

NEW SALEM NEWS - January Newsletter

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New Salem Library News

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library appreciate the responses 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: New Salem Library Teen News! What's new in the New Year? The Library is open every **Wednesday** (moved from Fridays) from 1:30 to 5:30 for 11 to 18 year olds, **only!** 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?

Wednesday, January 7 – Teen Advisory Board Meeting and Game Night

Wednesday, January 14 - Sharpie Mug Design

Wednesday, January 21 - Smoothies and more with Seeds of Solidarity!

Wednesday, January 28 - Henna tattoos and a movie

Stay tuned for news about our Winterfest - Sledding after dark, hot chocolate and more! 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 Tuesday, January 6.

Pizza and Pages: On Tuesday, January 6th from 5:00-6:30 pm: *Pizza and Pages*, a teen reading club, will be discussing *The Last Olympian*, by Rick Riordan. Pizza available thanks to the New Salem General Store.

LEGO Club: On Thursday, January 8th 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 January 14th at 7:00 pm, the Book Discussion Group will be discussing *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed. There are copies available for check out at the front desk. This is an exciting memoir that is the basis for a recently released film starring Reese Witherspoon.

Reading Aloud for Grown-ups Program: The 2015 season schedule is:

Wednesday, January 7 (snow date Jan. 14) - Dee Waterman and Jane Clukay
Wednesday, February 11 (snow date Feb. 18) - Adam Frost and Sue Blake
Wednesday, March 11 (snow date March 18) - Sally Howe and Allen Young
Wednesday, April 1 (snow date April 8) - Mira Bartok and Mike Ross

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.

Book Info: The Friends of the Public Library encourages you to check the Front Desk for books not appearing on the shelves. There may be a waiting list for the book you wish to check out. We also want to point out a list posted on the Friends of the Library Bulletin Board which contains the names of recently purchased books using funds from that group. In addition, there is a list featuring books the library has purchased posted near the Front Desk. When the shelves look a bit sparse, books are being checked out which is all to the good of our library.

Chess Club for Tweens and Teens: The Library is looking for someone to teach the rudiments of chess to local tweens and teens. If you are interested, contact the library at 978-544-6334 or n_salem@cwmar.org. If you have a chess board around your house gathering dust, please donate it for the kids to use at the library. More information to follow.

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.

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, January 9th, we will meet at the Stowell Building for a Pizza Party at noon. The cost will be \$5 per person. Please let Hendra Reidy (978-544-2178) know that you are coming if you have not already signed up. We will gather at 10 am for a brief meeting followed by Bingo and coffee. The snow date will be the following Friday.

Trip to Vermont Horse Farm: The Council will be sponsoring a trip this spring thanks to a grant from New Salem Academy. The trip will be to the Vermont Horse Farm in Townshend, VT, to view Fresian horses. There will be a carriage ride and a choreographed musical show with lunch to follow at the New England House Restaurant. We will be announcing the date as soon as their schedule for 2015 becomes available. The cost will be \$20 per person. This trip is **not just for seniors**, so if you wish to sign up for the trip, please keep tuned to the New Salem News where we will publish news about the trip as soon as it is available.

Busy B's: We continue to meet on Wednesday at the Stowell Building from 1:00-3:00

pm. 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 (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.

TOWN NOTICES

FY2015 Real Estate and Personal Property 3rd Quarter Tax Bills Due

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. 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. 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.

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. Or they can bring their bags clean and bundled to the Wendell Transfer Station. There is no fee there either.

Transfer Station Bags Winner: Keep bringing in that trash and you could be the next person to win free bags from the 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.

Holiday Recycling Reminders

Did you know that the average American family can create as many as 10 extra bags of trash around the holidays? In towns that require "Pay-As-You-Throw" town trash bags, those 10 additional trash bags would cost \$15 - \$30, depending on the town. The Franklin County Solid Waste District wants to spread the good news that gift wrap, gift bags, gift tissue paper, boxes, cards and other holiday waste **is** recyclable! We also would like to remind people that holiday lights, styrofoam peanuts, ribbons and bows are **not** recyclable. This year we have tools to help educate holiday revelers:

1. The attached *Holiday Recycling Reminder* PDF that can be printed in color or black and white.
2. The **new** *Recycle on the Holidays* PDF created for the new Springfield MRF Education campaign. (You'll soon start to see new signage at transfer stations, new recycling brochures, and other materials.) This is best printed or viewed in color. Online at: <http://springfieldmrf.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/holidays8.5x116-13-14.pdf>
3. The attached *Holiday Recycling Guideline* that contains holiday recycling reminders, ideas for reducing and reusing this holiday season, and alternative recycling or reuse options for items not acceptable in municipal recycling such as packing peanuts and holiday lights.

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.

UP & COMING

February 11 Reading Aloud for Grownups – Adam Frost & Sue Blake

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 for more information about our town.