



# Municipal Matters

JANUARY 2026

## Happy New Year

...from Ashley Seybold, Town Administrator

The holidays seem to come and go in the blink of an eye, and the start of the new year brings with it a fresh perspective—and, thankfully, some fresh air. During the recent stretch of warmer weather, I took a drive around Pleasant Lake and was happy to see so many familiar faces out walking and enjoying the season (hi Maureen and Rob Prohl!), and skaters out on the lake enjoying the Hopwood's ice track. I was warned that once the calendar turned to January, my schedule would quickly fill with Town Report and Town Meeting preparations—and that warning proved accurate. I'm learning a lot and appreciate everyone's patience as I focus on these items and the budget.

ASHLEY



## IMPORTANT DATES

**JAN 27** **Planning Board**  
Second Public Hearing - Zoning Amendments

**JAN 30** **Board of Selectmen & Budget Committee**  
Reconcile Budget

**FEB 5** **Conservation Commission**  
Public Hearing for an Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust easement

**FEB 11** **Public Hearing**  
Fiscal Year 2027 Town Budget

**FEB 17** **Board of Selectmen & Budget Committee**  
Joint Warrant Article Review

**MAR 10** **Town Elections**  
Vote for Town Offices and Zoning Amendments

**MAR 18** **Town Meeting**  
Vote on Proposed Warrant Articles

**New Meeting Location**  
Dan and Kathleen Hogan Sports Center at Colby-Sawyer College

# Recreation Corner

By Putnam Kidder, Recreation Director

The Recreation Department is coming off a busy holiday season and is so excited about many upcoming events. Santa came to the Town Green via fire truck and delighted kids of all ages during his visit, the Bob Andrews Memorial Skating Rink has been busy with happy skaters, the Festival of Trees brought magic and light to Whipple Hall, and we were thrilled to sponsor events as part of the New Year's New London event put on by the Center for the Arts.

Currently, we have a Shotokan Karate Class taking place at Whipple Hall through February 16. More information can be found [here](#).

Come out of hibernation and enjoy a weekend of indoor and outdoor activities for participants of all ages at our annual Winter Carnival scheduled for February 6-7. More information can be found [here](#).

Also, in planning ahead for the Summer season, we are looking for motivated people who want to work at the beaches this Summer.

Be sure to visit the website for all the details: [click here](#).



New Year  
New London  
Celebration



Strawberry  
Festival  
Saturday, June 20



**Summer Beach Staff Needed**  
Inquire Today



### **Winter Carnival**

Saturday & Sunday, February 6-7

Come out of hibernation and enjoy a weekend of indoor and outdoor activities for participants of all ages.

### **Town Hoops Celebration**

Saturday, February 21

Join the fun and cheer on the Colby-Sawyer College Men's and Women's basketball teams at the Hogan Sport's Center.

### **Community Snowshoe**

Tuesday, February 24

Enjoy a short hike to Clark Lookout with lovely winter views of Lake Sunapee.

# Ice Melting Alternatives

## New London Conservation Commission

This has been the winter for slippery and treacherous conditions, particularly for pedestrians. We need to protect ourselves from a fall that could be life changing. As homeowners/property owners what are we going to do?

The first and easiest step to take is to spread rock salt (sodium chloride). It is certainly effective but at what cost to our environment? Rock salt is cheap but high levels of any salt will harm plants by affecting the root's ability to absorb nutrients. It can also break down hard surfaces. In addition, these salts will enter the waterways and end up in our lakes and ponds. And dog owners can attest to the particles being stuck in their pet's paws and the salt burning the pads of their feet.

All salt-based ice melters are harmful to our environment and hard surfaces. If they are utilized, they should be used judiciously.

There are alternatives to salt. The first step is to remove snow down to the surface. The next step is to determine what the level of treatment you desire; is it for traction, or for melting the ice? Traction can be obtained by using various materials such as: sand, bird seed, kitty litter (non-clumping), wood ash, saw dust, coffee grounds, and alfalfa meal to name a few.

The best environmentally friendly ice melter is calcium magnesium acetate (CMA). It is marketed as "pet friendly" and can be found on pet products websites and at local stores. It is more expensive and is sometimes mixed with salt, but if you are looking for an alternative to salt for melting ice, CMA is the choice.

And remember, when you are off your property and going for a walk in icy conditions, attach slip-on spikes to your boots.



## WINTER SAND

Winter sand (mixed with salt) is available to all residents at the public works department.

The sand can be found in the shed on the upper driveway marked for residential use.

# Property Taxes ...The Basics

Steve Wright, Chairperson; New London Citizen's Committee

At last month's New London Citizens Committee meeting, an overview of New London's property tax profile was reviewed with members of the committee, New London Chief Assessor Kristen McAllister, and Board of Selectmen members Bebe Casey and Janet Kidder. The presentation can be found on the Committee's website at [NewLondon.NH.gov](https://www.newlondon.nh.gov).

## **Understanding Property Assessments and Taxes in New London**

Property taxes are the primary source of funding for many of New London's essential services, including public education, emergency services, road maintenance, and general town operations. To ensure fairness, New Hampshire law requires towns to reassess property values regularly, so they reflect current market conditions. These reassessments are not intended to raise revenue, but to redistribute the tax burden more equitably across all property owners. Our last reassessment was completed in 2023 and new assessments must be done at least every five years.

## **Key Points for Residents**

### **Assessments aim for fairness—not automatic tax increases.**

When overall property values rise, tax rates typically fall if the town's total budget remains stable. This means some residents may see higher tax bills while others may see decreases, depending on how their property value changed relative to the town average.

### **Most of New London's tax base is residential.**

Private homes make up approximately 46% of the total assessed value, and waterfront homes account for another 40%. In contrast, commercial and industrial properties represent only about 6.8% of the total tax base.

### **Taxes are paid by a relatively small share of properties.**

About 15% of parcels contribute roughly 50% of all property tax revenue. This concentration means that shifts in high-value properties can significantly affect overall town finances.

## **Lakefront properties play a major role.**

Among the three major lakes, Lake Sunapee contributes the largest share of assessed value, followed by Pleasant Lake and Little Lake Sunapee. The committee discussed at length the criticality of water quality in our lakes and the direct impact on property values.

**Current assessments are always available online at [NewLondon.NH.gov/Assessing](https://NewLondon.NH.gov/Assessing).**

## ***The Role of Exempt Properties***

Some properties are legally exempt from property taxes under state law. These exemptions support public services, nonprofit missions, and community institutions—but they also reduce the size of the taxable base.

The largest exempt property holders in New London include:

**Colby-Sawyer College** – The single largest exempt property owner in town, with multiple parcels valued at over \$59 million combined. The college contributes significantly to the local economy, employment, and community programming, but some of its land and buildings are not taxed. However, Colby-Sawyer is in fact also the single largest taxpayer in the town despite some exemptions.

**New London Hospital Association** – A major healthcare provider whose facilities are also exempt due to nonprofit status.

**Kearsarge Regional School District (SAU #65)** – Public education properties are exempt from local property taxes.

**Churches and religious institutions** – Including First Baptist Church and Our Lady of Fatima, which qualify for exemption under state law.

**Conservation and arts organizations** – Such as land trusts, conservation parcels, and the New London Barn Playhouse.

Together, exempt properties represent a substantial portion of total assessed value—over \$285 million across 168 parcels.

## ***What Is “Current Use”?***

“Current Use” is a special assessment category for large parcels (typically 10+ acres) that are kept in a natural state or actively managed as farmland or forest. These parcels are taxed based on their current use, not their development potential, which lowers their tax obligation. New London has many “current use” properties that help maintain our rural character.

The New London Citizens Committee is focused on maximizing awareness and transparency between town residents and key government and non-profit organizations playing critical foundational roles in the town. Look for continued updates in Municipal Matters in the future.

# Speed Limit Changes

## New Speed Assigned to Newport Road (Route 11)

You may have noticed the speed limit on Newport Road (Route 11) has changed to 45mph from South Cove Road (by the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog) to Georges Mills.

Speed limits are set by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation based on traffic engineering studies and state rules, and in consideration of Town input.

Local residents raised concerns about speed in the previous 50mph zones on either side of I-89. Since the change, the police department has performed nearly 50 motor vehicle stops along that stretch of road to help educate drivers to the new speed limit.

Please pay close attention to your speed and help keep your neighbors safe.



# BE "SALT SMART" THIS WINTER



*EVERY GRAIN COUNTS!*



Chloride levels in our lakes and ponds are rising due to the excessive use of de-icing salts.

These salts are toxic to aquatic life—especially the tiny organisms that help control algae growth.

When they're disrupted, cyanobacteria ("blue-green algae") blooms become more common, threatening the health of our lakes and ponds.

## 1. USE SALT ALTERNATIVES

Instead try sand, ashes, or chloride-free de-icers.

## 2. SHOVEL EARLY & OFTEN

Keep surfaces clear to reduce the need for de-icing.

## 3. SPRINKLE, DON'T POUR

A small amount of salt is enough—no crunch needed underfoot.

## 4. HIRE RESPONSIBLY

Choose plow contractors who are "Green SnowPro Certified".



**MESSER POND**  
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION





*Ken Waldo, Transfer Station Supervisor*

# ***This Project... is for the Birds***

## **New Transfer Station Initiative Needs Your Help**

The New London Public Works Department's Transfer Station team and the New London Conservation Commission have joined our feathered friends at the Bird Feeder Tree in a new, ***This Project Is For The Birds*** Initiative.

A program has been established that will provide a consistent and reliable supply of bird food through improved planning and Transfer Station user participation. Please feel free to help support this project by dropping off a pound or two of bird seeds when you next visit. Please use recyclable bags.

Thanks to all who have helped with this new project.

*-The Birds*

# ***Election Volunteers Needed***

Join Us in Ensuring Smooth Elections

Volunteer for three-hour shifts throughout the election day, assisting voters and making a difference in your community.

Learn More: [Elections@NewLondon.NH.gov](mailto:Elections@NewLondon.NH.gov)

Ready to Jump In: [Sign Up Today](#)

# ***Yard Waste Rules***

New Changes Took Effect January 1, 2026

The Little Lake Sunapee, Messer Pond, Otter Pond and Pleasant Lake Protective Associations want to alert residents of an amended law effective January 1, prohibiting yard waste from being disposed of into surface waters. We appreciate your cooperation and efforts to keep our lakes and ponds clean and healthy.

# ATTENTION

## NEW LONDON RESIDENTS

The following positions for Elected Officials are to be voted upon at the Town Election on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

To view elected officials with terms expiring in 2026: [Click Here](#).

### **Board of Selectmen**

3-Year Term, Elect 1

### **Town Moderator**

2-Year Term, Elect 1

### **Supervisor of the Checklist**

6-Year Term, Elect 1

### **Trustee of the Trust Funds**

3-Year Term, Elect 1

### **Budget Committee**

3-Year Term, Elect 3

### **Cemetery Commissioner**

3-Year Term, Elect 1

### **Tracy Library Trustee**

3-Year Term, Elect 2

Filing period for all positions is Wednesday, January 21 – Friday, January 30, 2026.

Declarations of Candidacy may be obtained on our website, visiting the Town Clerk's office at 375 Main Street, calling (603) 526-1244 or emailing [W.Kidder@NewLondon.NH.gov](mailto:W.Kidder@NewLondon.NH.gov) starting January 21. The Town Clerk's office will be open until 5:00pm on the last day of filing. Any candidate filing on the last day must file in person.



# The Elkins Bandstand

## A Community Treasure Through Time

Nestled in Willow Park, the Elkins Bandstand has long been a symbol of music, celebration, and community spirit in New London's Elkins village. Its story spans more than a century, marked by generosity, resilience, and tradition.

The first bandstand in Elkins was likely built around 1900, thanks to the generosity of Sarah Elkins (1842–1929), who lived across Main Street from Willow Park. While documentation is scarce, local historians believe her funding made the early structure possible. It quickly became a centerpiece for summer concerts and festive gatherings.

Leon Bickford, in *Reflections in a Millpond*, recalls the lively scene:

*“Across the street from this house and the Masonic Hall was Willow Park, the bandstand, and the wooden sidewalk... The willows were large trees bordering the park... The bandstand was used for band concerts held at certain intervals during the summer, especially on July 4th when most years there was some sort of parade.”*

These concerts and parades were cherished traditions, often featuring decorated hayracks, horns, whistles, and singing as the celebrations wound through Elkins and beyond.

The original bandstand stood for decades until the devastating New England Hurricane of September 1938 swept through, destroying the structure and altering the landscape of Willow Park.

Nearly fifty years later, the community rallied to restore this beloved landmark. In honor of the Scytheville/Elkins Sesquicentennial, fundraising began in 1981. The most memorable event was the “Bandstand Follies” show at Whipple Hall in October 1983—a spirited performance that brought neighbors together and raised significant funds. Additional support came from suppers, festivals, and local contributions.

In 1985, the new bandstand was dedicated and proudly stands in Willow Park as a testament to Elkins' enduring sense of community. Today, it continues its tradition with summer concerts and community events, echoing the music and memories of generations past.

*Top Photo: “Bandstand Follies” the 1983 Town Hall show to raise money for the replacement of the Elkins Bandstand that was destroyed in the hurricane of 1938. Photo courtesy of Janet MacMichael.*

*Middle Photo: The Elkins Bandstand dressed for the summer season.*

*Bottom Photo: Members of the Sesquicentennial Committee gathered at the new bandstand in 1994.*

# Lake Sunapee Protective Association



## **Protect Our Water Resources and Reduce the Salt!**

When managing snow and ice this winter:

- Use chloride-free ice melting alternatives to minimize impacts on water quality.
- Shovel & scrape regularly to minimize the need for salt — don't let the snow build up.
- Apply sand if needed for traction. Sand can be swept up and reused later.
- Apply ice melting products sparingly. A little goes a long way — you don't need to feel the crunch.
- If you use a snowplow service, support those who are Green SnowPro Certified.

Learn more at [lakesunapee.org/salt](https://lakesunapee.org/salt)

## **LSPA Educators Lead Winter Activities with Regional Schools**

From January through March, LSPA Environmental Educators Kathleen Stowell and Kayla Edmunds are leading winter ecology programs for schools throughout the region, including Sunapee Central Elementary, KRES Bradford, Sutton Central, and Kearsarge Regional Middle School.

During these programs, they take students, from kindergarten through middle school, outdoors to explore winter habitats, identify trees and wildlife tracks, and observe seasonal changes happening in their own backyards. Through hands-on activities and games, students learn about wildlife behavior and how animals adapt to New Hampshire's cold winters, discovering the unique traits that help them survive.

Learn more about LSPA's education programs at [lakesunapee.org/lspa-education](https://lakesunapee.org/lspa-education)



## UPCOMING LSPA EVENTS

**JAN  
28**

### Winter Seed Sowing Workshop

Wednesday, January 28 | 10:00-11:30 am

LSPA Center for Lake Studies - 63 Main Steet, Sunapee, NH

Join LSPA staff to learn a unique early seed sowing method using native plants. Participants will create mini-greenhouses, sow native seeds to take home, and learn how to care for and plant seedlings once they germinate. The workshop will also highlight how native plants help protect water quality and watershed health.

**Space is limited – register today! Visit: [lakesunapee.org/events](https://lakesunapee.org/events)**

**MAR  
03**

### Regional Lakes Meeting: Analyzing & Interpreting Trends in Water Quality Data

Tuesday, March 3 | 3:00-5:00 pm

LSPA Center for Lake Studies - 63 Main Steet, Sunapee, NH

This meeting is for members of regional lake and pond associations and anyone interested in learning more about how lake water quality data are collected, analyzed, and used. Teriko MacConnell, LSPA's Water Quality Lab Director at Colby-Sawyer College, will provide an overview of LSPA's long-standing involvement with the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) and explain what common water quality parameters tell us about lake health. Alyssa Spencer, Burkehaven Fellow and GIS Analyst at LSPA, will discuss how LSPA is modernizing the way long-term data are managed, mapped, and shared, and how these tools help connect volunteer-collected data to broader lake, watershed, and statewide patterns.

**Register to attend: [lakesunapee.org/events](https://lakesunapee.org/events)**

# Assessing Update

with Kristen McAllister, Chief Assessor  
and Jonathan Waldie, Assistant Assessor

Thank you to all the selected\* property owners for being receptive in allowing the Assessing Office to visit your property to verify our records are accurate, without good data, future revaluations could be flawed, nobody wants that. We would like to maintain a regular cycle of property visits, so all property is visited once every five years, it is considered best practice in the assessing industry.

If you have made significant interior renovations, without a building permit, it's important we know this. If you sold your property as renovated, but our data shows the home as dated, that could skew future revaluation results for your neighbors.

It is our solemn belief that if we, the assessors, were actually aware of all property improvements and changes to property (unpermitted), everyone in the community would pay less in taxes.

Hear Ye- To all property owners who have obtained a building permit in the last year, or work was incomplete as of April 1, 2025. We are ramping up to visit and inventory those property changes. We are unable to make appointments for these visits, since we have a very short window to inventory approximately 750 new and incomplete permits within New London, Newbury and Sunapee.

If you have questions or concerns regarding our coming visit, please e-mail [Assessor2@NewLondon.NH.Gov](mailto:Assessor2@NewLondon.NH.Gov)

*\*Selected- are those properties that have not been visited by assessors in five years or more.*

# March Election & Town Meeting

## Town Election

Tuesday, March 10 | 7:00am - 7:00pm

Whipple Memorial Town Hall - 25 Seamans Road, New London, NH

Vote for town elected offices and zoning amendments—your voice matters!

## Town Meeting

Wednesday, March 18 | 6:00pm

Dan and Kathleem Hogan Sports Center  
Colby-Sawyer College - 541 Main Street, New London, NH

This is where residents come together to discuss and vote on the town budget and warrant articles. It's democracy in action—neighbors working together to shape the future of our community.

# Staying Informed and Connected During an Emergency

Louis H. Botta, Emergency Management Director

Just a few weeks ago, the Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee area experienced a severe ice storm. We had from half inch to three-quarter inch of ice over most surfaces. Almost 60% of town structures lost power, including our Town Hall and Police Department, and one of the main sewer pumps suffered a power surge. As if the proverbial “Murphy” wanted to teach us a lesson, backup generators at Town Hall and Police did not start. We activated the Emergency Operations Center and met at the Fire Station. Eversource responded quickly to our request for power restoration, and electrical power to our buildings was restored within a few hours, allowing us to open a warming shelter the next day. It was a reminder of the ice storms of 1998 and 2008.

Fortunately, a significant percentage of residences in New London have backup generators. People checked on each other throughout the storm. The years-going Eversource mitigation efforts clearing trees from the power lines and rights of way, paid off handsomely as even though we had many power lines down due to trees and debris, it allowed first responders to tackle these power interruptions promptly. Without the multi-year mitigation work, the damage from the storm could have been much worse.

This recent ice storm was a good reminder that communications during a disaster are extremely important. When severe weather strikes, one of the first things we often lose is reliable information. Power outages, downed cell towers, overloaded networks, and impassable roads can leave people unsure of what is happening—or what they should do next.

Yet accurate, timely information is one of the most powerful tools we have in an emergency.



*Continued on next page.*



### **Know Where to Get Trusted Information**

During an ice storm or other major event, rumors can spread quickly. Rely on trusted, official sources for updates:

- Town of New London [website](#) and official social media pages
- Town of New London Emergency Information Line at (603) 526-9444
- Local radio stations, which often remain operational during outages
- NOAA Weather Radio, especially valuable when internet and cell service fail
- New London Police and Fire Department announcements
- New Hampshire Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) alert

A battery-powered or hand-crank radio should be part of every household's emergency kit.

### **Understand How Communications May Change**

During widespread outages:

- Voice calls may fail while text messages still go through
- Internet access may be intermittent or unavailable
- Emergency responders may prioritize life-threatening calls only

This is normal during large-scale disasters. Planning ahead reduces anxiety and confusion.

*Continued on next page.*

## ***Sign Up for Alerts***

Early awareness allows you to act before conditions deteriorate. If you have not already, we encourage residents to:

- Register for local emergency alerts at [State of NH Alerts](#)
- Enable Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your mobile phone
- Monitor weather forecasts closely during winter storm season

### ***How to Check/Enable WEA Alerts (if needed)***

For iPhone: Go to Settings > Notifications, scroll down to “Government Alerts,” and ensure “Emergency Alerts” and “Public Safety Alerts” are toggled on.

For Android: Check your Settings > Notifications or Messages app for “Wireless Emergency Alerts” or “Emergency Alerts” to manage them.

### ***Key Things to Remember***

- Phone Capability: Most phones newer than 2012 are WEA-capable.
- Location Matters: You only get alerts for your real-time location or areas you’re passing through.

## ***Use Communications Wisely***

During emergencies:

- Keep calls brief to preserve battery life
- Avoid unnecessary 911 calls—use it only for true emergencies
- Check on neighbors in person when it is safe to do so

Sometimes the most reliable communication is a knock on the door.

## ***Preparedness Brings Calm***

When you know where to get information and what to expect, emergencies become more manageable. Staying informed helps you make good decisions for your family—and helps emergency services focus on those who need help most.

In the next article, we will discuss how to stay safe inside your home during extended winter power outages, when heat, electricity, and water systems may be disrupted for days.



# IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!



## FOAM RECYCLING 101



### TOWN OF NEW LONDON STYROFOAM COLLECTION DAY **\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\***

TRANSFER STATION

1213 NEWPORT ROAD NEW LONDON

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2026

9:00AM – NOON



#6 FOAM COOLERS



MUST HAVE #6 SYMBOL



CLEAN MEAT & PRODUCE TRAYS



EGG CARTONS



PACKING BLOCKS



CLEAN #6 PLATES & CUPS



NO PACKING



NO DIRTY FOAM



NO PIPE

CAN INCLUDE	DO NOT INCLUDE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All sized coolers (remove tape and labels)</li> <li>✓ Meat &amp; produce trays (incl. black)</li> <li>✓ Egg cartons (any color)</li> <li>✓ Packing blocks around furniture/appliances/electronics</li> <li>✓ Plates and cups</li> <li>✓ Food clam shells or trays</li> <li>✓ Coffee cups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Pipe insulation</li> <li>✗ Bubble wrap or thin foam wrap</li> <li>✗ Items without a #6 recycle symbol</li> <li>✗ Packing peanuts</li> <li>✗ Soft or squishy foam</li> <li>✗ Dirty foam food containers</li> <li>✗ Eggcrate foam layer</li> <li>✗ Craft foam</li> <li>✗ Foam board insulation</li> </ul>

*Expanded polystyrene (#6 plastic) is commonly known as foam or Styrofoam.*

*All items brought for foam recycling MUST BE RINSED AND CLEAN, with no food particles or liquids.*



## BECOME A K9 VILO SUPPORTER

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable: Town of New London K9 Fund  
Mail to: 375 Main Street, New London, NH 03257



## MUNICIPAL MATTERS

This newsletter is published by the staff of the Town of New London.

**ASHLEY SEYBOLD**  
*Town Administrator*  
(603) 526-1240

## RANDOM FACT

The town of New London has a total area of ~25.4 sq. miles, of which ~22.3 sq. miles are land and ~3.1 sq. miles are water.

NOW YOU KNOW

We ♥ our  
Volunteers

## Looking for: Election Volunteers

Join Us in Ensuring Smooth Elections  
Volunteer for three-hour shifts throughout  
the election day, assisting voters and  
making a difference in your community.

**Want to find out more? email:**  
elections@newlondon.nh.gov

**Ready to jump in?**  
Fill out our volunteer interest  
form: [HERE](#)