

From the comp plan:

The Town Board will form a working group to examine what other towns are doing to accommodate the need of older residents and to retain/attract younger individuals and families. The working group will submit an action plan and conceptual framework to the Town Board for approval.

Conceptual Framework for the Quality of Life committee

Mission – To improve the quality of life for the residents of New Lebanon, specifically in the areas of Housing, Health & Wellness, Lifestyle, Safety and Security.

New Lebanon Committees to work with:

- Zoning Rewrite Committee (ZRC)
- Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)
- Climate Smart Communities Task Force (CSC)
- Outreach & Marketing Committee (O & M)
- Recreation Commission
- Business & Economic Development Committee (BEDC)
- And any other committees that involve Quality of Life in New Lebanon

Columbia County Resources:

- County Housing Taskforce
- Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)

How we go about accomplishing each of these missions:

Housing

To find and/or procure grants or make it easier for others to find and/or procure grants for multi-use housing

1. new housing projects
2. repurposed housing
3. housing above commercial establishments

Goal: to attract young families by continuing to encourage the construction of “starter” and “ender” homes, while continuing to promote and improve New Lebanon’s public school and its scenic natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. The Town should strive to increase home ownership opportunities for working families and seniors, prioritizing the construction and renovation of for-purchase homes (or condos) at a variety of price points and sizes. Any changes to the Town’s zoning should ensure that the location and density of any new housing units match the ability of the land to support them, and the community’s frequently stated desire to preserve the Town’s rural, small-town character.

Action Plan: Work with the ZRC to ensure that zoning will accommodate more housing to the town. New Lebanon has been designated a Pro-Housing Community – this will allow it to apply for some grants. We are working with Chris Brown of the Columbia County Housing Task Force to help overcome zoning roadblocks and find land suitable for Habitat for Humanity.

Health & Wellness

To disseminate information on physical and mental health. To find the means to bring better physical and mental health services to New Lebanon

1. Our new Queen of health information – Erminia
2. Establishing a safe place for people to get these services

3. To work with other towns to get physical/mental health services here
4. To explore the idea of a mobile health unit that serves more than one town

Action Plan: To hold Health & Wellness fairs to disseminate information to residents
To work with potential pharmacy and health care center to help search for a new home for the potential pharmacy.

Lifestyle

To make it easier for our residents to access stores/services in New Lebanon. To have better communication for the residents to find out what is going on. To ease loneliness and isolation, particularly in the winter months

1. Mobile van throughout New Lebanon, or getting bus service here
2. To establish some type of buddy system for those who cannot drive or need occasional assistance or visits

Action Plan: To work with Columbia County to bring more transportation services to New Lebanon
To work with Seniors to see what services the town can assist with

Safety & Security

To make sure that all people feel safe in New Lebanon, especially safe to visit whatever store or establishment they desire

1. Support diversity & inclusion in New Lebanon
2. Work with law enforcement

Action Plan: To work with Sheriff's office to establish satellite office at Community Center

WHAT NEW LEBANON DOES FOR ITS SENIORS AND TO RETAIN YOUTH

New Lebanon is one of two Towns in Columbia County that has had an increase in population reflected in the Census. One of the biggest issues we face is the lack of affordable and available housing. New Lebanon has worked with realtors to help solve the issue of limited housing for its teachers. It recognized that it needed to provide activities for its young people and so has focused energies on several items including:

Shatford Park

Put in new Walking Trails that include fitness stations

New skate park

Grant for improved ADA/inclusive playground (new Playground committee making recommendations)

Pickle ball court added to tennis courts

Basketball court

Playing field

Renovating bathrooms to make them ADA compliant

Music in the Park (suggest we make them weekly in the summer months)

Renovating splash pad (under research/investigation)

REC commission events: ice cream socials, community meals, Bingo for seniors

New Lebanon Community Center

A hub of New Lebanon where seniors can meet, all residents can gather and participate in playing pool, ping

pong, etc. Events, including pumpkin carving, community dinners, ice cream socials, bingo nights and more are held there. Now offers after school usage for Middle/High School students three days a week. It includes a popular free store which offers clothing, shoes, games, children's items, household items and more.

Active Seniors committee

Meals on Wheels

New Lebanon Library

Children's area, activities for both youth and seniors (i.e. book club, mah jongg, movie night, crafts night, etc.)

Swimming

Open swim and swim lessons at Shatford Pool during school year

Swim lessons year round at Shatford Pool

Wish list: an outdoor swimming pool at Shatford Park

Lebanon Valley Community Corporation

Active in getting money for Backpack Program, School Supplies, Senior Survey

Recommendations

Monthly digital newsletter to communicate better what is going on in town mailed to seniors (upon request?)

Before/After school program at Community Center

More music in the park or weekly programs at the park

Family Day or Grandparents Day

Build an outdoor swimming pool

Fishing derby and other fishing events

Report on What Other Towns do to Retain Young People and provide for Old people, Quality of Life Committee

Observations - the towns that do the most for their youth use their parks to the fullest - several ball fields, walking trails, and weekly music events in the summer. Many have picnic tables with places to have barbecues. Larger the playground the better. Free or very low cost summer camp. Community Centers. Places to swim for all, particularly outdoor swimming. Family events bring families, but can't just be one or two. The more, the better. For seniors - senior groups, walking trails, discussion groups.

Ancram

Has a kid's camp and outdoor swimming (Town) pool board for kids and families.

Austerlitz

Have a page for seniors on their website with online games, links, AARP website, etc.

Canaan

Senior Lunch Program, Wednesdays 11-1
Free swim lessons at Queechy Lake

Chatham

Crellin Park Pond for Public swimming
Has a committee called Office of the Aging Advisory Board
Also have a Grants Appropriation Advisory committee
Invasive Species Awareness Committee

Claverack

Has a seniors page on their site: <https://townofclaverack.com/town-life/seniors/>
And a Claverack Seniors Club
Has a Youth page, but that's mostly the summer youth program and links to the schools

Clermont

Has two parks: Clermont Park and Hettling Park at Clermont - basketball, baseball field, vernal pool, hiking trails. Building a Future Park Complex with universal design/ADA accessibility, all abilities playground, wayfinding and interpretive signage and benches

Copake

Has summer camp, \$100 per camper or \$250 per family for residents. Active Grange with Open Mic Night, ice cream social & square dance (\$25 each), Family Play & Meet event (Nice idea!), Copake Falls Day with live music, food, train rides (on the Pomeroy Family Railroad), tag sale, games & Crafts, Raptors, market, History.

Saturdays, 10-12pm, Farm Market Kids every Saturday morning in the summer - food and nature-themed crafts and stories. Music in the Park - 9 events during the summer. Active outdoor farmers market May-November on Saturdays

Copake Memorial Garden - people buy bricks for it

Newsletter monthly - Copake Connection - <https://myemail-api.constantcontact.com/Copake-Connection-The-latest-news-for-you.html?soid=1115309971593&aid=aRZdAg-Jj-o> - written by the Town of Copake to publicize community Events throughout the Town of Copake, comes out on the 15th of the month. Digital. Impressive.

Gallatin

Has a group: Gallatin Seniors

Germantown

Has an "Upstate Art Weekend"

Has four parks: Cheviot Park (½ acre) with boat launch, picnic tables, etc. Ernest R. Lasher Jr. Memorial Park - 2 acres - fishing, Palatine Park - largest - children's playground, sports fields (baseball, softball, 3 soccer fields, 3 basketball courts, walking trail, etc.), Roe-Jan Kill Park - 2 acres - fishing, camping, no swimming

Ghent

Page on Seniors on their website

There is a Ghent/Chatham Senior Citizens Club

Greenport

Town Park

Music at Sunset - Friday nights, 11 scheduled for the summer, baseball fields, summer recreation program

Summer playground program

Senior Citizens club

Hillsdale

Has an Economic & Development corporation, Roeliff Jansen Park has a community garden, dog run, farmers market, summer youth program, trails,

Has a monthly enewsletter - lists jobs available, events, etc. - <https://hillsdaleny.com/newsletters/>

Has a sewer district

Park is used for private weddings and special events

Has a summer youth program but it was hard to find on their site - for ages 5-13, \$125/camper

No seniors group but do have Meals on Wheels

Has a housing committee - working to get two Habitat for Humanity units

Hudson

8 parks

Hudson State Boat launch

Part of the Empire State Bike Trail - bike racks

Has a Hudson Youth Center - swimming lessons, summer camp, after school program (!), "conversations with the superintendent", works with Art school of Columbia County,

Couldn't find anything for seniors

Kinderhook

Summer basketball league for those 18+ - playing for charities

Kinderhook dog park

For Seniors: Tri Village Senior Citizens

Valatie Senior Citizen Center
Golden Oldies Film Series
Gentle Exercise
Senior Fitness at the Kinderhook Library

Livingston

Livingston Rec Park - "for the betterment of the youth of our town . . ." - summer camp, little league, nature trails, families
Nothing listed for Seniors

Philmont

Has a community center - ran an after school program there, including after school birdhouse building, fire safety program by the fire department
Website has: Programs for Youth (mostly at the library but other places too), children's art show, christmas ornament workshop, wisebodies for youth, <https://philmont.org/programs-for-youth/>
Program for Individuals with disabilities including the Philmont Hearth - residential program
<https://philmont.org/individuals-with-disabilities/>
Programs for Seniors - <https://philmont.org/programs-for-seniors/>
Recovery program - <https://philmont.org/programs-for-recovery/>

Stockport

Nothing listed for kids or seniors - very basic website

Stuyvesant

Two playgrounds - Stuyvesant Landing & Stuyvesant Falls playgrounds - both very small
Summer playground program with Kinderhook, no cost

Taghkanic

Taghkanic Senior Network - newly formed committee to add to the quality of life of Taghkanic seniors and caregivers
Bingo night

Valatie

Valatie Family Fun Day
Artisan Fest
Food Truck Night