

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Summer 2015

Selectmen's Office
(603)456-2298 ext. 2
selectboard@warner.nh.us

Monday - Wednesday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
www.warner.nh.us

Jim Bingham
Town Administrator
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administrator@warner.nh.us

From the Town Administrator

As I left a committee meeting dealing with Emergency Management for our town I realized that Emergency Management has vastly different meanings depending on who you talk to. I have learned that residents hold a range of ideas of how well the town is prepared and how soon they expect to receive aid in the event of an emergency, particularly a public emergency. Despite the dedication and commitment of town employees, officials and volunteers, the limitations of resources, information and manpower in a small town like Warner makes responding to a large scale emergency very challenging.

A key source needed by our emergency personnel to meet citizens' needs during a major emergency is up-to-date accurate information. Here is where you can help! The town has several programs for residents to provide information critical to first responders so they can provide effective, and timely aid and communication. You can and should do each of the following to insure that you are not overlooked when a disaster strikes:

Reverse 911 – this service sends alert messages to residents' home phones about any emergency that may affect them. You can register your cell phone to receive the same alerts at the same time. (Register on Town website – www.warner.nh.us located under the Town Bulletin Board)

E-Alerts – confidentially submit your email address to receive emails alerting you to an emergency. When an emergency is occurring you will receive critical reports about the emergency and what resources are available to you to deal with it. (Details and registration is on the town website front page, left panel)

Functional Needs Assessment (FNA) – During a disaster or emergency, people with functional needs due to medical condition or impairment require specialized emergency assistance. If you or someone you know needs this special assistance, please fill out the FNA form, which is available at the Library and town offices. This information will enable first responders to quickly identify these individuals and

provide the assistance they need sooner. Please contact Ed Mical, Emergency Management Director (603-748-0560) or the Warner Police Department (603-456-3433) for assistance.

911 Street Signage - Your House # at your roadside is critical and yes, I know it goes against some people's idea of privacy, but I have heard many stories of rescue personnel wasting precious moments driving their EMT vehicles up and down roads searching for the house of a frantic 911 caller and not finding it in time to save a life. Your name is not needed but your house #, seen plainly from the street. This is so important that there is a town ordinance for it. Please help us by cooperating with the Warner Fire Department in this matter.

Emergency Management Department – visit this department on the town website and read up on what you can do for yourself to be prepared in case of an emergency. Ed Mical, our Emergency Management Director is ready and available to consult with you or answer any of your questions.

These are five actions you can take to assure that the dedicated volunteers can reach you and help you in an emergency. It is your part in the town emergency management plan.

From Planning Board

This past March an amendment to the existing Home Occupation section in the Town of Warner Zoning Ordinance was approved by voters. The introduction of the section is as follows:

The Town of Warner recognizes that some citizens utilize their residence for limited business use; however the Town believes that it is important to protect the residential character of its neighborhoods. Therefore, the purpose of this section is to allow a limited business use in a residential area only to the extent that the business use does not detract from the appearance, character or condition of the residence or surrounding area.

The existing Home Occupation requirements were consolidated into one section and clarifications were added

to better define the extent of Home Occupation. There are situations where a Public Hearing may be required as part of the approval process, however often the use only requires an application without a fee. An application might not even be required for some home office, hand craft creation, and telecommuting uses which are not considered to be a Home Occupation by the Ordinance. Please view the complete requirements for Home Occupation in the Warner Zoning Ordinance Article IV P which can be viewed on the Town Website under the Regulations/Publications tab or may be viewed at the Land Use Office. Existing Home Occupation uses not yet approved by the Planning Board should contact the Land Use Office. Application forms if required may be obtained from the Land Use Office or from the Town Website. Home Occupations can have a significant impact on the character of a community so your cooperation is much appreciated.

Also, in the foreseeable future, the Planning Board will be holding Public Hearings to listen to comments on proposed revisions to the Town of Warner Subdivision Regulations and Site Plan Review Regulations. Notice will be posted in advance at the Town Hall, Post Office, Town website, and in the Concord Monitor.

From the School Board by Joe Mendola

Much has happened at the school district this last quarter. We have had retirements of key personnel and replacement with some very competent people.

First, after 9 years of being on the School Board, Dan Wolf has decided not to seek re-election from Newbury and has stepped down as the School Board Chairperson. Ken Bartholmew, one of our representatives to the School Board, was elected chairperson.

Jerry Frew, our Superintendent for the past 7 years has retired to spend more time with his family. We thank Jerry for his service to the school district and wish him well. Winfried Feneberg, the former Superintendent in the Windham, NH. school district was appointed our new Superintendent starting July 1. Mr. Feneberg brings a strong set of credentials to this position. I know we all wish him well in overseeing a program of educational excellence for our school district.

Mr. Todd Fleury, our former School Board Representative from Springfield, has been appointed to the position of Director of Facilities. Todd has been a facilities director of a large corporation in the Upper Valley. Todd replaces Mike doCorrel who has taken a position closer to his home in south eastern Massachusetts. We thank Mike for his excellent service to our district and welcome Todd as our new Director of Facilities.

We have had a number of changes at the principal level also. Mr. Rob Bennett was the interim high school principal and

has been selected as the permanent principal for this coming year. Mr. Bazos retired as an assistant principal at the High school and Ms. Amanda Downing was selected to replace him this coming school year.

Don West retired this year as the principal of the Middle School after 27 years of service to our school district. We wish him well in his future endeavors. Mr. Stephen Paterson was selected to be the new principal at the Middle School. Mr. Paterson comes with great credentials and should serve our students and the district well. Mr. Percy Hill has retired from the Middle School Assistant Principal position and we wish him well. We thank him for his service to our district. Ms. Paula Mercier was appointed Assistant Principal at the Middle school.

Ms. Judith Pellettieri has also retired from the Principal post at our Simonds Elementary School. Ms. Pellettieri has brought our elementary school to a position on educational excellence during her tenure as principal. We thank her for her service and wish her well. Ms. Laura Stoneking has been selected as the new Principal of our elementary school. She also comes to us with fine credentials and should serve our community well.

Much is being discussed at the school board level this year. One of our major goals is to re-invite parents back into a partnership with our professional educators to achieve educational excellence for our college and career ready students. We need parents back into the educational process, especially at the middle and high school level, if we are going to have our young people compete effectively in the new globalized economy we now live in. I invite parents and community members to go to the Kearsarge School District web site; [www. Kearsarge.org](http://www.Kearsarge.org) and go down the left column to the School Board goals. Go to Section K and view the first policy statement "KA" to view the relationship needed by parents to partner with our educators this coming year.

There is also a lively conversation about issues related to grading and an educational theory called Competency Based Education (CBE). I invite everyone to come to our School Board meetings and learn more about these issues. Our meetings are posted on the Kearsarge web site and are on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Our next scheduled meeting of the School board is on August 6th. If anyone has any specific questions about these or other educational issues, please feel free to call me at 496-4512 or 456-2233.

Welcome to all of our new residents to Warner who have young people entering our schools for the first time.

From the Assessing Office

An update on the 2015 Revaluation; the informal hearings have been held and letters in response to the hearings were mailed on July 7, 2015. The assessment cards with the new

values should be available by mid- August. We encourage every property owner to come and get a copy of their new assessment card and review it. The value of the Town does appear to have decreased, but the true value of the Town is unknown until around mid-August when all new values will be in the computer. If the Town's value does decrease that may cause the new tax rate to be higher in the fall. If you have any questions please contact the Assessing Office at 456-2298 ext.3 or e-mail to assess@warner.nh.us. Office Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8am – 1pm.

From the Budget Committee

We will soon begin the process of preparing a 2016 budget which will be presented to the residents of Warner at the town meeting in March 2016.

At our next meeting, August 13th (Thursday night at 7:00 PM) we will be reviewing the 2015 town expenditures to date and discussing our goals for next year's budget. In recent years we have been able to hold increases in the operating budget to a bare minimum. To continue this trend for 2016's budget will be extremely challenging.

The many departments of the town will soon be making their budget requests for next year. Any requested increases will be examined with consideration both to the consequence to the taxpayer and to the services provided by the town. It is a daunting task with many varied proposals coming forward from the Selectman, Town Administrator, Department Heads and Warner Residents.

The Budget Committee has seven members with varying opinions on what Warner needs, what the tax payers want, and the priority that each expenditure rates. Many times we are working in somewhat of a vacuum, not really knowing what most residents want. The final analysis is our committee's best guess.

In order to achieve a budget that best reflect the wishes of the town we are appealing to the public to attend our meetings which are always open for public comment. We work for you!

Our meetings are posted at the town hall and on the town website. Click on "Meetings", "Schedules" then Budget Committee". For the upcoming agenda go to "Meetings" - "Agendas" then "Budget". Hope to see you there!

From the Pillsbury Free Library

LCHIP Grant Matching Funds Fundraising Activities: A thank you to the Circle of Friends of the Pillsbury Free Library and many others for participating in the April Town Hall Flea Market, which raised over \$800 for the library.

The Pillsbury Free library is featured in an article in the Summer newsletter of the NH Library Trustees Association. You can find it on the home web page of nhlta.com.

If you would like to help with the library's annual **Book and Bake Sale** held during the Warner Fall Foliage Festival in October, it is not too soon to offer to help with publicity, book sorting, set up or sales. It IS too early to bring your donated books, CDs and DVDs however! We just don't have enough storage space, so please wait until October to bring items.

The Circle of Friends invites any library "friends" to join the group (pick up a flyer in the Library or contact Carol McCausland, at 456-2393 or mea1012@aol.com). There is no fee to join.

Online Language Learning System: Brush up your skills or learn a new language with Transparent Language Online. If you have not yet tried it, please visit our website and follow the link to create your free account. REGISTER online using your library card number and try it!

Children's Summer Program: Theme is "Every Hero has a Story". 44 children have registered as of July 10. Activities are on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 1:30 PM except for a performance for all ages on Tuesday July 28 at 7 PM of Robin Hood by the Hampstead Stage Company, on the stage at Warner Town Hall. There will be an end of summer family potluck picnic for participants on Wednesday August 19 at 5:30 PM. For details call 456-2289 or visit our website <http://www.warner.lib.nh.us/kids/summer-programs>. A special "thank you" to our local heroes Sergeant Ron Carter and Deputy Fire Chief Sean Toomey who agreed to be participants in the summer program activity schedule.

Free Museum Passes: Use links at warner.lib.nh.us/museum-passes to find exhibits, hours etc.

McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (& Planetarium): During school weeks, the center is only open Thurs-Sunday, 10 AM to 5 PM and also 6:30-8:00 PM on Fridays.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston: MFA coupons reduce the entrance fee to \$10 per person.

Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester: Free entry for up to 4 adults and unlimited children per day (2 adults per pass).

Museum of New Hampshire History: NH. Free entry, includes free parking and 10% discount in the Museum store.

Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum: Free entry for up to 4 people per day. May through mid-October.

The Fells/John Hay National Wildlife Refuge: Free entry to this historic estate & gardens on Lake Sunapee.

The New Hampshire Telephone Museum: Free entry for up to 4 people per day to this charming history museum includes free parking and entry to the Warner Firefighters' Museum by appointment.

Watch for announcements on the Town's website (www.warner.nh.us)!
Sailors from USS Kearsarge will be visiting Warner
at the end of August beginning of September

