

Town of New Durham New Hampshire



Regional & Non Profit Agency Reports

Year Ending December 31, 2007

AN UPDATE FROM CONGRESSWOMAN CAROL SHEA-PORTER



Last year, the House of Representatives passed many important measures that affect our lives here in New Hampshire. From lowering the cost of student loans, to raising the minimum wage, to protecting middle-class families from the Alternative Minimum Tax, Congress addressed a wide range of issues that will benefit New Hampshire families.

To help families afford the rising costs of higher education, we passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which will cut interest rates in half for federal student loans, and save a typical student in New Hampshire \$4,430 over the life of a loan. The bill will also increase funding for Pell Grants for low-income students and provide loan-forgiveness for talented students who pursue public service fields like teaching or emergency response.

Congress passed legislation to protect 23 million families from a tax increase of up to several thousand dollars this year under the Alternative Minimum Tax. In July, we raised

the federal minimum wage, increasing it from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour by 2009. At the same time, Congress also passed tax credits for small businesses. To find out how businesses can take advantage of the new tax benefits, visit www.sba.gov or contact my office at (603) 641-9536.

With energy prices rising, Congress increased the fuel efficiency standards for vehicles for the first time in thirty-two years. I'm also pleased that we passed an increase in funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which supports New Hampshire's Fuel Assistance Program. If you or someone you know needs help affording the cost of heating fuel this year, please contact the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning at (603) 271-8317.

It was a busy year in my New Hampshire offices in Manchester and Dover as well, where we assisted over 1,200 individuals with inquiries to federal agencies including Social Security, Medicare, and the Veterans Administration. Last summer, when there were huge delays at passport offices around the country, my staff helped more than 200 people get their passports on time. To apply for a passport, visit travel.state.gov and follow the online instructions, or see the Frequently Asked Questions section of my website for more information.

Representatives from my office regularly visit towns across the First District to assist constituents in working with the federal government. For more information about the services that my office provides, please visit: www.shea-porter.house.gov.

To keep up to date on the latest developments in Washington, you can also track legislation using the Thomas search engine provided by the Library of Congress at www.thomas.gov.

I am honored to serve you in Congress, and I wish you a happy and prosperous year in 2008.

Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter represents the First Congressional District of New Hampshire, which includes communities from Manchester to the Seacoast and through the Lakes Region up to Conway.

Her Manchester and Dover District Offices can be reached by calling (603) 641-9536.

REPORT OF STATE SENATOR KATHLEEN SGAMBATI

As your State Senator, I am honored with the opportunity to serve you and wanted to report from the New Hampshire Senate on important state issues affecting you, as residents of New Durham.

Last session, I concentrated on several key issues important to the citizens of New Hampshire: helping New Hampshire's working families by increasing the minimum wage; protecting New Hampshire citizens' health by implementing a smoking ban in restaurants and bars, increasing access to health care by supporting expanded eligibility to health insurance, working diligently to ensure every child had an adequate education, and exhibited great fiscal responsibility in working to implement a fair and balanced budget, and reducing the high school dropout rate by ensuring attendance to age 18.

I also continued to work on long time policy priorities such as improving access to affordable prescription drugs and ensuring that families in need are able to get the assistance that they need.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee I am proud that we passed a fiscally responsible state budget for the FY 2008-2009 biennium that meets the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and included the following assistance to the residents of New Durham:

FY 2007 State Aid to New Durham

Type of Aid	Amount
Adequate Education Grants	\$ 1,555,333
Meals & Rooms Distribution	\$ 96,294
Revenue Sharing	\$ 21,940
Retirement Contribution-Police & Fire	\$ 11,399
Highway Block Grant	\$ 92,908
TOTAL	\$ 1,777,874

This session, I will be concentrating on several key issues important to the citizens of New Hampshire: costing an adequate education, implementing kindergarten in the communities that don't yet offer it, ensuring that families who are less fortunate have the healthcare at their disposal that they need regardless of their insurance coverage or lack there of.

As a long time advocate of improving opportunities for affordable housing, I continue to support legislative efforts aimed at increasing workforce housing stock. I look forward to working with State Representatives from the New Durham area on this and wide range of opportunities to support a healthy business climate in our state.

If you wish to contact me about these or any other matters I might help you with, please call me at the below listed information.

Respectfully submitted,

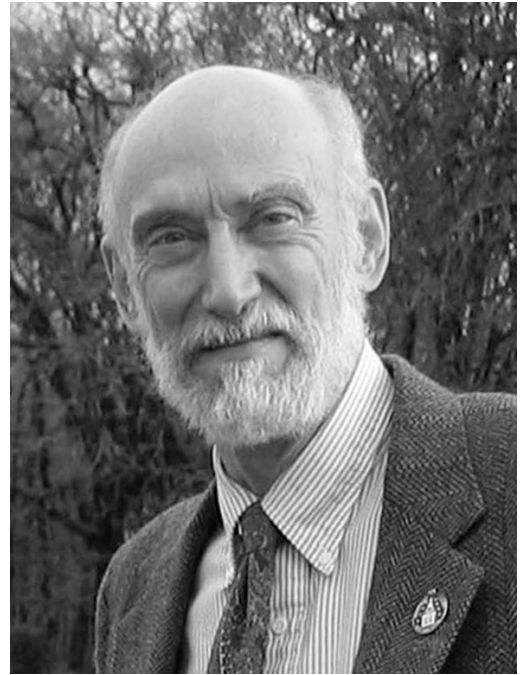
Senator Kathleen Sgambati

Tel: 603-271-3074 or e-mail Kathleen.Sgambati@leg.state.nh.us

REPORT OF HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE LARRY BROWN

It has been an honor to serve as a New Hampshire State Representative for the six towns of our Strafford 3 District. Thank you for the opportunity to highlight legislation passed in 2007, which will benefit local residents and our state. Details can be found at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/.

- **Employment & the Economy:** Increased the minimum wage * strengthened workers compensation at a fair cost to business (re-voted in Jan. '08) * established a Research and Development tax credit * re-established the job training fund * expanded the Economic Vitalization tax credit
- **Health & the Environment:** Expanded the Children's Health Insurance Program to cover 10,000 more kids * banned smoking in restaurants and lounges * set best practice goals for reducing lead poisoning in children * expanded dependent health care coverage to age 26 * set sunset dates for the developmental disabilities wait list * banned the burning of toxic construction and demolition debris * set phase-in standards for renewable energy use – 25% by 2025 * toughened shore land protection setbacks and standards * fully funded LCHIP – the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program
- **Education:** Raised the dropout age and expanded alternative education programs * guaranteed kindergarten statewide * increased funding for technical colleges and the University system * expanded funding for Head Start and early learning programs
- **Citizen Protections and Public Policy Goals:** Prohibited N.H. involvement in Real I.D. * repealed a law that restricted women's reproductive autonomy – the right to choose * established civil unions for same sex couples * put over \$9M into community based alcohol and drug abuse treatment and prevention programs * created an Internet Crimes Prosecutor * established a death benefit for first responders killed in the line of duty * increased the number of State Troopers



Eventually the plow turns over every furrow; what is up this year may well be down the next. For that I have tried to “plow in hope”, to vote tomorrow's child no less liberty than that passed down to us today. Please give me a call – 603-652-4306 – if you would like to discuss a bill, a vote, a good idea, or a bad one.

NH State Representative Larry Brown
1362 White Mountain Hwy, Milton, NH 03851
Tel: 603-652-4306

Representing Barrington, Farmington, Milton, Middleton, New Durham, and Strafford

REPORT OF HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES CYR

District 3

Activities as State Representative-2007
(abbreviated list)

- Raised the minimum wage to \$7.25
- Strengthened education by raising the drop-out age
- Added kindergarten to all schools
- Increased funding for technical colleges and the university system
- Funded the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
- Expanded the economic vitalization tax credit
- Repealed a law that infringed upon a woman's right to choose
- Established civil unions for same sex couples
- Expanded family healthcare coverage for dependants until age 26
- Established a death benefit for first responders killed in the line of duty

Sincerely,

The Honorable Representative
James E. Cyr

REPORT OF HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE BOB PERRY

House of Representatives District 3 includes the towns of New Durham, Milton, Middleton, Farmington, Strafford, and Barrington, and is served by eight representatives. The House consists of 400 members; approximately 240 Democrats, 160 Republicans. Within each party and spanning the issues, there are conservatives, moderates, and progressives. I serve on the Election-Law Committee, Electronic Voting Machine Subcommittee.

Every bill in New Hampshire is assigned to committee, and many to subcommittee before being scheduled for vote on the floor of the house. Every step in the process is open to the public, now including access to audio and video, as well as the text of all bills, available at www.gencourt.state.nh.us.

The most difficult legislative issue over the past 20 years has involved education funding. The first prong of the Claremont/Londonderry decisions, defining an adequate education, was timely and successfully concluded in the 2007 session. The other prongs include costing of an adequate education, funding it, and development of accountability. Much work remains.

Other successes of the 2007 session include:

1. Ensuring the future success of the NH students by raising the high school dropout age, and expanding alternative-education programs;
2. Expanding the state's version of SCHIP (NH Healthy Kids) to cover another 10,000 children in need of health care; and expanding family health-care coverage for dependents to age 26;
3. Raising the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years, assisting some 14,000 NH families;
4. Prohibiting New Hampshire's involvement in the Federal Real ID Program;
5. Establishing NH's first Rail Authority, which can serve to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion through development of passenger and commuter rail service.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve, and certainly hope among the 1800 bills to be considered this cycle, you will have been directly affected and in a positive way, for it is the political environment that determines the quality of our lives.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Perry, State Representative District 3
Strafford, New Hampshire

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



JOHN D. SHEA
EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR

8 McIntire Road
Nelson, NH 03457
Phone: 603-847-9008

State House Room 207
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-271-3632
Fax: 603-271-3633

In 1679 King Charles 11 appointed a President and Council to govern the new Province of New Hampshire. The Council's chief "political" responsibility was to spy and report on the activities of the President (later renamed 'Governor') to the King.

Today the Executive Councilors are your eyes and ears in Concord. They ensure the executive branch of state government is fiscally responsible and above reproach by conducting all meetings in public with the press present.

All receipts and expenditures of state and federal funds, budgetary transfers within the departments, and all contracts with a value of \$5,000 or more must be approved by the Council.

Councilors make certain all appointments to state government, whether Commissioners, Department heads or regulatory board members, are responsible to the citizens of New Hampshire and not to special interests.

I was sworn in to office in January 2007 as Executive Councilor for District Two. My District runs from Chesterfield/Walpole/Danbury in the Western part of the state to Brookfield/Rochester/Somersworth and Rollinsford on the Maine border. I have 67 communities in the district and represent 8 of the 10 Counties.

I have conducted or participated in over 17 Public Hearings on Environmental issues, Bridge/Highway issues, Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT), District Health Councils, Pandemic Planning, HEFA (\$20,000,000-New London Hospital), Education funding bonds and Regional Planning Commissions etc.

Citizen issues: Training requirements and sessions for appointed positions, school decisions on children, ATVs/Snowmobile trails with Fed money, judicial actions, Department reorganization, advising on proper contacts for information, and I do a lot of travel for individual and community meetings. I also visit nonprofit organizations along with Police and Fire stations as I can assist in arranging funding grants.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Respectfully Submitted,
John D. Shea, Executive Councilor
District Two

REPORT OF FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

Outside Burning:

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands work collaboratively to reduce the risk and frequency of wild land fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, please contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Under State law (RSA: 227-L: 17) a fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 1-800-498-6868 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help us to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. For more information please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2214, or online at www.nhdf.org.

Forest Fire Activity 2007

Fire activity was very busy during the spring of the 2007, particularly late April into early May. As the forests and fields greened up in late May the fire danger decreased. However, a very dry late summer created very high fire danger again from August into September, with fire danger reaching very high on Labor Day weekend. Even with the dry conditions, the acreage burned was less than half that of 2006. The largest forest fire during the 2007 season burned approximately 26 acres on the side of Wantastiquet Mountain in Chesterfield during the month of May. Our statewide system of 16 fire lookout towers is credited with keeping most fires small and saving several structures this season due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. Many homes in New Hampshire are located in the wild land urban interface, which is the area where homes and flammable wild land fuels intermix. Several of the fires during the 2007 season threatened structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wild land fire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

2007 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 8, 2007 ~ Figures do not include fires on the White Mountain National Forest)

County Statistics		
County	Acres	# Of Fires
Belknap	30	95
Carroll	11	53
Cheshire	44	36
Coos	6	15
Grafton	4	30
Hillsborough	61	71
Merrimack	16	73
Rockingham	16	22
Strafford	19	32
Sullivan	5	10

To the residents of New Durham, the 2007 outside fire season was considerably quieter compared to some of our neighboring communities of which had several larger fires. We had several small incidents in town with very minimal damage or acreage lost. On a positive note, I would like to personally thank the residents of New Durham for such support to preventing any uncontrolled outside fires. It is your commitment in getting a permit and keeping your fires under control that keeps New Durham a fire safe community.

The New Durham Fire Department has placed several young men and women through a Fire Fighter Level 1 class this past year. Part of this program is the forestry course for which I had the opportunity to help train on their practical exercises. What a wonderful and talented group of men and women to work with ~ I look forward to working with them throughout their firefighting careers.

Fire permits will still be available at the fire station. We shall be requesting the Board of Selectmen to approve a small nominal fee of \$5.00 in 2008 on all permits issued. *A reminder that permits are required for all outside burning when there is no snow cover.*

Respectfully Submitted

*David F. Stuart, Forest Fire Warden
Town of New Durham*

HOMEMAKERS HEALTH SERVICE

Thanks to our partnership with the Town of New Durham over the past several years, The Homemakers Health Services has successfully provided critical home health, home support and adult medical day care services to those residents of New Durham who do not have the ability to pay for them.

Since 1974, our mission at The Homemakers has been to help older and disabled Strafford County residents remain independent, in their own homes and out of nursing homes, by providing professional, cost-effective, quality home health, home support and adult medical day care services.

In recognition of professional, cost-effective and quality services it provides, this past year The Homemakers was listed as one of the 2007 HomeCare Elite, a compilation of the most successful Medicare-certified home health care providers in the United States. This annual review identifies the top 25 percent of agencies, ranked by an analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, quality improvement and financial performance. The data used for this analysis is compiled from publicly available information.

In recognition of The Homemakers dedication and contribution to the health of elderly persons in our community, Citizens Bank New Hampshire and WMUR-TV also recognized the Agency by naming The Homemakers Health Services as its 2007 first quarter Champion in Action in the area of Elder Support. The Champions in Action program is designed to recognize and support non-profit organizations for their contributions to New Hampshire communities.

Annually, our Agency provides nearly \$3.5 million worth of home health, home support and adult medical day care visits to elderly and disabled persons throughout the County. These visits include skilled nursing, rehabilitative therapies, telemonitoring, medical social work, home health aide, homemaker, adult in-home care, Alzheimer's respite and adult medical day care services.

As health care professionals, we at The Homemakers are committed to providing these services to all of those in needs, regardless of a person's ability to pay. Over the past three years, The Homemakers has provided an annual average of more than \$211,590 worth of non-reimbursed home health, home support and adult medical day care services.

Each year through our annual Charity Care fundraisers, The Homemakers has successfully raised more than half of the cost for non-reimbursed services provided.

Despite our success with such events, the cost of providing services for which we are either not reimbursed at all, or inadequately reimbursed by Medicare and Medicaid, continues to exceed the amounts raised through these events, and it is a continuous struggle to carry these losses.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Town of New Durham to provide health care services to those New Durham residents who cannot afford the cost of the vital health care services they need to remain healthy and independent in their own homes.

During Fiscal Year 2007, The Homemakers:

- Provided 14,736 skilled health care visits throughout Strafford County, which included nursing, rehabilitative therapies, medical social work and home health aid visits;
- Provided 24,082 home support visits, which included homemaker and in-home care provider visits;
- Provided 44,929 hours of Adult Day Care for older and disabled person as well as respite for their caregivers;
- Offered numerous community wellness programs including flu clinics, Alzheimer's Educational Seminars for Caregivers; monthly Strong Living, Aerobics of the Mind, Friend to Friend, free Advance Directives seminars, facilitated a monthly Alzheimer's Support Group and hosted a weekly TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) chapter.
- Delivered more than 200 Holiday Food and Gift baskets to elderly and/or disabled people throughout the county.

BARRINGTON
BROOKFIELD
DOVER
DURHAM
FARMINGTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON



NEW DURHAM
NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

Strafford Regional Planning Commission 2007 Report

Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC), a political subdivision of the State of New Hampshire, serves in an advisory role to the Town of New Durham and seventeen other member communities. We provide professional planning services to help officials, boards and citizens manage growth and to facilitate regional collaborative efforts.

SRPC's professional staff offers a range of planning services in transportation, land use, conservation, natural resources, economic development and geographic information systems (GIS) mapping and analysis. These services are available in customized modes to meet the diverse needs of the volunteers who are the foundation of communities. Our member communities also have access to additional SRPC educational resources including our website, workshops and forums, and personalized training.

SRPC conducted the following projects and initiatives for New Durham in 2007:

- Conducted a comprehensive GIS road inventory for public and private roads, (28.57 miles @ \$160/mile for a total value of \$4571.20).
- Provided GIS mapping services to Town staff, Boards and Commissions.
- Conducted 11 traffic counts in New Durham at the request of the Road Agent.
- Advocated for Davis Crossing Road emergency repairs with NHDOT.
- Worked with Planning Board to develop a Steep Slope Ordinance and a Conservation Focus Area Ordinance and provided technical assistance on subdivision procedures to Land Use Clerk.
- Created a comprehensive GIS land use data layer, identifying categories of land use in town.

SRPC also provided the following services to New Durham and other municipalities in 2007 including:

- Established a Regional Impact Committee, which reviewed three developments determined by local Planning Boards to have potential regional impact.
- Coordinated communities' responses to the NH Ten Year Transportation Plan.
- Hosted a Riparian Buffer Workshop to help communities protect water quality.
- Updated the Regional Travel Demand Model for traffic modeling and air quality conformity
- Prepared Model Drinking Water for Protection of Surface Water Supply Areas Ordinance as part of the *Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques*.
http://www.des.state.nh.us/REPP/ilupth/20070805_drinking_water_supply.doc
- Distributed *New Hampshire Planning and Land Use Regulation* books to all local land use boards.

We look forward to working with the citizens and officials of New Durham in 2008. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and for your continuing support of regional planning. Further questions or comments can be referred to Cynthia Copeland, AICP, Executive Director at cjc@strafford.org. Please visit our website at www.strafford.org.



STRAFFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

PO BOX 160 • DOVER, NH 03821-0160
TELEPHONE: 749-1334 • FAX: 749-3718

New Durham Services Report

2007

Fuel Assistance	68 Families
Home Weatherization	1 Home
Neighbor Helping Neighbor	1 Family
Food Pantries	30 Families
Emergency Response System	2 Enrolled
Commodity Food Distribution	48 Cases
Information and Referral	328 Units
Flood Relief	2 Families
Employment and Training	4/3 Employed/Trained
Welfare to Work	3 Trainees
Childcare	6 Families

Value of goods and services provided to New Durham:

\$94,656.00

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Hayes
Executive Director

ROCHESTER VNA REPORT 2007

Rochester District VNA (Your VNA) continues to serve as your home health agency providing skilled nursing, rehabilitative therapies, medical social work, licensed nursing assistance and supportive services on an intermittent basis throughout your community. The acuity of our patients is constantly increasing. Many patients need IV therapy, enteral feedings, therapy after knee/hip replacements and complicated wound dressings. We are proud to provide you with highly skilled clinicians ready to meet the demand.

Our Medicare reimbursement has been reduced by 11.9% in the past two years with additional reductions planned for the next four years. Skilled service provided under Medicaid is reimbursed by the state at less than half the cost to provide it. Our numbers of uninsured individuals receiving care increases each year. Your support of these services is crucial to people in need of skilled nursing and therapy care.

It is vitally important in this election year that everyone is aware of the importance of the health care issue. Adequate funding for home care is critical in keeping patients in their home, the most cost-effective and preferred place to receive care.

We provide support services including: homemakers, personal care attendants and in-home companions paid by Title XX and Strafford County funding as well as privately paid services. These services allow individuals requiring minimal support to remain safely in their homes at the lowest possible cost.

We have improved our utilization of electronic charts resulting in the following: improved clinical efficiency and accuracy of documentation, flow of data to appropriate disciplines at the time most needed, ease of viewing historical data, improved coordination of care, decreased man hours with less manual paper processes and a reduction of errors. Telehealth use continues to increase. The results of daily monitoring of our most seriously ill patients helps prevent additional visits to the emergency room through early interventions.

We have added a service this fall. We opened an Adult Day Center at our office, 178 Farmington Road, Rochester. This provides care, activities, socialization and medical monitoring of adults who are not safe to be home alone. The Center is open Monday-Friday from 8a.m.-5p.m. and is handicapped accessible.

Our biggest and most critical challenge is being dependent on the government for 85% of our revenue. We are unable to set reimbursement rates. We are dependent on what the government pays regardless of the cost to provide the care. Therefore, your continued support of Rochester District Visiting Nurse Association (Your VNA) is vitally important in meeting the many health needs in your community.

New Durham Statistics – 11 months #'s annualized

Total visits by Service		# of Home Care patients - 36 admitted by payment source	# of Visits
Skilled Nursing	458	Medicare	26 807
Physical Therapy	160	Medicaid	
Occupational Therap	73	HCBC	1 10
Speech Therapy		Insurance	9 106
Medical Social Work	10		
LNA (nursing assistant)	221		
Perinatal visits	4		
Adult Health Clinic Visits	1		

New Durham's Representative : Dr. Patrick Lanzetta

Submitted by: Linda Hotchkiss RN, MHSA, Executive Director

