TOWN OF NEWMARKET NEW HAMPSHIRE

Understanding Newmarket's 2026 Town Meeting Voter's Guide

Your Voice in Local Government

The Town of Newmarket has prepared a comprehensive **Voter's Guide** for the **March 10, 2026** Town Meeting to help residents make informed decisions about the community's future. This guide breaks down every warrant article you'll vote on—from electing town officials to approving the annual budget, infrastructure projects, conservation initiatives, and important updates to the town charter.

What You'll Decide

At this year's Town Meeting, you'll make critical decisions that shape Newmarket for years to come. The warrant includes:

- **Officer Elections:** Town Council, Budget Committee, Planning Board, and other key positions.
- **Charter Amendments:** Eight proposed updates to modernize our local government structure.
- **FY27 Operating Budget:** A proposed **$18.4 million** budget.
- **Key Initiatives:** A new police union contract, infrastructure projects, and environmental conservation efforts.

Understanding the Budget

The proposed operating budget appears to decrease slightly from last year, but this is a technical shift:

- **Legal Requirement:** $1.3 million in Capital Reserve Fund contributions has been moved to a separate warrant article.
- **Total Investment:** Overall town investment remains consistent.
- **Tax Impact:** The estimated tax rate increase is just **$0.09 per $1,000** of assessed value. For a home valued at $400,000, this is an annual increase of approximately **$36**.
- **Grants:** Several projects have already secured state and federal funding, minimizing the local contribution required.

Why This Guide Matters

For each warrant article, this guide provides **neutral, factual information**, including:

- What the article does and its specific project details.
- The exact cost and tax impact.
- What happens if the article passes versus if it fails.
- Answers to frequently asked questions.

Note: The town cannot advocate for or against any article. Our goal is to ensure you have the tools to understand exactly what is on your ballot.

Important Dates & Contact Info

- **Election Day:** March 10, 2026
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- **Full Guide:** Available at newmarketnh.gov or at Town Hall.
- **Questions?** Contact the Town Manager's office at **(603) 659-3617**.

Newmarket Neighborhood Focus Groups

Newmarket, a town defined by its unique character, seeks to ensure that land use policies reflect the **vision** of its residents.

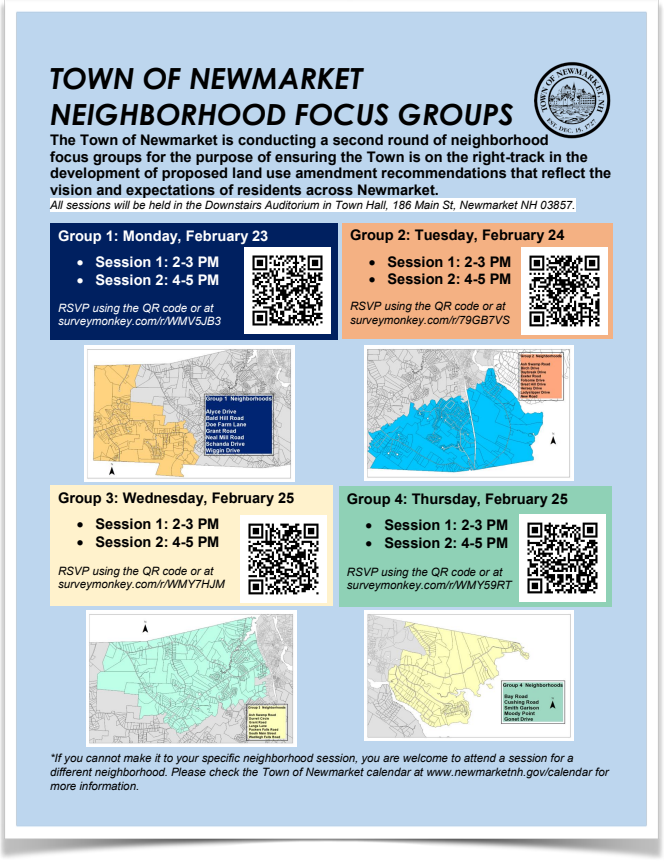
To achieve this, the Town of Newmarket announces a **second round of Neighborhood Focus Groups. Your participation is crucial.**

Focus group sessions are held in a central location (Downstairs Auditorium, Town Hall**,** 186 Main St, Newmarket, NH 03857)**.**

"**Your input is the blueprint for our community's growth. Join us to ensure Newmarket remains the town we all love."**

How to get involved:

- Check the Town of Newmarket Website for specific dates and times for your neighborhood.
- No prior experience in urban planning is required—just a passion for your community!



Meet Your 2026 Candidates: Newmarket's Local Election Lineup

With the filing period officially closed, Newmarket's 2026 local election ballot is set. This year, we see a mix of seasoned incumbents and fresh faces stepping up to serve our community. From overseeing our town's strategic growth on the Planning Board to managing our shared resources on the Budget Committee, these neighbors are vying for the opportunity to shape the future of Newmarket.

Below is the official list of candidates who have declared their intent to run for Town and School positions.

Town Council *Three-Year Term (3 Seats Available)*	Town Council *One-Year Term (1 Seat Available)*	Budget Committee *Three-Year Term (3 Seats Available)*	Budget Committee *Two-Year Term (2 Seats Available)*
Justin Glazebrook Scott Blackstone Sönke Dornblut	Stella McShera Chase Eagleson	Paul Govoni Toni Weinstein Al Zink	Alfred Medioli Nicholas Pereira

Budget Committee *One-Year Term (1 Seats Available)*	Planning Board *Three-Year Term (2 Seats Available)*	Planning Board *One-Year Term (1 Seats Available)*	Trustee of the Trust Fund *Three-Year Term (1 Seat Available)*
Lauren Kolifrath	William Arcieri Jane Ford Gary Ritter Jr.	Brittney Leal Valerie Shelton Chase Eagleson	Tiara Flanders

Trustee of the Trust Fund *Two-Year Term (1 Seat Available)*	Supervisor of the Checklist *Six-Year Term (1 Seat Available)*	School Board *Three-Year Term (1 Seat Available)*	School District Moderator *One-Year Term (1 Seat Available)*
Tim Chiou	Jamie DeStefano	Elizabeth Szeliga	Christopher D. Hawkins

School District Treasurer *One-Year Term (1 Seat Available)*	School District Clerk *One-Year Term (1 Seat Available)*
Annette Brousseau	Terri J. Littlefield

Newmarket Unplugged

On Saturday, March 7, Newmarket will join communities around the world in celebrating the Global Day of Unplugging. The goal of "Unplugged Day" is to disconnect from devices and reconnect with ourselves, loved ones and our community. You are invited to step away from technology for a few hours and enjoy a community day out. There will be opportunities to make art, dance, sing, play outside, meditate, write poetry, learn about our past, and more.... this event is sponsored by the Newmarket Elementary School PTA, the Newmarket Recreation Department, the Newmarket Arts, Culture and Tourism Commission, and many other local businesses and groups! A full schedule can be found on our website. Hope to see you there!



The Newmarket-Exeter Connector

The Newmarket-Exeter Connector simplifies travel between Newmarket and Exeter. Operated by **COAST**, this shared-ride service is open to everyone without applications or eligibility requirements. Book your seat and enjoy the ride!

Service Days & Hours:
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday*, and Saturday
- 9:30 AM – 5:15 PM

Friday service is a pilot program. Use it often to show the need for long-term support.

Fare:
- **$3.00 per boarding**
- **Cash:** Drivers accept exact change only
- COAST Demand Response Ticket

Where to Buy:
- Book a book of tickets from your driver ($30 cash)
- Visit the COAST Admin Office
- Online at coastbus.org/store

How to Schedule:
1. **Call ahead:** Book by **5:00 PM the business day before** your travel
2. **Plan in advance:** Schedule trips up to **2 weeks** ahead
3. **Regular commuter?** Ask about "standing orders" for recurring trips
4. **Stay flexible:** Your final pickup time may vary by up to an hour to efficiently serve group passengers. You'll receive an automated call or text with your finalized time.

COAST is closed on major holidays, including New Year's Day, MLK Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve/Day.



Three Months Until Turtle Fest '26 - Where are the Turtles Now?

Turtles, cold-blooded reptiles, rely on external heat sources to survive in winter. During warmer months, you may have seen them basking on logs in ponds, marshes, or the Great Bay. This behavior helps them warm up and counteract the cold. When they overheat, they submerge in water to cool down.

As winter approaches, water sources freeze and the ground is covered in snow. Turtles enter a state called brumation, a reptilian hibernation. Different turtles use various methods and locations for brumation. Snapping turtles may burrow in shallow mud in water or nest in hollow logs or leaf litter near water. In water, they enter a state of torpor, slowing down enough to survive beneath the ice.

Other turtles like Box and Painted Turtles seek land areas to burrow and wait out winter. As the earth warms and daylight increases, they return to their metabolic processes, peeking out from their burrows before fully emerging. During brumation, their body temperatures hover just above freezing, allowing them to remain healthy and inactive for 3-6 months.

As spring approaches, signs of turtle emergence become evident. Melting snow reveals colonies of Skunk Cabbage, which generates heat and causes the snow around it to melt first. This plant's emergence signals that turtles will begin to emerge from their burrows, hollow logs, or muddy banks.

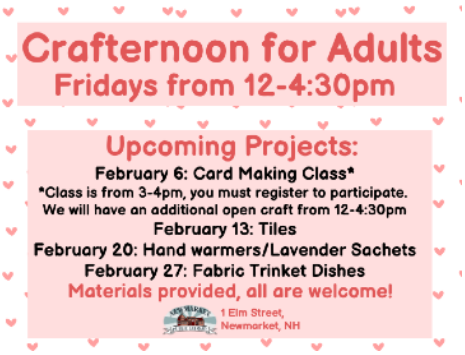
By Newmarket's Turtle Fest '26, turtles will be on the move, continuing their life cycles. Dedicated volunteers or municipal staff will reopen the New England traditional folded "Turtle Crossing" signs to guard safe crossings for nesting turtles. Newmarket displays open format signs year-round to ensure driver awareness and turtle habitat protection. If you see a turtle crossing the road, help it reach the side of the street where it was headed, but don't turn it around, as it will habitually return to its original location.

Turtle Fest '26 on May 9th has expanded its offerings to include presentations about turtle habitats. Start your day with a birdwatchers' walk led by Dick Lutz, a dynamic and experienced birder. After informative presentations, wind down with a walk to vernal pools and learn about the watershed. Enjoy lunch at a Newmarket restaurant, including the Stone Church, which will open its kitchen for lunch during the "Shell-abration" with donations accepted for an animal habitat preservation or rehabilitation non-profit.



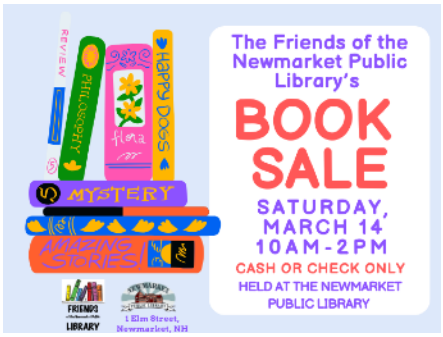
Feel like you're in brumation like our turtles, but we can warm up with a brisk walk, hearing the crunch of snow or appreciating the moody winter sky. Explore town trails or Great Bay!

Newmarket Public Library Events









Newmarket Public Library News

Stay Informed: Check Out All the Newmarket Library Has to Offer!

Check out the newmarketlibrary.org to stay up to date on upcoming events and services! We have so many great weekly and monthly programs, all are welcome.

We'd like to spotlight our Cultural Passes, sponsored by the Friends of the Newmarket Public Library! Pick up a pass and get a discounted admission to: Peabody Essex Museum, Bedrock Gardens, The Children's Museum of NH, Currier Museum of Art, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, NH State Parks Pass, Seacoast Science Center, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Strawbery Banke Museum, and the Woodman Museum. Visit newmarketlibrary.org for details or give us a call!!

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

Page Turners Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 2 pm. Books may be picked up at the front desk at the beginning of each month. No registration is necessary; just drop by!

DIGITAL RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY

Our digital library is open 24/7! Download Libby, Hoopla, and TumbleBook Library for ebooks, audiobooks, TV, movies, music, and more for free with your library card.

OPEN ART STUDIO FOR ALL AGES

Join us for Open Art Studio on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and Saturdays of the month! All ages and abilities are invited to drop-in anytime between 12-3pm. We supply the materials, a little inspiration, a theme and you tap into the artist within. Painting, beading, weaving, mobiles, and East Asian brushwork art forms are some of the art styles we will explore.

STORY-TIMES AT THE NEWMARKET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join Miss Heather for delightful stories, songs, and fun with friends! We have story-time three days a week:
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays at 10:30 AM.

Special Event:
Pajama Story-time: On the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM, come in your pajamas for a cozy evening of stories!

Introducing Messy Mondays! Join us after storytime at 11am for a fun, messy and creative activity at the Library! Challenge your child to explore new sensory experiences while learning in a familiar environment.

Newmarket Recreation Events







2026 Camp Wanna Iguana





Newmarket Community Notes

The Newmarket Community Church Wish List

Help Stock the Pantry! Newmarket Community Church has launched a new **Amazon Wish List** to better serve Newmarket and Newfields families.

- **High-Priority Needs:** Staple food items, soap, shampoo, and deodorant.
- **Why it matters:** These are essential items often unavailable through regional food banks.
- **Shop here:** https://a.co/iUDs2xM

137 Main St. Newmarket, NH NewmarketChurch.org



Support Newmarket Music



Save the Date: TURTLEFEST 2026 is Coming!



Umpire Clinic March 2026

Sign up here for our March umpire clinic. New and experienced umps ages 14+. Pre registration required Find all the info on our website here at: **https://nh.registerplay.com/pages/cms/umpires**

