Get Outside and Give Back: Newmarket Roadside Cleanup

Spring is the perfect time to freshen up more than just your home. Join your neighbors for the **Newmarket Roadside Cleanup** on **Sunday, April 26** and help make our community a little cleaner and a lot brighter.
Stop by the **Newmarket Public Library between 9–11am** to pick up bags, a road assignment, and instructions — then complete your section by end of day. No sign-up required, just show up ready to pitch in!
Rain date: Sunday, May 3 Questions? Contact Toni Weinstein at toniweinstein@gmail.com.



Give blood. Save lives.

The Newmarket Polish American Club is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a community blood drive this April. Every donation has the potential to save up to three lives — and right here in Newmarket, you have the chance to make that happen. Whether it's your first time donating or you're a seasoned regular, your contribution matters more than ever.



SLOW and STEADY WINS THE RACE TO TURTLE FEST 2026

The Newmarket Conservation Commission launched a multi-phased event called "Conservation Connections" in 2020. With fifty attendees and twenty-five participants in a guided tour, the commission was grateful for the strong interest in the presentations. Richie Shelton spoke about Schoppmeyer Park's history and boat launch, the library on "Story Walks" that bring families out on town trails, and Richard Lutz's overview of birdwatching in the area. The planning group earned a "Best Of" award from the Newmarket Business Association. After a COVID hiatus, the commission's revitalized inaugural Turtle Fest last year will feature vibrant outreach on Saturday, May 9, for Turtle Fest '26!
The format remains the same, with a keynote presentation by Lyndsay Butler, Town Engineer, on road construction considerations for turtles and increasing vehicle and wildlife habitat safety. Ash Swamp Road, an essential thoroughfare, highlights engineers' consideration of new research in habitat protection with increased vehicular traffic. This year's event begins with Ash Swamp updates, successful grant applications, and upcoming developments. Turtle Fest '26 expands its vision to include other aspects of wildlife in healthy habitats. Tail Winds will present about birds, appealing to birders and those curious about the skies and trees. A breakout session offers content-rich presentations by Heidi Holman, NH Fish and Game, and Richard Lutz, a returning avid birder. Morning presentations allow young attendees to create crafts sponsored by Heather Hatada-Boyd, the Children's Librarian, with high school students volunteering their skills.

This full-spectrum event caters to everyone and provides opportunities to meet and mingle with like-minded individuals interested in the environment. Sponsors, who donate time, materials, and financial support, play a crucial role in bringing the event to life. Attendees can learn about the businesses' roles in boosting Newmarket's viability as a nature-based community. The Conservation Commission also provides space for organizations to share their roles and activities based on ecological or environmental volunteer services or non-profit affiliations.
Turtle Fest is free and open to all. The day begins with a birders' walk at Wiggin Farm at 7 AM, led by Richard Lutz. Participants will see and hear spring migrants and resident birds. Lutz's walks cater to both beginners and advanced birders. Wiggin Farm is easy to park, open, and walk around. There's a picnic table and a bike rake, thanks to the Conservation Commission and the Department of Public Works.

After the walk, the indoor event starts at Jr Sr High School at 9 AM. There's coffee, snacks, and a chance to see support for Turtle Fest. The event concludes at noon with the raffle prize winners drawn. Participants can still join a guided walk to see vernal pools and early plants in the field. They'll meet in the high school parking lot and follow Mark West, Wetlands Scientist, to the starting point nearby.
Turtle Fest has a web page on the town website under the Conservation Commission for more details. We hope you'll support the event this year and plan for Turtle Fest '27. Buying raffle tickets helps grow the commission's donation to the NH Turtle Rescue League in Nottingham, NH. Raffle prizes are on display in the Town Hall and the library. The Newmarket Library staff and Director have shown their enthusiasm for Turtle Fest again.

No matter your level of participation, you'll enjoy May 9. Watch announcements from the Newmarket Public Library about their programming and outreach with Turtle Fest. You can see a real turtle and learn from experts about this amazing creature.



Bart McDonough, left, Town Planner and Community Development, with Ellen Snyder, Conservation Commissioner, are excited to share Turtle Fest '26 t-shirts and new this year-bandanas now on sale! Collecting merchandise featuring John Herman's art benefits conservation efforts in town. Both items are available for sale now, at the library and at the town hall. (And did you buy your raffle tickets yet?)