

# 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.**



MAY 2026

## *From the Celebration Committee*

### **Memorial Day & USA 250th Anniversary Celebration**



The Celebration Committee is proud to present an expanded, multi-day celebration featuring:

- Screening excerpt of the Ken Burns PBS documentary "The American Revolution"
- New sign unveiling honoring Bill Tebo
- Militia skirmish with Redcoats at Hilton Field
- Militia encampment and resident campout
- Pancake breakfast
- Fireman's Muster demonstration
- Food trucks
- Fireworks

Cancel those travel plans—this year's excitement will be right here in Newfields! Full details on the USA 250th celebration and Memorial Day weekend events can be found on pages 3-5 of this newsletter.

## *From the Friends of the Newfields Public Library*

### **Summer Kickoff at the Library | Saturday, June 13**

#### **Wildlife Encounters | 11:00 a.m**

Join us for our Summer Reading Kick-Off featuring Wildlife Encounters Ecology & Wellness Center. See live animals up close and learn about their unique traits and ecosystems. All ages welcome—stay after to sign up for the summer reading challenge (for kids and adults).

#### **Friends Anniversary Concert: The Bounce | 12:00 p.m.**

Enjoy a lively performance by The Bounce, a high-energy swing group inspired by New Orleans jazz and the Swing Era featuring Newfields Elementary's own music teacher, Bryan "Mr. K" Killough!. With a mix of classic tunes and fresh arrangements, their music is upbeat, fun, and danceable. Refreshments will be available.



## FRIENDS OF THE NEWFIELDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The programs, resources and events below are sponsored by the Friends.



## Museum and Event Passes Available Now

PML offers free and discounted museum and event passes to our patrons year-round, provided by the Friends of the Library. Is there a museum you'd like to see added? Send an email to [staff@newfieldslibrary.org](mailto:staff@newfieldslibrary.org). **Contact the Library to reserve any of the following passes:**

- American Heritage Museum (Hudson, MA)
- Bedrock Gardens (Lee)
- Children's Museum of NH (Dover)
- Children's Museum of ME (Portland)
- Currier Museum of Art (Manchester)
- Historic New England (Varied locations)
- Ogunquit Museum of Art (Ogunquit, ME)
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston)
- Mt. Washington Observatory Tours
- Seacoast Science Center (Rye)
- Seashore Trolley Museum (Kennebunkport)
- Strawberry Banke Museum (Portsmouth)
- USS Albacore (Portsmouth)
- Zoo New England (Stoneham + Boston)



### FREE Fisher Cats Tickets at the Library!

Baseball season is here and we have home game tickets (in Manchester) for our Library patrons. Limit four per family. Must be a Library member to redeem. Visit the Library to reserve.

## New! Ancestry Library Edition

With over 1.2 billion records in over 3,000 databases, ALE is the most comprehensive online source of information for conducting genealogical and local history. Use our public computer or bring your laptop to start your family history journey today.

## Free! BookPage Copies

*BookPage* is a monthly print magazine for readers, highlighting the best new books and authors across all genres. Pick up a copy at the Library today - it's yours to keep!

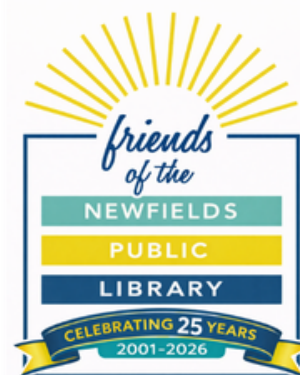


## Yoto Players & Yoto Cards

Two mini Yoto Players and a collection of Yoto Cards are available 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.

## Celebrating Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Friends of the Newfields Public Library is celebrating its 25th anniversary! Since 2001, our nonprofit volunteer organization has supported the library, strengthened our community, and promoted literacy in Newfields. To mark this milestone, we're planning a special chocolate tasting event for members tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2026. Stay tuned for details—and consider becoming a member to join the celebration!





# ***From the Celebration Committee + Paul Memorial Library*** **Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**

**2026 marks the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence! Join us at the Library for a series of events reflecting on American (and Newfields) history over the past 250 years.**

## **Newfields Town History Exhibit**

Saturday, May 16 | 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Newfields Town Hall

See artifacts and memorabilia from notable people, places, and events throughout Newfields' past. Watch history come alive with a visit from colonial soldiers, test your Newfields trivia knowledge, make your own Newfields buttons, and learn about what makes Newfields the special place it is today. Open to all ages. Followed by the Big Watch film screening. All are invited to stay for that discussion.

## **Big Watch: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

Saturday, May 16 | 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Newfields Town Hall

Watch an excerpt from PBS's THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, directed by Ken Burns et al., featuring "The Spirit of Service," which explores service as a core American value. Followed by a discussion led by NH Humanities facilitator Courtney Marshall. Popcorn and Squamscott soda will be served. Open to all ages. This event is free and open to the public.

*This event is sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities in partnership with the Paul Memorial Library and Newfields Celebration Committee. More details at Library website.*

## **What Does It Mean to be an American?**

Tuesday, June 16 | 6:30 p.m.  
Newfields Town Hall

Join us for a talk and Q&A on American citizenship and identity with guest speaker Dr. Lucy Salyer. A UNH history professor and 2022 Lindberg Award recipient, she is the author of multiple books, including *Laws Harsh as Tigers*, winner of the Theodore Saloutos Book Award. She is a dedicated teacher helping students and the public understand issues of law, immigration, and U.S. social history.

## **Watch Party: 1776 The Musical**

Friday, July 10 | 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Paul Memorial Library

Join us to watch *1776*, the acclaimed 1972 movie musical that brings the drama of America's founding to life. Assistant Librarian Susan McClelland will lead a discussion and trivia. All ages welcome.

## **Newfields Reads: *Revolutionary***

Thursday, July 16 | 6:30 p.m.  
Paul Memorial Library

Join us for a discussion of *Revolutionary* by NH author Alex Myers, a historical novel based on the true story of Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to fight in the Revolutionary War. Led by Assistant Librarian Susan McClelland.



# Community Events Around Town

## Join Us Memorial Day Weekend

Memorial Day weekend is a time to come together as a community. Check out the events happening throughout Newfields, all sponsored by local organizations including the Paul Memorial Library, Celebration Committee, and Library Board of Trustees. All events, unless otherwise noted, take place at Hilton Field in Newfields. See you there!

### **Newfields Garden Club Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 23 | 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Town Hall, Newfields

### **Naval Launch and Bill Tebo Sign Unveiling**

Saturday, May 23 | 8:30 a.m.  
Chapman's Landing, Newfields

### **Parade & Picnic**

Saturday, May 23 | 11:00 a.m.

### **US Militia v. Redcoats Skirmish**

Saturday, May 23 | 2:00 p.m.

### **Militia Encampment**

Saturday, May 23 | 5:00 p.m.

### **Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, May 24 | 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
\$25/family; \$10/person

### **Old-Fashioned Fireman's Muster**

Sunday, May 24 | 4:00 p.m.

### **Food Trucks, Beer Tent and Activities**

Sunday, May 24 | 6:00 p.m.

### **Fireworks**

Sunday, May 24 | 9:00 p.m.

### **Revolutionary Militia Camp: 2nd NH Regiment (8th Continental Regiment)**

Saturday, May 23 to Sunday, May 24  
Hilton Field, Newfields

Historic reenactors will set up a Revolutionary-style campsite and activities for a vivid, immersive experience of soldier life during the American Revolution.

The event will include:

- Lantern-lit tours of the encampment, highlighting camp organization, ranks, watches, and daily routines.
- Fireside discussions about the Revolutionary era, focusing on the lives of local soldiers, the meaning of independence, and the values that animated the struggle.
- Interactive demonstrations, including a Yankee/Redcoats skirmish, to show how Revolutionary troops lived, worked, and fought. You may even have a chance to light a cannon!

Families and individuals are invited to stay and pitch tents alongside the militia for an optional overnight community campout. Free and open to the public. All ages welcome!

*This event is brought to you by the Paul Memorial Library and the Newfields Celebration Committee.*



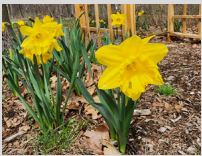
# From the Newfields Garden Club Plant Sale and Educational Programs

It's time to get into the garden, Newfields!

A reminder about our **Annual Plant Sale** on Saturday, May 23, 2026. We're offering 59 varieties of tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, salad greens, assorted vegetables, squash, and herbs. We'll also have annual and perennial flowers, plus shrubs and trees from NH Forestry to complete your garden.

**Rain barrels and stands** will be available as part of our Rain Barrel Initiative to support water conservation. More information coming soon—and please shop local before heading to big box stores!

We're also hosting several free gardening programs for the community. Our club includes five Master Gardeners who offer a wealth of knowledge. The "Garden Strong" program was a huge success, with more programs planned throughout the year.



## New Program! Children's Garden Program to begin in 2026!

Want to find out more? Follow us on Facebook @

newfieldsgardenclub.com or email [newfieldsgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:newfieldsgardenclub@gmail.com)



## From the Paul Memorial Library Library Patron Poll

Every other Friday, we are putting up a new question on our whiteboard to find out what Newfields thinks about the important topics of our time. Stop in and add your voice to the conversation! **Dogs vs. Cats Results:** Newfields loves dogs more than cats, by a nearly 2 to 1 margin.



## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Do you have a pre-kindergartener? Join the Library's 1KBBK program! The program is simple: Read a book to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (repeats count) before your child starts kindergarten. Sign up at the Library to pick up your program packet, track your reading and mark your progress along our lily pad milestones!



## 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.**



libbyapp.com



hoopladigital.com



## Join the Library Insider Email List



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.**

## 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](http://wowbrary.org/newfields). PML will receive a percentage of your purchase price on qualifying purchases.



## BookList Reader Online

*Booklist Reader* is a monthly online magazine featuring diverse readers' advisory recommendations for readers of all ages. Browse by age, topic, or genre. Check it out at [newfieldslibrary.org/booklist-reader-online](http://newfieldslibrary.org/booklist-reader-online)

## Virtual Author Talks + NEW Series



Enjoy monthly online talks from authors and thought leaders all year long—right from home! Choose from 6 talks/month on the following topics: fiction, interesting nonfiction, variety & lifestyle, kids & tweens, health & wellness and cooking.

Register for new talks and watch past recordings at our website under "Programs > Virtual Author Talks" Or visit <https://libraryc.org/paulmemoriallibrary> or scan the QR code here to go there directly. Brought to you in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium.



**From the Paul Memorial Library**

## Upcoming Events



### Infant Developmental Playgroup

Tuesday, May 19 and June 2 at 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Join us at the Library for a special playgroup for infants ages 0-18 months and their grown ups! Play, learn, and grow with stories, sensory activities, movement games, songs, and more! Come with questions or just to socialize. Andy has a Masters in Early Childhood Education and brings this expertise to our programming.

### Family History Fridays

Drop-in Fridays at 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Are you interested in doing family history, but not sure where to start? Librarian Susan McClelland is available to offer research assistance and support using Ancestry.

### Summer Reading Challenge

Saturday, June 13 to Saturday, August 1

All ages (including pre-readers and adults) are invited to join! Track your reading on the Reader Zone app. Raffles and prizes for readers. *Coming soon!* Pick up your Summer Reading Calendar at the Library.



### Story Time with Snoopy the Rex Rabbit

Wednesday, June 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Children will hear a story, be part of a "Snoopy Circle," learn about the life of a rabbit, feed Snoopy his favorite greens, and do a seed planting craft. Children of all ages are welcome!

### Story Time with Little Groove Music

Wednesday, July 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a music and movement story time with Little Groove Music. Recommended ages 2-6.

### Nail Art Workshop for Teens and Adults



Thursday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Learn how to do gel nail art with Lizzy Bui Labins, nail artist and owner of Velvet Nail Lounge. Participants will practice on sample sticks and learn DIY designs. Registration required.



### Annual Summer BBQ

Saturday, August 1 at 11:00 a.m.

Join us at the Library for a BBQ, lawn games, and the famous Newfields dunk tank. We'll be announcing our summer reading raffle winners and everyone who participated in the reading challenge will go home with a free book. Families of all ages welcome. Participation in the reading challenge not required to attend.



## ***From the Paul Memorial Library*** **Director's Update**

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of the United States, I wanted to share some reflections with you. I grew up in Newfields after my family moved here in 2003 when I was in 8th grade. As I look back on the last 23 years, I am struck by how much the town values community, history, and a strong local identity. These shared values can be seen far back to the early history of the town.

Our Library team has been researching town history in our preparations for the 250th events. It is fascinating to see how people and events from so long ago have left lasting impacts on the town today. I was particularly tickled to see that the Library is the reason that the town changed its name from South Newmarket back to its original Newfields. When Dr. John M. Brodhead died in 1880, he left \$10,000 to the town of South Newmarket "for the purpose of purchasing books for a town library."

But on one condition: that "the name of the town shall be legally changed to the name of Newfields and so remain." And thus, Newfields owes its modern name and identity to a Library-minded citizen who felt strongly that Newfields retain its own independent identity separate from our larger neighbor up the road who had long since outgrown us.

I feel a great kinship with Dr. Brodhead in that respect. I can't imagine being the southerly sister to the relative metropolis of Newmarket. We are Newfields. A blink-and-you-miss-it tiny town that offers much more than meets the eye. Sure, I still have to say "I'm from Newfields." "Where?" they ask. "It's next to Exeter." "Ohhhh, okay. Yeah, I know Exeter."


But I wouldn't have it any other way.

Newfields is a town that loves its neighbors, its community, and its independence. It is a place that values reading and learning and having its own school and library to call its own. Where friends and neighbors can gather together to share ideas, discuss the news of the day, and solve problems to move the town forward together.

I hope as we reflect together as a town in the coming weeks on the last 250 years—of our nation, but also as a town—that we can embrace the shared values that have carried us through hard times and great change for hundreds of years.

Brittney Thompson, Library Director

### **Contact the Library**

 603-778-8169

 [staff@newfieldslibrary.org](mailto:staff@newfieldslibrary.org)

 [newfieldslibrary.org](http://newfieldslibrary.org)

 @newfieldslibrarynh

 Paul Memorial Library

# *From the Newfields Water and Sewer Department*

## **Water Ban and Regulations Updates**



The District Commissioners have been working hard to update the District's Rules and Regulations over the past few months.

Learn more about the notable changes below, and scan the QR code for the complete Rules and Regulations.

**Section 11: Sewer only accounts** - Private Well rate payers that are connected to the district's sewer system shall be charged the sewer rate based on the amount of water usage from their private well. Failure to pay by the due date will result in a lien being placed on the property by the Tax Collector pursuant to NH RSA 38:22.

**Section 13: Water Ban** - The Water Ban regulation establishes procedures for regulating water use within the NVWS Ban Amendment.docx to protect public health, safety, and welfare during water supply shortages. The NVW&SD Commissioners are authorized to enact these rules under RSA 38:26 (regulation of public water systems) and RSA 41:11-d (restriction of private well use).

All Water & Sewer District information is on the town's website, **NewfieldsNH.gov**. The Water & Sewer District sends information via email. If you would like to be on our email list, send your email address to **wchase@newfieldsnh.gov**. Thank you all for your continued efforts in conserving water.

**Important Reminder:** The drought is ongoing and so is the District's WATER BAN. For more information, including a weekly updated drought monitoring map, please visit **des.nh.gov/climate-and-sustainability/storms-and-emergencies/drought**.

## *From the Newfields Town Clerk*

### **Property Tax Bills and Upcoming Elections**

Property tax bills will be mailed the week of May 18, 2026, and are due Wednesday, July 1, 2026. This bill is an estimate based on one-half of your December 2025 tax bill.

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session on June 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Newfields Town Office to accept corrections, additions, and party changes. June 2, 2026, is the last day for currently registered voters to change party affiliation before the State Primary Election on September 8, 2026. The filing period for State Representative is June 3 to June 12, 2026. Filings on Friday, June 12, 2026, must be done in person.



In observance of Memorial Day, trash and recycling will be picked up on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

## ***From the Newfields Conservation Commission***

# **Seeking Input From Our Community**

Newfields has long been proactive in conserving its natural resources. Neighbors have created conservation easements, some managed by the Newfields Conservation Commission. Our town is home to important rivers and works with regional partners to support conservation efforts. In 2007, residents supported significant funding for land preservation, resulting in the Piscassic Greenway. There are also county and state programs, as well as partnerships with private organizations, that support this work.

The bond for the Piscassic Greenway will be paid off this year, and the Newfields Conservation Commission is looking ahead to new projects that benefit our town. We welcome community input in identifying future conservation opportunities. Conservation Commissions help protect and manage local land and water resources, including wetlands and marshes. Grants and programs are available to support projects of all sizes, along with opportunities for community education. As we move forward, your voice is vital.



If you have ideas or questions, please attend a Commission meeting (third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.) or email [ConservationCommission@newfields.gov](mailto:ConservationCommission@newfields.gov). A Commission member will follow up.

## ***From the NYAA***

# **Soccer Registration**



The Newfields Youth Soccer League will soon be accepting registrations for our fall season. Open to all kids in Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade, this is a great way for young players to learn the game, build teamwork skills, and have a ton of fun! No experience necessary - just bring your enthusiasm! Games and practices will be held locally. For more information, please contact Szu-Hui Dobie at [drshlee@gmail.com](mailto:drshlee@gmail.com) or 617-895-7823.

## ***From the Newfields Congregational Church***

# **Grow and Learn With Us**

NCC is proud to announce the election of Louise Williams and Sheryl Bernier as co-moderators. They are currently evaluating our bylaws, stewardship opportunities, and accessing the priority of needs in our aging building. Welcome Lousie and Sheryl, we are excited about your leadership!

### **Veterans for Peace**

Sunday, May 17 | 9:30 a.m.

[veteransforpeace.org/vfp-chapters](http://veteransforpeace.org/vfp-chapters)

### **Messy Church**

Sunday, May 31 | 4:00 p.m.

Learn about peace, crafts, food, song, story.

### **NCC Information Session**

Friday, May 22 | 3:00 p.m.

Learn what we are about, a Federated Church!

### **Book Study**

Thursdays from May 5 through June 16 | 4:00 p.m.

Rachel Held Evan's *Wholehearted Faith*

*Experienced. Trusted.*  
**Mary McCluskey**  
 REALTOR® in NH & ME  
 Bringing success to sellers and buyers of residential properties and land since 2001.



603.315.7984 direct  
 603.778.6400 Ext 105 office  
 mmclcluskey@thegovegroup.com  
 70 Portsmouth Ave, Stratham, NH



**Diamond Mechanical**  
 HEATING & COOLING LLC

www.DIAMONDMECHANICALNH.com **603-580-4844**

**10% OFF YOUR NEXT SERVICE**



**Tobey & Merrill**  
**INSURANCE**  
 Insuring Your Auto, Home, Life & Business

DD (603) 601 1004  
 P (800) 416 7655  
 F (603) 601 1005  
 linda@tobeymerrill.com  
 20 High Street  
 Hampton, NH 03842  
 www.tobeymerrill.com


Linda R. Tuttle  
 Licensed Sales Agent




*Stratham-Newfields*  
**Veterinary Hospital**

**Dr. Sonnya Dennis, DABVP**  
 Board Certified Specialist in Canine & Feline Practice


8 Main Street (Intersection of Rt. 85 and Rt. 108)  
 Newfields, New Hampshire 03856  
 Ph 603.778.7687 Fax 603.778.2471 www.snvh.net



**Sam Taylor**  
**Builder**

**Carpentry, Remodeling, & Additions**

Newfields, NH 03856      603-682-2812



**Exeter Pediatric Dentistry**

40 Portsmouth Ave  
 Exeter, NH 03833

**Dr. Natalie Laucius**

DMD

603-778-0400  
 ExeterSmiles@gmail.com  
 www.ExeterPDO.com

*In Sew Many Ways*



Judy Colavecchio  
 judc0209@comcast.net

**home décor**  
 window treatments  
 chair cushions  
 pillows  
 duvet covers  
 bed skirts

Call for appointment  
 h 603.775.7567 • c 603.793.6386

**Piano Lessons**



*Ms. Billie's*  
**Music House**

Ages 5 - 95  
 Personalized curriculum

Text: 859.229.5119  
<https://billiebellpiano.com>



**YOUR AD HERE!**

Promote your local business to the entire town of Newfields by sponsoring our quarterly newsletter.

Scan the QR code to sign up as a sponsor!





To: Local Postal Customer  
Newfields, NH 03856

Nonprofit Org  
ECRWSS  
U.S. Postal Service  
PAID  
Permit No. 25  
Portsmouth, NH

# FRIENDS FOOTNOTES

FROM: 76 MAIN ST, NEWFIELDS, NH 03856

## Community Coloring Corner

Take a moment to slow down and get creative!



**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>