

Town of New Lebanon

www.townofnewlebanon.com

November 2020

2021 Recycling Stickers Go On Sale

The New Lebanon Town Clerk's Office will have 2021 recycling permits for sale starting on Monday, December 14th. The fee will remain the same as 2020 (\$100 for non-residents, \$50 for Columbia County residents, and \$35 for residents over the age of 65). You will receive 2 stickers to utilize on two different vehicles. You must have a recycling sticker to drop recyclables at any Columbia County Solid Waste Department Stations, including the one in New Lebanon. You can drop recyclable at any of the stations in Columbia County with these stickers.

The General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2020 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: President of the United States, US Congress, NYS Senate and NYS Assembly.

New Lebanon Has A New Facebook Page

After the Town Board approved a social media policy, a town Facebook group was created to disseminate relevant information to residents. Within one week we had over 300 members! If you're not yet a member, please join us. If you are already a member, please invite your friends to join the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NewLebanonNY/> For questions please contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com.

From The Town Clerk

Just a reminder that my office is open for all regular services. Most services are provided as curbside style. Upon arriving at the Town Hall, ring the bell on the door and someone will be out to assist you with your needs. My regular office hours remain Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri 9am-5pm and by appointment.

Town Government



Supervisor:

Tistrya Houghtling

supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com

Councilmembers:

Jesse Newton

jnewton@townofnewlebanon.com

Norman Rasmussen

nrasmussen@townofnewlebanon.com

Deborah Gordon

dgordon@townofnewlebanon.com

John Trainor

jtrainor@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. The public may view the meetings via the live stream link at:

https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny

Mailing Address:

Town of New Lebanon

PO Box 328

New Lebanon, NY, 12125

Hunting Licenses

The New Lebanon Town Clerk's Office would like to remind everyone that Hunting Season is upon us! I have received a lot of phone calls and inquiries asking if my office is open and able to sell Hunting and Fishing Licenses and I am aware that there have been some issues with selling agents not being up and running and able to issue hunting and or fishing licenses. We wanted to let everyone know that the New Lebanon Town Clerk's office is up and running and open for curbside business as we have been right along throughout the pandemic. You do not have to be a New Lebanon resident for this service, anyone from anywhere can purchase a NY State Hunting/Fishing License through my office with the appropriate documentation. My office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm. As in years past we are offering extended hours on Fridays from 9:00am-7:00pm with the remaining Fridays left: November 6th, November 13th and November 20th.

Deer Management Permits (DMP) went on sale at the start of this year's selling season, August 10th, 2020 through close of business on October 1st, 2020. If there are any leftover DMPs, they will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on or about November 1st. You can go on the DEC website or contact my office to see what units are leftover.

With any new system, there are kinks to be worked out and as we all know nothing has gone "as planned" this year as a result of COVID. My office would like to thank the staff with NYS DEC for their continued service and support during the licensing system vendor change. A huge thank you to our new and returning hunters for your continued business.

5th Annual Holiday Gift Donation Program

The Holiday Gift Donation Program was a huge success for the last four years thanks to the kindness and generosity of our community! This wonderful program provides holiday gifts to children in our community at ZERO cost to the taxpayers. It is run 100% by volunteers and the kindness and generosity of our community members!

If you are a family in need of assistance this holiday season and you live in New Lebanon, please contact Tistrya at the Supervisor's office at 518-794-8889 or supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com or stop by the office Tu 9am-2pm or Thur 12pm-5pm. You can also fill out the form at the Town Clerk's office Mon, Wed, Thurs or Fri 9am-5pm. You will fill out a form for each child with their clothing size, their wish list, favorite colors, etc so when our volunteers go shopping they can purchase items your children will love! Your family's identity is kept 100% confidential. If you would like to volunteer (shopping, gift wrapping, etc.) or donate to the gift drive, please contact Tistrya at the contact information above. Drop off locations will be at the Town Hall and the New Lebanon Post Office. Thank you all for being a community that is there for each other!

Car Seat Safety and FREE Car Seats for Income Eligible Families

Having a hard time installing that infant car seat? Not sure if you have it secured in your car properly? The Columbia County Sheriff's Office offers free car seat safety inspections and installation guidance to anyone interested. They also have free car seats available for families who are income eligible. Please call the Columbia County Sheriff's Office at 518-828-3344 for more information or to set up a safety inspection.

From The Tax Collector

Greetings from the office of the NL Tax Collector :) By the time you receive this newsletter the local 2020/2021 school tax collection cycle will have ended (10/31/2020). There is a short window in November when these taxes can be paid with the current penalty accrued to the Columbia County Treasurer in Hudson. You may reach the County Treasurer's office for the current amount due during this period at (518) 828-0513. Please note that I do not collect taxes for the New Lebanon School District. They are collected by the School District Treasurer, Celeen Lawrence. School tax bill information is also available online at the schools' website: newlebanoncsd.org, there is a link to "tax information" under the "District" tab which is below the picture on the homepage of this website. If you do not have access to the internet you can reach Celeen by phone at (518) 794-1300.

I collect Town & County property taxes and these bills are mailed each year at the very end of December. They are payable without penalty in the month of January annually. It is important that we have your current mailing address so that these tax bills can reach you, the property owner in a timely fashion.

Please review the mailing address that your recent school tax bill was sent to and if you need your mailing address updated before the next property tax bill is mailed out later this year please email this information to me at: taxcollector@townofnewlebanon.com. If you do not have access to email you may call my office at (518) 794-8882 and leave a voicemail message with this information for updating. I will forward these address changes to the Assessor also so that she may update your property file for all future bills. Enjoy the rest of 2020 and I look forward to seeing and speaking to many of you during the upcoming 2021 Town & County tax collection season, until then stay safe and be well!

The Next KISS Program at the Town Hall from 11/30 – 12/11

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 November 30 – December 11. Please ring the bell at the town hall door and someone will be out to have you sign a form and to take your shredding from you.

Ice Skating Will Continue This Year

We are excited to announce that ice skating will return at the Shatford Park Pavilion! As soon as the weather is cold enough to make ice the skating will begin. Ice skating is open seven days a week from sunrise to 10:00pm. Lights will be on under the pavilion for night skating. You must abide by all posted rules which are: skate at your own risk, children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult, helmets are recommended and no ATV's or snowmobiles. There are crates available at the rink for beginner skaters. Have fun and stay safe at this community activity!

News From The Assessor's Office

- Exemption renewal time is coming for the Low-income senior, Disabled with low income and Agricultural exemption applicants. You can expect to see renewals in your mailbox the around first week of December. All applications are due by March 1, 2021.
- As a reminder for those in the STAR and Enhanced STAR program, you do NOT need to reapply with the Assessor. If you have any questions regarding STAR that is already in place please call the State STAR office at 518-457-2036.
- If you are turning 65 before Dec 31, 2021 and have BASIC STAR on your tax bill you may be eligible for ENHANCED STAR. Those switching from Basic to Enhanced are still handled by the Assessor's office. Forms can be found on our website.
- If you do NOT currently have any STAR and are applying for STAR or Enhanced STAR you do NOT apply with the assessor. Instead you will REGISTER with the STATE. www.tax.ny.gov
- Anyone needing to renew an exemption will be sent a renewal form around the first week in December. Instructions and procedure to reapply will be included in the mailing.
 - Most applications can be simply mailed in. This is highly encouraged this year due to COVID restrictions. Be sure to include a phone number to be reached at should the assessor have any questions.
 - If you feel you *must* come in person, you will need to schedule an appointment. Days and times for appointments will be included in the mailing.
 - For any other questions please email the Assessor at assessor@townofnewlebanon.com or call 518-794-8875

Additional information on the Low-income senior's exemption.

- Anyone already in this program will receive a pink renewal form as usual.
- For those not in the program, these are the eligibility requirements.
- A. One owner must be 65 before Dec. 2021, *and* it must be your primary residence and all owners and their spouses combined TOTAL GROSS income must be below \$37,400.
- Total Gross income is not "adjusted gross income" as determined on your income taxes. Instead it includes ALL Social Security, all Veterans Disability payments, all wages, interest, capital gains, rental income, etc. It does NOT include IRA income.
- If you are in the Enhanced STAR program and feel you meet all the requirements you can find an application on our website or call the Assessor to have one sent to you.

HEAP Applications open 11/2/2020

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for the 2020-21 season will be accepting applications starting on November 2, 2020. You can pick up an application at the New Lebanon Town Clerk's Office starting on November 2nd. If you received a regular benefit last year and are over 60 years old, you should have already received your application. If you are receiving food stamps, you are automatically enrolled in HEAP. If you would like to apply for HEAP and did not receive it last year, you must have an interview and may opt for an in person or phone interview beginning November 2, 2020. To qualify for HEAP you must make under \$2,610 per month gross for a household of 1, under \$3,413 per month gross for a household of 2, under \$4,216 per month gross for a household of 3, under \$5,019 per month gross for a household of 4 and under \$5,822 for a household of 5. New applicants must have proof of each household member's identity, proof of applicant's social security number and for each household

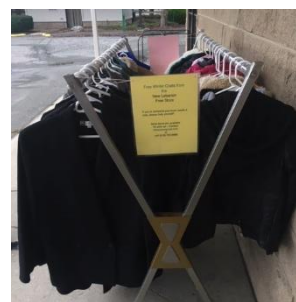
HEAP Applications open 11/2/2020 (Continued)

member, proof of residence, proof of fuel and/or utility bill if you pay for heat or proof that you pay rent which includes heat, and proof of income for all household members. 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. For more information about HEAP go to <http://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heap>.

If you are eligible for HEAP, you may also be eligible for the Columbia Opportunities Inc. Weatherization Program. COI provides energy audits to eligible homeowners and renters to find the best way to make their homes more energy efficient. Weatherization measures - such as furnace repair or replacement, wall and attic insulation, air sealing, energy efficient refrigerators - are installed to make residences safe, comfortable and less expensive to heat. Most people see a 20% reduction in their home heating bills after the weatherization work is done! Please call 518-828-4611 or 518-672-7268 for more information and an application.

The Free Store Is Open For Curbside Pickup

The Free Store is open again for outdoor pick-up only! If you are looking for a coat, winter clothes, toys for children, and so much more, you can find it all here for FREE! Check out the new winter clothing rack outside of Family Dollar where you can find free coats and sweaters any time! Thank you to Michael Carey for his generosity in letting us set up this essential service. Please contact us at NLfreestore@gmail.com or call [\(917\) 935-5225](tel:9179355225) and tell us what you're looking for. Because of COVID-19 we will do an outdoor pickup at town hall with any of the items you need. You can order clothing by contacting us with your sizes and color preferences and we will let you know when your bag is ready. We are only accepting donations of coats and winter gear at this time and are looking for children's coats and men's work coats in particular. Please drop donations off at town hall. Follow us for updates at the CSC Facebook page where we will have new clothing items featured!



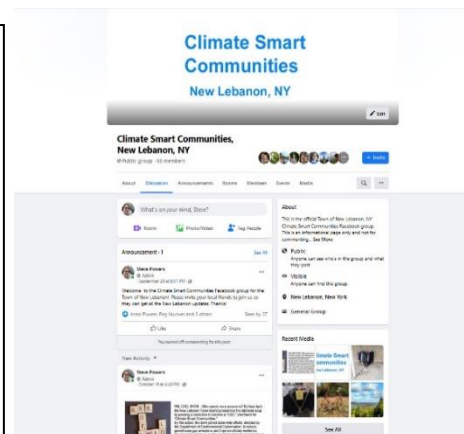
Climate Smart Communities Task Force

The Czech have a saying that “Good neighbors increase the value of your property.” Since May, the New Lebanon Climate Smart Communities Task Force (CSC) has been looking for ways, large and small, to prove the saying true. Our newest project may literally make us all a little richer. At its October meeting, the Town Board asked the Task Force to create a proposal for community solar power. If approved, this proposal could provide a way for the town and town residents to save 10% on their electric bills. The CSC is looking at solar plans that would include a voluntary opt in program and don’t require installing solar panels unless residents want them for personal use. Meanwhile, we continue to work on ways for the town and its residents to reuse, reduce, repair and recycle. Volunteers in the bike recycling program have refurbished or repaired donated bikes and, so far, found new homes for forty. Additional bikes are available and are posted on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CSCNewLebanon/>.



MOY WONG REPAIRING A BIKE FOR CSC

Because Marc Anthonisen, originator and organizer of the bike reuse program, is leaving next year, we need to find another good neighbor interested in picking up his role. If interested, please reach out to Marc at mja45@cornell.edu or 518 265 4659.



THE CSC FACEBOOK GROUP

Marc is also the person to contact if you have a gently used bike to donate to the program. A few bikes from the program are on display every Sunday at our table at the New Lebanon Farmers’ Market, where we also advise people about home composting and make sure they know they can drop off their vegan table scraps at the Community Garden next to Immaculate Conception Church on Route 22. If you are interested in learning how to compost please watch our video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RRzNvC_hD68D_vBcNXNh6sb-tGmeBH0M/view



CSC volunteers at the Farmers’ Market

To keep New Lebanon residents up to date on our activities, we have created a Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CSCNewLebanon/>.) Please join the group!

From The Business & Economic Development Committee

The Business and Economic Development Committee has had a busy summer launching initiatives in a number of directions:

- On Food Resources, sub-committee chair Cynthia Creech has led efforts to support our local farm businesses, aid the Farmers Market, keep our restaurants and cafes aware of the government and private resources available to them during the pandemic, and start thinking about long-range plans to improve food availability in New Lebanon. We have supported the food distribution efforts led by the Town, and the launch of the on-line “virtual” Farmers Market under the leadership of coordinator Josh Young.
- On Community Appearance and Design, chair Rita Carver and her group have begun to plan a design competition for our commercial town center, started planning for a high-visibility arts and business collaboration project for next Summer, and discussed preliminary ideas for attracting artists and artisans to make New Lebanon their base of operations.
- The History sub-committee is launching a Veterans Remembrance project involving placing banners around town honoring contemporary and historical war veterans who have served our country (see the Veterans Banner section in the newsletter for more information and the application) .
- The Infrastructure sub-committee, headed by Gregg Carroll, is investigating what other towns in the County have been doing to improve business retention and attraction through improvements in wastewater treatment and water supply in their town centers, and are also looking at the prospect for further expansion of broadband internet throughout New Lebanon.
- The Hess Station sub-committee has tasked Supervisor Houghtling to open talks with the owners of the defunct service station at the head of the town commercial center, with the idea of using it to create a New Lebanon greeting/hospitality center for the large number of travelers passing through our town every day.
- The Outreach and Marketing Sub-Committee, led by Supervisor Houghtling, has prepared the first cut of a comprehensive Business Directory for New Lebanon, which you will find folded inside this newsletter. A special thank you to Sharon Powers for creating the directory with the assistance of the other Outreach and Marketing Sub-Committee members: Erminia Rasmussen, Cynthia Creech, Anna Duhon and Tistrya Houghtling. In addition, the committee is working on branding strategies: identifying unique characteristics of the town which can be used to attract business, visitors, and new residents; creating an over-arching visual identity for Town signs, documents, and websites; and other programs to enhance the town’s impact.

Throughout the summer, the BEDC has communicated on a regular basis with our businesses and business leaders to make sure everyone is aware of the latest news and are taking advantage of every resource we can identify to aid them in this time of economic turmoil. If you are a local business and would like to be added to our email list to receive these updates, please email Monte Wasch, BEDC Chair at monte@fairpoint.net .

In Service, Monte Wasch
Chair, New Lebanon Business and Economic Development Committee

For Our Seniors

We now have three Office of the Aging Representatives for New Lebanon and we are working together to assist the eligible population of New Lebanon to know about the benefits available to them through the State, County, Town and their neighbors. Please see our contact information below.

Contacts: David Russell: Chair 518-794-0273 nlrepccofa2@gmail.com

Sarah Conly 518-794-0423 nlrepccofa4@gmail.com

Mary Young 518-794-7538 nlrepccofa3@gmail.com

We are updating our list of residents over the age of 55 with name, address, phone number and email address in order to notify you of programs available to you and to be able to check on you in an emergency. Please email Sarah or call at the above number if you would like your name added to our list.

The State, County and Town offer programs to us to assist in maintaining our health, independence and home. Columbia County has the third oldest population in the State of New York with the numbers rising every year. We are a rural community with limited public transportation and many of our residents do not drive. We have programs to assist you to get services, groceries and to appointments as well as services which come to you. This section of the newsletter will provide you information about those programs and how to participate.

This time I will highlight some programs whose enrollment is coming up and you may be interested in.

HEAP, STAR and FOOD DISTRIBUTION: These are programs available to our seniors. See sections of this newsletter for more information. Contact any of your reps above for assistance applying.

VOTING: If you need a ride to vote call one of your reps above and we will arrange for you to get to the Church of Immaculate Conception to vote. This is the only polling place in New Lebanon.

MEALS ON WHEELS: With winter weather coming and your garden asleep do you need a way to get a nutritious meal once a day and would you like it to be delivered? Are you over the age of 60 and homebound and find it hard to prepare a meal? If you are please contact 518-828-4258 and ask to be set up for meal delivery. Meals are provided Monday through Friday and a meal to set up for yourself on Sat and Sun. The meals are delivered to you by neighbors who have signed up to deliver. They usually come between 11 and 12:30 pm the driver will tell you about snow days and what to do. This program is available year-round.

All of the representatives for the Office for the Aging, the town board of New Lebanon and its residents are here to provide support for any of our seniors who need it. We offer many services that are tailored to the needs of our seniors which are meant to help keep you safe, healthy, and happy. We provide you with peace of mind by offering daily in-home security calls from the Columbia County Sheriff Department and meals on wheels. Seasonally, we offer double the amount of farmers' market coupons for fresh, local fruits and vegetables. On the other hand, we offer home weatherization and support through the Home Energy Assistance Program to keep you warm during our Northeast winters. These are just a few key services that we at the Office for the Aging provide for our beloved seniors.

FREE Food Giveaway Every Two Weeks

Community Food Giveaway

Sponsored by New Lebanon CSD & The Town of New Lebanon

This food giveaway is completely free and open to any and all families in our community and other surrounding communities who can use the food. Food items will include produce, dairy products, frozen meats (chicken, ham, pork, lunch meats, frozen fruit, etc) and now perishable products. Free masks and hand sanitizer are also available.

This food was donated and the event is made possible through a partnership with the...



**Regional
Food Bank**
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

When: Tuesday, November 3 and Tuesday, November 17 at 9am

Where: NL Town Hall (entering through Shatford Park by baseball fields)
14755 State Route 22
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Please pull in at Shatford Park entering by the baseball fields (follow signs) and continue to the town hall (do not pull directly in). We ask that you wear a mask at all times, stay 6 feet apart from others, and bring bags or boxes for the food. If you have any questions please reach out to Tistrya Houghtling at supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com.



Giveaways will continue into December and 2021 with dates TBD - even in rain and/or snow the truck will come deliver food and we will hand out

From Charlie's Pantry

Charlie's Pantry offers free food and household supplies to New Lebanon residents. We are located at the Immaculate Conception Church at 732 Route 20. Our current hours are every Saturday 10:30am - 1:00pm. We also have our sign-up sheet out for Thanksgiving Dinner basket. We can make appointments for emergencies or if a family occasionally runs out of food and cannot come when we are open. Our phone number is 518-794-0544 or you can call Georgette at 518-794-0156.

From The New Superintendent Of NLCSD

I want to take this time to thank our New Lebanon community for their support as I transition into my new role as New Lebanon CSD's School Superintendent. As a community we have a lot to be proud of: Our students are hardworking, kind, and strive to succeed, our families are supportive and value education, and our teachers and staff are the most dedicated and passionate educators that I know. Our district consistently performs towards the top of our region and it is because of this community. Thank you for the support and dedication to our school district. As superintendent one of my goals is to collaborate with our greater New Lebanon community. During this unprecedented and difficult time this collaboration is more important than ever. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, ideas, or concerns. You can always reach me by email at akourt@newlebanoncsd.org. I am honored to be your superintendent and I look forward to our collaboration and work together.

Very Fondly, Andrew Kourt, New Lebanon CSD Schools Superintendent

From The New Lebanon High School

For all of those outside of our school community who are interested to learn how things are going at the Junior/Senior High School, I am happy to report that we have had a relatively smooth return to our new version of school. Like everyone else, I long for "normal," with our full student body present here at school, unmasked and being able to do all of the things that traditional school entails. That said, I could not be more proud of our in-person students in our current hybrid environment. Presently our seventh and eighth grade students are attending school four days a week. Our high school students are on an alternate day schedule. Wednesdays are remote learning days for all students districtwide. Our teaching assistants have been providing care for children K-6 on remote learning days to assist working families.

Procedures are in place with the goal of keeping everyone healthy and school open for as long as it is possible. With that in mind, freedoms that have been enjoyed in school years past have been diminished in the name of public safety. Temperature Scanning each morning is now a part of the daily routine in terms of entering school. Every person in the building is required to wear a mask. In addition to wearing masks, we are asking that students maintain 6 feet of Social Distancing at all times. Desks in classrooms have been arranged six feet apart to help with this effort. Students abide by traffic patterns in the hallway, staying on the side of the hallways that the arrows on the floors indicate and using the designated stairwells for "up" traffic and "down" traffic. At present, lockers are not available for students due to their close proximity. Students are encouraged to wash their hands and to use hand sanitizer that has been provided throughout the day. They are given cleaning wipes and are required to wipe down areas before leaving their workspace. NYS has required us to contact trace at all points of the school day. As a result, students are unable to leave classrooms for any destination without an appointment.

All of these changes have been a major adjustment for all of us, however, our students have responded tremendously. Everyone, administration, faculty, staff and students alike are happy to have some degree of routine in their lives again. Education is just not the same without the physical interaction between teacher and students and the collaborative aspects of schooling. Brick and mortar schools are still *very* relevant in 2020. I can attest, that since the return of our kids, there have been many smiles under all of our masks. Thank you all for your support of our school, our outstanding teachers and our amazing students.

Matthew R. Klafehn, Principal

From The Walter B Howard Elementary School

The beginning of the school year has been an exciting time for us here at Walter B. Howard Elementary School. It has been an exciting opportunity for me to transition from the Junior Senior High School to WBH and am looking forward to being a partner with our families. The students have brought an energy and happiness to the building that we have dearly missed since their departure in March. The kids have adjusted to their new classroom setups and are thriving. As I wander the halls I can see the kids smiling under their masks, which makes me smile in return. They are always eager to chat with me to tell me about all the wonderful things they are doing both inside and outside of school. Our faculty and staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that our students have the opportunity to learn in a safe environment. They are implementing technology in new ways, which has allowed them to expand their repertoire of tools for current and future students. The teamwork and dedication displayed by our teachers has been a continued strength and has allowed our students to continue to learn at a high level. The students and teachers here at WBH continue to be some of the best in the area and we are excited to see what fantastic ideas they will come up with next. I am appreciative of the opportunity I have been provided to lead our communities' youth at their earliest stages of learning and to partner with our many wonderful families. If you have questions, please contact the main office 518-794-8554.

Josh Noble, Principal

Military Tribute Banners Are Coming To New Lebanon

You have seen them in many towns and villages around the Northeast, banners with the name and picture of a past or present member of our country's Armed Forces attached to the side of pole along the main streets of a town or city. We even have two, James Downey and Albert Wheeler, already! What a fitting way to honor our hometown veterans; those men and women who have or are currently serving our country. The American Legion Taconic Valley Post 937, based in Berlin, has agreed to help New Lebanon make this project into a reality. The only qualifications for a banner are that the veteran must have served honorably, and be or have a family member from this area.

The banners are 18" x 36", double-sided in full color, and will be hung every year between Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The purchase of a banner kit includes the above town banner, a 12" x 24" yard banner, and all necessary mounting hardware. The banners will be placed along the Miracle Mile (where Rt 20/22 overlap). The goal is to fill that area and then continue into West Lebanon on Rt 20 and further toward the Town Hall on Rt 22.

More information is available by emailing nypost937@gmail.com or by going to www.troopbanners.com/newlebanon. An order form is included on the back page of this newsletter. Be sure to circle *New Lebanon* as the town name on the form.

New Lebanon Library Is Open For Appointments

The Library is holding in-person browsing/computer-use appointments! We are so glad to finally be able to see you in person! Masks **are required** to enter the library though. Hand sanitizer will be provided for you as well. **Call the library at 518-794-8844 to set up an appointment. See below for full schedule of events coming up at the library!**

Groceries Delivered To Your Door And More

We have an amazing community that has really stepped up in these challenging times! A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who have been making masks for everyone in our community, grocery shopping for those who cannot safely shop themselves, giving rides to doctors, picking up prescriptions, donating to the grocery fund to provide food to those in need, and so much more! It really is the silver lining in these difficult times to know that we have a community full of people who care so deeply! If you are in need of assistance getting your groceries, a ride somewhere, or anything else, please contact Town Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling at 518-505-1535 or 518-794-8889 or supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com and we will connect you with some of our amazing volunteers to help you. We can shop at the grocery store of your choice and pick up your entire list and then deliver it directly to your door. You can also order groceries online or over the phone with Rolling Grocer and have fresh food delivered to your door on Monday afternoon by contacting Sarah at 518-610-6068 or sarah@rollinggrocer19.org.

The Cemetery Of The Evergreens Seeks Donations

The trustees of the Cemetery of the Evergreens request that New Lebanon citizens consider donating to the cemetery maintenance fund this year. We know everyone is struggling with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but hope you will give whatever you can to operate our beautiful cemetery.

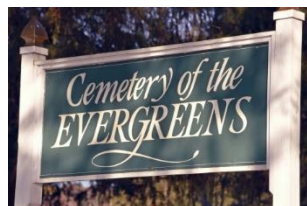
Cemetery finances have been challenged by the pandemic. There are four primary sources of money for the operation and maintenance of the cemetery:

- an annual **grant** from the Town
- the Theater Barn **benefit** performance, which usually nets \$3000 - \$5000
- **fees** charged for plots and interments, which vary with demand
- **donations** from people who treasure the cemetery, also quite variable

The Theater Barn has not been open since the pandemic began, so those funds did not come to the cemetery this year. The benefit may also not occur in 2021, but even if it does, the cemetery has had to make up the 2020 loss from its reserves. Fee income for the first eight months of 2020 has been about \$7700, which is close to average. The cost of maintenance has run \$16000 to \$19000 the past few years so the cemetery faces a probable shortfall. We are aggressively seeking ways to cut costs but the cemetery could use your help.

If you would like to donate please send a check to Treasurer Mark Baumli. The check should be made out to “Cemetery of the Evergreens” and mailed to **Cemetery of the Evergreens, PO Box 773, New Lebanon, NY 12125**. The cemetery is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donation qualifies as a deductible on your taxes. Each donor will receive an acknowledgement letter for his / her records.

If you would like additional information about this issue, you may contact Larry Benson at 518-794-9794 or email shakerview@aol.com.



J. Lawrence Benson, President
Harold Sharp, Vice-president
Ruthmary Lasher, Secretary
Mark Baumli, Treasurer
Ed Godfroy, Superintendent

Joann Amlaw, Trustee
Doug Banker, Trustee
Abe Phelps, Trustee
Joy Sherman, Trustee
John Koepp, Trustee *Emeritus*

Meeting Dates

Because of COVID some board meetings can only be viewed online, some meetings are held in person at either the Town Hall at 14755 State Route 22 or at the LVPA at 523 US Route 20 and some meetings are a hybrid being held partially online and partially in person. Please see below for each board and their meeting schedule along with how and where they are meeting.

Town Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm – Town Board meetings can be viewed by the public here: https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny - Any public hearings held by the Town Board can be viewed at the link above, participated online via a google meets link which will be sent out with each public hearing notice or attended in person at the Town Hall with some people possibly having to wait outside until it is their turn due to limitations on the number of people allowed at one time in the Town Hall

Planning Board meets the third Wednesday of each month, as necessary at 7:30pm – Planning Board meetings are held in person only at the LVPA, 523 US Route 20

Zoning Board of Appeals meets the first Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 7:00pm – ZBA meetings are held in person only at the Town Hall

Zoning Re-write Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 6:30pm – ZRC meetings are held in person only at the Town Hall

Recreation Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 6:30pm – Recreation Commission has not been meeting during COVID as there are no events to plan – Once they start meeting again, we will advertise their location and type of meeting

Conservation Advisory Council meets the second Monday of each month, as necessary at 6:30pm – CAC meetings are held online via a google meets link which will be sent out from the town clerk's email blast and posted on the website in advance of each meeting

Lebanon Valley Senior Citizens meet the first and third Fridays each month at 1:00pm – Lebanon Valley Seniors have not been meeting during COVID – Once they start meeting again, we will advertise their location

Upcoming Events At The New Lebanon Library

Online Programming

The New Lebanon Library will be continuing to offer its services; however, all programs will be held online for now. Please keep checking the calendar or our social media (@newlebanonlibrary) as we have been known to add new events. We hope that everyone stays safe and health as the Winter approaches! (**Note:** Our Kits will be held indoors starting November. Please contact the library to pick up your programming kits.)

Notes from New Lebanon

The “Notes from New Lebanon Collection” is a series of notebooks that the community can add to. We encourage you to check one out and take it home to see what others in our community have written or sketched. If there is space, add your own thoughts and creative energy, and return for the next person to enjoy. Each journal has a theme. Check out the list of themes below:

- **To All the Books I've Loved Before**–Tell others about your favorite books!

Upcoming Events At The New Lebanon Library (continued)

- **Thrills & Chills** (for fans of suspense & horror)–Care to scare your fellow readers with a tale or two?
- **The Strangest Summer: What My Life was Like in Quarantine**–Exactly as the title said. Did you try something new? Learn something about yourself?
- **A Sketchbook of Self Portraits**–What do you look like now?
- **Calvin–An Ongoing Story**–Our mascot has a knack for adventures. Why not tell others about some of the things he may (or may not have) done?
- **Places I've Traveled**–Take fellow readers on a journey across the world with your.
- **Memories of New Lebanon**–For those of the New Lebanon area–born and raised–what are some of your best memories from here?
- **I Survived: A Story from My Life**–Have you had an experience that changed your life?
- **Encouraging Words for Others**–What is something encouraging you've heard that you think others need to hear? Write or draw it out. We need some inspiration right about now!
- **Adventures in Parenting**–What fun things have you encountered on your parenting journey? (Please avoid embarrassing the kids.)

Sunday

11/1--New Lebanon Book Group: **Deacon King Kong** by **James McBride**.

We meet on November 1 at 11 a.m.. Unless you hear otherwise, Zoom link will be posted the week before. We welcome all - friends, neighbors, book lovers, the curious. "Deacon King Kong is fast, deep, complex, and hilarious. McBride's prose is shimmering and moving, a living thing that has its own rhythm, pulls you in from the first page and never lets go. His story focuses on the people that make the Big Apple what it is: the strange, the poor, the insane, the mobsters. He also showcases the city's wonderful diversity, filling his pages with Puerto Ricans, African Americans, Italians, and Irish folks." "full of heart, humor, and compassion...a novel about all of us." -Gabino Iglesias, NPR

Monday

11/16 & 12/14--Teen D&D One Shot (Online) @7PM - Links will be posted on the library Discord channel. Contact the library to be added.

Thursday

11/12--Family Craft@4PM: In this season of being Thankful, we have just the craft for the family to work on. With a little bit of inspiration from everyone in the family, you can make a memory to look back on throughout the holidays!

11/19--Take It & Make It Adult Crafts 6:30PM - Once a month, we will be hosting adult-level crafting. All supplies will be provided. The link to join will be on the library website and on Facebook.

12/10--Family Craft@4PM - We'll be planning another fun family craft to get everyone involved in time for the holidays. Check the library calendar for more details.

12/17--Take & Make It Adult Crafts@6:30PM - We have a fun, adult-level craft coming at you in time for the holidays. Keep an eye on the calendar for more details.

12/24--Christmas Eve & 12/31 – New Year's Eve - The Library will be open until NOON.

Friday

11/6 & 12/4--First Fridays w/ Linda Worster @6:30PM:

Join us for an evening of wonderful music with Berkshire singer/songwriter Linda Worster online! The links are available via the library website and on the library Facebook.

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY: 11/11–Veterans Day, 11/26–Thanksgiving Day, 12/25–Christmas Day & 1/1–New Year's Day

AL Post937 Military Banner Program

CIRCLE TOWN: * Grafton * Berlin * Petersburg * Stephentown * **New Lebanon** *

The Taconic Valley Towns and The American Legion Taconic Valley Post #937 have always taken great pride in the men and women who have served our country in its times of need. Now we'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to help us honor friends and family who have served or are currently serving our great Nation.

The Military Banner Program salutes our brave men and women who are currently serving and those who have honorably served in the military by creating and displaying an 18" x 36" military banner between Memorial Day and Veterans' Day each year and for years to come.

The one-time cost to join the program is only \$130. The program includes:

- Photo restoration of the picture provided for the banner - as needed
- (1) – 18" x 36" Double-Sided Tribute Banner to be displayed in the town
- (1) – 12" x 24" One Sided replica yard banner
- Bracket & Mounting hardware for town banner
- Web presence on your town's Troop Banner webpage at www.troopbanners.com/yourtownname

To have your friend or family member included, please fill out the form below and submit it along with a check or money order in the amount of \$130, a good quality Military Photograph, and a DD-214 or other form of verification of honorable military service and awards. Additional 12" x 24" yard banners available at \$20 each.

Your name: _____ **Address:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____ **Town name on Banner:** _____

Service Person's Name: _____ **Rank:** _____

Service Branch: Army ~ Marines ~ Navy ~ Air Force ~ Coast Guard

Conflict: Civil War ~ WWI ~ WWII ~ Korea ~ Vietnam ~ Cold War ~ Gulf War ~ War On Terror ~
Other _____

(Circle one below if applicable)

Prisoner of War (POW) ~ Killed In Action (KIA) ~ Missing In Action (MIA)

KIA banners are provided at "no charge"

Medals of Valor: Medal of Honor ~ Distinguished Service ~ Service Cross ~ Silver Star ~ Bronze Star ~ Purple Heart ~
Other _____

of additional 12x24 Yard Banners _____ **Check #:** _____ **Order Total:** _____

Make checks payable to: Taconic Valley Post 937, Inc. (Please write BANNER on remarks/memo line)

- Mail to: Taconic Valley Post 937 Inc., American Legion, PO Box 472, Berlin, NY 12022
- Once your photograph is scanned - it will be returned unharmed to you.
- Or take a picture with a quality cell phone camera and send via email to nypost937@gmail.com

Please consider donating to the KIA / financial assistance **MILITARYBANNER FUND** to ensure ALL our local veterans can be honored with a banner. Contact a 937 Post member or send an email to nypost937@gmail.com to learn how you can make a donation or simply send a GIFT donation via PayPal to nypost937@gmail.com Thank you so much for your generosity! For more information please visit <http://www.troopbanners.com/NewLebanon>