

NEW SALEM NEWS – April Newsletter

April 6	Teens and Tweens at the Library
April 6	Storyteller Davis Bates at the Library
April 8	Council on Aging Luncheon and Ice Cream Social
April 7	Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers Reading Time at the Library
April 9	Lego Club at the Library
April 12	Last Day to Register to Vote
April 13	Teens and Tweens at the Library
April 13	Reading Aloud for Grownups at the Library
April 14	Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers Reading Time at the Library
April 20	Teens and Tweens at the Library
April 21	Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers Reading Time - <i>Stars of the Show</i>
April 22	Prayer Shawl Ministry at the Stowell Building
April 23	Community Garden Meeting
April 26	Earth Day Party at the Library
April 27	Teens and Tweens at the Library
April 27	Aging in Place at the Library
April 23	Community Garden Meeting
April 28	Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers Reading Time at the Library

13th Annual Rabbit Run – 10K Run and 3 Mile Walk

The 13th annual Rabbit Run is Saturday, May 21st at the Common in New Salem. Prizes are available for all age groups. This year the race will benefit all the other activities of the Recreation Committee - free swimming lessons, playground and recreation field repair, Egg Hunt, Halloween party. The Rabbit Run, named after the former train route which ran through what is now the Quabbin Reservoir, takes runners into the scenic Quabbin watershed for a 10K foot race and walkers for a 3 mile walk. Interested runners can pick up registration forms at the New Salem General Store, New Salem Library, Wendell General Store, Wendell Library, or the Athol YMCA or downloaded from sugarloafmac.org. They can register online at runreg.com. Participants can still register on the day of the event for \$20. Note: The registration fee will be waived for volunteers who also want to participate! Race-day registration begins at 9:00 am at the Common in New Salem for the races which begin at 10:00 am. The event is sponsored by the New Salem Recreation Committee. For further information contact Carla Halpern at 978-544-2676.

Town-wide Tag Sale Reminder

The New Salem Town-Wide Tag Sale is coming soon! There still time to snag a place for yourself and/or a friend! Get rid of those things hanging around that you never use! Put the money towards your summer vacation, something you've been saving for or towards buying someone else's stuff!

When: Saturday, May 7th from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Where: On the Common. Initial set up can be done on Friday evening. \$15 goes towards the advertising in local papers and gets you the space you need. Any extra funds go into the Recreation Committee

accounts to be used for their projects. To sign up fill out and return the attached form or email Lynn Layton at c.lynn.layton@gmail.com or call her at 978-544-7892.

You may also pay with cash or check on the day of the tag sale. We are working to have the Salvation Army pick up leftover items again at the Old Town Hall; information about that will be forthcoming in a news flash. If you have friends in area towns that would like to participate, they are welcome to contact Lynn and join us.

Old Home Day - Save the Date – Saturday, July 16

The theme of this year's Old Home Day on Saturday, July 16th, will be *New Salem Salutes Volunteers!* The Committee would like to pay tribute to all the present and past volunteers who have helped our town function. If anyone would like to help plan the event or volunteer to help out on the day of the event, please contact Janet Henderson at 544-3410 or janbo25h@aol.com or Jane Clukay at 544-2660 or janeclukay@hotmail.com.

New Salem Library News

Toddler & Pre-Schooler Reading Time: Every Thursday morning from 10:30-11:30 am is Toddler & Pre-Schooler Reading Time. Readers this month will be April 7th, Monica Winters; April 14th, Amanda Mandigo; April 21st, Rae Griffiths, with *Stars of the Show* (see below), April 28th, TBA.

Lego Club: The Lego Club will be on Saturday, April 9th from 12:30-2:00 pm.

Teens and Tweens: **Free** snacks, computers, games, movies, all **free** - only for 11 to 18 year olds from any town. Every Wednesday afternoon, 1:30 to 5:30 pm. Call 978-544-6334 for more info!

New England Folklore & Songs of Farm and Sea: At 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 6th, *Celebrating the Season* will present *New England Folklore & Songs of Farm and Sea* with Parents' Choice Award Winner singer and storyteller, Davis Bates. Sponsored by a grant from the New Salem Cultural Council.

Stars of the Show: During vacation week come to the Library on Thursday, April 21st from 10:00-11:00 am for *Story Stars* with Rae Griffiths of Teaching Creatures. A unique story time program for young children 2-8 years of age which includes specially selected children's books and the presentation of real, live animal stars - a hedgehog and Dutch rabbits. Listen to Rae read stories and share her knowledge as we get to meet the stars and ask questions. All ages are welcome. Funded by the New Salem Cultural Council and offered in collaboration with the Community Network of Children Program. For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/programs-and-events> or email budine@erving.com or call 978-544-5157.

Friends of The New Salem Public Library News

Reading Aloud for Grownups: On April 13th, Genie Casey and Monica Winters will be reading at 7:30 pm. Wine and cheese will be offered as well as the usual goodies and coffee and tea. Donations happily accepted. Snow date will be one week later.

Earth Day Party: On Tuesday, April 26th from 3:30-5:00 pm, the Friends of the New Salem Public Library are holding an Earth Day Party featuring a showing of the *Lorax* movie, creating Lorax flowerpots, planting sunflower seeds, outside activities and

snacks. Students at Swift River may come to the library on the bus and parents can pick them up after. Children aged 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult. *Feasting from Literature*: On May 5th at 7:00 pm, The Friends of the New Salem Public Library are hosting Liz Barbour for a *Feasting from Literature* program. This will be held at the New Salem Town Hall (the big one) located at 15 South Main Street. The entrance is in the back of the building. Parking is available in back as well. This is a demonstration which includes cooking two recipes, tasting samples, and recipe cards. Tasting samples are available for up to 35 people so please call the library (978-544-3664) to reserve a snack!

Aging in Place in New Salem

The Central Congregational Church of New Salem, the Friends of the New Salem Library and the New Salem Council on Aging are co-sponsoring a series of discussions on the concept of aging in place. The series is designed to provide information for aging parents as well as ourselves as we age, reach retirement age, and face the end of life. There will be three sessions and each session will last for approximately two hours with presentations from various agencies and speakers. There will be an opportunity for discussion and questions as well.

The first session will take place on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 pm in the New Salem Library. It will cover topics involved with community resources available as we age. Speakers from local agencies will cover topics such as home health care, visiting nurses, Lifeline services, etc. Upcoming sessions will take place on Wednesday, May 25 and Wednesday, June 22 also at the New Salem Library but at 7:00 pm. The sessions are free and open to all. For further information contact Janet Kraft at bullard225@gmail.com or Sue Dunbar at suedunbar12@gmail.com

Council on Aging News

Lunch & Ice Cream Social: The Council on Aging will meet at the Stowell Building Senior Center on Friday, April 8th at 10:00 am for Bingo and visiting followed by lunch at noon. Please bring your own brown bag lunch. We will provide coffee and tea and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Let Hendra Reidy know if you are coming (978-544-2178).

June Bus Trip: Our bus trip in June to the Ogunquit Playhouse is full at this time. Hendra has a waiting list. If you wish to be added to the list, please give her a call.

Busy Bs: Busy Bs continue to meet on Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Stowell Building. Bring your project and join us anytime.

New Salem Community Garden Update

The Community Garden is planning our first meeting of the year which will be held on Wednesday April 23rd at 6:30 in the Stowell building. If you are interested in planting this year with us in the community garden, let Sandy know at sspiewak20@yahoo.com, come to the meeting or call 413-219-4458. Plots are \$10-15. There will be a registration and review of Community Garden guidelines. Also, as you view your own yard and garden, please remember our Old Home Day plant sale. Sandy would love to come to your home and divide your perennials with you for donations towards our fund raising efforts. Please contact Sandy at 413-219-4458 if you have a garden needing some reorganization! Thank you! Happy planning!

Prayer Shawl Ministry of New Salem

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of New Salem will meet Friday, April 22 in the Stowell Building. Everyone is welcome to join us. For more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry: <http://www.shawlministry.com>

Free Home-Visiting Program

Talk, Read & Play is a **free** home-visiting program for families with children two years old and younger who live in New Salem, Wendell, Shutesbury, Leverett and Erving. Help build the foundation for your child's learning. Participants will receive free books, toys and learning materials. When children talk, read and play, they build skills that prepare them for a lifetime of success. To participate in this **free** program or have questions call 978-544-5157. Find flyer and more details at the Community Network for Children's website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/programs-and-events>

TOWN NOTICES

FY16 Real Estate and Personal Property 4th Quarter Tax Bills Due by May 2nd

The 3rd and 4th quarter Fiscal Year 2016 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills were mailed out on December 30th, 2015. This is to remind you that the due date for the FY16 4th Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property taxes is May 2, 2016. Payments received after that date will be charged interest and fees.

If you have questions regarding your bill you may call (978) 544-5775 and leave a message stating your name, phone number and the address of your property. You may also email your request for information to newsalemtax@aol.com. Questions regarding the assessed value of your property, abatements or exemptions should be directed to the Assessors at (978) 544-5814.

Non-cash payments may be deposited in the Tax Payment Drop Box located in front of the town hall at 15 S. Main St. or mailed to the Tax Collector's office at 24 S. Main St., New Salem, MA 01355. Payments may also be scheduled or paid online, through the due date, at www.unitaxonline.com. Cash payments (exact change only, please) may be made during the Tax Collector's office hours at 24 S. Main Street on Tuesdays 5-7pm and Thursdays 10am-Noon.

Assessment information and abatement forms can be found on the Assessors' page at the town website at www.newsalem-massachusetts.org.

Board of Health Notices

On Thursday, April 28th there will be no Board of Health office hours. Instead that week the office hours will be on Tuesday, April 26th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Jane McKay won the free yellow bags at the Transfer Station for the Month of March. If you are interested in trying to win a package of 10 bags valued at \$15.00 then talk to Bob at the Transfer Station.

Town Offices Up for Election

The following town offices are up for election at this year's annual town election in 2016:

Selectboard	3 year term
Board of Health	3 year term
Town Clerk	3 year term
Moderator	3 year term
Constable	3 year term
Assessor	3 year term
Assessor	1 year term (to fill vacancy)
Planning Board	5 year term
Planning Board	2 year term (to fill vacancy)
School Committee	3 year term
School Committee	3 year term
School Committee	1 year term (to fill vacancy)
Library Trustee	3 year term
Library Trustee	1 year term (to fill vacancy)

Last day to register to vote, Tuesday, April 12th.

Please don't hesitate to call or email Stacy Senflug, New Salem Town Clerk, if you have any questions. The Town Clerk's office hours are Mondays 6:00-9:00 pm and by appointment if necessary.

Democrat Outreach

Any New Salem Democrat interested in finding out more about the local committee and its activities should contact John Ryan, chair (breezewayfarm1@hughes.net) or Sharon Tracy, co-chair (sharon@quabbinmediation.org)

Board of Assessors Position

The Board of Assessors is seeking a replacement for the pending retirement of Phyllis Stever, who has served for ten years. The board meets twice monthly (2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.) through most of the year and meetings are normally under two hours in length. There is a stipend for board members. Please call our office at 978-544-5814, if you are a town resident and are interested in joining the board. Potential candidates would meet with the current Board and, upon their recommendation, be appointed by the Selectboard. When the member's term is expired, they must be elected.

Personnel Committee

Due to a recent resignation, the Personnel Committee is looking for a new member. Contact Nancy Aldrich at 978-544-6437 if you are interested.

Website Committee

The New Salem Website committee is down to two active members and needs additional volunteers. Please contact Mary-Ellen Kennedy at 978-821-2597 or Nancy Aldrich at 978-544-6437 if you are interested.

Energy Committee

The New Salem Energy Committee is on a hiatus as only two members remain. They are now working with Wendell on grants for energy upgrades at Swift River School. The Town of Wendell has suggested working with New Salem on "Solarize Mass" which provides group rates on multiple solar installations. Please contact Nancy Aldrich at 978-544-6437 if you are interested in working with the Energy Committee.

Selectboard News

Selectboard Meetings: The Selectboard normally meets at 7:00 pm. on every other Monday at the Stowell Building. If the Monday is a holiday, the Selectboard meet on the Tuesday of that week. To verify a meeting date, contact the Town Coordinator at 544-6437.

LOCAL

Spring Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Day

The Franklin County Solid Waste District will be holding its *Spring Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Day* on Saturday, May 21st from 9:00 a.m. to noon. For more information on any of these programs or events, contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District: 413-772-2438, info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Benefit for Seeds of Solidarity

On Saturday, April 16th, Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse benefits the Seeds of Solidarity's youth and community programs! Slik Picker and the Green Sisters bring out the folk, blue grass, and farm-raised acoustics and great harmonies- plus the famous dessert-o-rama. www.wendellfullmoon.org/

UPCOMING

May 2	Town Election
May 5	<i>Feasting in Literature</i> – Library Program
May 8	Town-Wide Tag Sale
May 21	Spring <i>Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Day</i>
May 21	Rabbit Run – 10K Run and 3 Mile Walk
July 16	Old Home Day

New Salem Newsletter Policy

This monthly newsletter is a volunteer service sponsored by the New Salem Recreation Committee of the Town of New Salem. It promotes community events and town notices.

It does not run ads for products or services.

To subscribe to this newsletter, email newsalemnews@gmail.com

Visit the town's www.newsalem-massachusetts.org for more information about our town.

