

Town of New Lebanon

www.townofnewlebanon.com

February 2018

A Letter from the Supervisor

With Winter upon us, I hope everyone is staying safe and warm. Also with Winter upon us, we are all dealing with snow and snow removal. Please see the article in this newsletter about removing the snow from your driveway; it is information that a lot of residents are not aware of but is very important for the safety of our roads.

There are a lot of items we are working on and I will try to touch on most of them. Many of them are discussed (Continued on Page 2)

The Tax Collector has open office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm – 7pm and Saturdays from 9am – Noon through the end of March. She will be closed from Monday, 2/12/18 through Saturday 2/17/18. You can come see her during open hours or communicate with her via email at taxcollector@townofnewlebanon.com with any questions regarding payment of your taxes.

2018 Music in the Park & Community Picnic

The 2018 Music in the Park will be here before you know it! Last year's Music in the Park was such a success, we are continuing with a second season of this wonderful event! Mark your calendars as this year's events will be held on the following Sundays: 6/17, 7/15, 8/19 and 9/9. The Town's annual Community Picnic will be held in coordination with the Music in the Park event and NL 200 celebratory events all on Sunday, 8/19. More information on all of these events will be announced in the next edition of the newsletter.

If anyone has ideas or suggestions for this program, such as food and beverage vendors, musicians, etc., please contact Doug Banker at 518-794-9764 or charlesbanker@fairpoint.net.

Town Government



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

Councilmembers:

Mark Baumli
mbaumli@townofnewlebanon.com

Kevin Smith, Sr.
ksmith@townofnewlebanon.com

Jesse Newton
jnewton@townofnewlebanon.com

Norman Rasmussen
nrasmussen@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:

in detail in this newsletter.

I am sure everyone has seen the many trucks hanging cable on the poles in New Lebanon. I wish I could give you specific details about when broadband will actually be available to most of our residents but I cannot. I will update you with the information that I do have. Spectrum's up-grade and build-out are behind schedule. The deadline for the first phase of their up-grade came and went in November of 2017. They have paid a \$1,000,000.00 fine to the New York State Public Service Commission (NYS PSC) for missing this deadline and they have been given a one-year extension (now November 2018). Additionally, they have been required to give the NYS PSC an additional \$12 million to be used if more deadlines are missed. As many of you may already know, our Charter infrastructure (cable television) is not part of the primary Spectrum infrastructure; we are referred to as "Legacy Charter." The reality is that Spectrum did not realize the condition of the infrastructure in Columbia County and the up-grade and build-out are both more substantial than they had anticipated. For Fairpoint, their deadline for their "fiber to the home" build-out under Phase 2 of the NYS Broadband For All Program is July of this year (18 months from the awarding of the grant funding in January of 2017). Fairpoint applied for funding to install "fiber to the home" in all unserved and underserved census blocks in New Lebanon. However, they also have funding under the Federal "Connect America Funding." Some areas are seeing the installation of large cream-colored cabinets at the base of telephone poles. These are "wireless boosters" that increase the available internet speed in the general area of the cabinets and are part of the "Connect America Funding". As the providers begin offering broadband to a significant portion of New Lebanon, we will be providing a survey through the town's website for you to conduct a speed-test (instructions will be included) and then provide that information to us. We will be trying to determine a couple things with this survey: 1- where is "up-graded" service being provided (*and where is it not*) and 2- are we truly getting the broadband speeds required/promised? Within the next few months, negotiations for the renewal of our franchise agreement with Charter will begin and I anticipate the ability to get more information on the broadband situation during these meetings.

I worked with NYSEG over the summer to resolve some of the issues (including tree trimming) that were causing the majority of our power outages. I have been monitoring the outages through their website and there appears to be substantial improvement. I realize that there will always be some outages but we were experiencing such a large number of people impacted and in several areas the outages were absurdly frequent. I was very relieved that we did not have any outages during the "deep freeze" and as I am writing this letter, we are experiencing very high winds and so far, so good.

Well 2018 is here and we will soon be starting the NL200 events to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the incorporation of New Lebanon as a Town separate from Canaan. On December 18th, Senator Kathy Marchione presented a legislative resolution commemorating the Bicentennial of the Town of New Lebanon to the New York State Senate which was adopted on January 9th. Our "kick-off" event for the NL200 will be held on March 3rd at the Town hall and will include the introduction of our anniversary banner, the history of churches and spiritual organizations in New Lebanon, other historic displays, introduction of the NL200 passport, introduction of the Food and Beverage Month, as well as an outline of other upcoming events and refreshments.

Letter from the Supervisor Continued:

There will be festivities galore on April 21st, the actual anniversary date of the signing of the legislation that made New Lebanon an incorporated town. From 10 am to Noon at the Town Hall, there will be the unveiling of a cancellation stamp, historic background on our incorporation (maybe you will get to see some elected officials in costume, re-enactments performed and perhaps even 18th Century dancing by officials), entertainment, more information on upcoming events, and refreshments. The culmination will be the *Sup and Swing* at the Jr/Sr High School - doors open at 5:00 p.m., student choral group at 5:30 p.m., and *Twangbusters* (60s Honky-Tonk Band) at 6:00 p.m. (free admission, bring your own side dishes). I hope you will be able to attend at least some of these celebratory events; they should be fun!

If you are a member of an organization or business that is not yet involved in any of the NL200 activities but would like to be, please let me know. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Come celebrate our little town and have some fun with us!

I am so excited about the Habitat for Humanity project in New Lebanon. We held our first fundraising event – *Handbags for Habitat* - on Thursday, January 18th at Meissner's Auction House and it was a resounding success. Our fundraising committee did an incredible job planning this event – there were 120 attendees and it raised \$8,600 for the project. The overall goal is \$75,000. The on-site volunteer building will begin in February. There is additional information in this newsletter if you would like to donate or volunteer. This is a wonderful way to provide decent affordable housing for a local family.

In 2018, we will be working on reviewing our Zoning and developing a comprehensive Compensation and Benefits Plan and an Asset Management Plan. As we look at our Zoning Regulations, we realize that there are simply too many layers of regulations. We are looking at the best and most efficient way to simplify these regulations. We want to make sure we have the necessary basic zoning to protect our community but not so much that it makes doing things in New Lebanon difficult. We want to retain and protect our small, rural character - but simply – when I get a headache reading the regulations, that says to me they are too complicated. The Town Board will also be looking at compensation and benefits for our employees and developing an overall plan that makes sense for the employees, for the tax payers, and for the town board to stand behind. We need to be able to attract and retain good employees but we are a small community with limited resources. I have confidence we will find the right balance. Finally, we hope to complete an Asset Management Plan for all of the Town's buildings, property, and equipment. This will allow us to plan for upkeep, maintenance, and when necessary, replacement in a manner that is responsible and provides for a stable budget. Some of these are items I had planned to get completed during my first term but time simply did not allow for it. As with all of the other improvements we have made, our promise is to do these things without increasing taxes.

This letter is getting very long so I am going to skip to some important things that are going on at the County level. There are two topics that I feel are of importance that I want to share with you and in some ways, they are related. The first is affordable housing. There are a lot of ways to define affordable housing but when I consider this issue for New Lebanon (and many of the other small towns in Columbia County), I am talking about decent affordable housing for first time home-buyers and for retirees. We need to find ways to keep our young adults from leaving the area and to attract new young adults to our area (jobs are an important part as is broadband service and other infrastructure as well as homes that are decent and affordable). While

Letter from the Supervisor Continued:

decent, affordable housing is also important for retirees, the County is looking at the ability for our seniors to “age in their home.” We are looking at the resources that are available through the County but not necessarily to residents of our community or other towns in the County due to the distance from Hudson. We are also looking at other limits to accessing resources that are important for seniors. Did you know that with broadband services, it is possible to actually have a “face-to-face appointment” with a doctor via your computer? However, without broadband, this option is not available to our residents with limited mobility. We need transportation services, closer medical and prescription services, and a wealth of other services if we are going to successfully have our seniors stay in their homes and stay active members of our community as they age. How do you we determine who needs these services and then how do we make sure they have access to them? What necessary resources are not available at all and how do we fill those gaps?

While these are some of the bigger issues we are looking at County-wide, there are some steps I have taken to address our distance from Hudson. I have begun working with a number of departments at the County level to make their services available here in New Lebanon – having them come to us. On the third Friday of each month, there will be someone at the New Lebanon Town Hall from Noon to 3:00 p.m. to provide information and/or complete applications for services (there is more information on this in this newsletter).

I know that many of our seniors that may qualify for services hesitate to participate in these programs and I would like to remind them that these services are paid for by tax dollars. As seniors, they have paid for these services for years and if any of these services would help make their life a little easier or more comfortable, they should consider tapping into them.

One last item I would like to talk about – our local fire company, the Lebanon Valley Protective Association (LVPA). As with all volunteer fire companies across our country, the LVPA is finding it difficult to recruit new members. Today, all of us have so many time constraints but if you have ever thought about volunteering as a fire fighter or simply as a member of the fire company, please reach out to them. Our local fire company is a very important part of our community – they help to protect our residents and their property from the devastation of fire in addition to providing other lifesaving activities including responding to accidents, floods, downed power lines, etcetera and providing us with a safe, warm place to go when power outages disrupt our community. This is but a small list of the services they provide us, please consider joining the LVPA.

There is so much going on and we are always looking for people to get involved. Please let us know if there is an area of interest that you would like to get involved in or some special skill you have that you would like to share. Also, please consider participating in the NL200 events this year; come celebrate the history of our wonderful little town.

And as always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Town Supervisor.

Warmest regards,

Colleen



NL 200 – Here at Last!!

And some terrific programs and events are in store for you!

New Lebanon celebrates the 200th anniversary of its incorporation as a town in 1818. And celebrate we will. The New Lebanon Town Board, in collaboration with Grow the Valley Inc., as well as several local businesses and organizations, will provide or sponsor programs and events throughout the year.

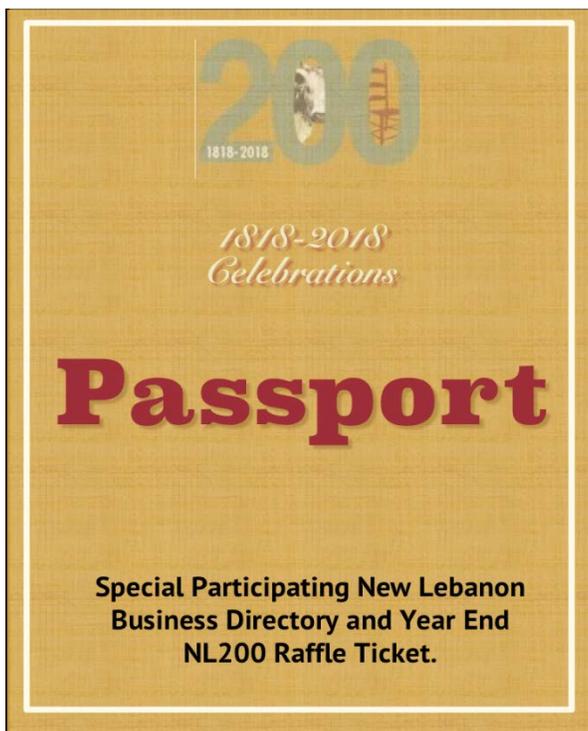
Updates will continue to be provided in the Town newsletter and the Grow-the Valley e-newsletter but the best place to get the most up to date information on NL200 is the NL200.org website, including a calendar of events and other cool stuff. Also, be sure to “like us” on the Grow the Valley Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GrowTheValley) to receive notifications about coming events sent to your Facebook page.

Here’s what’s happening in the coming months:

February is Recreation Month with a special event to get things going:

Saturday, February 17 (details to be announced) - *Shaker Swamp: Frozen Landscape of 1818*. sponsored by the Shaker Swamp Conservancy. A guided walk through the Shaker Swamp, conditions permitting. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing for cold conditions

March is Food and Beverage Month with special bicentennial-themed menu items and offerings by local restaurants, and food and beverage providers. Look for posters in town and check out the NL200.org website for details. Kick off those winter doldrums by partaking of the many fine culinary establishments in the area.



Saturday, March 3 from 10 AM to Noon – Bicentennial Kickoff at Town Hall that will include a presentation on *Religious and Spiritual Institutions in New Lebanon*, displays of historical documents as well as an introduction of the **bicentennial banner**, **new Town Seal** and the **Passport to New Lebanon**.

- **bicentennial banner** – 30 banners will be mounted on major roads throughout town.
- **New Town Seal** – maintaining the elements of the current seal in a clearer format
- **Passport to New Lebanon** – area businesses and organizations will stamp your "passport" when their advertised criteria have been met. Collect the required number of stamps to be eligible for fabulous prizes. The Passport, which is free, will be available at the Town Clerk’s office in Town Hall and other community locations.

NL 200 – Here at Last!! Continued:

Saturday, March 3 from 3 to 5 PM - *Culinary Crossroads* book launch, sponsored by the New Lebanon Library. Event location to be announced. The book compiles recipes from town residents and the stories associated with them.

April is Bicentennial Celebration month

Saturday, April 21, 2018 – the actual anniversary date of New Lebanon’s chartering:

10 AM – Noon at Town Hall – Bicentennial Commemoration program, including presentation of proclamation from State Government, Re-enactment of the charter signing, various displays of historical interest, entertainment, special commemorative cancellation stamp, and more.

5 PM – 8 PM – *Sup and Swing* at the Jr/Sr High School featuring the High School Chorus, pot luck supper, and entertainment from the locally renown *Twangbusters*; THE event not to be missed!!

Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Congregational Church – auditions for New Lebanon’s Got Talent. (The actual show will be Saturday June 2 at the Theater Barn.) Seeking Singers, Dancers, Musicians, Comedy and More! Participants must have been raised in New Lebanon and gone to school here or be current residents. Watch for posters and announcements on the website for further details

And further down the road, other NL200 programs and events include:

- A Tour d'manure escorted bike ride to visit local farms in late May
- An 1818 float at the Memorial Day Parade
- New Lebanon’s Got Talent (June 2) at the Theater Barn)
- Special bicentennial programs at Music in the Park and the Community Picnic (August 19)
- New Lebanon Night at the Speedway on Labor Day weekend
- and many more events and programs sponsored by community organizations and businesses such as the Shaker Museum, The Abode, and Mountain Road School. See NL200.org for details.

Interested in helping to make this year one to remember? There are several ways:

- by volunteering to help with an event
- by sponsoring a banner (\$100) or making another financial donation
- by taking out an ad in the “playbill” or Passport
- by having your organization orient an event on a bicentennial theme.

It’s easy to do, just drop a line to growthevalley@gmail.com.

From the Assessor’s Office

As usual, all exemptions and supporting documentation is due by March 1, 2018. No exceptions. As we continue to move forward with the reassessment scheduled for 2019, the Assessor will continue to be out in the field verifying data and obtaining a new photo of each property.

Town Clean Up Day

What is Town Clean Up Day? Town Clean Up Day is a one day event held by the Town for its residents to have free access to trash dumpsters to assist them in cleaning up their properties, attics, basements, etc. The dumpsters will be delivered and set up in the Town Hall parking lot in the space between the Highway Garage and the basketball courts. Residents are allowed 2 trips per punch card. There will be a limit of 4 tires per punch card. We do not allow disposal of hazardous materials, household garbage, yard debris such as leaves & tree branches, or electronics. A maximum of a 10 ft. truck or trailer per load.

What to do in advance of Clean Up Day: This year's Town Clean Up Day will be held earlier in the year than previous years. It is on Saturday, May 5, 2018 and will be held rain or shine from 8:00am – 2:00pm at the Town Hall parking area. Punch cards can be obtained from any office at the Town Hall Mon-Fri. Please bring proof of residency (ie: utility bill and driver's license). The fee for the punch card is a non-perishable food donation to Charlie's Pantry. Please be sure to check the expiration dates as expired food is not accepted. If you have any questions please contact the Building Department at 518-794-8884.

KISS Program runs for another year in 2018

The KISS Program (Keeping Identities of Seniors Safe) presented by the County Clerk runs its 2018 season from March 19 – March 30, June 11 – June 29, October 8 – October 26, and December 3 – December 14 at the New Lebanon Town Hall. KISS is a shredding program offered to seniors so they can safely and securely have sensitive documents destroyed, at no cost to them. Documents can be dropped off at the Town Clerk's Office on Mon, Wed, Thur and Fri from 9am–5pm. Please stop at the Town Clerk's Office to fill out a form before dropping off your documents for shredding.

Keeping Our Roads Safe

Did you know that blowing or plowing snow into or across the street is illegal?

This NYS Vehicle and Traffic law is for the safety of the public. Any material (no matter how well you try to clean it up after) that is deposited on the road, interferes with the safe use of the highway. If you are a homeowner and you hire a person to clear your driveway, and you permit him/her to plow into the road, you could be cited under this law. Snow thrown, blown or pushed back into the roadway may freeze causing hazardous road conditions that could injure family, friends or neighbors. Please plow, snow blow, or shovel the snow into your property, not out onto the road or across the road.

You can help make it easier for the highway crews to clear the roads during a snow storm:

1. Reduce your speed and drive carefully;
2. Remain off the roads during snow storms unless absolutely necessary;
3. Park vehicles off the roadways. Vehicles left parked in the roadways create a hazard to other drivers and delays highway crews' efforts to plow the roads.
4. And please be patient...the highway crews make every effort to plow all the roads as quickly as possible.

Now Hiring for Clerical Positions at the Town of New Lebanon

ASSESSOR'S CLERK – Part time 5 hours per week - Requirements: Candidates must possess good people skills, organizational skills and computer skills including Excel. Candidates must be flexible with scheduling. Starting rate is \$13.00 per hour for 5 hours per week. For more information, please call the Assessor at 518-794-8875. Interested persons must send a letter of interest and a resume to be received no later than 2/5/2018 to: New Lebanon Town Clerk, PO Box 328, New Lebanon, NY, 12125.

PLANNING/ZONING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT CLERK – Part time 7.5 hours per week Requirements:

- Ability to work independently as well as in harmony with a team setting (Interpersonal skills)
- Self-motivated; Self directed
- Ability to monitor and comply with deadlines
- Reliable transportation
- Good Communications skills
- Knowledge of BAS/IPS program helpful but will train
- Knowledge of Microsoft WORD, EXCEL and OUTLOOK
- Knowledge of Adobe PDF helpful but will train
- Knowledge of Word Press helpful but will train
- Knowledge of basic office machines (ie: computers, printers, scanners, fax machines)
- Ability to take meeting minutes – will train
- Available two evenings per month for planning/zoning meetings
- Willingness to learn
- Must be able to plan, organize and prioritize work

Starting rate is \$13.00 per hour for 7.5 hours per week. For more information, please call the CEO/ZEO at 518-794-8884. Interested persons must send a letter of interest and a resume to be received no later than 2/5/2018 to: New Lebanon Town Clerk, PO Box 328, New Lebanon, NY, 12125.

From the Building Department

2018 Multi-family Dwelling Fire Safety & Property Maintenance Code Inspections

If you are the owner/operator of a Multi-family dwelling in New Lebanon, please be advised that New York State requires that all multi-dwellings be inspected every three years for property maintenance and fire safety. Multi-dwellings are defined as three dwelling units or greater in a single structure. Please keep in mind that this is not a new policy that the town has initiated, it is a New York State requirement.

We will be mailing out a form letter to all of you explaining this in more detail. There appears to be about 15 multi-dwellings in town. Since these inspections are to be conducted at a minimum of every three years, we have decided to divide the 15 properties by the three years and conduct five inspection per year. We have our list prepared and those 5 property owners will be sent a separate letter requesting them to choose a date and time in May of this year to schedule their inspection. Since we plan to begin conducting inspections in May of this year, we will be enclosing a checklist of items/areas that we will be inspecting. Our hope is that by providing this list to you now, it will provide ample time and guidance to address any potential deficiencies prior your scheduled inspection.

Vacancies on the Recreation Commission

The New Lebanon Town Board is seeking persons interested in serving as a Recreation Commission member. There are currently two vacancies on the Recreation Commission. Recreation Commission members must be residents of the Town of New Lebanon. The Recreation Commission is vested with the authority to establish, equip, operate, and maintain playground and community programs and facilities. Persons interested in serving in these positions are to submit a letter of interest to the New Lebanon Town Clerk. Letters may be submitted via mail to P.O. Box 328, New Lebanon, NY 12125; delivered to the Town Hall at 14755 Route 22; or emailed to townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com.

Fruit Trees in the Park & Tree Donations

The Town of New Lebanon is planting fruit trees at Shatford Park! There will be apple, plum, pear and cherry trees. They should be producing fruit in about 2 years. Please feel free to eat the fruit off the trees in the Shatford Park! We are currently looking for tree donations for Shatford Park as well. By donating a tree of any type (fruit, maple, oak, etc.), you can place a memorial plaque in front of the tree in honor of any person of your choosing. If you are interested in donating a tree, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 518-794-8888.

A Little Historic Trivia

Who was the first Town Supervisor of New Lebanon? His name was John King. He was born in Canaan in 1775. He was Town Supervisor of Canaan from 1806 to 1808; Columbia County Sheriff from 1811 to 1813 and 1815 to 1819; Town Supervisor of New Lebanon from 1819 to 1823 and in 1826 and 1829. He was a member of the New York State Assembly in 1824 and he was elected to the 22nd United States Congress (March 4, 1831 – March 3, 1833). He died in New Lebanon on September 1, 1836 and is interred in the Cemetery of the Evergreens. Do you know of any descendants of John King that are still in the area? We would love to have them participate in some of the NL200 celebratory events. If you are a descendant or you know of anyone that is, please contact the current Town Supervisor at supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com or 518-794-8889.

News of the Lebanon Valley Seniors 2018

In January and February, we only have one meeting –January 19th and February 16th. We will have delicious homemade soup, sandwiches and desserts at both meetings. Our speaker for the January meeting is Linda Sheer from the Columbia County office of the Ageing. In March we will resume meeting twice a month, on the first and third Fridays at 1pm. Our meetings are held at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 Rte 22N. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Our first trip for 2018 is March 15th. We will be going to the Boston Flower show, Quincey Market and the Public House in Sturbridge for dinner. Cost is \$53, money is due by March 1.st

Depart Stephentown Post Office at 8AM, New Lebanon Immaculate Conception Church at 8:15.

For club information, please call Pat at 518-794-7084. For trips, please call Mary at 518-733-0009

Representative to the Columbia County Office for the Aging

The Town Board is seeking persons interested in serving as a New Lebanon Representative to the Columbia County Office for the Aging. Representatives serve on the Columbia County Office for the Aging Advisory Council with other representatives from each town and each ward in the City of Hudson as well as other agencies throughout the county.

Advisory Council members are an integral part of planning for effective county-wide service delivery and inter-agency coordination. The Advisory Council meets on the third Friday of the month April, May, June, September, October and November.

Representatives also serve as a resource for seniors in New Lebanon to help them determine what services are available and assist them in obtaining those services. This is an essential position as our population ages and we are committed to assisting our older residents to remain in their homes and to actively participate in family and community life. Through advocacy, services, planning and coordination, you would help address the priority needs of our older residents.

There are two representatives from New Lebanon and one position is currently filled. The distribution of the duties and responsibilities is flexible between the two representatives. Please feel contact the Town Supervisor if you have questions about this position.

News from your Senior Rep

Greetings! We've had quite the initiation this first couple of months helping a wonderful old gentleman with many issues, but most notably, his cats. He has 10 living in his house (8 of which are feral). We have a team of 4 caring for them. Lynn Cross, who rescues horses and other animals, is thinking of building a shelter on her property for them. That will cost her so if anyone would like to donate for this, please contact Judy Zimmer at 518-794-9849 or judy_zimmer@yahoo.com.

Through helping this gentleman, I was able to find a low cost independent living accommodation in Lee, MA., called Devonshire Place. I have a couple other places over in MA. and one in Chatham but this one seems the most affordable and includes everything to live; studio apartment or room, food, utilities and is wheelchair accessible. Therapists of all kinds come there for their clients. The contact person is Laura Berg at (413) 637-1700. Let me know if you want more information about this place or the others.

Just a reminder to get an application for HEAP, the government fuel assistance program. One can get as much as \$600.00 in a one time payment to your fuel company. I have one application form left and the Town Hall still has some. There is no deadline. It ends when the money is used up so the sooner you get it done, the better. If you need any assistance with this, let me know.

And remember that there will be someone from NY Connects at the Town Hall every 3rd Friday of every month at 12:00 to answer questions about available services in Columbia County and to help fill out application forms.

JJ Johnson has had to step down as the other representative. She's been an amazing partner. Let me know if you're interested in taking her place.

Reminder, Source Water Protection Plan for the Town

Steve Winkley of the New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) has been assessing drinking water quality in town since the Town Board invited him to do so last July. NYRWA is federally funded and conducts its studies at no charge in rural communities throughout the state.

As his first order of business, Steve asked town residents to complete an online survey about their well water. The link through SurveyMonkey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DY98TX>. He thanks town residents who have submitted their surveys but invites those who have not to please take 5-10 minutes to do so. Survey responses are confidential.

Steve relies on the households of New Lebanon to cooperate in an important study. The Source Water Protection Plan he will present to the town once his study is completed will help prevent contamination of well water. The plan is therefore not only a sound economic approach for the town but vital for the health of town residents. Please take a moment to fill out the survey! Many thanks in advance.

From the CAC

Conservation Advisory Council completes *Natural Resource Conservation Plan for the Town of New Lebanon 2017*

The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) announces that the *Natural Resource Conservation Plan for the Town of New Lebanon 2017*, published in early November, is available for purchase. The Town Board established a price of \$25 per copy (\$10 per copy for landowners whose properties the CAC visited for site verification) and copies are available through the Town Clerk's office. The Plan includes 23 newly constructed maps of the town along with a wealth of detail about the town's natural resources. The Plan can also be found on the town's web site at the CAC link under "Boards and Commissions" on the home page, www.townofnewlebanon.com. The Plan runs to 148 pages plus appendices and the online version has been posted in five sections due to its length.

Gretchen Stevens, a biologist with Hudsonia in Annandale-on-Hudson, wrote the plan with assistance from Claudia Knab-Vispo and Conrad Vispo of the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program in Ghent and CAC members. The Plan could not have been written without a two-year grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Funding came through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.

The Plan's list of acknowledgements is extensive. The CAC thanks especially those landowners in New Lebanon whose properties they visited to verify natural resources. They had identified these resources remotely using topographic maps and historic photographs. Darrow School offered their staff, students and facilities during weekly Hands to Work sessions to ensure the success of the remote mapping project. As the Plan went to press, CAC members had conducted site verification visits on parcels with more than 4,600 acres, or 22 percent of the town's 20,995 acres. CAC members devoted 725 volunteer hours to the project and are now devoting considerably more time in addressing needed actions that arose from the Plan.

Members of the CAC are Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jack Lancto, Peg Munves and Craig Westcott.

NY Connects is here to help!

On the 3rd Friday of each month from 12pm – 3pm NY Connects will be at the New Lebanon Town Hall to assist people in applying for benefits, answer any questions and helping to link people to long term services and supports. They can assist with Medicare (part A and B & D; advantage plans; supplemental plans; and dual eligible), Application Assistance (SNAP, HEAP, Medicaid and Medicare Savings Program), Prescriptions (affording your scripts, EPIC, Extra-help, Part D), and More (transitioning to medicare, out of pocket costs, and nursing home & hospital stays). Lynda Scheer and Taylor Wenk, information and assistance specialists, will be there to assist you in whatever you need. You can check them out at www.nyconnects.ny.gov or call with any questions at 518-828-2273.

Backpack Program at the New Lebanon Elementary School

The backpack program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children on weekends when other food resources are not available. The program provides bags filled with food that is child-friendly, shelf-stable, and easily-consumed. Bags are packed each week by school staff and discreetly distributed to participating children every Friday afternoon. Backpack programs are locally supported by businesses, community organizations, religious organizations, and individuals. By supporting New Lebanon's Backpack Program, you help provide children in our community with six meals each weekend throughout the school year. Every little bit helps. Each week, the cost per bag for each student is \$6.10. Donate \$183 and support one child for an entire year of meals. The cost per year to serve 15 students is \$2,750. If you would like to donate to the backpack program, forms are available at the Town Clerk's office or can be emailed to you by reaching out to the Town Clerk at townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com.

A Thank You From the Cemetery of the Evergreens

The Trustees of the Cemetery of the Evergreens would like to thank everyone who responded to our request for donations for Cemetery maintenance or for the Tilden Monument restoration. Donations have helped us greatly toward our goal. Work will begin on the Tilden Project this Spring and on going cemetery maintenance will continue with renewed enthusiasm because of your generosity. Contributions are always welcome. Checks should be made payable to Cemetery of the Evergreens and mailed to Box 773, New Lebanon, NY 12125.

Thank you again, The Cemetery Trustees

From the New Lebanon Farmers Market

Wednesday Feb. 7th, 5pm, @ NL Library - Planning Meeting for the New Lebanon Farmers Market

Free Music! Hot Food! Fresh Groceries! The New Lebanon Farmers Market runs every Sunday, June - October, in downtown New Lebanon! The market happily accepts credit cards, SNAP/EBT, WIC, and Senior Coupons! New musicians, vendors, educators, and community groups are encouraged to contact newlebanonfarmersmarket@gmail.com and "like" us at www.facebook.com/newlebanonfarmersmarket. Everyone is welcome at the planning meeting. Come to share ideas and learn about plans for next season. We are working to increase access to local food and to better meet the community's needs.

Women Build New Lebanon



NEW LEBANON
WOMEN
NEEDED!!!!!!

WOMEN
BUILD/NEW
LEBANON
WINTER 2018

New Lebanon Neighbor,

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity celebrates women power with WomenBuild/NewLebanon, a program that encourages women to make a difference in their own community. Participants learn new skills, make new friends, and change the life of a hard working family.

WomenBuild/New Lebanon will be the 21st Habitat house built in Columbia County. The anticipated move-in date is Spring 2018. The build will be a rehab of a charming house on County Route 13 and it will be completed primarily by WOMEN.

You can participate in numerous ways:

- 1) **Hammering**, painting, laughing, and eating donuts on Saturdays through the winter.
- 2) **Preparing** and delivering volunteer lunches with your friends or an organization.
- 3) **Donating.....MONEY.** Let's face it, without your financial support, this project can't happen.

To donate or volunteer, please contact Columbia County Habitat for Humanity at (518)828-0892 or email us at womenbuild@columbiacountyhabitat.org.

You can also mail donation checks to Columbia County Habitat, 829 Route 66, Hudson, NY 12534, Attn: WomenBuild. Or donate online at

<http://columbiacountyhabitat.org/causes/donate-to-women-build-new-lebanon/>

WE NEED YOUR HELP. With your support, a deserving local family will get its chance at the American Dream. We look forward to seeing you at Handbags for Habitat and on Build Saturdays. Please think of us when planning your donations.

Most importantly, thank you for welcoming us to your community. We are most grateful for all you do.

WomenBuild/NewLebanon

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity



Census Forms Coming Out Soon

You should be receiving forms soon from the Census Bureau. It is very important that the Census is as accurate as possible for the Town of New Lebanon. The information gathered from the Census can affect the Town's eligibility for certain grants, programs and services. The more people who fill out the census forms and return them, the more accurate our information will be. Please take a moment to fill out the forms and mail them back.

From Mountain Road School

GAMES OF 1818
MOUNTAIN ROAD SCHOOL
JOIN US
JUNE 15TH 5:00-8:00

Bring your family and enjoy an evening of 19th century games, tantalizing refreshment, and celebration of 200 years of New Lebanon History.
Have your Passport Stamped!

Featuring

Music by The Echoes

An exceptional selection of local treasures in our Silent Auction

RSVP betsy@mountainroadschool.org
(518)794-8520



MOUNTAIN ROAD SCHOOL
Leading the Way

Located at 4565 County Route 9 in New Lebanon, in the Historic Hand House, Mt Road School is a progressive independent school for ages 3-13.

Mountain Road School is delighted to announce our Games of 1818 event in celebration of New Lebanon's 200th Anniversary. On June 15th from 5:00-8:00 PM we will share an evening of 19th century fun and refreshments as well as the opportunity to peruse a tantalizing selection of Silent Auction treasures. Live music will be provided by local band The Echoes. Attend this event to get a stamp in your passport! Please RSVP to Betsy at 518-794-8520 or betsy@mountainroadschool.org.

Mountain Road School is thrilled to be a part of New Lebanon's celebration of the 200th Anniversary of their incorporation. Mountain Road School is housed in an historic house here in New Lebanon, known as the old Hand House. Mountain Road School is located at 4565 County Route 9, New Lebanon/East Nassau, NY 12062. For more information, please call 518-794-8520, email info@mountainroadschool.org or check out the website at www.mountainroadschool.org.

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

Conservation Advisory Council meets the second Monday of each month, as necessary at 6:30pm – CAC meetings are held at Darrow School at the Samson Environmental Center

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

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

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 7th – Planning Meeting for the NL Farmer’s Market at the NL Library at 5pm

Friday, February 16th – NY Connects at the Town Hall from Noon – 3pm (and EVERY 3rd Friday of the month) to answer questions about available services in Columbia County and help fill out applications

Friday, February 16th – Lebanon Valley Seniors Meeting at the Town Hall at 1pm (and every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month following)

Saturday, February 17th – NL 200 Event - *Shaker Swamp: Frozen Landscape of 1818*

Thursday, March 1st – All exemptions due to Assessor’s Office

Saturday, March 3rd – NL 200 Event - *Bicentennial Kick Off* at the Town Hall from 10am – Noon

Saturday, March 3rd – NL 200 Event – *Culinary Crossroads* book launch sponsored by NL Library

Thursday, March 15th – Lebanon Valley Seniors Trip to the Boston Flower Show, Quincey Market – \$53 and all are welcome – contact Mary at 733-0009 to sign up or for more information

March 19th – 30th – 1st Quarter KISS program at Town Hall (free shredding of confidential documents)

Saturday, April 21st – NL 200 Event – *Bicentennial Commemoration* at Town Hall from 10am – Noon

Saturday, April 21st – NL 200 Event – *Sup and Swing* at the Jr/Sr High School from 5pm – 8pm – featuring the high school chorus, pot luck supper and entertainment from the *Twangbusters* – NOT TO BE MISSED

Saturday, April 28th – NL 200 Event – auditions for *New Lebanon’s Got Talent* at Congregational Church from 10am – 2pm

Saturday, May 5th – Town Clean Up Day at Town Hall Parking Area from 8am – 2pm (be sure to obtain your punch card in advance at the Town Hall)

Sunday, May 28th – Memorial Day Parade starting at Shatford Park, running down Route 22 and ending at the Cemetery of the Evergreens – time TBA

Saturday, June 2nd – NL 200 Event – *New Lebanon’s Got Talent* at the Theater Barn time TBA

June 11th – 29th – 2nd Quarter KISS program at Town Hall (free shredding of confidential documents)

Friday, June 15th – NL 200 Event – *Games of 1818* at Mountain Road School from 5pm – 8pm

Sunday, June 17th – Music in the Park at Shatford Park

Sunday, July 15th – Music in the Park at Shatford Park

Sunday, August 19th – Music in the Park, Community Picnic, and NL 200 Bicentennial Programs at Shatford Park

Labor Day Weekend – NL 200 Event – *New Lebanon Night* at the Speedway – Date and Time TBA

Sunday, September 9th – Music in the Park at Shatford Park