

Newbury, New Hampshire, and its Library

Newbury is a vibrant community located in southwestern New Hampshire, midway between Concord to the southeast and Hanover/Lebanon to the northwest. The population of 2100 doubles in the summer with vacation home owners and visitors who enjoy the recreational activities available on beautiful Lake Sunapee, one of New Hampshire's larger lakes. Mount Sunapee Resort is also in Newbury, offering skiing in winter as well as an adventure park, mini-golf and hiking in the summer.

The Fells, Secretary of State John Hay's historic estate, offers nature programs for young and old, beautiful gardens, hiking trails, and is well known for Christmas at the Fells. Cultural programs are periodically offered at the Center Meeting House. Newbury's proximity to New London offers access to Colby Sawyer College activities, an excellent summer theater as well as restaurants and shopping. Students attend the schools in the Kearsarge Regional School District.

Functioning as a town gathering place, Newbury Library is a vital community resource that is much appreciated by the town. Programs for adults and children are offered year round, including a weekly story hour for the youngest children. The library prides itself on its welcoming, service-oriented atmosphere. Borrowing privileges are extended to summer visitors, and patrons can access materials throughout the state. Computers and high speed wifi are available to patrons. The Friends of the Library are supportive of programs and materials.

Current staff includes a full time director and a part time reference librarian who manages circulation and inter-library loan. Teen interns work on a part-time basis, as do library volunteers. The assistant director/youth services position has just been vacated and must be filled.

Newbury Public Library is open 6 days, 41 hours a week, including some evenings and weekends. The collection consists of over 17,000 items, and the library participates in the state's downloadable e-book program (Overdrive). The circulation software is Apollo.

The library building is about 16 years old, with the exception of the children's room, which was the original library built in 1963. An expansion is in the town capital improvement plan. Located adjacent to the town offices, the library is a source of pride for townspeople and is supported at town meeting time. A children's playground is a short walk away. The Veteran's Hall across the street offers program space for larger library and town events.