

# NEW SALEM NEWS - February Newsletter

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## ***Perennial Gardening and Landscaping Workshop***

On Thursday, February 5 at 6:00 pm, the New Salem Agricultural Commission will host a free presentation by John Root on *Perennial Gardening and Landscaping*. Participants will learn how to establish and care for a variety of trees, shrubs, vines, canes, herbaceous perennials, organic methods of cultivation, nutritional and medicinal benefits of plants. It will take place at the New Salem Library. For more about John Root, visit [http://johnroot.net/edible\\_perennial.html](http://johnroot.net/edible_perennial.html). Flyer is attached. RSVP not required. Please call Harmonie for questions at 978-544-9709.

## ***What's in a Name? Swift River Vally Historical Society Exhibit at Great Falls Discovery Center***

Please join us at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 7th, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, for an opening reception of *What's in a Name? Villages, Hamlets and Hollows of the Swift River Valley*, an exhibit of historic photos--families, houses, mills, factories, stores, schools, post offices, and churches--giving us a rich view of valley life. A special treat: Elizabeth Peirce will be there for a book signing of *Quabbin Valley--Life As It Was*, just published this month! See attached press release for details.

## ***Bach and Be-Still Meditation at the Old Academy Building***

*Bach and Be-Still Meditation* is a music and mindfulness group. It combines deep listening to music and meditation. Each circle time will include deep listening to recorded music (12-20 minutes), discussion initiated by short reading (30 minutes) and then meditation/centering (15-20 minutes). The group will begin meeting on February

14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-1:30 pm at the Old Academy Building. In honor of Valentine's Day, music from the romantic era will be featured.

### **New Salem Town-Wide Tag Sale is Coming!**

It's that time again.... Start sorting and stashing away all those things you **can** live without and have them ready for the Town-wide Tag Sale the first weekend of May! There is usually someone out there who **can't** live without that thing you don't need anymore! It's a great time with friends and neighbors and you'll probably go away with at least enough profit for a good dinner out. Mark your calendars and boxes now for a great day in May! More details in the March newsletter.

### **New Salem Old Home Day Theme and Date Announced**

The 2015 New Salem Old Home Day Committee is delighted to announce that the theme of this year's Old Home Day will be *Old-Fashioned Fun*. We are planning on having, old-fashioned music, old-fashioned floats, old-fashioned food, old-fashioned games and contests! If you have an idea or want to help, come to our next meeting on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00 pm at the Stowell Building or email [nsoldhomeday@gmail.com](mailto:nsoldhomeday@gmail.com) or call 978-544-3410 or 978-544-2660.

Save the date: **Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**.

### **New Salem General Store Free Beer Tasting**

Lefty's Brewing Company will be on site at the New Salem General Store one Thursday each month from January to March. This month, they will be there on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 pm.

### **New Salem Library News**

The Library Display Case needs displays! If you have a collection of interesting items: old cookbooks, fairy tales, hiking maps, tea cups, hats, what have you, please consider showing them in the Display Case. Give the library a call at 978-544-6443 and let us know about your collection.

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library appreciates the response we have received for our Annual Appeal. We'd also like to remind you that our Gently Used Book Sale shelf is constantly getting restocked.

*Tweens and Teens Special Events:* The Library is open every Wednesday from 1:30 to 5:30 **only** for 11 to 18 year olds from any town! Use our new Google Chrome computers, watch a newly-released movie on our projector, have a snack and hang out with friends. Need help with homework? A book for class? Stay tuned for news about our Winterfest – Improve your writing skills in February:

*February 4:* At 2:00 pm, Tom McCabe, the legendary man with the shoes, will help you overcome writer's block with fun and interesting techniques.

*February 11, 18, and 25<sup>th</sup>.* Local author Mara Bright comes to continue the momentum with the writing group. Come improve a story you've already started or begin a new one!

*February 18:* Help make shoes for the children of Uganda for Soles of Hope. This non-profit brings shoes and jobs to country that is struggling. **You** can help! No experience necessary. Call 978-544-6334 for more info. (*This project is being funded*

*through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funds from LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act), a Federal source of library funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences.)*

*Kids Club:* The Kids Club will be meeting from 3:30-5:00 pm on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
*Pizza and Pages:* On Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, this teen book group will be discussing *Snow Like Ashes* by Sara Raasch. Pizza available thanks to the New Salem General Store.

*LEGO Club:* On Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00 pm, the LEGO Club will meet. Kindergarten and up welcome. Recent additions to the Lego Collection are "little bits," to motorize Legos. The LEGO Club, a New Salem Academy grant-funded club, meets every second Thursday of every month.

*Book Discussion Group:* On February 10<sup>th</sup>, *The Ten Thousand Things* by Maria Dermout will be available to pick up. The next Book Discussion Group meeting will be Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

*Reading Aloud for Grown-ups Program:* On Wednesday, February 11 (snow date Feb. 18), Adam Frost and Jane Clukay will be reading. If you haven't had an opportunity to enjoy having a great story read to you in a friendly environment, please come and experience the pleasure on hand at this Friends of the Library sponsored event. Free coffee, and tea, with delicious home baked goodies sold to benefit the Friends of the Library.

*Community Network for Children Program:* Come meet the *STARS of the show - FROGS!* with Rae Griffiths of Teaching Creatures. Rae will read stories and share her knowledge as we get to observe and ask questions. This program is intended for children 2-8 years of age, but all are welcome.

*Computer Help:* Sue Dunbar is available for one-on-one computer help anytime, but especially on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. Please ask Sue if you are having a computer problem or would like to learn a computer program, such as Excel.

*Beverages Available:* The Friends of the New Salem Public Library remind you that we have coffee, tea, cocoa, and cider available to patrons. Check out the Keurig machine and offerings on the table next to Diana's window. Donations are gratefully accepted for these beverages.

### **Council on Aging News**

*Luncheons:* On Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the Stowell Building for a Chinese take-out luncheon. The cost will be \$5 person. Please contact Hendra Reidy at 978-544-2178 to let her know you are coming if you have not already signed up. We will gather at 10 am for a meeting followed by Bingo and coffee at noon. The snow date will be the following Friday.

*Trip to Vermont Horse Farm:* On Wednesday, May 27, there will be a bus trip to the Vermont Horse Farm in Townshend, VT. We will tour the beautiful European-style stables and meet the gentle Fresian horses. This is a breed that originated in the Netherlands. We will take a carriage ride around the grounds and then enjoy a choreographed musical show, including Classical Dressage Freestyle from seats in the area. The trip will also include lunch at the New England House Restaurant. The menu will be a choice of BBQ Beef Brisket or Peach-Glazed Chicken Breast or Orange Tarragon Salmon. Please call Hendra Reidy at 978-544-2178 to sign up. This trip is

**open to all adults** and sponsored by the New Salem Academy and the New Salem Council on Aging. The cost for the trip, including lunch, will be \$20 per person.

*Busy B's:* We continue to meet on Wednesdays at the Stowell Building from 1:00-3:00 pm, weather permitting. Bring your project and join us this winter. Some of us knit, crochet, embroider, or quilt. If the weather is iffy, please feel free to call Judy Jewett at 978-544-2216 to see if we are meeting.

### **New Salem Central Congregational Church News**

*Community Freezer:* We also have a Community Freezer with home-made meals ready to go for any members of the community who are in need of a break from whatever they are facing. If you are or if you know anyone who wants to raid our freezer, please call Lisa DeWitt at 978-544-1912 or Janet Henderson at 978-544-3410.

### **New Meditation Course**

A new meditation class with Jo Ellen Boskind of New Salem will be beginning on Monday, February 23rd at the White Elephant Yoga Studio in Orange. We will meet from 6:30-8:00 pm for 6 consecutive weeks, ending on March 30th. This class is suitable for beginning and experienced meditators alike. Guidance in the practice of meditation is a feature of every class - the group environment is warm and supportive for this practice. Along with guided meditation we will explore thru discussion letting go of "me" the stories we identify with that lead to our suffering. The cost for the entire course is \$60. or \$12 drop in. For more information and to register contact Jo Ellen Boskind at [jboskind@westmass.com](mailto:jboskind@westmass.com) or call her at 978 249-0929.

## **TOWN NOTICES**

### **Board of Health – Measles Notice**

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has a recent article for parents about measles that can be found at the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/measles/>

### **FY2015 Real Estate and Personal Property 3rd Quarter Tax Bills Due Feb. 2nd**

The 3rd and 4th quarter Fiscal Year 2015 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills were mailed out on December 30. This is to remind you that FY2015 3rd Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are now due and payable. The due date for the 3rd quarter's bills is February 2, 2015. 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](mailto: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 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 at [www.unitaxonline.com](http://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 or Tax Collector pages at the town website at [www.newsalem-massachusetts.org](http://www.newsalem-massachusetts.org).

### **New Salem Transfer Station News**

*New Wood Pellet Bag Recycling Program:* This is a pilot program and can only accept pellet bags – no other plastic bag or plastic film product. Bags must be dry and empty. They must be bundled together. There will be twine at the New Salem Transfer Station if needed. It's very important for participants to follow the guidelines so that all material can be recycled and not rejected by the end market. Residents in New Salem may deliver pellet bags to the Transfer Station during normal operating hours. There is no fee. New Salem residents can bring their bags clean and bundled to the Wendell Transfer Station also. There is no fee there either.

*Transfer Station Bags Winner:* Carol Bright won the package of New Salem Trash Bags for picking up the rubbish on the side of the road. Good work Carol. If you are interested in trying to win the free rubbish bags talk to Bob at the New Salem Transfer Station.

*Suggestion Box at Transfer Station:* There will be a suggestion box at the New Salem Transfer Station. If you have any suggestions for ways to improve the Transfer Station just leave it in the box.

### **Selectboard News**

*Selectboard Member Sought:* The Selectboard is seeking another member to fill a vacancy. An election is required but possible candidates should express their interests as soon as possible to the two remaining Selectmen. Contact 978-544-6437 if interested.

*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.

## **COUNTY EVENTS**

### **Pre-School Programs offered at Local Libraries**

Thanks to a federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the state Board of Library Commissioners, special programs designed to improve math and science understanding for young children will be offered at Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving and Wendell libraries. Gillian Budine, coordinator for the Union #28 Community Network of Children Program is coordinating the grant. All programs are free and open to the public. They are designed for pre-school children ages 3-6 years old. Children do not have to live in the towns, but all children must be accompanied by a caregiver during the sessions. The following programs will be offered in February:

*Thursday, February 5 at Leverett Public Library:* Science in the Kitchen from 3:15-4:15  
*Saturday, February 7 at Erving Public Library:* LEGO DUPLOTM Science

Transportation from 11:00 am to noon.

*Wednesday, February 11 at Shutesbury Public Library: Squirrels and Their Adaptations at 3:00 pm.*

*Sunday, February 15 at Wendell Public Library: Measuring Dinosaurs at 2:00 pm.*

*Sunday, February 22 at Wendell Public Library: Live Animals and Insects at 2:00 pm.*

Contact Gillian Budine at 978-544-5157 for more information.

### **Community Network for Children Programs**

*Tuesday, February 24 at the Wendell Free Library: Parenting Workshop – Toileting Tips.* This **free** program is presented by Sarah Patton, LICSW, HHC Integrative Health Counseling. Dinner and childcare available for this event with **pre-registration**. Dinner: 5:30-6:00 pm. Workshop and Childcare 6:00-8:00 pm. To register please call the CNC office at (978)-544-5157 by February 20th.

### **Franklin County Solid Waste District News**

*“Clean Sweep” – Bulky Waste Day.* Save the date: May 16th from 9 am to 12 noon. . Bring tires, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, construction debris, computers and equipment, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. You can also bring clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books for reuse or recycling. New in 2015: Bring bulky rigid plastics for recycling. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. See attached press release. Disposal fees listed at:

[www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html)

*New Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program:* The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District has been awarded a Massachusetts Community Innovation Challenge Grant and a grant from MassDEP to implement a **free** recycling program for agricultural plastics. See attached press release.

*Mercury Thermostat Disposal:* These thermostats contain liquid mercury, which can be hazardous to our environment and human health if not properly disposed of. Franklin County Solid Waste Management District accepts thermostats for **free**.

Mercury is found in many household items such as thermometers, thermostats, some button batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs, including energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). None of these mercury-containing items should be put in the trash. See attached press release for details.

For more information on any of these programs or events, see the attached press release or contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District: 413-772-2438, [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org).

### **Wendell Yoga**

Janice Doubleday is offering a Hatha Yoga class in Wendell. For details call her at 978-544-7079.

### **Free Skating!**

There is free skating (weather permitting) open to all area residents at the outdoor Orange Skating Rink at Butterfield Park and the Wendell State Forest Skating Rink.

**UP & COMING**

March 11	Reading Aloud for Grown-ups - Sally Howe and Allen Young
April 1	Reading Aloud for Grown-ups - Mira Bartok and Mike Ross
May 6	Clean Sweep – Bulky Waste Removal Day
May 27	Council on Aging Trip to Vermont Fresian Horse Farm
July 18	New Salem 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.*

*Visit the town's [www.newsalem-massachusetts.org](http://www.newsalem-massachusetts.org) for more information about our town.*