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Important Links

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Score Small Business Hub

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*NH Division of Economic
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Newington Business
Portal

**Find resources and
information about the
Newington Business**

COVID-19 continues to impact our business community. Please visit the links to State Resources to see the most up to date information.

Restaurants in Newington

Newington is home to several restaurants and a brewery and the town understands your need for our support to continue to be resilient during this pandemic. Real estate, construction and some other Newington industries have surged during this past year, while lodging, restaurants and movie theaters suffered immeasurable losses.

Stoneface Brewery, IHOP, Texas Roadhouse, Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse, Chipotle, and Buffalo Wild Wings are just some of the many restaurant owners that dug in, pivoted to takeout services, outdoor dining and stayed positive. IHOP has been in Newington since 1999 and we appreciate how they and others have weathered many storms over the past 20 years, including this pandemic. The Mall at Fox Run has several restaurants in the food court that are suffering from the pandemic as well as the restrictions that were put on retail shopping. Masks are still required for employees and patrons, even if they have been vaccinated. The State has some assistance for restaurants having difficulties enforcing the mask requirements. Recently, the State adjusted the regulations and capacities can be increased. Some of the popular activities such as pool, darts and karaoke can resume with restrictions in place.

The Economic Development Committee has submitted an article for the Town's E-Newsletter encouraging our residents to support our restaurants. We recognize that you have been working harder to meet the guidelines and making changes to your HVAC systems for increased safety and we appreciate those efforts. We continue to monitor the actions being taken at the State in regards to the businesses and industries in town. Businesses need to continue to be creative and adapt because no matter how many people are vaccinated, business will not go back to "normal" for a while. SB 66-FN is legislation regarding outdoor dining and has passed the Senate to extend outdoor seating for dining through 2023.

Thank you for your hard work during these challenging times.

Upper Turning Basin Project

MAJOR NAVIGATION & SAFETY PROJECT FOR NEWINGTON'S WORKING WATERFRONT RECEIVES FULL FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION & FUNDING

The Town recently received some welcomed good news from the NH Congressional Delegation via the PDA's Division of Ports and Harbors. A long sought \$18.2M US Army Corps of Engineers project to widen the Upper Turning Basin at the terminus of the federally designated Piscataqua River shipping channel, proximate to the Sprague River Rd Marine Terminal, has been funded and included in the Corps 2021 Work Plan.

Tankers carrying petroleum products, including liquified propane gas, along with bulk or special purpose cargo ships calling at Newington's marine terminals and industries, utilize the Basin with the assistance of tugs to reverse direction to return to sea after discharging or loading their cargos. The narrow width of the existing Turning Basin presents a significant safety risk with resulting navigation restrictions that impact the ships calling in Newington. Currently, through the demonstrated skill and professionalism of the Portsmouth Pilots, ships up to 764 ft in length are being turned in the Basin with risk of a grounding that could potentially block the river with possible resulting damage to vessels, their crews and the environment.

The Project involves the removal of 728,000 cu yds of dredged material as well as an anticipated 25,000 cu yds of ledge from the River bottom so as to widen the existing Turning Basin. The widening from 800 ft to 1200 ft will greatly improve navigation safety and allow the lifting of transit restrictions which will potentially increase the competitive efficiency and capacity of Newington's up-river marine terminals, including the two Sprague facilities, Sea-3, and the Subcom cable loading facility.

The need for the Project was first validated in a 1987 Navigation Safety Improvement Study undertaken by the Corps. The limited funding available for such projects nationwide is highly competitive. Many years of effort, including multiple letters detailing the need to prioritize the project, from the Port Director Geno Marconi, Portsmouth Harbor Pilots and the Port Advisory Board, along with earlier letters of support from Newington's Board of Selectmen, were required to obtain the Corps commitment to undertake the Project. The NH Congressional Delegation's pursuit of authorization, funding, and priority for construction, culminated in a flurry of activity at year end, including Senator Shaheen's direct contact with the Secretary of the Army and the responsible Associate Director at the Office of Management and Budget to ensure the Project was included in the Army Corps FY 2021 Work Plan.

The last hurdle that remains for the commencement of the project by the Corps will be the release of the \$7.6M previously appropriated by the NH Legislature for the State's required non-federal cost share of the Project. It is anticipated that the project, perhaps along with some maintenance dredging in the federal channel in the area known as the Simplex Reach in proximity to the Subcom facility, could be done within the fiscal year.

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Business Spotlight - Custom Pools

As the weather starts to show signs of Spring, many people start to think about opening their pools or putting in a new pool. Likely, the first company that Seacoast residents think about for a pool is Custom Pools, and Newington is pleased to have had them in town since 1972.

Custom Pools is a third-generation small family business that was created in 1968 on Route 1 in Portsmouth across from the Saint James church. They moved to Newington, building the main facility in 1972, and continued to grow adding buildings for the mechanics and tile. The original building was later expanded to add offices and the showroom.

The company was started by Eugene and Beatrice Short (who are married 67 years now) and have retired to Florida. Then the company was run by their two sons, Brian and David Short. And now the company is currently in transition from Brian Short to his two children, Darrel Short and Kelsey Adams. Custom Pools typically employ 25-30 workers during the winter season and during summer, they employ around 45 people. A key to their success is the loyalty of their employees, with many staying 30 years and longer.

Custom Pools has been a growing business and to date have sold and custom built 4700 pools, and refurbished over 750 pools. Kelsey Adams told us that they have brought many visions to life- from guitar-shaped pools to a pool with a cave in it. They even made NH history with creating the first swimming pool that is converted into an ice-skating rink in the winter months.

Newington is proud to say that Custom Pools is part of their business community.

Apprenticeships

Employers: Are you looking to increase your profits by hiring skilled workers?
Students and Job Seekers: Are you looking for training and education to earn higher wages in local industries?

Great Bay Community College's Apprenticeship NH can help employers, job seekers and students. To date, the program has worked with 35 employers, 5 industries and 16 occupations including machinists, medical occupations, HVAC technicians, cooks and more to train 202 apprentices.

There are resources and funding available to employers, as well as customized corporate training and programs. Contact Sean Clancy at sclancy@ccsnh.edu.

Subscribe

The Economic Development Committee is sending this newsletter out periodically to all businesses via email. If you are a new business, or have new contact information and would like to receive this newsletter, please email us at: kanderson@townofnewingtonnh.com