

AROUND THE TOWN

Newmarket Around the Town

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NEWMARKET — Impact fees help offset the impact on infrastructure from new development.

The fees must be appropriated within six years of collection. In Newmarket some unused fees may have to be returned as of Oct. 25. Impact fees have a time limit for use; if they are not used they have to be paid back to the owner of record with interest, said Bruce Mayberry, the planning consultant who helped plan Newmarket's impact fee assessment. Newmarket's first fees were collected in 2001. In New Hampshire the impact fee program began in 1991, Mayberry said. About \$80,000 in impact fees are collected annually in Newmarket.

The fees assessed on new development go to schools, recreation, sewer and water. The fee amount is determined at the time the development is approved. Through November of last year \$263,354 was collected for schools, \$46,763 for recreation, \$87,558 for sewer and \$54,830 for water, Mayberry said.

Wojnowski appointed to state commission

The new town administrator has been appointed as the New Hampshire Municipal Association municipal official representative to a commission to study whether the state should create secure landfills for the disposal of dangerous or hazardous wastes including construction and demolition debris.

The 15-member commission will meet about two hours a month and create two reports on their findings over a four-year period. Ed Wojnowski wanted to get council approval because of possible time away from town duties, which he received. Council Chairman Brian Hart said that the opportunity would provide good exposure and contacts. Vice Chairwoman Dana Glennon confirmed that travel expenses would be covered by the state.

Curriculum changes

Math, reading and science curriculum changes start this fall at the elementary school. Everyday Math is in its third year at the school. For the first time the program will be used at all grade levels.

The program includes basic arithmetic plus problem solving, mental math, collecting and analyzing data, geometry, money and patterns. It provides materials and support for meeting higher expectations in the amount and range of math that students can learn. A new comprehensive reading program starts in kindergarten through third-grade this fall. The School Board approved the Scott Foresman Reading Street program this spring after two years of piloting it in classrooms, Principal Scott Thompson said. The program allows for greater across grade level coordination, he said. The program provides materials for above- and below-level readers with thematic connections to the grade level program.

There are also English as a Second Language components to the program. Curriculum coordinator Pat Ballantyne has reviewed the district's science standards to better align them with the state's new curriculum framework. In the new program students learn science process skills like the scientific method.

Earth, life and physical science topics are spread throughout the kindergarten through Grade 12 curriculum. It is more of a performance-based curriculum, Ballantyne said. The changes are for more accountability because of No Child Left Behind, she said. The state Department of Education details the new curriculum framework:

<http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/curriculum/Science/Science.htm>.

— Melissa Lattman