

# Town of New Lebanon

www.townofnewlebanon.com

February 2022

## Ice Skating Rink To Open At Shatford Park

The ice skating rink will be installed again this year at Shatford Park under the pavilion. We are working on getting it up and running and as soon as we receive the new liner, we will open it up. A huge thank you to Jesse Newton for installing the ice rink! 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. We also have some donated ice skates available for use but ask that you leave them for others to use when you are done using them. Please don't take them home with you. Have fun and stay safe at this community activity!

## Open Office Hours:

The Town Hall is open for business, **masks are required.**

**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. 3:00pm - 5:00pm and Sat. 10:00am - 12:00pm

**Assessor:** Mon. 8:00am – 12:00pm and by appointment

**Building Dept.:** Tues. & Thurs. 9:00am – 12:00pm & **CEO:** Tues. 5:00pm – 7:30pm

**Court Office Hours:** Tues. 9:00am – 4:00pm, Wed. 8:00am – 4:00pm, Thurs. 11:00am – 3:00pm & Fri. 9:00am – 12:00pm (Court in session: @ 4:00pm on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. & @ 5:00pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs. of month)

**Historian:** Tues. & Wed. 9:00am – 12:00pm and by appointment



## Town Government



Supervisor:

Tistrya Houghtling

[supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com)

Councilmembers:

Marianna Anthonisen

[manthonisen@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:manthonisen@townofnewlebanon.com)

Britt Buckenroth

[bbuckenroth@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:bbuckenroth@townofnewlebanon.com)

Deborah Gordon

[dgordon@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:dgordon@townofnewlebanon.com)

John Trainor

[jtrainor@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:jtrainor@townofnewlebanon.com)

Town Clerk – Marcie Robertson

[townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto: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](mailto:townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com). Your email address will not be shared.

Regular Town Board meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The public may view the meetings via the live stream link at: [https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new\\_lebanon\\_ny](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny)

Mailing Address:

Town of New Lebanon

PO Box 328

New Lebanon, NY, 12125

## From the Office of the Town Clerk

Did you know that as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 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 office 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 resident seniors over 65 years of age and \$100.00 for out of County residents.

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## 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 14th – March 25th**. Our hours for drop off are Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri from 9-5. Please stop by the Town Clerk's office to sign your form for shredding.

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## 2021 Holiday Gift Drive A HUGE Success

The 6th annual holiday gift drive was a huge success thanks to all of our generous community members and businesses! We provided gifts for 47 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: Sharon McArdle & Lenny Brown from Berkshire Hathaway, Church of Our Saviour, Larabee Fuel, Lebanon Valley Seniors, Lebanon Valley Women's Club, Marchese Ford, NYSP Livingston Toy Drive, Coon Self-Storage, American Legion Post 1236 and Ferradino Firm. 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!

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## From The Business & Economic Development Committee

### **The BEDC is Looking to Recruit New Members**

In order to better serve the needs of the New Lebanon business community, the Business and Economic Development Committee (BEDC) is actively seeking to add more members - particularly people who own or run a "brick and mortar" (i.e. a physical establishment that receives customers) business in New Lebanon. This is your chance to help guide the committee's direction. We can't be effective without "real world" input. We meet once a month (virtually, for now) and have several subcommittees that target specific business needs. If you're interested, please contact our Chair, Monte Wash, at [monte@fairpoint.net](mailto:monte@fairpoint.net).

## Welcome To Our Two New Town Board Members

We are excited to welcome Britt Buckenroth and Marianna Anthonisen to the Town Board! They have hit the ground running and are excited to serve the community! Please feel free to reach out to them at [bbuckenroth@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:bbuckenroth@townofnewlebanon.com) and [manthonisen@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:manthonisen@townofnewlebanon.com). A huge thank you to Jesse Newton and Norman Rasmussen for your past 4 years of service on the Town Board! You leave big shoes to fill but Britt and Marianna are up to the challenge!

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## Vacancies: SYP Health Director, CAC & NL Rep to CC Traffic Safety

**SYP Health Director:** Minimum qualifications include: a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, emergency medical technician or other person acceptable to the permit-issuing official. The SYP Health Director oversees the development, evaluation and implementation of the medical plan for the Summer Youth Program. (One open position)

**CAC:** The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) advises in the development, management, and protection of the Town's natural resources. (One open position)

**NL Rep to CC Traffic Safety:** The traffic safety council meets once a month in Hudson NY. The NL representative to the Columbia County traffic safety council is responsible for bringing any concerns from the New Lebanon Town Board regarding our State and/or County roads to the traffic safety council as well as communicating with our Town Board regarding any pertinent topics discussed at the traffic safety council meetings. (One open Position)

If you or anyone you know is interested in an open position please submit a letter of interest to the Town Clerk's office by mail, in person or email. Mailing: PO Box 328, New Lebanon, NY 12125 Email: [townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com)

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## Join The Volunteer T.E.A.M *(Together Everyone Achieves More)*

I am honored to be the new Volunteer Coordinator and continue the vision that Norman Rasmussen implemented. I am excited for this opportunity because volunteering is really what makes us such a great community. I look forward to connecting with all of those people who put their heart, talents, and labor into such a wonderful town. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered so far and I look forward to working with you in the future.

For those of you who are interested, PLEASE consider volunteering, we would be happy to have you. We have so many wonderful opportunities: from being on town committees to helping a few hours at many of our events, such as food drives, town clean ups, park and county events, and much more. The opportunities are endless and wonderful. Please reach out to me to share your interest.

Marianna Anthonisen, Town Board Member  
[manthonisen@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:manthonisen@townofnewlebanon.com)

## ARPA Funds

The Town of New Lebanon has been allocated \$219,820 in ARPA funds. The Town Board will be deciding how to spend these funds in the upcoming months. We will be looking for public input in a variety of ways from public forums to online surveys to paper surveys in local businesses. Stay tuned for more details on how to get involved and how to provide your feedback in our May 1st newsletter edition.

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## NEW Splash Pad

The Town has budgeted for a new splash pad in Shatford park to be installed in 2022! We are hoping to have it up and running by the beginning of summer to have a nice place for our kids (and adults who are kids at heart) to cool off in the hot summer heat!

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## Master Park Plan

The Town Board has authorized a master park plan for Shatford Park to be completed in 2022. Site-specific park master plans provide an abundance of benefits to the community. A truly comprehensive strategic plan is backed by the community and belongs to the community. Master park plans are beneficial because they assess recreation needs of the community, establish a long-range vision, help prioritize and budget for improvements to the park, and promote new ideas and partnerships while building community support. The master park plan will also focus on the best location for the new skatepark that was donated to the town so we can move forward on getting it up and running this year, while ensuring that the location is one that the community supports.

The town will be looking to engage all of our community members to ensure that our plan reflects community priorities when evaluating what Shatford Park has and what it needs. Stay tuned for more ways to get involved in this process via the town website, town clerk email blast and town FB page.

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## FREE Narcan at Town Hall from Greener Pathways

The Greener Pathways will be at the New Lebanon Town Hall every Wednesday from 12:00pm – 3:00pm. If you or someone you know is impacted by Substance Use Disorder (also referred to as addiction), please feel free to stop by and learn more about their program and talk to a member of their support team. They will be 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! Greener Pathways provides peer support, addiction resources, connections to MAT (medication assisted treatment), access to Narcan and so much more. You are not alone! For more information or to arrange for free Narcan if you cannot attend this event, contact Greener Pathways at 518-291-4500 or visit their website at:

[www.greenerpathways.org](http://www.greenerpathways.org)

## From The Lebanon Valley Protective Association

Please Check your woodstoves and chimneys! Please be careful using space heaters and make sure they are safely plugged into a protected outlet and the cord is not frayed.

The fire hall is available to rent, just call 518-794-9331 and someone will contact you.

The LVPA is always 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.

If you are in need of a FREE smoke detector, CO2 detector or a fire extinguisher, please contact the LVPA.

Please stay safe and warm, your friends at the LVPA!

The NYS Division of Consumer Protection, in partnership with the Consumer Protection Safety Commission (CPSC), offers these tips to keep you safe.

### Fire and Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips:

- **Make sure your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarms are functioning by testing them once per month.** Both alarms should be battery-operated or have a battery back-up, and batteries should be changed once per year. You should have a *separate* alarm for each to prevent these separate emergencies.
- **Have a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm on every floor, outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.** You can check for interconnecting alarms so that one sounds, they all sound.
- **Your smoke alarm doesn't just sound when there is a fire.** Learn the difference between the sounds: **three loud beeps (continuous)** means there is smoke or a fire, and **one "chirp" every 30-60 seconds** means it is time to change the battery.
- **Your smoke alarm must be changed every 10 years.** Make sure you find out how old the smoke alarm is when you move into a new residence. If your smoke alarm continues to "chirp" even after you have replaced the battery, it's time to replace your smoke alarm.
- **Most home fires start in the kitchen.** Make sure you always keep watch over your cooking and that there is a fire extinguisher nearby.
- **Have a fire escape plan and review it with your family.** Make sure plans meet the needs of those with disabilities, children, and those with mobility issues in the household.
- **Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion.** If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.
- **On average, one of every 13 hotel or motel reports a structure fire each year.** Make sure you are staying at a hotel or motel equipped with smoke alarms and sprinklers, locate the fire exits when you arrive, and review the escape plan with your traveling companions.
- **Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.**
- **Never use portable generators inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open.** Use generators outside only, at least 20 feet away from your home.

## 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 [nlrepcco2@gmail.com](mailto:nlrepcco2@gmail.com)

Sarah Conly - 518-794-0423 [nlrepcco4@gmail.com](mailto:nlrepcco4@gmail.com)

Mary Young - 518-794-7538 [nlrepcco3@gmail.com](mailto:nlrepcco3@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.

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## Lebanon Valley Senior Citizens

The Lebanon Valley Seniors are meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of each month at 1:00pm at the Lebanon Valley Protective Association.



## NY Connects Is Here To Help!

NY Connects is your link to long term services and supports. Under normal circumstances a representative 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. Since the onset of COVID and the Seniors change in meeting location to the LVPA we have not yet coordinated an in person representative to meet with residents here in New Lebanon. Until that is organized, you may contact them directly at [www.nyconnects.ny.gov](http://www.nyconnects.ny.gov) or 518-828-2273.

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## HEAP Is Still Open for Enrollment

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for the 2021-22 season is still accepting applications. You can pick up an application at the New Lebanon Town Clerk's Office. 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. To qualify for HEAP you must make under \$2,729 per month gross for a household of 1, under \$3,569 per month gross for a household of 2, under \$4,409 per month gross for a household of 3, under \$5,249 per month gross for a household of 4 and under \$6,088 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 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](http://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. They are also on Facebook and Instagram - @columbiaopportunities

The Emergency HEAP benefit opened January 3, 2022. If you are in need of EMERGENCY HEAP benefits please reach out to the appropriate agency listed above.

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## 2022 Town Clean-Up Day (Dump Day)

New Lebanon will hold its annual "Clean-up Day/Dump Day" event in 2022; however, rather than being held in the Spring, it will be held in early Autumn. Please stay tuned as more information will become available for the May and August newsletters.

## FREE Food Giveaway Monthly

We aim for the last Friday of every month if the Regional Food Bank has it available. Here is the flyer for the upcoming February delivery.

# **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: Friday:** February 25th, 2022 @ **9:00AM**

**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). If you have any questions please reach out to Tistrya Houghtling at [supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto: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. You can call Peter at 518-794-0544 or you can call Georgette at 518-794-0156.

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## New Lebanon Library News

The New Lebanon Library is open, with no appointment needed to visit! To help us maintain a safe environment for all, masks must be worn by visitors aged 2 years and up. Curbside service is also available by request. Check out our ongoing programs including:

- Craft programs for kids, teens and adults
- Attend a virtual concert with Linda Worster the first Friday of the month
- Storytime (Wednesday mornings at 10:30 AM) has moved inside, with plenty of space to spread out in our Program Room
- Virtual presentations by the New York Historical Society, including:
  - February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM - "Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow"
  - March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM - "First Jewish Americans: Freedom and Culture in the New World"

For details, please visit our website at [www.newlebanonlibrary.org](http://www.newlebanonlibrary.org) or call us at 518-794-8844.

Tax filing season is also upon us, and the New Lebanon Library will once again be providing paper forms and instruction booklets for those who need them. We expect to receive shipments of both Federal and New York State forms in late February. Please watch our website or follow us on Facebook or Instagram for updates.

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## History Happenings – From the Town Historian

We are at the beginning of a new year – 2022 – and 2021 is now history. I will be reviewing activities from last year and preparing my report for the New York State Historian and the town board. The grant application for restoring headstones of Revolutionary War veterans buried in Cypress Hill will be submitted this year. Berkshire Gravesites Services will be leading the restoration and all participants in the grant look forward to working with the staff.

Other work planned is to continue research on the Revolutionary War veterans and create a booklet with their biographies and service information. I will be working with local historian Sharon Moon, who has numerous sources of information on these Patriots.

Several court documents dating from 1949 to 1965 on disputes over the rights to the use of the Springs were sent to me. These artifacts contain an interview with a Springs resident who worked at Columbia Hall and several decisions in favor of the Town of New Lebanon maintaining rights to use the Springs. I will be studying the artifacts and summarizing their contents. These are things we historians enjoy!

## Greetings From The Tax Collector

I am currently actively collecting 2022 Town & County taxes here in the Town of New Lebanon and all property tax bills were mailed out on 12/29/21. If you have not received your bill please be sure to call me @ (518) 794-8882 or email me at [taxcollector@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:taxcollector@townofnewlebanon.com). The penalty free period to pay these bills ends this year on 1/31/22 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 1/31/22 accrue a 1% penalty for each month that the payment is late.

Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic I am once again encouraging residents, if possible, to make their tax payments via mail and trying to reduce the number of in-person visits to my office and the Townhall for the safety of everyone. 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 make sure to see me in person in my office and do not leave these in the drop box.

My office hours are Tuesdays & Fridays from 3-5pm and on Saturdays from 10am-12pm. \*Please note that the tax office will be closed February 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> due to vacation.

Please note that all tax bills for the current year and for past years are also viewable online 24/7 at: [egov.basny.com/newlebanon](http://egov.basny.com/newlebanon).

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## From The Assessor's Office

Important dates and other information:

1. Exemption renewals are due BY March 1st
2. Tentative Roll is published May 1st each year. Final Roll is published July 1st.
3. Grievance Day is only held 1 day each year. In New Lebanon that day is the Wednesday following the 4th Tuesday.
4. If your mailing address changes please contact the assessor with the new information.
5. Most questions can be answered by visiting the Assessors page on the Towns Website."

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## From The New Lebanon Business & Economic Development Committee (BEDC)

**The New Lebanon Business and Economic Development Committee (BEDC)** has had a busy and fruitful year in 2021. Working with our partners in government (Town Board, Zoning Rewrite Committee, Town officials, Conservation Advisory Council), we have supported our local businesses. Our Outreach and Marketing subcommittee is hard at work producing a new brochure to welcome visitors to New Lebanon. Be on the lookout for it sometime this spring. We are gratified to see the growing local food market, operated by the New Lebanon Farmers Market with the help of many dedicated volunteers, open for business Wednesday - Saturday from 12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM. The selection of food items continues to grow and we are even attracting consumers from surrounding communities to take advantage of what New Lebanon has to offer. The BEDC has been instrumental in assisting local businesses to take advantage of the various funding, financial assistance, training and consulting advice made available by

## From The New Lebanon Business & Economic Development Committee (BEDC), (Continued)

non-profit organizations, and County, State and Federal government agencies. We have welcomed several new businesses, and business expansions during the year, and feel confident that, in time, the weakening pandemic will accelerate that process throughout Town. Finally, we have launched several long-range studies and activities to better understand the infrastructure needs of the Town's business center; that will be a major activity for 2022. As we move into the new year, we encourage interested residents and business owners to join the BEDC and participate in our work. If you are interested in finding out what you can do, please send an e-mail to our Chair, Monte Wasch, at [monte@fairpoint.net](mailto:monte@fairpoint.net).

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## News From The New Lebanon Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)

The plans for the CAC in this new year are to focus on the projects outlined below. Some meet action plans stipulated in the updated Comprehensive Plan, approved by the Town Board in December, and others are continuing from previous years.

Complete the first stage of the Critical Environmental Area (CEA) project by submitting justifications to the Town Board for approval of cool ravines and the Warm Spring as the first CEAs identified in New Lebanon. We were fortunate to be awarded technical advice and assistance by the Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudsonia. Our team of Supervisor Houghtling, Town Board member Gordon, County EMC representative Shenker, CSC chair and CAC member Powers and CAC chair Farren, together with other CAC members, has met once a month via Zoom with Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia. Through site visits, we have verified a handful of cool ravines in town. Bruce Shenker volunteered to guide our outreach to landowners. While the town boasts many spectacular ravines, cool ravines are unique and much rarer habitats and warrant recognition and celebration by the town, as does the Warm Spring.

Begin a second stage of our Water Study, made possible initially by the NYS Department of Health sampling over 20 wells in town last April. In this stage, we seek to test wells that may be susceptible to contamination by PFAS. Member Peg Munves heads this project. Meanwhile, a Source Water Protection Plan from the New York Rural Water Association, which has been underway for several years at no cost to the town, is expected this spring in its final form.

Revisit our Open Space Inventory from 2014 and create a first-ever Open Space Index for the town. This project could span several years.

Complete the Trees for Tribes project in Shatford Park. About 80 potted seedlings, both shrubs and trees, have been overwintered in the park with plans to put them in the ground in late spring. The planting plan will also call for transplanting certain seedlings already in the ground. Once again, volunteers will be key both to this effort and to maintenance going forward.

We welcomed a new member of the CAC in January, Bill O'Neill, appointed to a two-year term by the Town Board. One opening remains to be filled. Also, members Donald Lamonaca and Steve Powers

## News From The New Lebanon Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) (Continued)

volunteered to serve as the CAC representatives on the Zoning Rewrite Committee. Member Robert Gilson will continue to follow and help shape our responses to proposals before the Planning Board.

Please note that Peg Munves requests that town residents with knowledge of any areas of manufacturing in town over the past 50 years assist her. They may contact her with ideas and information at [nlcac.munves@gmail.com](mailto:nlcac.munves@gmail.com).

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## New Lebanon's Climate Smart Communities Task Force Turns On The Heat (Pumps) And Plans For 2022

The New Lebanon town board recently approved the installation of a heat pump in the town highway garage in a move to reduce the use of fossil fuels. Unlike traditional furnaces, heat pumps are powered by electricity and pull in heat from outside air, even in freezing temperatures. The technology has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as the electric grid is increasingly powered by renewable energy. The installation will be funded by a grant from the state's Clean Energy Communities program. It also coincides with a new informational campaign aimed at educating residents about the benefits of heat pumps.

The town's initiatives come as the state introduces its first annual inventory of greenhouse gases as well as a proposal for reducing emissions across key sectors, including buildings and transportation. New Lebanon town supervisor Tistrya Houghtling noted that New Lebanon has already been working on reducing greenhouse gas emissions for several years. "Starting in 2017, we approved a streamlined solar permitting process for residents. We have also introduced community solar for residents who can't install solar panels," she said.

Other initiatives include installing LED street lights, which greatly reduced power consumption, as well as installing an electric vehicle charger near the town library and rail trail. Looking forward to 2022, the town's Climate Smart Communities Task Force is aiming to expand its community composting efforts, which today collects coffee grounds from local restaurants. Keeping organic material out of landfills can



A resident uses New Lebanon's new EV charging station

reduce emissions of methane, a particularly damaging greenhouse gas. The town also runs a Free Store of donated clothing, and a bike recycling program, which provides refurbished bicycles to local residents. Finally, the town is planning to join additional "Repair Cafes" where volunteers repair broken items for residents. "All of these efforts help reduce emissions by reducing the number of things we need to manufacture, while at the same time saving our residents money," Houghtling said.

## Meeting Dates

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE of the meeting dates, times and locations for the Town Board Meetings, Other Board Meetings and Committee Meetings. As of now, only the Town Board and the Planning Board will be both in person and live streamed on Town Hall Streams. Please take notice that the Town Supervisor or Board/Committee Chair may at any time change a scheduled in-person meeting to an online meeting based on the need to do so, such as rising COVID cases, health and safety of members and attendees, inclement weather, etc. If a change is made it will be posted on the Town website and emailed out via the Town Clerk's email distribution.

**The Following will be meeting at the Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22, New Lebanon, NY, 12125 and live streamed:**

**To watch the meeting live streamed go to:** [https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new\\_lebanon\\_ny](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny)

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

Planning Board meets the third Wednesday of each month, as necessary, at 7:00pm - (this is a change from a 7:30pm time in 2021)

**The Following will be meeting at the Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22, New Lebanon, NY, 12125:**

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

Zoning Board of Appeals meets the first Tuesday of each month, *as necessary*, at 7:00pm

Zoning Re-write Committee meets the fourth Monday of each month, *as necessary*, at 7:00pm

**\*\*The Board of Ethics does not have a standing meeting date and time, only meets *when needed*.\*\***

**The Following will be meeting online for now:** (Meeting details will be available on the Town Website and via the Town Clerk's email blast) If meetings change to in-person, it will be posted on the town website and emailed out via the Town Clerk's email distribution.

Business & Economic Development Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm  
check here for all BEDC meeting updates (in person vs online) and links for online meetings when online: <http://www.townofnewlebanon.com/business-economic-development-committee/>

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Committee meets the first Wednesday at 6:30pm

Conservation Advisory Council meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm

**The Following will be meeting at the Lebanon Valley Fire Department(LVPA), 523 US Route 20, New Lebanon, NY 12125:**

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

## Calendar Of Events

February Regular Town Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Holiday – President’s Day – All Town Offices Closed – Monday, February, 21, 2022

Community Food Giveaway Date: Friday, February 25, 2022 at 9am at Town Hall Parking Lot

Exemption Renewals Deadline: March 1, 2022

Daylight Savings Time: Sunday, March 13, 2022 – (Set clocks back on Sat. 3/12/22)

Kiss Program Dates: March 14 – March 25, 2022

New Lebanon Library: Many events – see page 9 for details

HEAP Application Deadline: No deadline as of now

FREE Narcan Giveaway: Every Wednesday from 12pm to 3pm at the Town Hall