per week with a flexible schedule, modified pitch (no slingshot) with ½ speed to the women, single wall aluminum or wooden bats only (no composites), and high intensity lighting system (usage costs to be determined). The cost is $250 entry fee per team which covers an 18 game schedule and $3 per game/per player for ASA umps. Contact Howie McArdle at 518-794-9020 for details.

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The Abode is A-Bustlin’ with Activity!

Come join the Abode in May- there is so much going on! While the Abode has been a part of New Lebanon since 1975, it has often been shrouded in mystery.  That’s hopefully slowly fading as we are striving more and more to be involved in the community and to welcome the community up the hill.

Any week, we have classes open to the public at 7pm on Tuesdays and Thursday, preceded by dinner ($12) at 6pm from our 1831 Shaker kitchen.  Sundays we have a Universal Worship service (think “Sufi church”) followed by brunch ($10) at 12:30pm. Any month, we have a New Moon Women’s Circle, an Abode Farm class, a work morning, a community potluck, and a Village Visit.  Village Visits are a time to explore and understand what life at such an Eco-Sufi Village looks like, who lives at the Abode, what the rhythm is, and what basic practices orient our lives. The month of May we have a wide range of programs: Emerald Earth (May 5-7), Rasa Shastra (May 12-14), Federation of the Message (May 17-21), and The Feminine Resurrection (May 25-28).

Information about the Abode can be found at [www.theabode.org](http://www.theabode.org) and specific information about any of the events or programs can be found at [www.theabode.org/programs](http://www.theabode.org/programs). You may also see many of us around as we begin making more connections with other local spiritual organizations and offering service throughout the local community as well.  Keep your eyes open for our colorful heart-and-wings logo - on pins, t-shirts, bandanas, etc. - and come say hi! We look forward to continuing our relationship with New Lebanon and look forward to sharing life with you, our neighbors!

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CLC Presents a Family Fun Day Event!

The Columbia Land Conservancy presents a family fun day event on Sunday, May 28 at Hand Hollow Conservation Area from 4:00pm – 7:00 pm. The event will feature wildlife demonstrations, kids’ games and activities, guided hikes, live music, free ice cream & more! Pack a picnic or come hungry and purchase food from Capital Q Smokehouse. There is a $20 per family suggested donation. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged and you can register at clctrust.org.

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From Mountain Road School

Mountain Road School announces its annual Spring Soiree Saturday May 20, 2017.  Wonderful food and friends as well as a great selection of local treasures in the Silent Auction. A preview is available from at 5pm until 6pm featuring special music and refreshments for a ticket price of $50 which can be reserved by emailing betsy@mountainroadschool.org.  The Soiree begins at 6:30 and will have a cash bar.  RSVP for the Preview party is encouraged however tickets may be purchased at the door as well.  All are welcome to celebrate Spring with us!

Enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is underway. Preschool through 8th grade seats are available but limited. Apply early for financial aid.  More information at [mountainroadschool.org](http://mountainroadschool.org/) or call 794-8520.

Mountain Road School is a progressive independent school featuring small class sizes and individualized attention for students with a focus on each child's many facets of development.  In contrast to standardized measures, Mountain Road employs a rich narrative assessment to reflect a child's authenticity. We nurture a reciprocal relationship between human beings and the natural world and encourage stewardship of our natural resources by immersing children in the wild world.  Mountain Road graduates experience success in many settings including public, private, and homeschool.  High school teachers frequently remark on the excellent preparation they witness in a Mt Road student.  For more information please email director@mountainroadschool.org or call 794-8520.

Calendar of Events

May 16th from 12 noon – 9pm – Vote on Proposed School Renovations and School Budget for the NLCSD School District at Walter B. Howard Elementary School

June 3rd from 8am – 2pm – Town Clean Up Day at The Town Highway Garage

June 12th – June 30th – KISS Program at the Town Hall (Free shredding of documents – M, W, Th, Fr 9-5)

June 17th from 8am – 12 noon – CC Hazardous Household Waste Collection at County Highway Garage

June 18th from 1:30pm – 4:30pm – Music In The Park at Shatford Park

June 26th – August 18th – Summer Youth Program at Shatford Park (registration deadline is June 10th)

June 28th from 6pm – 7:30pm – CAC Presentation of the Draft of The Natural Resources Conservation Plan at the Town Hall

July 22nd from 11am – 3pm – Community Picnic at Shatford Park

July 30th from 1:30pm – 4:30pm – Music In The Park at Shatford Park

August 8th from 4pm – 6pm – Free Rabies Clinic for Cats, Dogs & Ferrets at The Town Highway Garage