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Centennial of 19th Amendment
The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today. The Women's Vote Centennial Initiative, a collaboration of women-centered institutions, organizations, and scholars from across the US, works to ensure that this anniversary, and the 72-year fight to achieve it, are commemorated and celebrated throughout the United States. For more information, see https://www.2020centennial.org.

Access Ancestry.com at Home

Just a reminder that Ancestry.com is still available from home with your Newburgh Free Library card! Normally available for in-library use
only, this popular genealogy database is temporarily available remotely during the pandemic. Access the site at https://guides.rcls.org/NewburghALE. When prompted for a password, enter the first 5 digits of your Newburgh library card.

**From the Local History Room:**

**Newburgh Root Beer**

The history of root beer making for culinary and medicinal purposes goes back centuries. About 150 years ago, however, recipes for making it involved cooking a syrup from molasses and water, and combining it with sassafras root, and adding yeast. The mixture would then go through two fermentation processes that resulted in a beverage with an alcohol content of 2% or less. The mixture would then be put in jugs and placed in a cold, dark place in an establishment before it was consumed.

According to James Becker, collector of Newburgh root beer bottles, root beer was all the rage in Newburgh in the early 1870s. The 1871 Newburgh City Directory lists seven producers of root beer. William Hall was one of them and is credited with producing root beer at his Western Avenue (now Broadway) establishment.

Two interesting things we noticed about W. R. Hall’s bottles included the use of commas instead of periods to imprint the bottles. That was all the printers probably had. A blue stripe down one side - making it easier for Mr. Hall to identify his product is also a distinctive feature.

The popularity of the beverage ended with the economic depression of 1873.

*by Heather Georghiou, Local History Librarian*

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**Get Ready to Vote!**
Voting for General Election on Tuesday November 3, 2020

New York offers absentee ballots by mail to voters who will be unable to vote in person.

Qualifications to Vote by Absentee Ballot
- Absent from your county or, if a resident of New York City absent from said city, on Election Day.
- Unable to appear at the polls due to temporary or permanent illness or disability; or because you are the primary care giver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.
- A resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital.
- Detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.

Voters may request an Absentee Ballot Application by calling the Orange County Board of Elections at 845-360-6500 or 1-800-879-POLL, by email elections@orangecountygov.com or clicking the link, print and mail in or deliver in person - Absentee Ballot Application. In addition, voters may obtain a ballot in person at the Board of Elections office at 75 Webster Ave, Goshen between the hours of 9:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday thru Friday until November 2, 2020. Extended hours for Absentee Balloting which will be announced soon. The last day to postmark an application for a ballot is Tuesday, October 27, 2020. For more information, go to https://www.orangecountygov.com/793/Absentee-Voting

Update on Early Voting for Orange County
Voters registered in Orange County will be able to vote at any of the seven designated sites for Orange County. More information will soon be posted on their website. - Board of Elections of Orange County

Newburgh Arts + Cultural Study

The Newburgh Arts and Cultural Commission and the City of Newburgh invite all members of the community to participate in The Newburgh Arts & Cultural Study (NACS). They will be holding virtual workshops with focus group discussions aimed to learn how art plays a role in the community. The three workshops will be on Friday, August 28: Youth, Families, Educators & Faith-Based Members, Tuesday, September 15: Small Businesses, Not-For-Profits &
Government and Tuesday, October 6: All of Newburgh Community. Please go to newburghculture.org/workshops to register for any of these workshops.

The deadline to complete the 2020 Census has been changed to September 30th, 2020. If you or someone you know has not completed the census, please go to https://my2020census.gov/ or call 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish).

Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential. – U.S. Census 2020

Do You Know Your U.S. Census Facts?
(Answers for questions on 8/14/20 e-newsletter)
1. The first census after the American Revolution was taken
   C. 1790
2. The census takes place every
   B. 10 years
3. You can respond to the census by
   D. All of the above

Children, Teens, and Families

NEW! Home School and Educational Resources Guide. A guide to curriculum, learning standards, and resources to help you with home schooling and with schooling and learning from home. This guide will be expanded over the next few weeks so take a look and check back often for added resources and updates.
Hagrid's Army, the Newburgh Free Library's Chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance, has created a message for those who have worked tirelessly to serve our community over the past few months. Find out more about our Chapter [here](#), and send an email to hagridsarmynewburgh@gmail.com to receive updates about our meetings, programs and special events.

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**Hagrid's Army Thank You**

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**In case you missed it:**
Lois & Matt Present: Music Tells a Story, a music education program for children and caregivers. Check the calendar on Saturday, August 22 at 1 p.m. for the link to a virtual program exploring music and imagination, created by Lois Hicks-Wozniak and Matthew Wozniak. Celebrate the summer of “Imagine Your Story” with music and fun in this program created for the Newburgh Free Library! Links included to learn more about the music in the virtual program description.
Summer is Coming to an End….

…and so is the #NewburghStrong Summer Challenge. Thank you to all who participated in this year’s adult summer reading program. You can track your completed reading and missions using ReadSquared OR print the Summer Challenge card; take a photo of your completed game card and email it to psussmann@rcls.org by end of day today, August 21 for a chance to win a gift card to a local business, courtesy of the Friends of the Newburgh Free Library! Winners will be announced and notified next week. We hope to see you again in the Fall!

Virtual Programs for all Ages

See our Virtual Program Guide and e-calendar for these and many more virtual programs for youth and adults. We will be adding videos and other online content on a regular basis, so check back here often for fun, informative and creative content.
Youth Services Program Videos

Summer Bonnie Bites Storytime week 10

Heartwood Hotel The Greatest Gift book 2, chapters 6-8

Tail Waggin' Summer Dog Tales week 10

Preschool Story Time with Ms Carol week 9

Adult Services Program Videos
Retired Pastor Henricksen talks about the Dr. Martin Luther King speech "I Have a Dream"

Get Help at Home

Connect to Live Help Monday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm with our new Google Voice numbers!

For reference help during our closure, contact us at 845-391-0672 or nflref@rcls.org.

For questions about books, items you may have checked-out, digital library cards and fines, contact the Circulation Dept. at 845-391-0005 or
Tech Support
For Android or Kindle devices, call Wayne at 845-391-3724;
For Apple devices, call Sue at 845-293-0950;
For laptops, call Frank at 845-391-0995.
OR email suescott@rcls.org with a description of the problem, device, product (app), and any error messages.

Free Resume Review
Send a copy of your resume in Microsoft Word to Beth at bzambito@rcls.org for review and suggested improvements. Expect a response within 24 hours.

COME TO YOUR CENSUS, NEWBURGHER!
"It takes just 10 minutes to effect your next 10 years...." If you haven't yet be sure to complete your census form! Help secure funding and representation in government for your community! Click here: 2020census.gov
WE'RE THINKING OF YOU

YOUR FRIENDS AT THE
NEWBURGH FREE LIBRARY