



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

March 30, 2020

Extraordinary Times in New London

The Coronavirus has changed the daily lives of every person in this country, and around the world. For New London residents, town officials and town staff, it means that we must work together to see us through this emergency. It means being scrupulous about social distancing, disinfecting items and areas, observing the 20 second hand washing routines (sing Happy Birthday twice!), staying away from others when we feel sick and taking care of ourselves both mentally and physically so that we are all in the best possible shape to fight this virus if we should get it. And importantly, we need to watch out for our neighbors and help where we can.

There will be challenges and changes:

Town Offices: To ensure adequate social distancing, all town offices are closed to the public. This includes walk-in traffic to all town departments: Selectmen’s Offices, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Public Works, Recreation, Police and Fire Department offices. **However**, this does not mean you can’t communicate with town staff, either by phone or by e-mail. And, of course, emergency calls to 911 will be answered.

Selectmen’s Meetings: The Selectmen will continue to meet to conduct the business of the town, however the public will not be able to observe the proceedings in person; meetings will be conducted using the virtual meeting platform **ZOOM**. The next meeting of the Selectmen is scheduled for April 6th, at 6:00PM. The posted agenda will have meeting information about how to log on to the meeting from your desktop computer, tablet, cell phone, or landline. The agenda will include how-to instructions for accessing **ZOOM**, or you may check it out prior to the meeting at: www.zoom.us. The website includes FAQ and video tutorials. **Meeting minutes will be posted as usual.**

Transfer Station: Open—Staff have instituted changes to encourage “drop and go” service for trash disposal—please drive in, drop your trash as indicated by staff and leave. Cardboard is no longer being recycled, it can be disposed of with household trash and the swap area is closed until further notice.

Electronics disposal: Until town offices re-open, disposal of electronics at the Public Works Garage on South Pleasant Street has been suspended —please store your items at home until service is reestablished.

Brush and metal disposal—“Stump Dump” - This facility is open on its regular schedule.

Recreation: All recreational programming and special events are cancelled. Registration for summer programming and applying for summer jobs is available on-line: www.nl-nh.com/recreation

Tracy Memorial Library: The library is closed until further notice. Patrons are asked to hold on to all library materials until the library re-opens; no late fees will be charged during the closure. See page 4 for more.

Burn Permits: Dispatching no longer issues burn permits, permits can be acquired on-line—check the Fire Department webpage at: www.nlfd.org for more information.

Board and Committee Meetings: Like the Selectmen, other boards and committees will need to meet virtually until such time as group gatherings are allowed again. Agendas will include information on how to access the virtual meeting—check the town website: www.nl-nh.com.

Town staff: Staff are working as usual (with the exception of meeting with citizens) and are abiding by the protocols that have been established to stop the spread of this disease. Staff want to stay healthy to be there for citizens, so they are being scrupulous about safety so they can stay on the job.

On behalf of all town staff, we thank you for your patience and cooperation.

~ Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
townadmin@nl-nh.com—526-1240

COVID-19 INFORMATION

- ⇒ State of New Hampshire Info Line: 211
- ⇒ www.nh.gov/covid19/
- ⇒ New London Emergency Info Line: 526-9444

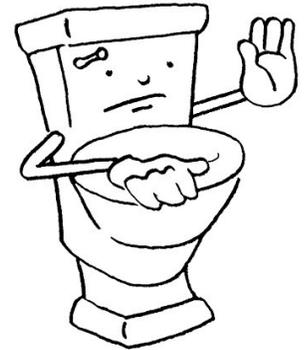
Important sewer and septic system reminders

There has been considerable talk about low supplies of toilet paper during this COVID-19 emergency which may encourage some to use paper towels or “flushable” wipes instead of toilet paper. If you do, please **DO NOT** flush these items into the municipal sewer system or into your private septic system as backups into your home could occur. These items should be placed in your trash and disposed of at the transfer station. Backups in these disposal systems will present serious health hazards for all and at a time when we are all dealing with a crisis, we certainly do not need issues with wastewater systems breaking down.

Just because the product label says it’s flushable doesn’t mean you should flush it, in fact, we are urging you **NOT** to flush it. Even the flushable wipes do not disintegrate quickly enough or break down all the way. Frequently, flushed wipes hit a 45-degree elbow within your plumbing pipes causing a blockage and then backup. Please do not be tempted to flush anything other than toilet paper; instead, put other items in the trash so you do not inadvertently cause plumbing issues and backups for you or for your town systems. Save yourself plumbing bills and get in the habit of throwing it out with the trash. Make it a priority to find what works in your household to dispose of them with your trash.

If you do experience a backup or a clog, remember that you are responsible for your sewer line from the toilet/kitchen sinks in your homes and businesses to the main line that connects to the town sewer line. You will have to call a plumber to clean or unclog your pipes.

Therefore, please keep your systems in mind and use proper practices to keep those systems flowing correctly. Now is the time to make sure that your septic system, whether it is the municipal system or a private system, keeps operating properly—



Thank you for helping to keep everyone healthy and safe.

STAY AT HOME. SAVE LIVES.

DO:

- Stay at home, only leaving for the essentials
- Exercise outdoors, practicing social distancing
- Check in on your neighbors, bringing supplies like groceries to those who can't go out

OPEN:

- Grocery and convenience stores
- Pharmacies
- Doctor's offices and hospitals
- Gas stations
- Banks and credit unions
- Takeout & delivery from restaurants
- School lunch program deliveries
- Essential businesses

DON'T:

- Gather in large groups or get together with friends
- Have play dates for kids
- Travel unnecessarily
- Stop practicing healthy social distancing

CLOSED:

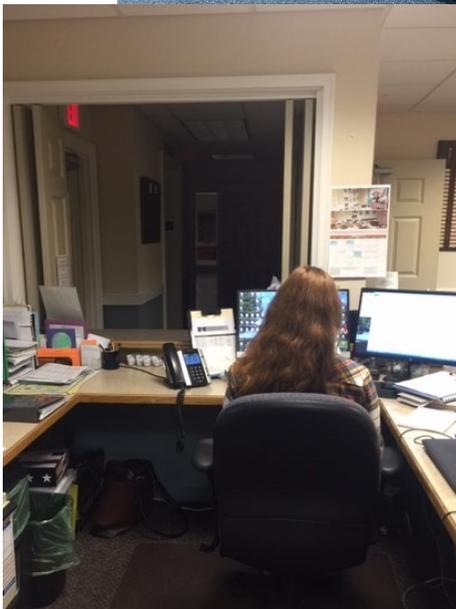
- Non-essential retail stores and malls
- Barbershops, hair salons, cosmetic stores, and tattoo parlors
- Movie theaters, bowling alleys, and arcades
- Concerts, sporting events, and festivals
- All State beaches along the Seacoast

New London Staff On The Job During Coronavirus Emergency

Full Staff Directory with contact information: www.nl-nh/departments



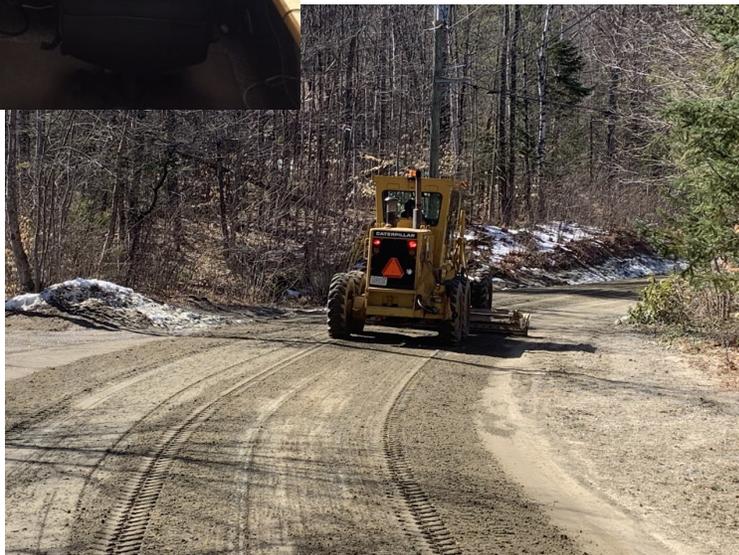
Above: Vehicle accident on Morgan Hill Rd. Firefighters stabilized the car with winch & rescue struts before containing the leaking fluids.
Left: Firefighters are staying on schedule with daily truck checks.



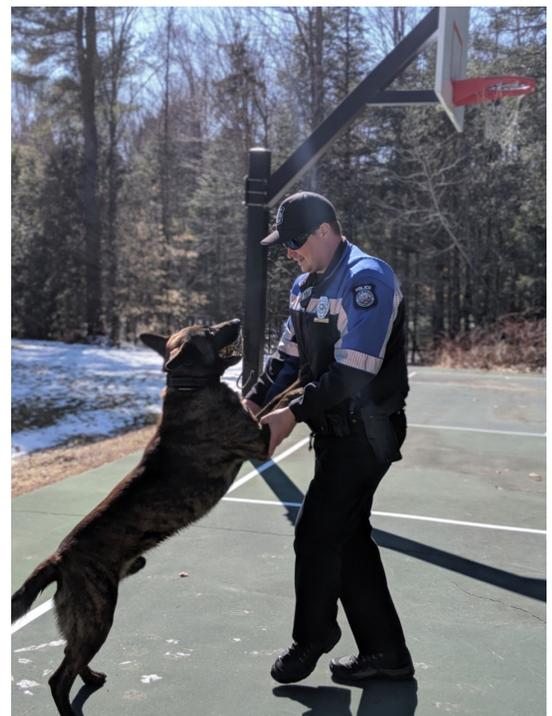
Left: Selectmen's Office Administrative Assistant Dianne Bottari working on *Municipal Matters*



Above: Assessing Department looking at new construction to be added to the grand list



Above: Springtime gravel road paving in progress—Public Works staff grading Forest Acres Road.



Right: Officer Daley and K-9 Vilo training

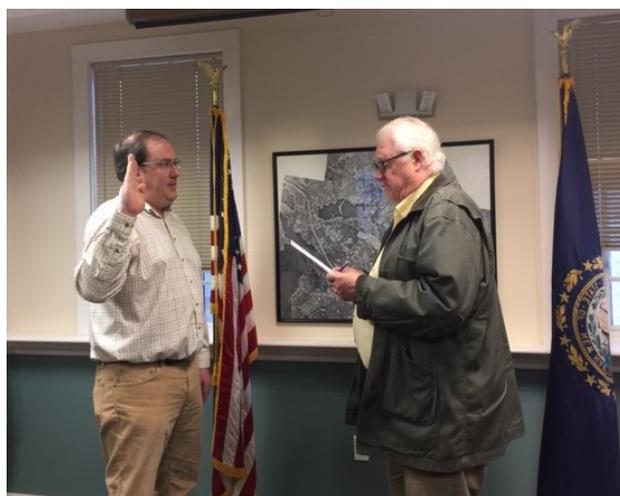
New London Staff On The Job

Full staff listing: www.nl-nh.com/departments



Above: Library Director Sandra Licks calls a patron about accessing downloadable audiobooks.

Right: Head Youth Services Director Ben Cote selects books for Facebook Live Storytime weekdays at 10AM



New London's newest staff member Will Kidder, Town Clerk/ Tax Collector, being sworn in by David Kidder



Lt. Bartlett clearing a fire alarm activation after a burned food call off Cottage Lane.

Tracy Library Update

Although Tracy Memorial Library is closed to the public, employees are working behind-the-scenes on administrative tasks and on keeping customers informed and entertained. We are expanding the great resources we offer online at our website: <https://tracylibrary.org/>.

Youth Services is using Facebook Live for storytimes Monday through Friday at 10:00 AM. We are also using this time to do some training and planning so that when we do reopen, we'll be better than ever. For now, please keep all of your previously borrowed items at home until we reopen -- no late fees will accrue and due dates will be automatically extended.

~ Sandra Licks, Library Director

Town Offices are **CLOSED** to public traffic.

Please go online to complete transactions like property taxes, vehicle registration & sewer bills: www.nl-nh.com/pay

You can get applications for permits, credits & exemptions: www.nl-nh.com/forms

Please call us for assistance
Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: 526-1245

Main number: 526-4821

Emergency information line: 526-9444

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