

Town of New Lebanon

www.townofnewlebanon.com

August 2016

A Letter from the Supervisor

The summer seems to be going by much too fast! I want to begin this newsletter with updates on some of the projects that I talked about in the first edition. We finished the expansion of the playground with the help of many volunteers and it is being well-used. Although the weather was not really cooperative for the Community Day/Ribbon Cutting event, we still had a large turnout and the most heartwarming part was seeing the new equipment covered with children!

As I am writing this, the tennis courts are still under “re-construction.” I hope by the time you are reading this, they are finished and also being well used. (continued on page 2)

The General Election is Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at the Immaculate Conception Church, 732 US Route 20. The polls are open from 6am – 9pm. On the ballot this election are the Offices of: President of the United States, US Senator, US Congressman, 3rd Judicial District State Supreme Court Justices (2 seats), State Senator, and Assembly Member. Voter registration forms are available at the Town Clerk’s Office.

Free Rabies Clinic at the Town Highway Garage

The Columbia County Department of Health is offering a free rabies clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets at least 3 months of age or older. It will be held on Tuesday, August 9th at the New Lebanon Highway Garage, 14755 State Route 22. Cats and ferrets will be from 4 pm – 5 pm and dogs will be from 5 pm – 6 pm. All dogs must be on a leash and cats & ferrets must be in carriers. Shots will be administered by Dr. Lisa Dietrich from the Nassau Vet Clinic. Donations are accepted.

Town Government



Supervisor – Colleen Teal
supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
518-794-8889

Councilmembers:

Chuck Gerald
cgeraldi@townofnewlebanon.com

Dan Evans
devans@townofnewlebanon.com

Mark Baumli
mbaumli@townofnewlebanon.com

Kevin Smith, Sr.
ksmith@townofnewlebanon.com

Town Clerk – Tistrya Houghtling
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 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

Letter from the Supervisor Continued: The Town Board is going to look at the basketball court and the pavilion for maintenance for next summer. Additionally, we are eager to keep adding summer events at the park. We have a “Ukulele & Brew Festival” scheduled for Sunday, August 28th; you will see more details later in the newsletter and I hope to see you there!

In January, the Building Department sent letters to all of the businesses in town with a copy of the sign law and let them know we would begin enforcing the sign regulations in April. Only a handful of businesses had sign violations by the time the inspections were conducted and since then, all but a few have remedied the violations. Some still feel we are trying to “hinder” business in New Lebanon but I strongly disagree. Out of 54 businesses that were inspected, about 10 to 12 had some type of violation. The majority of these took care of the violation(s) within 30 days. A couple were determined not to be violations (based on interpretations by the Zoning Board of Appeals) and at the time of this writing, there are still a couple in the process of requesting a variance. The majority of the businesses in town were in compliance with our regulations and, in fairness to all, the rules need to be applied across the board. It simply is not fair if one business owner is adhering to the regulations and another one down the road is not.

Through this process, we identified a couple of areas in our sign law and in our zoning law that need some amending. Once a draft has been prepared of the changes the board is proposing, public hearings will be held to get your input. In many instances, they are simply re-wording sections for clarification. We are also looking at regulations for solar arrays. There will be several “public input” meetings sponsored by our Zoning Re-write Committee and Conservation Advisory Council as we begin to look at the possibilities of solar array regulations.

Another piece of good news related to our “curb appeal” is the paving of the 20/22 corridor. I have been advised by DOT that this paving project has been approved and is tentatively scheduled for August. This is a much needed “improvement” to our town.

The Annual Town Clean-Up Day was a success with approximately 30 tons of “garbage” collected and an unbelievable amount of food collected for Charlie’s Pantry. We plan to continue holding the Clean-Up Day annually and to continue “charging” a non-perishable food item as the “fee”; it was a great success. (see page 5 for details of the clean-up)

In the last newsletter, the board was looking for committee members for two new committees: a Youth Committee to help the board determine what types of activities, facilities, and events our youth would like to see the town provide for them and a Broadband Committee to help us in our pursuit of “broadband to every home.” We have not received any volunteers for the Youth Committee and are still looking for High School students interested in serving on this committee. However, the NL Broadband Committee has started meeting and it is comprised of a wonderful mix of residents – some highly experienced technical people and some people just extremely interested in resolving the issue.

A steering committee has been created that will be coordinating the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the incorporation of New Lebanon as a town. On April 21, 1818, in the Forty-First Session of State Senate

and Assembly held in Albany, an Act was passed to divide the town of Canaan, in the county of Columbia that “shall be and hereby erected into a separate town to be called by the name of New Lebanon.” Where did the name “New Lebanon” come from? (see page 5) This is the date of our incorporation as a town separate from Canaan but the activity in New Lebanon began long before 1818. Some of the earliest settlers can be traced back as far as the mid-1760s but the Mohican Village was here prior to that already making New Lebanon history. The first church was built in 1772 and Mother Ann Lee, a Shaker leader, came to New Lebanon in 1783. The first Masonic Lodge in New Lebanon was formed in 1788 and Columbia Hall was opened in 1794. What other tid-bits of history will we learn as we prepare for our 200th birthday? We hope to make this a “season of celebration” beginning on April 21st, 2018 and continuing through the summer to a closing event in early September. Watch for more information – I suspect there will be a lot of fun ways to participate in this celebration.

Finally, we have installed a microphone system for town meetings which means we can actually run the air conditioner or open the windows and you will still be able to hear what is happening during the meetings.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING ISSUES

There are a few very important items/issues coming up that I will briefly explain here. The three most important at the moment are:

- the sidewalk project;
- the broadband project; and
- the budget process.

It has been brought to the current board’s attention by the NYS Department of Transportation that the sidewalk project from 2013 was never finalized. This project must be finalized in some form before September of 2017 or the town will be required to pay back the federal funds that we received as reimbursement for the planning of this project (approximately \$80,000). If we are required to pay back the federal funds, it is possible that we would be required to pay back the state funds we received for this project also (approximately \$5,200). We are currently gathering as much information as we possibly can on the options available and the costs associated with each option. There will be two public hearings on this topic (Monday, August 8th and Thursday, August 11th). Both hearings will be held at the New Lebanon High School at 7:00 p.m. We scheduled two in the hopes that we could hear from as many people as possible. We realize August is a difficult time to hold these meetings due to summer vacations but we are under time constraints that limit our flexibility. Please try to attend one of these meetings to hear more details about the decision that must be made and to voice your opinion. If you cannot attend, please submit your opinion in writing to the Town Clerk via email at townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com or via regular mail at P.O. Box 328, New Lebanon, NY 12125. It is very important that we hear from as many residents of New Lebanon as possible on this issue.

The broadband project is a county-wide project that I am working on. The board has created a NL Broadband Committee that is comprised of several residents that are well experienced in technology and several residents that may not have the technical experience but are truly dedicated to solving this problem. I am a member of the steering committee of “Connect Columbia” (see our Facebook page or visit

our webpage at <http://connectcolumbiacounty.com/>) that is a group dedicated to resolving this problem for the entire County. Additionally, the County Board of Supervisors has created a Broadband Sub-Committee under the Economic Development Committee and I sit on this sub-committee. The first task before us is to obtain a detailed inventory of the technology that is currently here in Columbia County. Without a detailed inventory of what we currently have, we cannot make any intelligent decisions about how to move forward. There are a number of funding sources available through a variety of state and federal programs and we are working closely with a number of state organizations and elected officials to access funding through these programs. We are also working very closely with the state's Broadband Program Office (BPO) on these funding sources as well as monitoring the progress of the Charter Spectrum (or New Charter) expansion requirements under the Public Service Commission's requirements for the approval of the Charter/Time Warner merger. The Connect Columbia Steering Committee has already met with Fairpoint to discuss their plans for expanding/ improving services in the County and we are working towards meeting with other providers as well. In my opinion, it will be a joint effort of the Connect Columbia citizen's group and the County BOS Broadband Sub-Committee that will eventually get "broadband to every home." County-wide, we are currently served by a number of different providers of various sizes with various technologies and realistically, the solution that brings broadband to everyone will be a "patchwork" of technological solutions. No one provider nor one type of technology will solve the issue for the whole county. I will keep you updated as things progress on this issue.

The development of the Town's 2017 Budget will begin shortly. Please watch our website for documents and information that will keep you apprised of the board's work throughout this process. There are two very good publications put out by NYS Office of the State Comptroller that we will provide links for on the website. The first one, entitled "*Citizen's Guide to Local Budgets*", is specifically for citizens and the second one, "*A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE: Understanding the Budget Process*," is for local officials to understand their role in the budget process but can be very informative for citizens also. The website will include proposed budgets, amended budgets as we work through the process, workshop dates and times, and other pertinent information. All of this information is always available from the Town Clerk's Office also.

As you can see, there is still a lot going on and I can promise you there will be more to come. To those who have reached out to me with ideas and suggestions, thank you. And I look forward to hearing from more of you. Our community has such a wealth of constructive ideas and suggestions. And with your support, there is so much positive that we can do for our community. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Town Supervisor.

Warmest regards,

Colleen

Citizen "Reporters" Needed

If there are any citizen "reporters" who want to share information and photos with the Chatham Courier (credit will be given), you can email to kallen.chathamcourier@registerstar.com. Please include your name and contact info (an email address will suffice).

The Broadband Committee Needs Your Help

The Town Board has established a Broadband committee to work with the other towns in Columbia County and with a group called Connect Columbia to improve broadband capabilities in the community. Although there have been attempts to get better broadband in the past, there are new opportunities and a fresh impetus at all levels of government to improve availability and quality across the state. You will hear more about this effort in the future. One of the first goals of the committee is to get all businesses in the community to complete a 14-question survey about broadband service and its effect on their businesses. Of special interest are people engaged in home occupations, including those who work for a company from home. Your needs can be better addressed if you provide feedback about those needs. Please complete the anonymous survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConnectColumbiaBusinessBroadbandSurvey> or contact Broadband Committee chairperson Doug Banker for assistance, a paper survey form, or for additional information. Telephone 518-794-9764 or email charlesbanker@fairpoint.net.

How Did New Lebanon Get Its Name?

In 1790, the family of John Tilden moved to town from Lebanon, Connecticut. It is said that in coming over the mountain range from Stockbridge, John Tilden's eyes appraised this fertile valley and he stated loudly: "a new Lebanon." He purchased the land across from the Congregational Church where the former Masonic Temple now stands. He started building his house and when he died before finishing it, his son Elam, finished the house and gave his finished mansion the name "New Lebanon." In 1818, when the State sub-divided the Town of Canaan, giving a portion to Austerlitz, another to Chatham, and split the rest making a new town, that new town was named New Lebanon after the name of the farm of John Tilden and his son Elam.

From the Building Department

The Town Clean Up Day was huge success and, judging from feedback, it went as smoothly as the first year (we learned a lot in the second year...lol!) Volunteers picked up loads from 15 residents who greatly appreciated the help! A hearty thank you goes out to our *resident pick up volunteers*: Mitch Kelleher, Carl Ford, Jim Ramsey, Mike Kelly, Dave Kilventon, Dan Evans and Kent Pratt. And a hearty thank you goes out to our *clean up day volunteers*: Jeff Winestock; Pete McCagg; Mike Blatt, Sr.; Mike Blatt, Jr.; Cissy Hernandez; Tammie Darcy; John Sheehy; Henry Villegas; Pat Slattery; Dan Evans; Ted Salem; Jack Lancto; Josh Schuster; Kevin Fuerst; Bill Ingersol; Colleen Teal; and Kent Pratt.

We collected 30 tons of garbage into 10 dumpsters and 520 tires with a total cost to the Town of \$3,937.83 (after receiving \$342.96 for scrap metal collected); well under the \$5,000 budgeted by the Town Board. 😊

Abandoned and Unsafe Structures: Please note, the Building Department is looking into abandoned and unsafe structures and working on implementing a process to get derelict properties secured and maintained. The state has started a program that we will be participating in, which will assist municipalities with these derelict properties.

From the Conservation Advisory Council

The Conservation Advisory Council continues its work on a first-ever Natural Resources Conservation Plan (NRCP) for the Town of New Lebanon. Thanks to a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program that runs through October 2017, the CAC has hired biologist Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia Ltd., based at Bard College, to guide them in the project, joined by Conrad Vispo of the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program in Ghent. The remote mapping portion of the project has been essentially completed, aided by Darrow students and staff during Hands to Work sessions at the school every Wednesday morning throughout the winter and spring. Gretchen and Conrad trained a team of five to use QGIS, an open-source Geographical Information System, in examining every section of town, comparing historic and current aerial photographs and consulting topographic maps. They discovered previously unmapped intermittent streams, intermittent woodland pools, small wetlands and ancient forest patches (forested areas that have remained forest even as intensive agriculture defined New Lebanon's history), all conservation-worthy natural resources.

This summer, CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jack Lancto, Peg Munves and Craig Westcott have turned their attention to site verification visits. With permission of landowners, they will be able to verify the aerial maps and begin to prioritize conservation goals for the town. Meanwhile, Hudsonia has produced a series of 15 natural resource maps for the town, and Hudsonia and the Farmscape Ecology Program are gathering other information that will help them analyze the New Lebanon landscape and understand the features and places of special importance for water resources, agriculture, wildlife, scenic values and recreational uses.

Their findings will be shared at public forums and they look forward to working with town residents in determining final recommendations. They also invite town residents to share any photographs that illustrate the town's unique natural features, including native plants, animals, habitats and landscapes. Photographs that are chosen will be credited to the photographer in the NRCP and can be forwarded to provalbany@aol.com. The final NRCP will be presented to the Town Board for approval and shared with the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and community at large.



Hands to Work team at Darrow School using QGIS to create aerial maps (Photo credit: Peg Munves)

From the Assessor's Office

NEW STAR APPLICANTS-

If you are a NEW Star applicant and have NOT had STAR on your property prior to 2015 you do NOT apply with the assessor. To be able to receive STAR, you will need to register with the Department of Taxation and Finance. Instead of a reduction on the actual tax bill you will receive a check for the amount directly from the Department of Taxation and Finance. The assessor's office DOES NOT take care of NEW STAR applications. All questions regarding this must be directed to the State at the following number (518-457-2036).

ENHANCED STAR AND AGED RENEWALS-

If you have received STAR on your property in the past year, you will continue to RENEW with the Assessor for a credit on your School Tax Bill. We will send you the renewal application around December 1st. We do not accept any applications prior to December 1st. We will send a notice along with your renewal stating the days and hours that we accept applications if you can't mail it in. Please try to file early to avoid missing the deadline and help save tax dollars.

OTHER NEWS - Please be aware the assessor will be out conducting a data verification of all properties over the next 2 years. This means you may see someone from the office driving slowly or parked on the street in front of your property for a few minutes. They may also knock on your door if further information is needed. As with the last data verification, a letter with complete inventory will be sent to all owners after the project is complete. The current vehicle is a Grey Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Zoning For Solar Energy – Community Input Needed

The Town of New Lebanon is considering the adoption of a local law to regulate small scale and large scale solar energy installations. Under current zoning regulations, large scale solar installations are not permitted in the Town of New Lebanon. Small scale installations (the ones typically installed by homeowners to meet their own energy needs) are permitted, but at present the town's zoning code does not address them. New York State has provided communities with a model solar energy law to assist them in developing their own solar zoning regulations. It is very important to note that the State is not imposing any requirements on the Town of New Lebanon and that the town is free to adopt all, parts, or none of the suggestions in the model and/or adopt altogether different requirements (or no requirements). The model law also leaves many items open for decisions by a community. The model is posted on the town website.

The Town Board is seeking the community's input on zoning for solar energy. It has asked the New Lebanon Zoning Re-write Committee and Conservation Advisory Committee to hold community forums which will be held on Friday, September 9 at 10 AM and on Wednesday, September 14 at 7 PM. Both forums will be held at Town Hall. Additional forums will be held as needed. No decisions have been made regarding whether to adopt solar zoning regulations or the content of regulations IF a new code is adopted. This is truly a blank slate and town residents are encouraged to attend one of the forums. It will be helpful if persons attending the forums review the model solar law in advance, although it will be reviewed at the forum and copies will be provided.

Uke & Brew Festival

On August 28, 2016 New Lebanon will host a “Uke ‘N’ Brew Festival” at the pavilion in Shatford Park. Sponsored by the Recreation Commission, the festival is scheduled from 1:00 until 5:00 PM and features live ukulele music, food, craft beer and other attractions. Music is going to be provided by the Berkshire Ukulele Band from Great Barrington, MA (1:00 – 1:30 PM); The Ukeville Stringband from Williamstown, MA (1:40 – 2:10 PM); Lita Williams from Northern Berkshire County, MA (2:20 – 3:00 PM); Snapback from Northern CT (3:10 – 4:00 PM); and Berkshire County’s David Grover and Linda Worster playing ukuleles(!) (4:10 – 5:00 PM).

Tasty craft beer from the Beer Diviner of Petersburg, NY will complement great food provided by the Bounti Fare Restaurant of Adams, MA. Locally-built ukuleles will be exhibited by Brier Road Luthiers of Adams, MA. Raffles will be held for a ukulele magazine, a uke t-shirt, Aquila strings, a tuner, and one soprano ukulele with bag case and assorted accessories. Tickets will be \$15 for adults, \$10 for students with ID, and free for kids under 12. For additional information email “uke’n’brew@gmail.com” or search for the *Uke ‘N’ Brew Festival* on Facebook.

2016-17 Hunting & Fishing Licenses and Extended Issuance Hours

Hunting licenses for the 2016-17 season will be going on sale in the month of August, exact date to be determined by DEC, and will be available at the Town Clerk’s Office. The Town Clerk’s Office will be open extended Friday hours until 7pm from September 9th through November 18th for the issuance of hunting licenses in addition to our regular open hours (M, W, Th, Fri from 9am – 5pm). First run Doe Permits will be available for purchase and must be applied for by October 1st, 2016. Fishing licenses can be purchased at any time and are good for one year. Feel free to contact the Town Clerk’s Office with any questions at 794-8888.

Meeting Dates

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

Planning Board meets the third Wednesday of each month, as necessary at 7:30pm

Zoning Board of Appeals meets the first Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 7:30pm

Zoning Re-write Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 6:00pm

Recreation Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month, as necessary at 7:00pm

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

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

If you are interested in serving on any of the various Boards and Commissions, please contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com to see if there are any openings.

For Our Seniors

LEBANON VALLEY SENIOR CITIZENS:

The Lebanon Valley Senior Citizens meet the first and third Friday of each month with a few exceptions. The meetings are held at 1pm in the New Lebanon Town Hall meeting room, 14755 State Route 22. Anyone 55 years of age is eligible to join. If only one member of a couple is 55, both are eligible to join. Come check them out – you'll meet new friends, enjoy interesting speakers, great trips, and refreshments at each meeting. Yearly dues are \$10. For more information please contact Pat Burnell at 794-7084.

Did you know that our website has a page named *Lebanon Valley Senior Citizens* at <http://www.townofnewlebanon.com/lebanon-valley-senior-citizens/> where you can find a schedule of all their meetings and special trips. You will also find contact information for programs and organizations for Seniors in Columbia and Rensselaer County.

FREE HOME REPAIR SERVICES OFFERED TO QUALIFYING SENIORS IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Attention New Lebanon Senior Citizens who make below \$12,000 annually and who own their own home: A new program is available which offers painting of your house (inside and/or outside); installation of new roofs, windows, doors, etc.; basic construction of ramps, stairs and other things needed; plumbing and heating installation and repairs; and other basic home improvement needs all FREE of charge. Volunteers will take care of all permits, purchasing of materials and construction at absolutely no cost to you. To see if you qualify please contact Phyllis Hulbert at 794-7995 to set up an interview.

FLU CLINIC AT THE TOWN HALL:

On Wednesday, October 19th from 1:45 – 2:45 there will be a Flu Clinic hosted by the Columbia County Health Department at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22, New Lebanon, NY. It is open to anybody over the age of 19. Please remember to bring your health insurance card.

From the Lebanon Valley Historical Society

The Lebanon Valley Historical Society is in the midst of a very busy summer. The first annual Bruce Baldwin Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jamie Styne at her graduation. The cash prize will be presented each year to a high school senior who exemplifies Bruce's dedication to scholarship and community service. Following up on the rededication of the Mohican Blessing Fountain three years ago, an interpretive tablet will be installed on the site this fall. The combination of images and text will let people know who designed the fountain, who sponsored it, and why it is such a special place. The installation will be part of a community event, with representatives of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans again joining us for the celebration.

As part of the Town of New Lebanon bicentennial in 2018, the LVHS is putting together an inventory of historical buildings in the town. This survey will record and map buildings of historical interest. Being included in this inventory will in no way impact or infringe upon an owner's property rights. It will not affect property taxes or an owner's ability to alter, sell, change or demolish the property, and will not alter insurance costs or zoning requirements or impose any restrictions or regulations. What this survey *will* do is create a resource for the town that will increase awareness and appreciation of our history.

Also to coincide with the Bicentennial, the LVHS is updating, streamlining and reprinting the two albums of historical photographs originally published in 1976 and 1986. Wanting to broaden the variety of images and replace poorer quality photos, the LVHS is reaching out to area residents to provide additional photos of buildings, people, events and everyday life to be copied for the new album. Photos can be loaned rather than donated and the owner can wait while they are being scanned. Any questions, please visit us on Facebook or contact the LVHS at P.O. Box 366, New Lebanon, NY 12125.

From the New Lebanon Library

The New Lebanon Library continues to offer a full schedule of activities and programs for people of all ages and interests. Weekly programs for younger children include Small Wonders (for babies) and Preschool Story Hour. Older children and their families will enjoy our regular Legos Block Parties, Fun Family Crafts, Family Movie Nights, Paws to Read and the numerous special programs we are planning.

In addition to serious fare—book talks, lectures, and discussions—the Library, as usual, will be hosting an ambitious series of concerts, mostly on Friday evenings. The varied list of performers who will be appearing in late Summer and Fall includes Misty Blues, Linda Worster, David Grover, Zydeco Connection, Aaron Nathan & Michael Ronstadt, Robin O’Herin, The Limb Shakers, Doug Schmolze, The Hale Mountain Pickers, Bobby Sweet & Lara Tupper, and many more.

Please consult the Library events calendar at newlebanonlibrary.org for information – and don’t forget to sign up at the Library to receive regular email announcements of special events.

Grow The Valley E-Newsletter – “Read All About It”

Interested in receiving information and updates about what is happening in the Lebanon Valley? The non-profit organization Grow the Valley, Inc. puts out an electronic newsletter each month. Learn about what the various organizations are up to and matters of importance to Valley folk. Subscribing is as easy as sending an email to growthevalley@gmail.com.

The mission of Grow the Valley, Inc. is to provide a centralized hub for communications and resource in order to actively promote and support community development efforts in the Lebanon Valley, to the benefit of all who reside and visit here. The organization began as the Lebanon Valley Business Association (LVBA), which was a membership-driven nonprofit operating initially like a chamber of commerce. The board and talented volunteers worked on a variety of projects that the membership, made up of people living in New Lebanon and surrounding towns, told us were most important to them.

Some of those projects were on business topics but most were far more broad. They ranged from helping to start the farmer’s market, to organizing the Herb Fest, to working on supermarket issues, encouraging the rail trail project and the expansion of the Shaker Swamp project. Many of these projects have now become organizations in their own right, focused on providing fantastic resources to our area.

Recognizing that prosperity in New Lebanon is created through community development, the LVBA board made the organizational shift in 2014 to become Grow the Valley, Inc., a 501(c)3 charitable

organization. Our method is to work collaboratively to facilitate longer-term strategic projects of benefit to our community. We are no longer a membership organization; our funding comes now from fundraising and donation.

And the big project that is on the Grow the Valley radar now is NL200, or the New Lebanon Bicentennial, coming up in 2018. Designated by the Town Board to coordinate this effort, Grow the Valley is putting together a Steering Committee whose job will be to invite every interested entity in town to play a part in celebrating this milestone and highlight their place in it. Are you interested in being a part of NL200; do you have any good ideas for it? Contact Ted Salem at growthevalley@gmail.com.

From the New Lebanon Farmer's Market

Did you know that the New Lebanon Farmers Market is held on Sundays from 10am-2pm at Windswept Farms, 36 Old Route 20, New Lebanon, NY 12125 now thru October!

Support local farmers, artisans, and musicians. Get hot food, fresh produce, meats, and local goods. It's a convenient and fun shopping experience. Your dollars support a stronger rural economy. Check out the market online at <https://www.facebook.com/newlebanonfarmersmarket/> or contact us at newlebanonfarmersmarket@gmail.com with questions and comments!

From Behold! New Lebanon

Behold! New Lebanon has programs running every Saturday from June, 4th 2016 to October 15th, 2016. This year we have added even more unique programs to our ever expanding schedule. From old favorites like our behind the scenes tour of Lebanon Valley Speedway to our newest programs; exploring the Mount Lebanon Shakers' water works, getting to know our local deer farmer, and building your own fairy houses to beautify your garden. Every Saturday, we have a variety of offerings including kid-friendly and hands-on programs perfect for the whole family or for a day out with friends. All general admission adult tickets are \$10, and be sure to ask about our specialty pricing for kids and day passes!

Some of our upcoming programs include;

7/30: 1:00pm-3:00pm "The Language of Birds" with Kevin Bose.

4:00pm-6:00pm "Foraging Walk at the Wyomanock Center"

8/6: 9:30am-11:30am "Designing for the Theater" with Sarah Conly and Michael Deegan.

2:30pm-4:30pm "Movement is Art" Exploring the George Rickey estate.

8/13: 1:30pm-3:30pm "Waste Not; Want Not" with Craig Westcott.

These are just a small handful of some of our upcoming programming. More detailed information, a full calendar of events and tickets can be found on our website www.beholdnewlebanon.org or contact us by emailing info@beholdnewlebanon.org.

Calendar of Events

August 8th & 11th at 7pm – Public Hearings on Sidewalk Project @ NL High School

August 9th from 4pm – 6pm – Free Rabies Clinic for Cats, Dogs & Ferrets @ Highway Garage

August 28th from 1pm – 5pm – Uke & Brew Festival @ Shatford Park

September 9th at 10am & September 14th at 7pm – Solar Community Forums @ Town Hall

October 19th from 1:45pm – 2:45pm - Flu Clinic by CC Health Department @ Town Hall