# A Letter from the Supervisor

# **Town Government**

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Supervisor – Colleen Teal

supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com

518-794-8889

Councilmembers:

Chuck Geraldi

cgeraldi@townofnewlebanon.com

Dan Evans

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Kevin Smith, Sr.

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Town Clerk – Tistrya Houghtling

townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com

518-794-8888

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 | **November 2017** | Volume 1 Issue 1 |

 I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Our “Music in the Park” program was a success and we plan to continue it annually. If you were not able to attend one of the events this year, we hope you will be able to attend one next season. It is a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon – in our beautiful park, with good friends, good music, and good food & drink. We are also working on the addition of “Theater in the Park.” (Continued on Page 2)

The General Election is Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at the Immaculate Conception Church, 732 US Route 20. The polls are open from 6am – 9pm. On the ballot this election are the Offices of: Justice of the Supreme Court, Sheriff, Coroner, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Town Council (2), Town Justice, Highway Superintendent, and Town Tax Collector.

2nd Annual Holiday Gift Donation Program

The first Holiday Gift Donation Program was a huge success last year thanks to the kindness and generosity of our community! Again this year, the Town Clerk will be spearheading a Holiday Gift Drive for families in need in our community. If you are a family in need living in New Lebanon, please contact Tistrya Houghtling at the Town Clerk’s office at 794-8888 or townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com or stop by her office M, W, Th, or Fri between 9am and 5pm. She will be making a list of specific gifts needed, distributing the list to people wanting to donate, collecting the donations, wrapping the gifts and delivering them to the families in time for the Holidays. Drop off locations will be at the Town Hall, Berkshire Bank and the New Lebanon Post Office. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way (ie – donating items, wrapping gifts, etc.) please contact Tistrya.

Letter from the Supervisor Continued:

 A new resident in our community, with a background in theater, attended one of the Music in the Park programs and thought the Pavilion would be a great venue for a theatrical production. We are looking at providing two productions sometime next summer. Watch future newsletters for more information on these events.

There is still a lot of planning going into the “NL 200” Celebration and we are always looking for more people to get involved. Right now, it looks like we will be having “events” from March through October of 2018 to help celebrate two hundred years since our incorporation as the “town” of New Lebanon. Please see more information on the NL 200 later in the newsletter.

The Habitat for Humanity project in New Lebanon is a Women Build Project. This means at least 75% of the volunteers and donors will be women. It is expected that the actual building part of the project will begin around January of 2018 and anyone is welcome to participate. You may volunteer for one day or for every day or for anything in between. You may volunteer to serve refreshments to the volunteer builders or to be a volunteer builder yourself. Again, your level of involvement is what you are comfortable with. Think about volunteering for a day – the project home is on County Route 13 and the future owner of this home is a New Lebanon resident. Please see the write up later in the newsletter about the Habitat for Humanity Project.

We completed more work in the park this year including fixing the roof over the barbeque pit at the Pavilion … a project that has needed to be done for a long time. We had hoped to re-do the basketball court this year but the cost was significantly more than we expected, so we added additional funding in 2018 and the work will be done in 2018. We have also put funds in the 2018 budget to repair the Pavilion floor, build a new storage shed, and buy a new mower for the park. Additionally, we acquired the cupola from the Union Free School building from the school district and have plans to create a memorial for the Union Free School Building in the park.

We have completed the Preliminary Budget for 2018 and will be holding a public hearing on it on Thursday, November 9th. Even with all of the new programs and the work we are doing on our Town Park, there will be no tax increase in 2018.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Town Supervisor.

Warmest regards,

Colleen

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KISS Program runs for the 4th Quarter

The KISS Program (Keeping Identities of Seniors Safe) presented by the County Clerk runs its 4th quarter for 2017 from 12/4 – 12/15 at the New Lebanon Town Hall. KISS is a shredding program offered to seniors so they can safely and securely have sensitive documents destroyed, at no cost to them. Documents can be dropped off at the Town Clerk’s Office on Mon, Wed, Thur and Fri from 9am–5pm. Please stop at the Town Clerk’s Office to fill out a form before dropping off your documents for shredding.

NL 200 – Our Bicentennial Year Quickly Approaches

Hard to believe, but the beginning of the bicentennial year of the town’s chartering is just around the corner. The NL200 steering committee has mapped out a year’s worth of programs and events combining fun, education and an appreciation of our town’s rich history. Each month between January and October will have a distinct theme with events and activities revolving around that theme throughout the month. Here’s what we have in mind for Jan-April:

**January –** Churches month

Celebrating the Town’s religious and spiritual past and present.

Event: Bicentennial Year kick-off event proposed for Jan. 13.

**February –** Winter Recreation month

Celebrating the area’s fabulous, 4-season recreational resources.

Events: will look to existing organizations to conduct walks, hikes, snowshoeing, etc.

**March –** Food month

We are hoping that local restaurants and food/beverage stores will help us shake off the winter blues by creating special "1818" offerings of their choice.

**April –** Bicentennial Celebration

April 21 will mark the 200th anniversary of the town’s chartering.

A day full of events and programs to be capped off by a dinner dance. We will work with local organizations and businesses to hold other programs and events throughout the month.

**May – October**

We are planning to conduct events in conjunction with the Memorial Day parade, Music in the Park, Community Picnic and Farmers Market as well as hold such special events as a “Tour de Manure” (bike tour of local farms): New Lebanon’s Got Talent. We are hoping for a grand finale with a Halloween theme at the Speedway in October.

We also planning a “community passport” program through which patrons of participating businesses and organizations who receive the most “stamps” would be eligible to enter a raffle for a prize.

**BUT MUCH OF THIS CAN’T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU!**

Each month needs a coordinator and each event needs a “champion.” Coordinators will work with local businesses and organizations on putting together the things that are supposed to happen during the month. A champion coordinates an event that does not otherwise have sponsorship or organization. The Steering Committee will handle advertising and fundraising as needed and also maintain a calendar of events on specific websites.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

Anyone who would like to volunteer is welcome to join the NL200 Steering Committee at its November 8 meeting at 7 PM in Town Hall. Or you can let us know how you want to help make 2018 a year to remember by contacting Gregg Carroll at Greggpcarroll@gmail.com.

HEAP Applications open 11/13/2017

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for the 2017-18 season will be accepting applications starting on November 13th, 2017. You can pick up an application at the New Lebanon Town Clerk’s Office. You must bring the completed application to the Department of Social Services, 25 Railroad Ave, Hudson, NY (open M-F from 8am – 4pm) along with proof of residency, ID for all household members, proof of social security number for each household member, proof of income for all household members, and a current fuel or utility bill. If you need assistance applying you can contact Columbia Opportunities (if under 60 years old) at 518-828-4611 or Office for the Aging (if over 60 years old) at 518-828-4258. You can also contact the Department of Social Services at 518-828-9411 with any questions. You can also apply online at [www.mybenefits.ny.gov](http://www.mybenefits.ny.gov). For more information about HEAP, go to <http://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heap>.

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From the Assessor’s Office

REMINDER!!!!!  NEW STAR APPLICANTS-

\*\*\*\*\*\*THIS SECTION ONLY PERTAINS TO **BRAND NEW** STAR applicants\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

If you are a NEW Star applicant and have NOT had STAR on your property prior to 2015 you DO NOT apply with the assessor. To be able to receive STAR, you will need to register with the Department of Taxation and Finance. Instead of a reduction on the actual tax bill, you will receive a check for the amount directly from the Department of Taxation and Finance.  The assessor’s office DOES NOT take care of NEW STAR applications. All questions regarding this must be directed to the State at the following number (518-457-2036).

ENHANCED STAR AND AGED **RENEWALS**-

If you have received ENHANCED STAR or AGED (low income senior) on your property in the past year, you will continue to RENEW with the Assessor for a credit on your School Tax Bill. We will send you the renewal application around December 1st. We do not accept any applications prior to December 1st. We will send a notice along with your renewal, stating the days and hours that we accept applications for those of you that don’t want to mail it in. Please FILE EARLY to avoid missing the deadline and help save the tax dollars.  There is no reason to delay submitting your application. Applications that are not received before the deadline WILL be denied. This can cost the tax payer hundreds to thousands depending on the exemption.

OTHER NEWS-

Please be aware the assessor will be out conducting a data verification of all properties over the next  year. This means you may see someone from the office driving slowly or parked on the street in front of your property for a few minutes. I will take a photo of your property. I may also knock on your door if further information is needed. As with the last data verification, a letter with complete inventory will be sent to all owners after the project is complete. The current vehicle is a Black Chevy Equinox.

Source Water Protection Plan for the Town of New Lebanon

The Town Board at their July meeting passed unanimously a resolution to invite the New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) to assess the sources of drinking water in town and propose a plan to protect these sources. NYRWA is federally funded and conducts its studies at no charge in rural communities throughout the state. The Town Board also appointed an advisory panel to assist Steven Winkley of NYRWA in his work in New Lebanon, which is likely to take 18 months. The panel consists of the full membership of the Conservation Advisory Council – Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jack Lancto, Peg Munves and Craig Westcott – and Bruce Shenker, the town’s delegate to the county Environmental Management Council, together with Mark Baumli, Town Board member, and Phyllis Stoller, Zoning Board of Appeals member. On October 2 at Darrow School, the panel met with Steven Winkley for the first time to review the tasks ahead and will likely meet another 5 to 6 times during the course of the project.

As a first order of business, Steven Winkley asks town residents to complete an online survey about their well water. The link through SurveyMonkey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DY98TX>. The survey responses will be confidential. Completing the survey should take 15 minutes or less and it would be good to respond before Thanksgiving. Steven Winkley thanks in advance the households of New Lebanon for their cooperation in an important study. Preventing contamination of well water through a Source Water Protection Plan is both a sound economic approach for the town and vital for the health of town residents.

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Charlie’s Pantry

Charlie’s Pantry is located behind the Immaculate Conception Church at 732 Route 20, New Lebanon. They are always accepting food donations for families in need here in our community. If you would like to donate food, there are drop boxes located outside of the pantry and at the New Lebanon Post Office. If

you are in need of food, the pantry is open on Tuesdays from 3-6pm and on Saturdays from 10:30am – 1pm and by appointment. In addition to regular food donation, they are collecting Thanksgiving food donations in the month of November. There will also be a giving tree during the holiday season where you can sign up to provide gifts to a child or family in need in our community. If you are a family in need, for more information, or to volunteer, please contact Peter Quinn at 794-0544.

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New Lebanon Constitution Study

The New Lebanon Constitution Study is held on the first and third Monday of each month at the New Lebanon Library. Sessions begin at 7 pm and end promptly at 8:30 pm. ALL are welcome and we encourage high school students to attend and give us their ideas, interpretations, and points of view! Instructor is Mark Rowe, a Marine Veteran and long-time student of the U. S. Constitution. Classes resume on November 6th and there is no charge to attend. For more info, contact the NL Library or JJ. Johnson-Smith at PactJJ@gmail.com.

From The New Lebanon Library

Exciting news! Thanks to State Senator Kathleen Marchione, who has been a staunch supporter of the public libraries in her district, the New Lebanon Library has received a generous grant to support professionally-led, high-quality instruction in digital technology.

In recent years, many individuals and groups have asked the Library for digital education tailored to their varying skill levels, interests, and goals. Now, with the funding provided through Senator Marchione’s efforts, we can meet those needs. Please keep an eye out for further announcements as this program develops.

This year the Library has also received essential support for programs for children from the Berkshire Bank, The Bank of Greene County, and the Stewarts Foundation. These grants have allowed us to purchase materials for “Maker Kit” programs and to strengthen our offerings, especially for the home-schooled children in our community. We are very grateful!

And while we’re on the subject of gratitude: Library patrons, supporters, and friends are deeply grateful to Board Vice-President Dianne Hobden, Assistant Director Michelle Hoffmann, and the entire Library staff. They have all worked tirelessly to keep the Library running smoothly while we mourn Jeannie Bogino and search for a new director. We also thank the many Library volunteers who perform numerous essential tasks. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

From the Shaker Swamp Conservancy

On Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. board members of the Shaker Swamp Conservancy will hold an information session at the New Lebanon Library. Board members will discuss the Swamp, provide details about our plans for creating public access for passive recreation and education purposes, solicit information you may have about the Swamp, and answer your questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Conservancy has acquired the 39-acre “Schirmer Parcel” that lies at the northern end of the Swamp. The recent purchase of the old Tilden School, formerly Lenny’s, by Tony Murad and his partners has afforded the Conservancy the practical means to create a driveway and parking area for access into the parcel.

The Shaker Swamp Conservancy will shortly be seeking sign-offs needed from the Town and the New York State Department of Transportation to install a driveway, a parking area, signage and an information kiosk to facilitate public use of a walking trail. The initial phase will include a walkable trail that will end at the northern bank of the Wyomanock Creek where the plan is to install a small observation deck from which a perspective on the entire Swamp will be available. Subsequent phases will require installing several footbridges and more extensive trails, some of which will require boardwalks.

Work on the initial phase of the trail has begun and a rough trail exists to Wyomanock Creek. After the information session, for those who are interested (and wearing sensible footwear!) the board will lead a walk to our future parking area and the Wyomanock on this rough trail.

Women Build New Lebanon

Columbia County Habitat's Women Build is on its way in New Lebanon!

We announced this project in August to a wonderful response from our New Lebanon neighbors. Women from all parts of the community joined with veterans of the 2008 Women Build to form a Steering Committee which has been at work since late August. We're planning fundraising; recruiting volunteers; developing construction skills training, and mapping out our build schedule.

Location: 1639 County Route 13

 This is a rehab of an existing house

Family: Head of household is Victoria; her son, daughter, and mother

Timeline: Volunteers onsite beginning January 2018

Project completed by end of April

 Workdays: every Saturday; Friday schedule possible

I WANT TO GET INVOLVED NOW!

Join a SubCommittee:

* Fundraising
* Volunteer Outreach/Recruitment/Scheduling
* Construction Crew Leader
* Amenities [organize lunch/snacks for volunteers]

Sign up for construction skills training

Send us a note at <womenbuild@columbiacountyhabitat.org>

I WANT TO WORK ON THE SITE!

Send us a note at <womenbuildsignup@columbiacountyhabitat.org>

We will be in touch as we develop our schedule.

Thank you! WBNL Co-Chairs Joyce, Sara and Janis

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New Lebanon Holiday Farmers Markets

Sunday November 19th and Sunday December 17th from 11am to 3pm

At the Fisher Store, 528 Rt 20 and the corner of West St

Locally grown, produced, and made!

Fresh food and handmade goods from your local farmers, artisans, builders, makers, and craftspeople! Locally raised, fresh and never frozen Turkeys, squash, pies, baked goods, garlic, maple syrup, beef, cheese, jams, roots, cured meat, gifts, and much more! SNAP/EBT and credit cards proudly accepted.
Contact newlebanonfarmersmarket@gmail.com for more information and like us at [www.facebook.com/newlebanonfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/newlebanonfarmersmarket)

From Mountain Road School

Mountain Road School is delighted to announce our Annual Holiday Fair December 9, 2017 from 11am – 4pm.  The Fair features local vendors with a range of handcrafted goods perfect for holiday gifts, activities and crafts for families, Gingerbread People decorating, music, food, and fellowship.  The Holiday Fair is open to the public and all are warmly welcome to usher in the holiday season with us! A few vendor slots are still available for a $35 table fee.  Several hundred people attend the fair each year and our vendors have generally reported successful days.  If you are a local crafts-person interested in selling your wares at the Holiday Fair, please contact Betsy at betsy@mountainroadschool.org.

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Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 7th from 6am – 9pm – General Election at the Immaculate Conception Church

Wednesday, November 8th at 7pm – NL 200 Meeting at the Town Hall

Thursday, November 9th at 6pm – Public Hearing on the 2018 Budget at the Town Hall

Saturday, November 11th at 3pm – Shaker Swamp Conservancy Information Session at the NL Library

Monday, November 13th – HEAP applications open

Sundays, November 19th & December 17th from 11am – 3pm – Holiday Farmers Markets at the Fisher Store

Saturday, December 9th from 11am – 4pm - Holiday Fair at Mountain Road School

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Meeting Dates

Town Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

Planning Board meets the third Wednesday of each month, as necessary at 7:30pm

Zoning Board of Appeals meets the first Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 7:30pm

Zoning Re-write Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 6:00pm

Recreation Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 7:00pm

Lebanon Valley Senior Citizens meet the first and third Fridays each month at 1:00pm

All of the above meetings are at the Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22, New Lebanon, NY, 12125.

If you are interested in serving on any of the various Boards and Commissions, please contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com to see if there are any openings.

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The Free Store

The Free Store is up and running through the Town Clerk’s Office. We have lots of children’s clothing, winter gear and footwear in all sizes. We also have an abundance of women’s clothing and footwear. Come check it out any Mon, Wed, Thur or Fri from 9am – 5pm and take whatever you can use for free! For more information contact the Town Clerk at 518-794-8888 or townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com.

Where does my property tax dollar go?

 (based on 2017 rates)



.58¢ School

(NLCSD)



.27¢ Columbia

 County



.12¢

 Town of New Lebanon

.02¢ New Lebanon Library

 .01¢ Lebanon Valley

 Protective Association

 (Fire)

For Our Seniors

Hello community! My name is Judy Zimmer. JJ Johnson and I are the New Lebanon senior advisor representatives for Columbia County Office of the Aging. We are very interested in getting to know the needs and desires of seniors in our town so that we can serve you better. We have included a short survey at the end of our newsletter entry that seniors, friends and family are encouraged to look at.

Now for a few announcements:

(**1**) New Lebanon has a **senior group** that meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month

 from 1 pm to 2(isn). The group offers meetings and guest speakers, often with lunch &/or

 dessert. They also go on exciting trips that have included whale watching, steamboat

 rides, casino adventures and more. A Christmas show in NYC is still to come (waiting

 list). In 2018 the group hopes to go to Lancaster, PA for a production of “Jesus” at the

 Sight and Sound Theater; reasonable extra cost for trips. But most importantly, joining this

 group is an opportunity to connect with other seniors. Yearly fee is $10.00. Visitors are

 always welcome. Please contact Pat Burnell if interested: phone: (518) 794-7084

 email: pattybee@fairpoint.net

(**2**) Columbia County has a **shortage of home health care aides**. Perhaps you’re already

 helping a senior and could benefit from getting paid… perhaps you’re a senior who could

 help another senior and get paid… perhaps you’re a friend or family member of a senior…

 or perhaps you’re good with people and are looking for work. This region of Columbia

 County could really use more aides. I hope you will consider it.

 **Contacts**: Visiting Nurses (518) 489-2681, Anytime Senior Care (518) 454-9433

 If you want to speak with either of us, here is the contact information:

 **Judy Zimmer** (518)794-9849, judy\_zimmer@yahoo.com

 **JJ Johnson-Smith** (518) 728-3189, k9sheps@yahoo.com

**If you are a senior in our community, please take a moment to fill out the survey on the next page, detach it from the newsletter and send the completed survey to: Seniors, PO Box 328, New Lebanon, NY 12125**

**You can also drop off the completed survey to the Town Clerk’s Office at 14755 State Route 22, New Lebanon, NY, 12125 or email your completed survey to judy\_zimmer@yahoo.com**

**Seniors Survey**

(**1)** Do you need or know someone who needs any kind of assistance?

(**2**) Please select any of the financial needs listed below:

 (**a**) food (**b**) shelter (**c**) electricity (**d**) phone

 (**e**) health (**f** ) prescriptions (**g**) heat (h) navigate “the system”

 (i) dog walking

(**3**) Need transportation? (**a**) medical (**b**) other

(**4**) Need other assistance? (**a**) help around the house (**b**) shopping (**c)** other

(**5**) Are you interested in doing any bartering?

(**6**) If so, what are some of your skills/gifts that you could share?

(**7**) What activities, classes, events would you be interested in joining, either as a participant

 or as a teacher.

(**8**) What speakers would you like to see at senior lunch meetings?