

TOWN OF NEW LEBANON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

B R O U G H T T O Y O U B Y T H E R E C R E A T I O N
C O M M I S S I O N

WELCOME TO THE SECOND QUARTERLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE RECREATION COMMISSION.

WE HOPE THAT YOU FIND THIS NEWSLETTER TO BE BOTH HELPFUL, AND ENJOYABLE. IN THIS ISSUE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO READ AN EXCERPT FROM "ALONG THE WYOMANOCK CREEK" A HISTORY OF NEW LEBANON, NEW YORK WRITTEN BY REV. ERNEST D. SMITH, PAST TOWN HISTORIAN. COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER, OR WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED, PLEASE CONTACT US VIA [EMAIL](#) OR CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK AND SHE WILL FORWARD YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO US.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[TRACs PROGRAM](#)

[SKATE PARK](#)

[SENIORS](#)

[RAILS TO TRAILS](#)

[RECREATION](#)

[COMMISSION](#)

[MEETING DATES](#)

[SUMMER YOUTH
PROGRAM](#)

[TOWN HISTORY](#)

[POETRY](#)

[OPEN GOVERN-
MENT](#)

[FOOD COOP](#)

COLLEEN TEAL, TOWN CLERK, HAS TOLD US THAT WORK CONTINUES ON THE UPGRADE TO THE TOWN'S WEBSITE. THIS WILL ALLOW THE SITE TO BE UPDATED IN HOUSE, AND WILL RESULT IN A MORE UP TO DATE WEBSITE. WE ARE TOLD THAT ONCE THE SITE IS COMPLETE, THE AUDIO RECORDING OF THE TOWN BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE SITE. THE WEBSITE HAS A LOT OF INFORMATION ON IT, AND I WOULD URGE YOU ALL TO EXPLORE IT! THE TOWN'S WEBSITE IS:
WWW.TOWNOFNEWLEBANON.COM

NOW THAT THE WINTER IS BEHIND US, I WOULD URGE EVERYONE TO GET OUT AND ENJOY THE WARM DAYS AHEAD! THE PARK IS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A QUIET PICNIC, A PLACE TO READ, TO LET THE KIDS PLAY, AND TO JUST RELAX.

THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE HOSTING THE THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC AT THE PARK ON SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2014. WE WILL BE STARTING AT 11:00. WE WILL PROVIDE SOFT DRINKS, BURGERS, HOT DOGS, AND CHIPS, AND WOULD WELCOME YOU TO BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE. THIS WORKED OUT VERY WELL LAST YEAR IN GIVING US A VARIETY OF FOODS. WE ARE STILL WORKING OUT THE DETAILS, AND WILL PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER, AS WELL AS ON OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTP://NEWLEBANONRECREATION.WEBS.COM/](http://NEWLEBANONRECREATION.WEBS.COM/)

TRACS PROGRAM



Encouraging a drug-free lifestyle for youth, supporting families and providing community-based pro-social alternatives.

THE STRENGTH OF OUR IMPACT RELIES HEAVILY UPON THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES WE REPRESENT WITHIN BERLIN AND NEW LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICTS. TRACS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 4TH TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, ALTERNATING BETWEEN STEPHENTOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND NEW LEBANON TOWN HALL.

2014 MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS: STEPHENTOWN ~ APRIL 22ND, JUNE 24TH, AUGUST 26TH, OCTOBER 28TH & DECEMBER 23RD AND NEW LEBANON ~ MAY 27TH, JULY 22ND, SEPTEMBER 23RD & NOVEMBER 25TH.

TRACS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \$10 FOR A FAMILY, \$5 FOR AN ADULT MEMBER & \$3 FOR A YOUTH MEMBER; YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES HELPS DEFRAY THE COST OF POSTAGE, PAPER & ADVERTISING, ETC. PLEASE CONTACT BIFFY CAHILL, TRACS INTERIM-PRESIDENT AT 518-791-2001 OR TRACSCOALITION@GMAIL.COM FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

SKATE PARK

THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK ABOUT PEOPLE WANTING A SKATE BOARD PARK. WHAT THE RECREATION COMMISSION NEEDS IS PROOF THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH INTERESTED PEOPLE TO MAKE IT A WORTHWHILE PROJECT, BEFORE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME ON IT. ASSUMING THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH PEOPLE INTERESTED, WE WILL ALSO NEED ASSISTANCE WITH DESIGN, AND ALSO SEEKING OUT FUNDING AVENUES.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW HOW THIS WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE GENERAL COMMUNITY. PLEASE CONTACT THE RECREATION COMMISSION AT: RECREATIONCOMMISSION@TOWNOFNEWLEBANON.COM WITH ANY COMMENTS.

F O R O U R S E N I O R S**NEW LEBANON SENIOR CITIZENS**

New Lebanon Senior Citizens meet the first and third Friday of each month with a few exceptions.

Our meetings are held at 1pm in the New Lebanon town hall meeting room, 14755 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 us out-you'll meet new friends, enjoy interesting speakers, great trips and refreshments at each meeting. Yearly dues are \$10.

We just had a great speaker for the April 4th meeting-Dick Brooks who writes the column "Whittling Away" for the Chatham Courier and Register Star.

In May we are going to the high school to listen to the school chorus. The chorus and their teacher do a wonderful concert.

We have some very interesting speakers for future meeting: Lynn Cross from the Cross Horse Rescue Farm on July 18th, William Heinrich from the NENY Alzheimer's Association to speak about the Basics of Alzheimer's Disease on August 13th. If anyone is interested in attending these meetings as a guest please call Pat Burnell @ 794-7084 as seating may be limited.

We still have some room on several of our trips. We will be going to Niagara Falls and staying in Canada, August 24th -26th. There will be so much to do and see!

We'' be going to New York to see Chicago June 25th.

For club information please contact our president Pat Burnell at 794-7084.

For trip information please contact out trip director Donna Smith at 794-9425.

RAILS TO TRAILS

THE LEBANON VALLEY RAIL AND TRAIL ASSOCIATION GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED BECAUSE OF THE STRONG INTEREST AND SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THE IDEA OF HAVING A MULTI-USE RECREATIONAL TRAIL ON OUR RUTLAND LINE TRAIL BED. WE HOPE TO PARTNER WITH THE LEBANON VALLEY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER TRAIL ORGANIZATIONS AS WE WORK ON THIS PROJECT. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED A SECTION OF THE TRAIL ON WHICH TO START AND HAVE CONTACTED ADJACENT LANDOWNERS.

WE HOPE TO HAVE ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING SO THAT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MANY TASKS REQUIRED SINCE WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A TRAIL WOULD HAVE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH BENEFITS FOR OUR TOWN.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL JOE OGILVIE AT 917-207-5214 OR KATHERINE LEVITAN AT 518-794- 8686

RECREATION COMMISSION

THE RECREATION COMMISSION IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO SERVE ON A SUB-COMMITTEE TO PLAN THE COMMUNITY PICNIC.

WE ALSO HOPE TO SPONSOR SOME MUSIC IN THE PARK, AND WILL BE PLANNING OTHER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

THE COMMISSION WILL BE LOOKING TO THE COMMUNITY TO HELP PLAN, AND ORGANIZE VARIOUS EVENTS. WE FEEL THAT THE ONLY WAY TO PLAN EVENTS THAT WILL APPEAL TO ALL OF THE COMMUNITY, IS BY HAVING THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING STAGES. WE HOPE TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE INVOLVED AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN OFFER DIVERSE EVENTS THAT WILL HELP DRAW THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER.

THERE IS A TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 29 FROM 1:00- 3:00 P.M. AT MID TOWN MALL. CALL JOE OGILVIE AT 917-207-5214 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS, AND YOU CAN REACH US THROUGH OUR EMAIL RECREATIONCOMMISSION@TOWNOFNEWLEBANON.COM, OR YOU CAN ATTEND ONE OF OUR MEETINGS.

MEETING DATES

TOWN BOARD MEETS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 7:00 PM

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 7:00 PM

PLANNING BOARD MEETS THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, AS NECESSARY @ 7:30 PM

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETS THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, AS NECESSARY @ 7:30 PM

SENIORS MEET THE FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS EACH MONTH @ 1:00 PM

RAILS TO TRAILS MEETING APRIL 23, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

FORUM ON OPEN GOVERNMENT APRIL 29, 2014 @7:00 PM

ALL OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS ARE AT THE TOWN HALL

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON ANY OF THE VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OPENINGS.

S U M M E R Y O U T H P R O G R A M

Town of New Lebanon
Summer Youth Program

Registration Packet

Registration Deadline: June 20th

June 30th- August 15th

No Program on July 4th

8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday- Friday

At Shattford Park Pavillion, Old Post Road, New Lebanon, NY

Open to: Children registered for Kindergarten through and including age 13

Registration Fees:

Fees are determined by residency and the number of children per family participating in the program. Fees are based on an eight week program.

Resident: (Town & County Taxes paid to the Town of New Lebanon):

\$300/1 child \$450/children \$550/3 children \$625/4 or more children

Local Non-Resident's Rate: (children attend NLCS but town taxes are paid to New Lebanon):

\$500/1 child \$750/2 children \$1,000/ 3 children \$1,200/ 4 or more Children

Non-Resident's Rate: (children do not attend NLCS and town taxes are not paid to New Lebanon) : \$1,000/ per child

There are additional fees for field trips and swim lessons. Both are optional!!!

- | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Crafts | Board Games | Cards Soccer | Puzzles | Legos | Tennis |
| Volleyball | Football | Ping Pong | Playground | Capture the Flag | |
| Softball | Golf | Kickball | Art | Team Building Activities | Bike Day |

Field Trips: Six Flags Zoom Flume Bowling

For more information, contact Michelle Bienes, Camp Director@ 794-7774 or 788-1150

Registration Packets are available at the Town Clerk's office. 794-8888

HISTORY OF NEW LEBANON

More on The King's District and Those Who Settled Here

What later became the Town of New Lebanon was at first called the "King's District." Later it was called by the name "Canaan." An act of the New York State Legislature on April 21, 1818, provided for the separation of Canaan into two equal parts. The southern part was to retain its name of Canaan, and the northern equal part was to be given a new name. The Tilden family, being the most influential, had the greatest voice in the naming of the town. They had come from Lebanon, Connecticut, in 1795 and had settled on land that they later named New Lebanon. At first it stood for their farm, but in 1818 the whole new town was given this name.

This northern town in the King's District had 20,955 acres. While most of the territory in the eastern part of New Lebanon had been called by that name while still a part of the King's District, much of New Lebanon originally went by other names. Much of the southwestern part of the town was called New Britain. So the people living in New Lebanon before it became an official town thought of themselves as living in either New Lebanon or New Britain, but after 1818 everyone living in this part of the King's District thought of themselves as residents of New Lebanon.

The town is located in the extreme northeast corner of Columbia County and is in the form of a rectangle. The general surface is mountainous and hilly but with very fine black topsoil in the valleys, often as deep as two feet. The eastern border is made up of the much higher Berkshire Hills. In the early days while these hills were a part of the Shaker community, the hills were generally cultivated to the summit; and even today there are large cleared fields nearly to the top and where the clearing has a southern exposure that are very fertile. Originally these slopes were covered with a light growth of hard timber with occasional evergreens, and these higher elevations were the first settled portions of the town. In the valleys, and especially along the Wyomanock Creek, the land was more densely wooded. In some areas there were heavy forests of pine. These pine groves, which I describe more fully in the chapter on the Old Camp Meeting, were noted for their beauty and protective nature.

The earliest land grant within this area was made in the year that the Reverend David Brainerd came to preach to the Indians in Brainard (a little community whose name was totally unrelated to the young Reverend, being spelled differently). This year was 1743. On August 4th of that year Stephen Bayard, John B. Van Rensselaer, Johannes Vosburg, Cornelius Van Schaak, and Jacob Van Rensselaer were together granted a large tract of land mostly along the Wyomanock Creek in the western part of town on the land now occupied by the Lebanon Valley Racetrack and the Walter B. Howard Elementary School. No attempt was made by these grantees to settle the land until after the Revolutionary War. By that time many settlers had lived as "squatters" upon the land. The owners' efforts to dispossess them caused much bitterness

HISTORY OF NEW LEBANON CONTINUED

and resistance. The story is told that a surveying party brought in by Van Schaack was dispersed by a party of settlers disguised as Indians who destroyed their instruments. Jonathan Murdock, who built his great house in the year 1800 on West Street, was the leader of the settlers and Giles Lowden was the man who actually broke the compass. After this the settlers were able to obtain good titles to their lands by an act of the State Legislature. Many years later, around Civil War days, these same methods were practiced by settlers in Rensselaer County. The settlers were led by Big Thunder, or Dr. Boughton of the Alps, to enable them to own the land that they had honestly cleared and farmed. This conflict was known as the "Anti-Renters War."

After this conflict in the King's District that we first mentioned, the grantors withdrew and sold all their rights on August 23, 1788, to Eleazer Grant, John Darling, and Samuel Hand. These men, in turn, sold the land to settlers at about 50¢ an acre.

In the eastern part of town, along a line extending from half a mile to a mile westward, was a tract of land claimed by the "Colony of Massachusetts Bay." This included the principal part of the growing village of Lebanon Springs. Before the state line was settled in the courts in 1786, the land between these lines was disposed of by grants from Massachusetts to Charles Goodrich, Gideon King, Jarvis Mudge, and Ephraim Keyes. A portion of the land given to Keyes was sold to John Wadhams. Later Charles Goodrich added to his grant by purchasing all the land which was to become the Springs property. He subdivided it into building lots upon which houses were first erected by Andrew Shumway. Some still stand. It is interesting to see that more and more people were coming into this area and building homes in both the eastern and western parts of town at least forty years before New Lebanon became an official township.

This chapter of history is copied from "ALONG THE WYOMANOCK CREEK" A HISTORY OF NEW LEBANON, NY

Written by: Rev. Ernest D. Smith, past Town Historian.

Copies of this book are available from the Town Clerk.

Cost is \$15.00 per copy

P O E T R Y C O R N E R

ADVENTURES OF ADIRONDACK SAM

By Lawrence LaFerriere

PO Box 468

New Lebanon, NY 12125

MONTANA

SITTING UPON A MILE HIGH LEDGE, THE VIEW PANORAMIC, FEELING I COULD FLY, AND THERE BEFORE ME WOULD BE MANY ROLLING BROOKS, SOME WITH GUSHING WHITE WATER, AND POOLS LIKE GLASS GLISTENING IN THE RAYS OF THE SUN.

ALONG MANY SHORES THE ROCKS STRAIGHT UP, FOR HUNDREDS OF FEET, EMBELLISHED BY SUPINE PINE, A DEEP GREEN THAT CLIMBS HALF WAY AND SETS A LITTLE GRAY THAT TALES MY HEART AWAY. MY IMAGINATION EMANATES, I'M SO AT EASE, THE WORLD AND ME ARE FINE.

MY SPIRIT SOARS TO HEIGHTS BEYOND, FEW PEOPLE FEEL SUCH A WONDER THAT OVER WHELMS ONES MIND,

BITS OF SNOW SHOW WHITE, WITH HINTS OF GRAY STUBBY BUSHES, SPORADIC, LIKE ALL LIFE, IT HOLDS ON RATHER THAN FALL INTO THE DEEP ABYSS.

MOUNTAIN GOATS RUN UP AND DOWN LIKE THEY HAVE WINGS, KNOCKING ROCKS TO DROP AND SLIDE, ,MAKING US WONDER, WHY DON'T THEY FALL? ROLLING HILLS LIGHTLY GREEN AND YELLOW, THAT RUN UP FROM THE VALLEY INTO THE MOUNTAINS SO HIGH IT TAKES YOUR BREATH TO AWESOME DEPTHS.

AS THE SUN SLOWLY DESCENDS BEHIND THE HIGH MOUNTAINS, IT SETS FOR A MOMENT VERY BRIEF IN TIME BUT ENOUGH TO ALLOW A SPIRALING LIGHT, CREATING A CIRCLING BEAUTY, HI-LIGHTING EACH SECTION OF THE PLANE SLOWLY OVER COME BY DARKNESS.. BIT BY BIT LIKE AN OLD TIME KALEIDOSCOPE, CONSTANTLY CHANGING ITS HUES WITH TRUE DELIGHT OF ALL THOSE IN VIEW.

AS I BEGIN MY DESCENT, WITH WHAT LIGHT THAT IS LEFT, THERE, A GLIMPSE OF WILD FLOWERS AND RUSTY COLORED BUSH. WITH A WALL OF DEEPLY GREEN DECIDUOUS LEAVES SWAYING SOFTLY IN THE WIND. BUGS WHITE IN COLOR SETS THE SCENE, THEY APPEAR AS SNOW, FLYING UP AND DOWN, TO AND FRO. SOON THE COOL AIR SETS IN, THE WIND NOW GONE.

AS I SETTLE DOWN, MY MIND IN A WHIRL, I THANK MY CREATOR, AND GIVE HIM ALL THE GLORY FOR SUCH EXQUISITE BEAUTY THAT HAS NO END.

P O E T R Y C O R N E R
C O N T I N U E D F R O M P A G E 7

FLOWER

I GROW OUT OF MUD
WHERE LIGHT WARMS
THE DANK SQUISH OF
LIFE RENEWING ITSELF
AS IT REACHES
THROUGH THE SILENCE
OF DEATH INTO NOW

WHERE THIRST
IS QUENCHED BY
THE CLARITY OF A
COLD COLD RAIN
AND EMPTINESS
IS FILLED OVER
AND OVER AGAIN

WHERE EVERY COLOR IS BORN
IN PATTERNED HAPPINESS
SMILING ITS SUGAR SMILE
TO FEED ALL THOSE
MAGICIANS OF THE AIR
WHOSE SHORT LIFE IS
MADE BEAUTIFUL BY FLYING

TRINA PORTE

8/10

LUMINOUS

MOMENTS BEFORE DAYBREAK
HOPE IS BORN
JUST VISIBLY BLUE
PERFECT AS LITTLE EGGS
NESTED IN THE TANGLED HAIR OF TREES

AND THE LIT MOON
MAKES EVERYONE SMILE
OUTLINING CLEARLY WHAT IS POSSIBLE
A BEAUTIFUL PATTERNED QUIET
LIKE BUTTERFLIES

TRINA PORTE

F O R U M O N O P E N G O V E R N M E N T

TUESDAY 4/29 AT 7PM AT THE NEW LEBANON TOWN HALL - ROBERT FREEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMITTEE ON OPEN GOVERNMENT WILL BE DIRECTING A PUBLIC FORUM, OPEN TO EVERYBODY, TO TALK ABOUT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION IN NEW YORK STATE. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED REGARDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO YOUR TOWN BOARD, ZONING BOARD AND PLANNING BOARD, ACCESS TO TOWN MINUTES, FOIL REQUESTS, ETC. THIS PUBLIC FORUM WILL LAST AS LONG AS IT NEEDS TO AS ROBERT FREEMAN IS DEDICATED TO STAYING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNTIL NO MORE QUESTIONS REMAIN.

FOOD COOP

NEW LEBANON NATIVE, TISTRYA HOUGHTLING HAS STARTED A LOCAL FOOD COOP IN AN EFFORT TO BRING HEALTHY, LOCAL FOOD TO PEOPLE FOR REASONABLE PRICES. THROUGH A WONDERFUL COMPANY CALLED WHOLESARE, ALL OF THE DETAILS ARE WORKED OUT FOR YOU! YOU GET TO ORDER IN BULK PRICES WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR COOP, BUT ONLY ORDERING THE AMOUNTS YOU NEED. AND, THEY TAKE CARE OF SPLITTING UP THE CHARGES TO EACH PERSONS ACCOUNT. IT IS FREE TO JOIN AND THERE ARE NO ASSOCIATED FEES. JUST GOOD, LOCAL FOOD AT GREAT PRICES! AS OF RIGHT NOW, WE PLACE ORDERS EVERY THREE WEEKS AND YOU PICK UP YOUR FOOD ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON IN EAST CHATHAM. IF ENOUGH PEOPLE FROM NEW LEBANON JOINED AND STARTING PLACING ORDERS, TISTRYA WOULD BE WILLING TO SET UP A LOCAL, NEW LEBANON PICK UP LOCATION AS WELL.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE RECREATION COMMISSION

E-mail: recreationcommission@townofnewlebanon.com