

Town of New Lebanon

www.townofnewlebanon.com

February 2021

Ice Skating Rink To Open At Shatford Park

The ice skating rink will be re-installed at Shatford Park under the pavilion. We are working on getting it up and running and as soon as the weather cooperates to get solid and consistent ice, we will open it up. Ice skating, once open will be 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!

THE SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE NOW HAS OPEN OFFICE HOURS ON TUESDAYS FROM 9:00AM TO 2:00PM AND THURSDAYS FROM 12:00PM TO 5:00PM AND BY APPOINTMENT. THE SUPERVISOR IS IN HER OFFICE MUCH MORE THAN THESE HOURS, BUT DURING THESE HOURS YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND THE SUPERVISOR OR DEPUTY SUPERVISOR IN THE OFFICE. PLEASE STOP IN

From the Office of the Town Clerk

Did you know that as of January 1st, 2021 you need to purchase a new recycling permit? If you have not already done so, you can purchase your permit at the New Lebanon Town Clerk's Office during open hours (Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri from 9-5) (CLOSED ON TUES). The annual fee is \$50.00 a year for County residents, \$35.00 a year for our County seniors over 65 years of age and \$100.00 for out of County residents. Just a reminder that my office is open for all regular services. Most services are provided as curb side 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, Thurs & Fri 9am-5pm and by appointment.

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 Tax Collector

Greetings from the office of the Tax Collector-

I am currently actively collecting 2021 Town & County taxes here in the Town of New Lebanon and all property tax bills were mailed out on 12/30/20. If you have not received your bill please be sure to call me @ (518) 794-8882 or email me at taxcollector@townofnewlebanon.com. The penalty free period to pay these bills ends this year on 2/1/21 but I collect payments in my office until the end of May before turning over any uncollected bills to the Columbia County Treasurer. Any payments received after 2/1/21 accrue a 1% penalty for each month that the payment is late.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, I am encouraging everyone to make their tax payments via mail this year and limiting the number of in-person visits to my office and the Townhall for the safety of everyone. I will miss seeing all of the residents who in the past have chosen to come in person to pay their bills so we can see each other & chat for a moment or two while taking care of business 😊 There is also a secure drop box located on the back porch of the Townhall where you can drop payments if that is more convenient. For any cash payments please feel free to call me to schedule an appointment to come into the office. Please note that all tax bills for the current year and for past years are also viewable online at: egov.basny.com/newlebanon.

From The Assessor's Office

Exemption updates:

- No renewal applications for the Low Income Seniors or Low Income Disabled were needed this year due to legislation that was passed the last week in 2020. All the exemption amounts from 2020 roll will be carried forward to 2021 roll. A mailing was sent to those applicants. Exemptions that were submitted prior to the legislation were reviewed to ensure compliance with the law.
- Enhanced STAR continues to be administered mostly through the Department of Taxation and Finance. Renewals are automatic unless you receive a request from them for more information. For any questions call 518-457-2036.
- Seniors that are currently in the BASIC Star program and will be turning 65 before December 2021 with an income less than 90,050 can apply with the Assessor for Enhanced STAR. The deadline for those applications is March 1, 2021. Applications can be found on the assessor's page of the Town Website. www.townofnewlebanon.com
- New Owners can only apply for STAR through the Department of Taxation and Finance. www.tax.ny.gov
- All other exemptions such as Agricultural, Veterans and forestry are due no later than March 1, 2021.

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 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 March 15 – March 26. Our hours for drop off are Mon, Wed, Thur and Fri from 9-5. Please ring the bell and we will bring a form for you to sign and bring your materials for shredding inside and place them in the secure storage bins.

2020 Holiday Gift Drive A HUGE Success

The 5th annual holiday gift drive was a huge success thanks to all of our generous community members and businesses! We provided gifts for 53 children in New Lebanon and everyone received everything from their need list (coats, boots, socks, etc.) and multiple things from their want list (toys, books, makeup, etc.).

I want to give a special thank you to some of our local businesses and organizations who either adopted a family or donated money and/or toys: Canaan Congregational Church, Church of Our Saviour, Jimmy D's, Larabee Fuel, Lebanon Valley Women's Club, Marchese Ford, NYSP Livingston Toy Drive, Ski Lodge Mobile Home Park In memory of Joseph Kroboth, The Abode Farm, The Theater Barn and Uprising Farm. Thanks to the amazing generosity of these businesses and organizations and so many of our community members, each child received a multitude of gifts! Thank you all so much for coming together as a community to provide much needed gifts to the children here in New Lebanon and to ensure that every family had a great holiday season!

2021 Town Clean Up Day

Please be advised that the 2021 Clean Up Day will not be held at this time due to COVID conditions. If this is to change we will notify the community.

Vacancies On The Rec Commission; BEDC; Planning Board & CAC

There are three vacancies on the Recreation Commission, one vacancy on the BEDC, one vacancy on the Planning Board and one vacancy on the CAC. If you are interested in serving on the Recreation Commission, BEDC, Planning Board and/or CAC please submit a letter of interest to the Town Clerk's Office either via email to townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com, via mail to PO Box 328, New Lebanon, NY, 12125 or in person during open office hours. Letters of interest are due by 4:00pm on Friday, February 5, 2021. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, 2/9 at 6pm. The Town Clerk will be in touch with all applicants regarding their interview slot if we receive multiple letters of interest. You must be a resident of New Lebanon to serve on the Recreation Commission, BEDC, Planning Board or CAC.

Update from the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)

Trees for Tribs

The New Lebanon CAC looks forward to working with the Town Board in applying for a Trees for Tribs project in Shatford Park through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The application deadline is in early March with the award announcement expected later that month followed by delivery of potted seedlings sometime in May for Phase One spring planting. By way of background, the Wyomanock Creek courses through the park as an important feature and its unprotected banks continue to be eroded. The Trees for Tribs program aims to stabilize riparian corridors throughout the Hudson Valley by planting hardy native trees and shrubs. In addition to potted seedlings sourced from the state nursery in Saratoga Springs, the program provides protective tubes, stakes, weed mats and ground staples. As the seedlings mature along the stream bed, their roots will extend below ground to forestall erosion and their canopies will beautify the park.



The town's application for Shatford Park should hold special appeal to Trees for Tribs because youth in the Summer Recreation Program will be able to contribute, over many summers, to maintaining the plantings. The CAC looks forward to working with summer campers, demonstrating how to help the trees and shrubs thrive. Since Shatford Park is town property, Trees for Tribs would provide an auger operator over two days able to dig 250 holes a day. The award may allow for several phases of spring and fall plantings and we will be able to specify choices of tree and shrub varieties and planting locations. Once we are assured of an initial delivery date, the Town Board and CAC will reach out to the community for volunteers to help with planting. For further information on the Trees for Tribs program, link to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html>.

Water Study

The CAC is sponsoring a Source Water Protection Plan being prepared by the New York State Rural Water Association (NYSRWA) that maps wells throughout town, and in addition is pleased to spearhead a town-wide water study made possible by the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH). Steve Winkley of NYSRWA has connected New Lebanon to a NYSDOH pilot program that will test water samples from across the state. Once winter breaks and over two days, a NYSDOH team will fan out in town to collect water samples from between 15 and 20 wells to give us a snapshot of our water quality status. Samples will be gathered from all geologic areas in town and well owners will have agreed to share their test results. Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling has reached out to well owners to elicit interest, CAC member Peg Munves has followed up with NYSDOH's requirements and Steve Winkley has provided expert advice on where to test. The U.S. Route 20 corridor has been a special focus due to concerns about contamination. Test results from NYSDOH should be available by early summer and we will share guidelines with well owners who wish to pursue their own testing. Many thanks to those residents who have agreed to work

Update from the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) (Continued)

with NYSDOH and the CAC and many thanks to Steve Winkley. For information on well testing, link to <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/6628.pdf>.

CAC and Climate Smart Community Task Force join forces on forward-looking strategies

In furthering the oft-stated appreciation by town residents of New Lebanon's natural beauty and habitat diversity, the CAC helps staff the Climate Smart Community Task Force created by the Town Board in 2020. In fact, CAC member Steve Powers chairs the CSC, as the Task Force is known, and its membership has significant overlap with the CAC. As a starting point, the *2017 Natural Resource Conservation Plan for the Town of New Lebanon* (NRCP) helped the CSC record points toward its goal of achieving Bronze Status. As a reminder, the NRCP continues to be for sale through the Town Clerk's office. A copy is also available at the Town Library and the entire document can be viewed via a link on the town's website. Go to the CAC link under Boards and Commissions on the masthead.

Climate Smart Communities Task Force News

To most people, the phrase, "Fundable actions worth points toward Bronze certification" would be meaningless. It certainly didn't mean much to members of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force as they convened for the first time last spring. The phrase referred to tasks they needed to complete in order to improve the town's opportunities for state grants for energy efficiency and climate resilience projects.

In the 10 months since, the Task Force has taken or recorded actions worth some 139 points — from changing street light bulbs, to conducting an energy audit of Town Hall, to providing compost advice all without incurring costs for the town (and actually saving the town some money). Task Force members



then compiled a list of the actions and submitted the necessary documentation to the state by the deadline on January 8. Though this paperwork is demanding, it reflects important and ongoing steps towards New Lebanon's sustainability and resilience.

We will know by the end of February if the state accepts our documentation, but even if we

have yet more to do, we will certainly get Bronze by spring. Then we will be on our way towards working on Silver Certification, which involves reaching 300 points' worth of actions. Many of these are already in the works. One notable action is the launch of a community solar program on 16 February in collaboration with the New Lebanon library, via a virtual call. More information can be found on the New Lebanon Climate Smart Community Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CSCNewLebanon> and on the library website <http://newlebanonlibrary.org>. We hope you can join us to learn how you can save 10% on your electric bills.

Business & Economic Development Committee

The New Lebanon Business and Economic Development Committee (BEDC) held its monthly meeting on January 18, 2021. After expressing regrets that Cynthia Creech has to resign from the Committee, BEDC approved Josh Young, Manager of the Virtual Farmers Market, to succeed her as Chair of the Food Issues Sub-Committee. The Outreach and Marketing Sub-Committee presented ideas for a Town logo, and after discussion, the Committee voted to recommend that the Town Board approve the concepts and turn them over to a professional designer for final realization. Cynthia Creech made her final report on Food Issues and reported that the Community Meals program in Town has succeeded in distributing over 280,000 pounds to 200-250 local families. The major portion of the meeting was devoted to discussion of our 2021 priorities for the Committee's work. A proposed Priority Document will be voted upon at our next meeting. Finally, the Committee decided to launch a new initiative to assist the Town Boards and its various business-facing Boards in simplifying and streamlining processes to make new business formation and siting easier in New Lebanon.

Monte Wasch - Chair, New Lebanon Business/Economic Development Committee - monte@fairpoint.net

New Lebanon Broadband Committee Update

At the January 12, 2021 Town Board meeting, the following people were confirmed as members of the Broadband Committee for 2021:

Doug Banker - Chair

Gregg Carroll, Joe Exley, Norman Rasmussen and Monte Wasch - Members

Supervisor Houghtling is an *ad hoc* member and acts as liaison with the County Broadband Committee.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption of "normal" economic activity have made high-speed internet service critical to our ability to cope. Over the past three years, the internet providers for New Lebanon – principally Charter Communications and Consolidated Communications – have upgraded their infrastructure using private and Federal / State funds to improve their service. But there are many places in town that still do not have true high-speed service.

Both the Federal and NY State governments appear to be ready to do a new round of internet improvement initiatives. The committee will work to ensure that New Lebanon is part of these improvements. **You can help.**

The committee must understand where service is poor or lacking, so we are asking residents to send us information about their current state of affairs. The information will be compiled into a map of the town showing internet capability road by road. Please include:

- Your name
- Street address
- The type of internet service you have (DSL, Spectrum cable, fiber, etc.)
- Information on attempts to upgrade your service, whether successful or not

Email the information to **Doug Banker** at charlesbanker@fairpoint.net. Or, if you prefer, you may telephone Doug at 518-794-9764. When the map is sufficiently complete, it will be made available on the Town website.

Volunteers

New Lebanon is fortunate to have so many willing volunteers in town. In fact, small towns like ours could not function without the continuing support of volunteers. To those who volunteer for the town, thank you!

The town is assembling a list of those who are willing to provide volunteer services to the town in any form. We recently sent a survey to those who are already volunteering, asking them if they are open to helping the town more in the future.

If you received the survey but have not yet responded, please do so. If you volunteer for the town but did not receive the survey, please let Norman Rasmussen know by sending a message to nrasmussen@townofnewlebanon.com and he will make sure you are included. If you do not yet volunteer but would like to, please let Norman know and he will make sure you are included.

We are fortunate to live in a town with such engaged residents. If you currently volunteer, thank you. If you do not yet volunteer, please join us!

Purple Heart Community and Veterans Banners:

Military Tribute Banners Are Coming To New Lebanon:

[Get your order in now as the banners will be going up in the Spring!!](#)

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.

New Lebanon becomes a Purple Heart Community:

In December the New Lebanon Town Board adopted a resolution to become a purple heart community to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by our veterans to maintain our freedoms and way of life. The New Lebanon Town Board proclaimed the Town of New Lebanon as a Purple Heart Town, honoring the service and sacrifice of our Nation's men and women in uniform who were wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. There will be a sign installed in front of the town hall acknowledging our Purple Heart Community designation.

COVID 19 Vaccination Information for Columbia County

At last some good news on the local pandemic front, the COVID 19 vaccination process has begun in Columbia County. *You must have an appointment to be vaccinated.* At the moment there is one location in Columbia County, Columbia Greene Community College. As more resources and more vaccine becomes available, local options will increase. For the most up to date information, visit the CC Department of Health website www.columbiacountynyhealth.com.

Am I eligible?

Medical personnel, first responders, public safety workers, and education workers are being vaccinated as we speak; seniors 65 and above are now also eligible to be vaccinated. Eligibility is determined by NYS and changes frequently. To find out if you are in an eligible group, go to <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>.

How do I sign up?

The county receives a limited number of vaccines each week and vaccination clinics fill up quickly. Registration for clinics is available through a link on the Columbia County DOH website (instructions below). Registration is on a first-come, first-serve, basis. There is no waiting list. Registrations fill up quickly when a new one is posted. As soon as the available vaccines for a clinic are assigned, a message will indicate there are no available appointments and you will have to try again when a new registration opens. If you are eligible, keep trying and following the instructions below on a regular basis until you find an open clinic. The website is experiencing high volumes of traffic so if you cannot get through, keep trying.

BE PATIENT. This is the most important message to get out there. The county is giving out the vaccines as quickly as they come in, the number of vaccines coming in is limited. Everyone who is eligible for the vaccine will get the vaccine but it will take some time. Our healthcare providers and many volunteers have been working long and stressful hours for almost a year; a little patience and kindness is a small way to show appreciation for all they have done and, continue to do, for us.

To try to register for the vaccine here in Columbia County follow these steps:

Step 1: Go to www.columbiacountynyhealth.com

Step 2: Under Announcements, click on "Learn more"

Step 3: Scroll down to "Available Clinic Registration" and click the link.

Once we have vaccine from NYS - the DOH will populate dates for upcoming Clinics here for people to sign up.

Additional information or recently asked questions

⊙ **What if I do not have access to the internet?**

If you do not have access to the internet, please reach out to a friend or family member who may be able to do the registration for you. You can send them these instructions and they can do the steps for you from anywhere, even family members who live in a different state. There is a short medical history required to register; try to be available to your friend or family member to provide answers to a few short questions. If you have no access to the internet and there is nobody who can help you sign up, please contact me at 518-505-1535 and we'll connect you with someone that can help get you registered.

COVID 19 Vaccination Information for Columbia County (continued)

⊙ **What if I am a veteran with a pre-existing condition?**

Veterans over 65 with a pre-existing medical condition can now be vaccinated at the VA in Albany. Call Gary Flaherty at 518-828-3610 for more information or to make an appointment.

⊙ **What if a family member or neighbor is homebound?**

For homebound residents who CANNOT leave their home, we will be offering in-home vaccinations at some point in the future (we cannot give a timeframe yet). In preparation for when we are able to do this, we are compiling a list of names, phone numbers, physical addresses and email addresses (if you have one) so that when we are ready to do in-home vaccinations for homebound residents we can contact you to set that up. To get on this list please contact me at supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com or 518-505-1535. This option is only for people who are truly homebound and are not ABLE to leave their home.

⊙ **What about my family member or neighbor who's in a residential living, assisted living, or a nursing home facility?**

Vaccinations for staff and residents of these facilities are underway and are being provided by private contractors.

⊙ **Is there an approved vaccine for children?**

There is no approved vaccine for use with young people, i.e. anyone under the age of 18. Testing is underway with approvals to follow sometime in the future.

⊙ **Does my local pharmacy have the vaccine?**

To date there are no pharmacies in Columbia County with the vaccine. That is expected to change as more vaccine becomes available, watch your local news source for updates or check the website above again.

⊙ **Is there a walk-in option in Columbia County?**

No, you must have an appointment. There are other vaccination sites, see <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>, but *in all cases* you must have an appointment. If you visit a site without an appointment, you will not be vaccinated.

⊙ **How can I help?**

Share this email with Columbia County family, friends and neighbors. Offer to help family, friends and neighbors sign up. Contact me, supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com, if you think someone is being overlooked or may need assistance.

In Closing:

Please stay safe, continue to stay home whenever possible, wear masks, wash and sanitize your hands frequently, and keep a 6 foot distance from others when you must go out. The new variant of the virus is arriving in the area, we must all continue to be vigilant. Be an outstanding neighbor, share this information with others. Our goal is for everyone who wants a vaccine to have access as soon as possible. Once again, we will get through this together!

In service, Tistrya Houghtling - Town Supervisor

COVID Rent Relief Services to Help Tenants & Landlords

There is a 14 page document with more details on the programs below. Please contact Tistrya at 518-505-1535 or supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com to get this document emailed or mailed to you.



COVID Relief Services

St. Catherine's prevention services include:

- *assistance with rental arrears*
- *rapid re-housing*
- *moving costs*
- *cleaning supplies*

**We're
here to
help!**

Legal Aid Society prevention services include:

- *eviction prevention*
- *financial assistance*

For more information, contact:

Kylle Proper with St. Catherine's at 518-337-7021, kproper@st-cath.org
Legal Aid contact, phone number, and email



Funded through New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance

News from New Lebanon Senior Reps

We 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 nlrepccofoa2@gmail.com

Sarah Conly - 518-794-0423 nlrepccofoa4@gmail.com

Mary Young - 518-794-7538 nlrepccofoa3@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. Here are some programs 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.

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. 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.

NY Connects Is Here To Help!

NY Connects is your link to long term services and supports. Under normal circumstances Lynda Scheer from NY Connects would be at the New Lebanon Town Hall every third Friday of the month from 12:00pm-3:00pm to answer questions and assist with items such as Medicare, SNAP, HEAP, prescriptions and more. Due to COVID conditions she is not currently meeting in person at the Town Hall, you may contact her directly at www.nyconnects.ny.gov or 518-828-2273.

From The New Lebanon Central School District

Letter from Joshua Noble, Principal of Walter B. Howard

It's hard to believe, but we have completed almost a half year of educating our students here at Walter B. Howard Elementary School. Over the past several months, our students have had many great experiences. The capital project was completed, allowing our PE teachers to hold PE classes in the brand new gym. The first time the kids entered the space, you could see their eyes widen as they took in the much larger, brighter space. Our first grade students used the new gym for their socially-distant, virtual Winter Wonderland Concert, performing several wintery songs complete with choreography. Just prior to the break, the students, faculty and staff participated in a pajama day and virtual "Tiger Jam," where several students were recognized for their consistent kindness. In addition to the recognition, students were treated to a game of trivia created by Ms. Daino, several holiday-themed jokes from Mrs. Gebbie and Mrs. Bove, and a visit from the "Grinchy" Mr. Noble who read a story that focused on kindness and hope.

As we enter the new year, we will continue to focus our attention on providing the best education possible to all of our boys and girls, while helping our community raise positive, well-rounded citizens. The WBH faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to educate and support our students as they take on the challenges they face each day and are prepared to continue that work over the second half of the year. If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 518-794-8554.

Thanks, Josh

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.

Through the generosity of a Community Giveaway Program started by a local family, the LVPA has given away 22 smoke/CO2 detectors and 6 fire extinguishers. If you are in need of a FREE smoke detector, CO2 detector or a fire extinguisher, please contact the LVPA.

HEAP Applications deadline 3/15/2021

You can apply for HEAP every year when the program is open. The HEAP benefit opened **November 2, 2020**. The deadline to submit applications is March 15, 2021. The Emergency HEAP benefit opened January 4, 2021 and closes March 15, 2021 or until funds run out.

If you are in need and have not already done so, you can pick up an application at the New Lebanon Town Clerk's Office prior to the submission deadline. 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>.

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 non 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: Monday, February 8th and Monday, February 22nd 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 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 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.

New Lebanon Library News

Solarize Launch Event

The New Lebanon Climate Smart community task force has begun a campaign to make community solar electricity available to the whole community. The launch meeting/information session will be hosted by the library and held via Zoom on Tuesday **February 16 @ 6PM**. Join us and find out what solar energy can do for your household!

Caring For Our Piece of the Earth Discussion Group

In this time of extreme climate change, we cannot possibly hope to save everything at once, but our own backyard is a great place to start! Starting in February, we will be holding a 6-session discussion group to address issues and exchange ideas on creating an earth-friendly backyard. Discussions will be starting in February. See the library website for more details.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please fill out your details using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/F1wMrMOLBojJVrfa9>

"A Taste for Travel" Discussion Group

The New Lebanon Library was awarded a grant from the American Library Association to start a conversation with you--and our conversation will be focused on: Food from around the world! "A Taste for Travel" will be a multi-session discussion group geared to allow you to experience a different culture through both food, literature and discussions. This group will have an interactive element where participants will receive different materials to help them get the most from this opportunity including some spices from the locations studied.

Registration is required to participate in this group. If you are interested in cooking, reading books from other countries and talking about food, then this is the group for you. This group will start meeting in March.

Reserve your place here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8YSRFH2>

"Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL)."

CCLA Virtual Readers Theater

We took a little break for January, but we will be back in February with some more fun for you. Join readers from all over Columbia County in bringing stories to life on the virtual stage. If you are interested in participating as a reader, sign up here: <https://forms.gle/2DU6zrzmtv94HjGc9>.

February Calendar of Events

*The list of events is by no means comprehensive as our schedule is continually updating. New events will be added to our calendar of events and might not get listed here in time. Please check out the library website (newlebanonlibrary.org) or follow us via social media (@newlebanonlibrary) for more updates.

**Because events are virtual, we ask that you please sign up for events using the provided links so that the online meeting link can be sent to you.

Sunday - 2/7

New Lebanon Book Group @ 11AM

The New Lebanon Book Group will be holding their next meeting via Zoom. February's book is: "The River" by Peter Heller. Every 1st Sunday, this group gathers to discuss the latest read. Newcomers are always welcome. Check the library website (www.newlebanonlibrary.org) for more information.

New Lebanon Library News (continued)

Wednesday - 2/10, 2/24

Storytime Snippets

To ease up on the burden of online scheduling for our families as they get into the new school year, we are creating a virtual storytime room that you can visit whenever you like. There'll be video content from Miss Ann with songs, stories and maybe even a craft. Check out the library blog for the first installment on 9/9. The theme will be Goats!

Thursday

2/4 - Crafternoon Kids @ 4PM

We will be continuing our virtual craft kit series. You can call to pick up your kits curbside. This month, we will be prepping for Valentines with a fun variety kit. Video tutorials will be released on the blog on Thursdays for students to tune in and create.

2/18 - Make It & Take It Crafts Online @ 6:30PM

Our adult crafting group will be continuing services online. Kits will be available early in the week for pickup and the link for the craft group will be posted on the library website so crafters can join us live! (All links will be posted on the Facebook event & the library website.)

2/18 - Grab n' Go Science @ 3PM

For our young learners, here is some STEM fun on the go. With a ton of different scientific concepts to try at home, we'll have kits out for you to grab during the week and expand your learning from the comfort of home. Video tutorials will be released on the blog for students to tune in and create.

2/25 – Crafteens @ 3PM

Why should the kids have all the fun? For young adults ages 12 and up, we'll be providing you with updated craft kits and more creatively challenging projects for you to work on. This month we will be focusing on self-love with a hygge kit! Contact the library to get your kit the week of the event. (All links will be posted on the Facebook event & the library website. Video tutorials will also be posted on the library blog.)

Friday - 2/5

Virtual Concert w/Linda Worster @ 6:30PM

On the first Friday of the month we get to hear great music (virtually via Zoom!) from local singer/songwriter, Linda Worster! Donations for the performer are greatly appreciated (details will be provided during the concert). The login information is listed on the library website and on our Facebook page (@newlebanonlibrary).

FREE Narcan at Town Hall Parking Lot from Greener Pathways

The Greener Pathways mobile unit will be at the New Lebanon Town Hall parking lot on Monday, February 22nd from 11am – 2pm giving away FREE Narcan training and kits to anyone who wants or needs it. Having Narcan on you could save someone's life. It is free and easy to learn how to use. The overdose numbers have increased with the coronavirus pandemic and we can all do our part to help save lives! For more information or to arrange for free Narcan if you cannot attend this event, contact Greener Pathways at 518-291-4500.

Calendar Of Events (more information on previous pages)

Letters of Interest Due for Rec. Comm., CAC, BEDC and PB: Due to Town Clerk by February 5, 2021 at 4pm

Community Food Giveaway Dates: Monday, February 8, 2021 & Monday, February 22, 2021 at 9am at Town Hall Parking Lot (and every two weeks moving forward with dates to be determined and advertised via the town clerk's email blast and the town's facebook page)

Community Solar Program Launch: February 16, 2021 at 6pm at the NL Library

FREE Narcan Giveaway: February 22, 2021 from 11am – 2pm at Town Hall Parking Lot

Enhanced STAR Application Deadline: March 1, 2021

All Other Assessor Exemptions Application Deadline: March 1, 2021

Kiss Program Dates: March 15 – March 26, 2021

HEAP Application Deadline: March 15, 2021

New Lebanon Library: Many events – see pages 14 & 15 for details

Open Office Hours

The Town Hall remains open for business, unfortunately due to COVID conditions, the Town Hall building is currently providing curb side services for the majority of your needs. We are doing this for the safety of our residents and our staff in an effort to remain open and free from COVID exposure.

Supervisor: Tues. 9:00am – 2:00pm, Thurs. 12:00pm – 5:00pm and by appointment

Town Clerk: Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri 9:00am – 5:00pm and by appointment if necessary

Tax Collector: Tues. & Fri. 9:00am - 11:00am and Sat. 9:00am - 12:00pm and by appointment

Assessor: Mon. 8:00am – 12:00pm

Building Dept.: By appointment only

Court Office Hours: Tues. 9:00am – 4:00pm, Wed. 12:00pm – 4:00pm & Thurs. 11:30am – 3:00pm

(Court appearance by notification only from Court Clerk)

Historian: Mon. 9:00am – 12:00pm, Wed. 12:00pm – 3:00pm and by appointment

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