

Town of New Lebanon

www.townofnewlebanon.com

July 2020

Town Hall Re-Opening

The town hall re-opened to the public in a **limited** capacity starting at 9am on Monday, 6/15. Most business is still completed via phone, email, drop off and pick up box outside the town hall door. If a visitor must enter the building, they will be required to take a 3 question health questionnaire before entering. The doors will remain locked and you must ring the bell to enter. Please read all applicable signage on the door before entering. Foot traffic will be one way in and one way out and one way in all hallways (with signs indicating which way) and visitors will come into the town hall through the main (rear) entrance and will exit through the Route 22 handicap entrance, with the exception of people who need to enter and exit the handicap entrance.

All transactions will be by appointment only by contacting the following offices:

Town Clerk - 518-794-8888
Town Supervisor - 518-794-8889
Building Department - 518-794-8884
Assessor - 518-794-8875

The court remains closed except for certain, pre-scheduled business such as small claims cases. For questions regarding court operations please call the Court at 518-794-9456.

The free store remains closed until further notice.

There will be a FREE rabies clinic (donations are accepted) provided by the Columbia County DOH held at the New Lebanon Highway Garage at 14755 Route 22 on Tuesday, August 4th. Cats and ferrets are scheduled from 4-5pm and dogs are scheduled from 5-6pm. All dogs must be on a leash and cats and ferrets must be in carriers. Shots will be provided by Dr. Delliere of Woodhill Vet.

Town Government



Supervisor – Tistrya Houghtling
supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
518-794-8889 – Office
518-505-1535 - Cell

Councilmembers:

Jesse Newton
jnewton@townofnewlebanon.com
Norman Rasmussen
nrasmussen@townofnewlebanon.com
John Trainor
jtrainor@townofnewlebanon.com
Deborah Gordon
dgordon@townofnewlebanon.com

Town Clerk – Marcie Robertson
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 7pm 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

From the Office of the Town Clerk

2020-21 **hunting licenses** go on sale the beginning of August 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. The office hours are extended for hunting license sales and will be open, in addition to regular hours, from 9 am – 7 pm on Fridays from September 18th through October 9th AND on Friday, November 6th, Friday, November 13th and Friday, November 20th for any last minute purchases before opening day of the regular hunting season. We accept cash, check or credit card (there is a small fee to use a credit card). You can be a habitat hero by purchasing a \$5 habitat stamp to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for all!

From the Office of the Assessor

STAR - Anyone turning 65 in 2021 that currently has a BASIC STAR and adjusted Gross income of less than \$90,550 can apply to the Assessor for Enhanced STAR after September 1, 2020 through March 1, 2021. If you do NOT currently have Basic STAR and fit the criteria, you must register online. If you have NEVER had Basic or Enhanced STAR and think you may qualify, you must register online.

Exemption renewal clarification - Each year, around December 1st, exemption renewals are sent from the Assessors Office for the following exemptions; Low-Income Seniors (pink form), Low-Income disabled (yellow form) and Agricultural (green form). The Assessor does NOT handle Enhanced STAR renewals. Enhanced STAR renewals are handled by the Department of Taxation and Finance. Most people will not need to reapply for Enhanced STAR. HOWEVER, if you receive a letter requesting income verification from the DTF, you must return the information to them - NOT the Assessor. Failure to respond to DTF will result in removal of the Exemption.

Data Verification - Please be advised, over the next 2 years, the Assessor will be out taking new photos of each property and verifying data on file. This is part of the ongoing reassessment cycle and allows us to qualify for State Aid in the year of a reassessment. By doing this data verification work in-house, as opposed to using a contractor or the County, we save thousands of dollars. The next town wide reassessment will be in 2022 or 2023.

The Assessor is available in the office on Mondays between 8-12 by appointment. To reach the assessor at other times please use email assessor@townofnewlebanon.com. Please also visit the Assessors page of the town website for links to forms, assessment data, public record, etc.

Summer Youth Program

On behalf of the Town of New Lebanon summer youth program we would like to take this time to let all parents, counselors and children know that you will be missed this summer. We are sad that we will not be able to spend time with you, laughing, smiling and having fun. We are looking forward to next summer. Stay safe and healthy. Mrs. B & Ms. Donna

New Dog Control Officer

Our Dog Control Officer of many years, Wes Powell, has retired. Thank you Wes for your service to the town and best of luck in your retirement! We have a new Dog Control Officer, Maggie Banker, who can be reached at 518-365-9872. We are excited to have Maggie on board and she is doing a wonderful job!

Free Masks and Hand Sanitizer

The town is distributing free face masks, ear savers (to hold the mask on your head without strapping them around your ears) and hand sanitizer to all of our residents and local businesses. You can pick up masks at the West Lebanon and New Lebanon Post Offices or contact supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com or 518-505-1535 for free delivery to your door. For hand sanitizer, please contact the Town Supervisor at the above email or phone number. The hand sanitizer comes via NYS and it is highly scented.

A huge thank you to Darlene Jones for making over 1,000 free masks for our community members as well as Margie and Steve Muse, Pat Cochrane, Abbie Shoobs and Mary Wladkowski for making masks to distribute for free to all NL residents! If you had a free mask delivered to your house, picked one up at the West Lebanon or New Lebanon Post Office, or picked one up at the free food giveaway at the WBH Elementary School, these are the community members to thank. Also a huge thank you to Ed Godfroy, Ted Salem and Kayla Nelson for delivering hand sanitizer, ear savers, masks and soap to everyone who needed them. Another huge thank you to Natural Wallflower for donating cases of free soap for anyone in need, as well as all the people who made ear savers to protect the ears of those who must wear masks for long periods of time.

Grocery Delivery in New Lebanon

Many community members have volunteered to do grocery shopping for our more vulnerable community members and deliver the groceries to your doorstep. If you would like groceries delivered to your front door, please email supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com or call 518-505-1535 with your grocery list and we will shop for you! To date we have delivered groceries to over 100 doors! A huge thank you to all of our volunteers!

We also have a grocery fund to assist you in paying for your groceries in these times if you are struggling financially due to COVID-19. We will shop for you, pay for your groceries and deliver them to your door. Please reach out to the Supervisor at the email or phone number above to set up free groceries delivered to your door. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to this grocery fund and to the Lebanon Valley Health Assembly for collecting donations for this grocery fund!

There is a new grocery delivery service available to all New Lebanon residents through Rolling Grocer 19, with volunteers bringing your groceries directly to your home. Rolling Grocer 19 (RG19) is a year-round, full-service grocery store located in Hudson, NY. Their intention is to provide convenient, quality food for all -- no matter the income level. Their products are made affordable through a fair pricing system, similar to sliding scale. This means that products are priced at three different tiers and you shop at the tier that best fits your financial needs. If this sounds confusing, don't worry, their coordinator Sarah, will help you select the appropriate tier when you place your first order. RG19 offers a wide range of wholesome products, including fresh produce, dairy, bread, grains, meat, seafood, sweets, snacks, toiletries and more. They prioritize sourcing from local farmers and distributors and products are organic and non-GMO when possible. You can always check out what is available through their online store at <https://www.rollinggrocer19.org> or request a copy of their weekly product catalogue to review at home ahead of your order. If you're interested in ordering from the Rolling Grocer reach out to Sarah at (518) 610-6068 or sarah@rollinggrocer19.org to learn more about this program. They are currently taking orders Wednesday - Friday 8 AM-12 PM and Sunday 12-2 PM for delivery the following Monday. Payment for your order is handled with Sarah over the phone so deliveries are contact free. They accept credit or debit card and SNAP/EBT benefits. Payment by cash or check can be arranged if needed.

Paving on Route 22

NYS DOT will be doing a complete mill and repave on Route 22 in the Town of Canaan but has NOT allocated funding to mill and repave Route 22 in the Town of New Lebanon. Due to lack of funding to properly repair this section of road that is complete disrepair, they have committed to doing a patch job to fill in sections that are crumbled and in disrepair. This patch job will likely be underway when this newsletter comes out. Due to the horrendous condition of this road, this patch job will be very temporary. Supervisor Houghtling met with our representatives from NYS DOT at the beginning of the year and they agree that Route 22 needs to be milled and repaved but as of now, NYS has not allocated the funding necessary to do this. We are asking for your help in making this desperately needed repaving job a top priority for NYS so we can get the necessary funding allocated for it. Please contact your state representatives at the below contact information and ask them to allocate funding for a full mill and repave on Route 22 in New Lebanon as soon as possible. If you have any questions please email Supervisor Houghtling at supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com.

For the Governor's office, please go here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/governor-contact-form>

For Assemblyman Ashby's office, please go here: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Jake-Ashby/contact/>

For Senator Jordan's office, please go here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/daphne-jordan/contact>

Cemetery Board - New Lebanon Received Grant for Tilden Marker

In 2019, after completion of the restoration of the Samuel J. Tilden monument in the Cemetery of the Evergreens, members of the three boards that sponsored the restoration discussed putting up signage and a historic marker to increase public awareness of the monument. The three boards are the trustees of the Cemetery of the Evergreens, the board of the Lebanon Valley Historical Society and the Town Board. A small directional sign was made by the county identifying the Cemetery of the Evergreens and the Tilden Monument. With the assistance of Cemetery Superintendent Ed Godfroy, that sign was recently installed near the entrance to the Cemetery.

The historic marker was a bit more of a challenge. These plaques, which we see along our roadways at various historic sites, are quite expensive. Tistrya Houghtling, then Town Clerk, discovered the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, which provides grants for historic markers in New York and other areas. Our readers may learn more about the foundation at <https://www.wgpfoundation.org/who-we-are/>. Tistrya volunteered to prepare the application with the approval of the Town Board and Town Historian Elizabeth (Bitsy) Sheffer-Winig did research and pulled together the necessary documentation to support the application. In April, (now Supervisor) Tistrya Houghtling was notified that we had been awarded the funds for the marker and received the check. The marker has been ordered and will be installed at the entrance to the Cemetery in coming months. Watch for updates.

There will also be a “learning panel” added near the monument with a description of Tilden’s life and accomplishments. This will be similar to the panel in place near the Mohican Fountain in Lebanon Springs. The Lebanon Valley Historical Society and Town Historian will be working on that project this summer.

The success of this collaborative effort to enhance our community is wonderful news in this troubled time. The work of all involved, especially Tistrya and Bitsy, is praiseworthy and reminds us all what a wonderful place New Lebanon is.

Source: Doug Banker, Cemetery Trustee

Comprehensive Plan Update Survey Deadline Extended to 7/15

TOWN OF NEW LEBANON RESIDENTS! We want your opinion. The town is updating its Comprehensive Plan and has distributed a survey looking for community input. Because your opinion on the direction of the town really counts, we have extended the original deadline to JULY 15, 2020, so we can hear from as many people as possible. Please do not let this opportunity go by - your answers will guide the direction of this town for a long time to come.

Surveys are attached to this newsletter and are available at the New Lebanon Post office, the West Lebanon Post office, and at Country Squire Supply. Finished surveys can be mailed to the New Lebanon Town Clerk, PO Box 328, New Lebanon, NY, 12125 or they can be put into the locked drop box at the entrance to the town hall at 14755 State Route 22. You can also drop your survey at the New Lebanon or West Lebanon post offices or at Country Squire Supply.

Interactive surveys may also be completed and saved on-line via the town website at <http://townofnewlebanon.com/comprehensive-plan-review-2020/> from the third paragraph that says "clicking HERE." Completed pdfs may be emailed to nlplan.survey@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you. Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

Conservation Advisory Council

This spring we welcomed our newest and seventh member, Jenna Barbary-Glovsky. Jenna taught Environmental Science for a number of years at Darrow School and serves as the school's Wellness Coordinator. She was just named Dean of Students. Jenna joins members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Bob Gilson, Peg Munves, Steve Powers and Paul Rix. We have been busy! We updated the Scenic Resources map in the *Natural Resource Conservation Plan for the Town of New Lebanon* (2017) with the help of Sharon Powers, adding scenic viewsheds in the western part of town and identifying scenic roads. The online version linked from our website has been updated and, going forward, reprints will include the revised map. We also wrote and approved a first-ever CAC Mission Statement, now posted front and center on our website. Many CAC members, along with many town volunteers, recently completed planting over 100 trees and shrubs on Carole Roseman's property for New Lebanon's first ever Trees for Tributaries grant. If you watch the video link at the bottom or this blurb, you will see a beautiful overview of the plantings and hear all the wonderful songbirds. Trees For Tribs is a statewide program that has been working to reforest New York's tributaries to create a forested riparian (streamside) buffer that helps decrease erosion, reduce flooding damage, improve wildlife and stream habitat, and protect water quality.

New Lebanon's CAC is pleased to provide the link below to view a video update of our activities. Just type the link into your browser! Video link: <https://tinyurl.com/y857e9f6> Turn up the volume and enjoy.

From The Lebanon Valley Protective Association

The LVPA is still in search of new members. If you want to get involved in our community, what a great way to do so! If you are interested in joining the LVPA, please call 518-794-9331 and leave a message with your name and number, someone from the LVPA will get in touch with you.

Business & Economic Development Committee

The Business and Economic Development Committee is a Town committee chartered by the Town Board to advise it on issues of interest to New Lebanon's business, farming, and non-profit communities and to assist the Town in advancing business development in New Lebanon. The Committee consists of 20 members, all volunteers, who submitted letters of interest and were approved by the Town Board. Immediately upon organizing ourselves and beginning to set agendas for action in the short-, medium-, and long-range, our community, like our nation, was struck by the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the associated economic reaction. The Committee pivoted into a support group for the town's businesses, first assembling a much more complete e-mail list of business enterprises, and then communicating to them information on how they might benefit from the emergency programs put forth by Federal, State, and Columbia County agencies. As an immediate consequence, we are proud to report that New Lebanon received almost 10% of all funding distributed by Columbia County's Economic Development Corporation in its initial funding of an emergency grant program. The effort to support our businesses as they recover and re-open is now an ongoing mission of the Committee.

With some breathing space to look ahead, the Committee has now established sub-committees working on a host of critical issues for our Town: Food Resources, Infrastructure, Acquiring and making use of the Hess Station, Historical Focus, Communications, and Beautification. The Committee maintains close relationships with the Comprehensive Plan Committee, the Climate Smart Committee, and, of course, the New Lebanon Town Board to which we report. The sub-committees are actively making initial plans in their focus areas. The Committee is working to sharpen its over-all focus by developing a mission statement and a more formalized working structure. The Committee as a whole meets monthly. Our next meeting will be on July 6th 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Monte Wasch Chair, New Lebanon Business/Economic Development Committee

All Local Committees And Clubs, Please Contact The Town

In the spirit of community building and networking, the town wants to create a listing of all of the clubs, committees or organizations in the Town of New Lebanon. We often get inquiries from community members looking to get involved and having this information will be a great resource. If you are a member of, or aware of a club, committee or organization in the Town of New Lebanon, please contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com or 518-794-8888. Please provide the name of the club, a brief description of what the club does, contact name and information for said club.

The Next KISS Program at the Town Hall

The Columbia County KISS Program is once again available to seniors in every town in Columbia County. The KISS Program, founded by Columbia County Clerk Holly Tanner, 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. Seniors are encouraged to contact their local Town Hall for hours of operation and more information on the program. Justin Weaver, Columbia County Clerk's Records Services Manager, is overseeing the program and can also be contacted with any questions at 518-822-0143. The next KISS program runs at the NL Town Hall from August 31 – September 11. Please stop in the Town Clerk's office first before putting your papers in the shred bin.

Climate Smart Communities Task Force

In February, 2020 The New Lebanon Town Board took the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Pledge committing to 10 steps in the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation program aimed at reducing a town's carbon footprint. The key to the CSC program is its reliance on voluntary actions that each town determines on their own to achieve the Bronze level goal of 120 points. This enables the town to gain access to free technical assistance, grants, and rebates from the state.

To take the next step in membership in this program, the Town Board embarked on the creation of a Climate Smart Communities Task Force. A public notice was issued, asking for citizens interested in serving. Twelve members of the community responded.

On April 14, the Town Board approved the following membership of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force:

Steve Powers —Climate Smart Communities Chair and Conservation Advisory Council Representative

Bruce Shenker — Climate Smart Communities Coordinator and New Lebanon Representative to the Environmental Management Council

Jenna Barbary and Robert Gilson —Conservation Advisory Council Representatives

Steve Dono, Marc Frey, Marsha Kessler, Adelia Moore, Elizabeth Poreba, Carole Roseman, Sarah Steadman and Cathy Wilkerson —Members of the public.

Since its inception, the Task Force has held two meetings via video teleconferencing. They have explored specific ways the town can enact measures to promote the health of the environment without cost to the town as well as to gain credits for state grants.

Subcommittees are now examining measures such as town-wide composting, a Greenhouse Gas Survey, the creation of social media accounts about local environmental concerns and the reduction of residents' energy costs through renewable energy.

After researching these ideas, the Task Force will submit them to the Town Board for consideration.

All meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month at 7pm and are open to the public.

HEAP Applications

HEAP Applications usually begin to be accepted in late October or early November. Please keep an eye out for an announcement of the 2020-2021 season deadline.

Meals on Wheels Program

The Columbia County Office for the Aging wants to get the word out about our home delivered meals. Home delivered meals are for those who are 60 years of age, or older, who are essentially homebound and unable to prepare their own main meal of the day. It has nothing to do with income. Hot meals are delivered Monday through Friday between 11 am and 12:30 pm. The meal generally consists of a hot entrée, vegetable, fresh bread, fruit and milk. Persons receiving a hot meal may also receive frozen weekend meals if needed. For information on the Meals-on-Wheels Program please call 518-828-4258.

From The New Lebanon Library

New Lebanon Library is Fine Free!

The New Lebanon Library--with a unanimous vote from the Library Board of trustees--has become a fine-free library! What does this mean for you? It means that--on top of the auto-renewal--there will be no more worrying about late fees for any checked out items ever again. "This year has been a rough one all around," says Director Moriah Sears. "In the light of all that has happened, the best thing we can do is expand access to our community to help them keep connected and informed." Damaged or lost items will still incur costs as the items will need to be replaced for use in the community. For those worried about fines that have accrued since the start of the pandemic: there is nothing to worry about. The New Lebanon Library understands and has your back. Here's to another year of continuing to grow together!

Curbside Services

Along with the reopening happening in the region, the New Lebanon Library will be reopening for curbside services on June 17th. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, patrons can place orders via phone or using the chat feature on the library website (newlebanonlibrary.org). Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays will be days that items can be picked up with contactless curbside. **The library is not accepting orders via email or voicemail.**

Please continue to check the library website for more updates on services as we adjust according to state regulations.

Summer Reading Program

This summer, the summer reading program theme is (Re)Imagine Your Story! We want to celebrate the magic in this world with fantastic storytelling and fun!

For a regular summer, the library typically provides reading logs for readers to mark down what they have read for prizes. We are still doing that, but this time the logs will be digital on READSquared. Log your minutes read at: <http://nllibraryny10.readsquared.com/>

As you read, you will be entered for our awesome raffle prizes! Happy reading to you!

Summer Reading Program Kickoff Event- Mini Float Parade

To kickoff this year's Summer Reading Program, we want to throw a parade and we need your help! Starting this week, we will have some boxes with decorative items inside to help you design your own mini parade float! They will be outside the library so you can pick them up. Grab one and send us a picture of your completed mini float by **June 30th!** Send images to: nlzineproject@gmail.com. We will create a virtual parade of floats in time for the 4th of July. We can't wait to see what you create!

NL Mystery Forum

This summer we challenge teens and adults (ages 12+) to solve a mystery. In a small town, sixteen-year old native Noah Frisby goes missing! Participants take on the role of missing persons investigators and comb through the evidence seeking leads. The game takes place in 2 rounds for the month of July. Specifics about how to solve the mystery will be in the investigator's packet. Contact the library at: nlzineproject@gmail.com to request your packet. Do you know what happened to Noah Frisby?

From The New Lebanon Library (continued):

July at the Library

Mondays @4PM

Virtual Yoga w/Joe

Get your stretch on virtually! If you are interested in being a part of the group, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/QF2QhCxy28udT6Qc9>

The links for the class (held via GotoMeeting) will be sent to you the day of class.

*In lieu of the regular donation, the teacher asks instead that it be put towards New Lebanon-based charities to help out at this time. Thank you!

Wednesday

Storytime Online @10AM

Sheltering in place doesn't mean we can't learn together. Families with little ones, join us for an abbreviated Storytime online. Sign up here so that we can send you the links to

Storytime: <https://forms.gle/dipKqSpUTz8W6DPfA>

Pirate School w/ David Engel @2PM

For 3 Wednesdays starting July 8th, you and your family can learn how to be a pirate with family-friendly entertainer David Engel. A link will be posted each week to a new 30-minute episode on the library website. Join us for a fun summer you won't forget!

Author Talk -- Lara Tupper--July 15th@6:30PM

One of our favorite musicians has turned author and published a novel! Join us for a live chat about her work!

Thursday

Virtual SRP Crafternoons@2PM

Each week of July, starting on July 9th, the library will be putting out kits for you to create some amazing and imaginative fun. A video link will be posted the day of so you can follow along. Take a picture of your creation and let us help you celebrate your imagination this summer. Details are below:

July 9th--Watercolor Relief Painting

July 16--Marionette Project

July 23--Character Masks

July 30--Dragon Puppet

July [16th@3PM](#)

Adult Crafternoons

For our crafty adults, we will be leaving kits for you to grab, then join us for a fun afternoon of creating. Check the library website for more details.

Friday

Linda Worster Online @6:30PM

Join talented Berkshire musician Linda Worster for some live music--online! It's a rousing good time for all. *Please check the library calendar (newlebanonlibrary.org) for the date as there may be schedule adjustments.

Meeting Dates (most meetings are currently being held online due to COVID – please email townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com for information on how to access these online meetings):

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 7:00pm

Zoning Re-write Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, as necessary, at 6:30pm

Recreation Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month, as necessary, at 6:30pm

Conservation Advisory Council meets the second Monday of each month, as necessary, at 6:30pm – Please note that the CAC now meets at the Town Hall, NOT at Darrow

Business & Economic Development Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Plan Review Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

Climate Smart Task Force Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

Lebanon Valley Senior Citizens meet the first and third Fridays each month at 1:00pm (currently with COVID the Senior Citizens is not meeting until further notice)

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