

FRIENDS FOOTNOTES

The official quarterly newsletter of the Friends of the Newfields Public Library, bringing news, updates, and stories to the residents of **Newfields, NH.**



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday, December 7, 2025 3:00 pm **Newfields Holiday Celebration**

The Celebration Committee invites you to the Annual Newfields Holiday Celebration! This fun event will feature food, games, arts and crafts, and other festive activities at Town Hall. Enjoy a horse and wagon ride, sponsored by the Friends of the Newfields Public Library.



Santa will arrive at 4:00 pm on the Newfields Fire Truck! Don't forget to bring your letter to Santa and drop it in Santa's big, red mailbox. Be sure to include your name and address so he can write back!



"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals." ~ Jean Vanier.

Community Resources

Newmarket Community Church Food Pantry

137 Main Street, Newmarket

newmarketchurch.org/ncc-pantry | 603-659-3892

Pantry open Thursday at 1:00 to 6:00 pm

Must be a Newmarket or Newfields resident to visit pantry.

Offers fresh and non-perishable food, personal hygiene and home cleaning items for free.

Delivery and online pre-ordering may be available online. Volunteers and donors needed and welcome.

Exeter Community Fridge

Outside the YMCA at 56 Linden Street, Exeter

See [@exeter_community_fridge](https://www.instagram.com/exeter_community_fridge) on Instagram for more information

Open 24/7 as a mutual aid facility for anyone: "Leave what you can, take what you need"

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and Cleo Castonguay Community Assistance Center

53 Lincoln Street, Exeter

svdpexeter.com | 603-772-9922

Pantry open Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Wednesday at 7:00 to 8:00 pm; Senior Food Pantry hours: Second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Must be a resident of Newfields, Exeter, Brentwood, Kensington, East Kingston, or Stratham to use SVDP resources.

Pantry offers fresh and non-perishable food and personal hygiene items. The center also offers healthcare opportunities and assistance with finances, fuel/electricity costs, and homelessness. Volunteers and donors needed and welcome.



Friends Fall Recap: Yard Sale, Book Sale, and Fall Festival

The 2025 Town-Wide Yard Sale had Newfields roads buzzing. Over 20 houses participated! This community fundraiser benefits local residents and bargain hunters alike. The Friends of the Newfields Public Library organized the Yard Sale and also hosted a used book sale in front of the library. Children's books that remained unsold were donated to Bright Horizons in Stratham.



The Friends thanks all the houses who hosted yard sales. We also owe grateful thanks to Jason Hall, who created the digital and paper maps and managed physical signage and online data. (Including speedy sign retrieval!) Friends appreciates the help of the Newfields Police Department, the Town Offices staff, the Newfields Country Store, and the Paul Memorial Library staff, who all promoted this year's event through signage and advertising.

Later on the same day, Friends also hosted a raffle at our table at the Fall Festival. Friends Board members Beth Lieberman, Sue Todd, Marie Sunder, and Karen Stier greeted residents enjoying the festivities. We thank the Newfields Police Department for organizing this wonderful community event that brought so many people together for music, food, games, kids' fun, and safety demos.

Ladybug & Great Stone Face Awards



With generous donations from the Friends, the NES Library has received copies of picture books nominated for New Hampshire's 2025 Ladybug Picture Book Award. Students in grades K-3 read the nominated books with Mrs. Lieberman, school librarian. In December, each student votes for one of the nominated titles to win the award; their votes are counted with votes cast by students all over NH. Last year's Ladybug Award winner was *100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli* by David LaRochelle.

The Friends of the Library also donated multiple copies of novels nominated for the 2025-26 Great Stone Face Award, New Hampshire's student choice book award given by students in fourth through sixth grades. These multiple copies allow several students to read these books at once, since they are longer chapter books. Students vote for their favorite novel in April. The Newfields Elementary School library is grateful for these generous donations that spark a love of reading in our students!

Thank you, Brooke Kotsonis!

The Board of the Friends of the Newfields Public Library wishes to thank Brooke Kotsonis, our outgoing President. Brooke served on the board for many years, most recently as President. Brooke's cheerful nature, supportive personality, and administrative expertise kept the Friends Board motivated. Her able leadership helped us organize successful fundraising events, most notably the What's It Worth antiques appraisal events at the Brook Casino. Brooke helped Friends develop our organization marketing and establish more digital footprints. Friends Board members are so grateful for Brooke's talent as our leader for two years.

FRIENDS OF THE NEWFIELDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The below programs and resources are sponsored by the Friends.



Town Hall Trivia Night Returns

Sunday, February 1 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at Town Hall Hosted by Raise the Bar Trivia

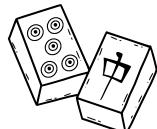
The Friends invite local residents to match their trivia wits against each other and enliven the winter doldrums. Come as a team or form one with others upon arrival. Friends will provide snacks, beverages and prizes. This community-building event is free—just prepare to get your trivia game on!

Safe Sitter Babysitting Class

Saturday, February 7 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Library

Students in grades 6-8 will learn child care and safety skills, First Aid and rescue. Registration through the Library is required. Newfields residents: \$25 | Non-residents: \$150

American Mah Jongg Group



Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Library

Come play American Mah Jongg! Contact the library to join the email list. Mah Jongg set is provided.

Yoto Players & Yoto Cards



The Library is adding two mini Yoto Players and a collection of Yoto Cards for library members to borrow. Yoto Players are simple audio players made for kids—no screens, no internet. Kids just pop in a Yoto Card to listen to a story, either out loud or with headphones. It's a safe, easy, and an engaging way for them to enjoy audiobooks.

DVD/BluRay Player

Borrow our new DVD/Blu-ray player to enjoy timeless favorites or stumble onto something new. Just pop in a disc and press play—no streaming required. Need somewhere to start? We have over 1,000 films and TV shows to check out on DVD at the library, free with your library card!.

Museum & Event Passes Available for Winter

PML offers free and discounted museum and event passes to our patrons year-round, provided by the Friends of the Library. **Contact the Library to reserve any of the following passes:**

- Children's Museum of NH (Dover)
- Children's Museum + Theater of Maine (Portland)
- Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art (Amherst, MA)
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston)
- Seacoast Science Center (Rye)
- Strawberry Banke Museum (Portsmouth)
- USS Albacore (Portsmouth)
- Zoo New England (Stoneham + Boston)

Is there a museum you'd like to see added?

Email your request to staff@newfieldslibrary.org.

Library Pass to Historic New England

Visit HistoricNewEngland.org for specific site tour dates. Pass admits 2 adults and children under 18 for one free tour at any of their 38 historic sites.

Free Tickets to Labrie Family Skate

Visit Puddle Duck Pond, an outdoor ice skating rink operating December to March at Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH. Limit 4 tickets per household. Children under 5 skate free.



From the Newfields Police Department Helpful Hands Holiday Initiative

Since 2006, Helpful Hands is a community-based program that has provided assistance for residents. Earlier this year, Newfields police officers delivered gift cards to assisted families, helping them prepare for both Easter and Thanksgiving. Now, we're turning our attention to making this Christmas season just as special.

If you are interested in helping, **please stop by our table and select an item from our Giving Tree at the Newfields Holiday Celebration on Sunday, December 7.** If you can't make this event, but are still interested in contributing, we're always accepting monetary donations and gift cards to grocery stores and outlets such as Wal-Mart, Target, and Amazon. Newfields Police Department wishes you a wonderful upcoming holiday season and thanks you for your continued support.



If you know of a person or family that could benefit from the Helpful Hands program, please call the Police Department: 603-772-9010 or email Executive Assistant, Tina Maneiro: tmaneiro@newfieldsnh.gov.

From the Newfields Community Church Winter Services

2025 has been a challenging but rewarding year regarding our historic building. We have completed the replacement of the downstairs windows and alleviated a water/mold issue that was threatening the foundation of the church. The church has sent out an appeal to the community. We continue to struggle with maintaining and securing the building, and would appreciate your help. NCC is your community church. Please feel free to come and seek a God of many names and no name, a God that we refer to as love. Find us on Facebook! Search for "Newfields Community Church" or visit our website: newfieldscommunitychurch.org

Christmas Services

- Advent Meditation/Time of Stillness | Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18 at 8:00 - 9:00 am
- Caroling with a party after | Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- Blue Christmas | Friday, December 19 at 6:00 pm
- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service | Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm

Church Dinner | Last Sunday of each month at 4:00 pm (no morning service)

- The Visit of the Magi | December 28
- Jesus' Baptism | January 25



10,000 MOTHERS Our ministry to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women

- Gift-making for the women at NH Women's Prison | Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 pm
- Educational event | Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 pm

A Celebration of words, media and song for MLK Jr. Day | Monday, January 19 at 4:00 pm

From the Newfields Conservation Commission Community Program for Energy Savings



Newfield Conservation Commission has joined with the Exeter Energy Committee to promote and support the Window Dressers program. This organization coordinates the build of customized window inserts at low or no cost to homeowners who may need them to promote home energy savings. This program is coordinated by volunteers in Exeter and offered for all SAU-16 communities, including Newfields.

In addition to our residents being able to sign-up for the inserts (sign-ups ended November 30 for this season), Window Dressers also seeks volunteers for the week of January 15-22 at the Exeter Town Hall, where participants will participate in building the inserts that have been custom measured for the residents of our community and others nearby who signed-up and are slated for installation this season. No experience necessary! All materials and instruction provided. If you do not like hands-on assembling, but do like to feed people, volunteers are needed to help with lunch each day. The NCC thanks the Newfields Select Board for their support of this local effort. Learn more about the program in our area using the Exeter section of this link: <https://tinyurl.com/WD-Information>.



Scan the QR code to sign up for the program: <https://tinyurl.com/WD-Volunteer-signup>
The Conservation Commission meets at town hall the third Monday of each month and welcomes all community members to attend.

STAY CONNECTED WITH
SAU 16!

Stay connected with SAU 16! Scan the QR code to join our newly created messaging group for community members that are not directly connected to our SAU 16 schools.

SAU 16.ORG

NEWFIELDS YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2025 YOUTH BASKETBALL

Registration Now Open @
www.LeagueLineup.com/NYAA

- 1-hour sessions on Saturday mornings
- Open Gym this year – gym time without participating in the league
- If your child joins the league, Open Gym is included for free

Age Groups

- Pre-K / K
- 1st / 2nd
- 3rd / 4th

Preliminary Schedule:
Early December thru Late January (6 Saturdays)

Questions? Email
newfieldsathletics@yahoo.com



From the Paul Memorial Library

Director's Update

Brrrrrr! It seems like we blinked and suddenly winter is here and 2025 is coming to a close. As I look back on the year, I am pleased to have seen neighbors build connections, readers find "just the right book," and children and adults of all ages use and love the library.

We have enjoyed recurring favorites, like our puzzle swaps, preschool story times, summer reading challenges, and three monthly book clubs. We have also had a number of big changes this year, including re-opening the library in January after interior renovations, welcoming two new staff members, and expanding our Library of Things collection.

As we head into a new year, we look forward to continuing to offer materials and programs that educate, connect, and entertain. I hope to see both new and familiar faces join us at the library. Whether you are looking to read a new book, learn something new, or just meet your neighbors, the library is a gathering place for the whole community.

Wishing you a happy holiday season from our Library family to yours. And as always, thank you for being part of our story. See you at the library!

Brittney Thompson, Director

Contact the Library

 603-778-8169

 staff@newfieldslibrary.org  newfieldslibrary.org

 @newfieldslibrarynh

 Paul Memorial Library

Staff Updates: Welcome, Susan!

We are pleased to welcome Susan McClelland as our new Assistant Librarian at Paul Memorial Library this November. Susan is a Newfields resident who moved to NH in June. She quickly made herself a core part of our Library community and we couldn't be happier to bring her on board as an official team member.

Susan has a Masters in Library and Information Science from Rutgers University and a Masters in English Literature from University of North Carolina, Charlotte. She is an avid reader (her favorite genres include literary fiction, both classic and modern; children's and YA; and anything by Stephen King or Margaret Atwood) and when she's not reading, you can find her crocheting, writing, or singing with the Rockingham Choral Society. In addition to book life, Susan has a theatre degree and has been involved in theatre since she was nine. She and her husband, Franklin, have one daughter, two dogs, and three cats. If you haven't already had the pleasure of meeting Susan, stop in and say hi!





From the Paul Memorial Library

Libby + hoopla

Borrow and enjoy audiobooks, eBooks, magazines, and more, everywhere you have a screen—your computer, your phone, your car, even your TV—with your Libby and hoopla apps. All you need is your Library card. **Scan the QR codes below to download the Libby and hoopla apps.**



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Sign up for the Library Insider email newsletter and get the latest news from PML right in your inbox. Find updates on Library news, programs, and materials plus staff picks, collection highlights, resource tips, and more. Email newsletters go out two to three times a month. **Subscribe on our website or scan the QR code.**

Borrow our Telescope

Did you know the library has a telescope available to borrow? Check out our Orion StarBlast 4.5-inch Astronomical Telescope on your next visit! (Courtesy of the NH Astronomical Society, which provides telescopes prepared for public use at no cost to public libraries in New Hampshire).



Library of Things

Our "Library of Things" is a collection of non-traditional materials all available to check out for free with a library card. Explore the collection and discover your next new Thing to borrow!

Coming soon! Radon Monitor

Borrow a radon monitor from the library!

Radon can build up in **any home or building**. Reserve an **easy-to-use radon monitor** and start testing your space today.

To learn more about radon, visit dhhs.nh.gov/radon or scan the QR code.

 Department of
HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES
 Division of
Public Health

We will be offering a radon monitor for patrons to borrow free from the library starting in January 2026. Radon is a hazardous gas that can build up in homes and buildings. Patrons can borrow the Library monitor to screen for radon levels in their home. If levels are high, you can request a free official testing kit from the state and get connected to mitigation resources. To learn more about radon in NH visit dhhs.nh.gov/radon.

Sponsored by the New Hampshire Radon Program through the NH Department of Health & Human Services.

Library Statistics

\$190,418 - Monies saved by library members by using the Library in 2024

158% - Increase in number of programs offered by the Library in 2024

356% - Increase in total program participation in 2024

332% ROI - \$3.32 for every \$1 invested

\$299,627 ROI - Based on 2022 estimate from EveryLibraryInstitute.org



From the Paul Memorial Library

Mini Gingerbread Houses

Saturday, December 13 at 11:00 am at Town Hall

Construct your own mini "gingerbread" houses out of graham crackers and assorted goodies. All ages welcome (recommended 4+). Supplies will be provided. Email the library or visit the website to register.



Virtual Author Talks



Enjoy monthly talks from bestselling authors and thought leaders year-round and right from home! Register for new talks and watch archived recordings of past events at the Library website under "Programs > Virtual Author Talks." Brought to you in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium. Scan the QR code or go online to libraryc.org/paulmemoriallibrary.

Tuesday, December 2 at 2:00 pm

Scheming Wives and High-Stakes Hilarity with Author Sue Hincenbergs

Tuesday, January 13 at 2:00 pm

The Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply with David Brooks

Tuesday, December 9 at 2:00 pm

The Legacy of Julia Child's Kitchen with Author and Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson

Tuesday, January 20 at 2:00 pm

Nature, Art, and Service as Medicine with Journalist Julia Hotz

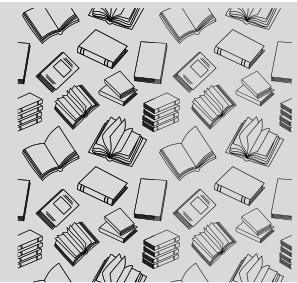
Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 pm

Secrets and Second Chances with Liz Moore

Library Book Clubs

Copies of the books are available to check out each month.

- **Afternoon Book Club** - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm
- **Evening Book Club** - 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm
- **Fantasy and Sci-Fi Book Club** - 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 am



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



1KBBK is designed to help parents prepare their children for school and lifelong learning. The program is simple: Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (yes, you can repeat books) before your child starts kindergarten. If you read just 1 book a day, you'll reach 1,000 books in less than 3 years.

Preschool Story Time with Mr. Andy

Wednesdays at 10:30 am at the Library

Join us for stories, songs, and an activity with our children's librarian, Mr. Andy!

Recommended for ages 3 - 5 years. Please register to join our group email list.





From the Paul Memorial Library

Youth Dungeons & Dragons Group

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm | Email the library to sign up

Game Master Andy is leading an intrepid group of adventurers (grades 5-8) on a magical D&D campaign. The kids are having a great time developing their character backstories, participating in storytelling and battling monsters!



See What's New at the Library with Wowbrary

Hear about the newest titles, bestsellers, movies, and audiobooks when they arrive at the library. Emails go out once a week on Saturdays.

Support the Library when you shop at Amazon by signing up for Wowbrary's weekly emails at wowbrary.org/newfields. PML will receive a percentage of your purchase price on qualifying purchases.

Newfields Water and Sewer

Home Water Use Inventory Activity

Water use at home is an essential part of life. However, we often don't realize how much water we are using during everyday tasks. The average person uses 80-100 gallons of water per day. This can cause us to be wasteful with our water. Take an inventory of your water use at home. Record how long or often you do the following activities for a single day.

Activity	Average water used	Number of uses or minutes/day	Total daily usage (average x duration of usage)	Total weekly usage (total daily usage x 7)
Shower	5 gal/min			
Bath	36 gal/use			
Brushing teeth	1 gal/min			
Washing hands	1 gal/min			
Dishwasher	10 gal/load			
Laundry	40 gal/load			
Flushing toilet	3 gal/flush			
Watering grass	10 gal/min			
Totals			Total/Day =	Total/Week =

From the Newfields Town Clerk

Tax Bills and Voter Registrations

NH Division of Motor Vehicles

All NH Division of Motor Vehicle Offices across New Hampshire have moved to a fully appointment-based system to transact all customer business, from obtaining a driver license to registering a vehicle. Visit DMV.NH.gov to set up your next appointment or call 603-227-4000 for help with scheduling.

Property Tax Bills

The 2025 December property tax bills will be due in mid to late December because there has been a delay in setting our tax rate with the NH Department of Revenue. An email will be sent out to Newfields residents when the property tax bills have been mailed.

Registrations

Boat registrations and dog licenses for 2026 may be processed beginning January 1, 2026.

Registering to Vote

Any Newfields resident, who is at least 18 years old, may register to vote in person at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm Monday to Thursday and Friday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. You must bring a photo ID and proof of residency and citizenship. Additionally, the Supervisors of the Checklist will be meeting Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Newfields Town Office to accept party changes, additions, and corrections to the checklist.

From the Newfields Garden Club

Grow and Learn With Us

Fall has arrived and winter will be upon us soon, but planning for the next gardening season and Annual Plant Sale has already started! We are excited to have participated in the plant selection for the new Rain Gardens at the Newfields Town Hall. A special thank you to **Bill Meserve** for all his efforts in securing grants and the execution of the Rain Gardens.

Exeter Festival of Trees

Help decorate a holiday tree at the Exeter Town Hall on Tuesday, December 2 at 1:30 pm. Email us to participate: newfieldsgardenclub@gmail.com.



2026 Gardening Education Initiative

In the spirit of its mission, the Newfields Garden Club will be initiating a gardening education initiative in 2026. Come grow and learn with us! Topics include: rain gardens, invasive plants and garden skills, preparing your garden for planting, mini gardener program and holiday wreath event.

New Members Wanted

Want to learn about gardening and meet new people in town with a passion for plants? The Newfields Garden Club offers a great opportunity to meet others in the community. Email us for more information: newfieldsgardenclub@gmail.com. You do not need to wait for our next meeting to join! **Next meeting: March 4, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Paul Memorial Library**

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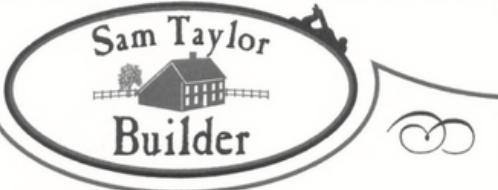
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Dr. Sonnya Dennis, DABVP
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FRIENDS FOOTNOTES

FROM: 76 MAIN ST, NEWFIELDS, NH 03856

Newfields Word Search

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G Y K X W N P I S C A S S I C T D R K O Z Z X V C S I E R A
U L E C S E K N Y K G X C D Q V R C X V L I O S A K R F T B
E I X I W W U G T T G U H O H D J O Y R Y Q N M L A Z Y U C
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A V F J L S N E Q X K K J D V P Y S R J A A Z H Q I L X P F
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T C A D K R P V T T H B H J N X S G E H F O Y A A G L H E S

COUNTRY STORE
NEWFIELDS
PISCASSIC

FIREHOUSE
SKATING RINK
PARADE

SQUAMSCOTT
RAIL TRAIL
BLUE HAWK

LIBRARY



Become a supporting member of the library!

As a member of the Friends of the Newfields Public Library, your contributions help fund programs, events, and resources for our community. Pay your membership dues online! Scan the QR code or visit <https://square.link/u/J7ovEPui>