

NEW SALEM NEWS - May Newsletter

May 2	Town-Wide Tag Sale on Common
May 2	Representative McGovern Holding Office Hours
May 3	SRVHS Hike to Macedonia
May 4	Annual Town Election
May 5	Green Kids Club at the Library
May 5	Pizza and Pages at the Library
May 5	Lego Club at the Library
May 8	Council on Aging Luncheon
May 9	Work Party at the Library Garden
May 12	Green Kids Club at the Library
May 13	Historical Commission Annual Meeting
May 14	Workshop on Pollinators with Tom Sullivan
May 14	Lego Club at the Library
May 16	Clean Sweep – Bulky Waste Day
May 17	SRVHS Hike to the former Greenwich Village
May 22	Council on Aging Luncheon
May 30	Town Democratic Caucus

Town-Wide Tag Sale Has Over 22 Vendors

Come to the Town Wide Tag Sale on the Common from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 2nd. There are over 22 vendors already signed up as well as the Library Used Books, the Central Congregational Church's "Attic Treasures" and the 1794 Meetinghouse who are raising money for their "Raise the Roof" campaign to repair the building's roof. Registrations are \$15 and will be accepted the day of the tag sale. Rain date: Sunday, May 3rd. This event is sponsored by the New Salem Recreation Committee.

New Salem Broadband Committee Update

We met our first goal! With 200 households signed up for WiredWest we have achieved and surpassed the minimum 40% household sign up goal to be eligible to be wired for high speed Internet. Our next goal is to have 80 more households sign up which will put us at 60% of households in town pre-registered. This will increase our odds of being among the first to be wired.

Please sign up! You can sign up with a credit card online at www.wiredwest.net. To sign up by mail download a registration form or pick up a form at the New Salem General Store or the New Salem Library and mail it along with your check for \$49 to WiredWest, Old Courthouse, 99 Main St., Northampton, MA 01060.

For people who would like to know more about the project there will be several opportunities to do this in May. The Broadband Committee will be at both the Town Wide Tag Sale on Saturday May 2 and at the Town Election on Monday May 4. In addition, there will be another New Salem Broadband Committee/WiredWest Information Session at 7pm on Wednesday, May 20th in the Training Room at the New

Salem Fire Station. You can also email your questions to us at broadband@newsalem-massachusetts.org or learn more at www.newsalem-massachusetts.org and www.wiredwest.net.

Remember, there are two more important actions needed to bring high-speed Internet to our town:

VOTE AT THE JUNE 1st ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - Mark your calendar and be sure all of the registered voters in your household attend the meeting. A 2/3 vote is needed to authorize borrowing to fund the project.

VOTE IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION - Soon after town meeting a majority (>50%) ballot vote is needed to approve the debt exclusion. Date to be announced.

Thanks to everyone who signed up to support this project! Let's do this New Salem!

Representative Jim McGovern Hosting Office Hours in Ware on May 2

Jim McGovern will be hosting office hours in your area for residents of Ware, Belchertown, New Salem, Hardwick, West Brookfield. At office hours, constituents will have the opportunity to discuss issues with Rep. McGovern.

Since his election in 1996, Rep. McGovern has consistently been a leader in holding office hours and other direct constituent outreach efforts. Office Hours with Congressman Jim McGovern for residents of Ware, Belchertown, New Salem, Hardwick, West Brookfield on Saturday, May 2 from 2:30–3:30 pm at the Ware Fire Dept., 200 West St. Ware.

New Salem Old Home Day Committee Looking for Volunteers

The theme of this year's Old Home Day on Saturday, July 18th is *Old-Fashioned Fun*. We planning on having, old-fashioned music, old-fashioned floats, old-fashioned food, old-fashioned games and contests! We are looking for volunteers who will help out for about 30 minutes on Old Home Day with events or games. If you would like to help make Old Home Day a success, email nsoldhomeday@gmail.com or call 978-544-3410 or 978-544-2660. We will match you up with an activity of event of your choice. Save the date: **Saturday, July 18th**.

New Salem Agricultural Commission Workshop on Pollinators Supporting Agriculture with Tom Sullivan

On Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 pm, the New Salem Agricultural Commission will be sponsoring a free workshop on at the New Salem Library. For more information about Tom Sullivan, visit pollinators.welcome.com. RSVP not required. Please call Sandy for questions at 1-413-219-4458.

The New Salem Community Garden

A shed is being constructed near the Community Garden by the Franklin Tech School. This project was supported by grant money, donations, member donations and our plant sale on Old Home Day.

Perennials sought: If you have perennials you wish to have divided or have divided yourself, we are accepting donations towards this years Old Home Day event. Please contact Sandy at sspiewak20@yahoo.com if you are interested

New Salem Library News

We're having a party--- a work party, that is! Come help beautify the library garden on Saturday, May 9 at 1 pm. We'll be having fun while doing some planting, spreading mulch, etc. Questions or in case of rain, call Lisa at 544-6710.

Pizza and Pages: On Tuesday, May 5th, the book *The Runaway King* by Jennifer A. Nielsen will be discussed. The pizza is generously donated by the New Salem General Store.

Green Club for Kids: The Green Club for Kids will take place from 3:30-5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 5th and Tuesday, May 12th.

Lego Club: May 14th will be the last LEGO Club meeting at the New Salem Library. Come build something amazing! Try the challenge. Make a new friend. Put your build on display. Swift River School students can take the school bus. (Jean Daley meet the bus.) Open to kids age 5 and up. Snack provided. 3:30 to 5:00. This program is generously funded by the New Salem Academy. Call 978-544-6334 for more information. The Lego Club, a New Salem Academy grant-funded club, meets every second Thursday of every month.

Used Book Sale at the Town-Wide Tag Sale: If you plan on donating items to the Friends of the Library for the New Salem Tag Sale on May 2nd, please bring them that morning and thanks again!

Old Home Day Library Book Sale: The Friends of the New Salem Public Library are asking that you please hold onto your gently used books for the Old Home Day Library Book Sale until July 1st. There is no storage at the Library! Thank you in advance for your donations. We really appreciate them.

Museum Passes: The New Salem Public Library has received 2 more museum passes as donations from the Clark Institute in Williamstown and the Brattleboro Museum in Brattleboro VT. Please check the availability of these and our other passes, purchased by the Friends of the New Salem Public Library, at the front desk. The Friends of the new Salem Public Library have also recently funded a Butterfly Museum Pass. It should be here soon!

Teens and Tweens Club: We just got a new sewing machine! We're sewing capes and device covers this month. Martial Arts should happen later in the month. The Karate Kid movies will be available for watching. Free snacks! The Teens and Tweens Club would like to thank Cindy and Chuck Hartwell for the donation of a sewing machine!

Book Discussion Group: The book discussion group is invited to select a new read for May from a list posted at the front desk.

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.

Historical Commission Annual Meeting on May 13

The New Salem Historical Commission Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, May 13 at 7 pm. Email jean@historicnewsalem.com for more information.

Council on Aging News

Bingo and Luncheon: In May and June we will move back to the Town Hall for our luncheons. Again we will gather at 10:00 am for bingo with coffee and lunch to follow at noon. Please call Hendra Reidy (978-544-2178) to reserve a spot.

Old Home Day Tin Can Auction: The Council on Aging will be having our annual Tin Can Auction of hand-made items. If you have anything you would like to donate, please call Judy Jewett at 978-544-2216. We will also have three baskets as part of the auction: Chocolate, Breakfast and Family Fun. If you have an item you would to donate to a basket please call Judy.

Trip to the Vermont Fresian Horse Farm Reminder: The bus trip on May 27th is full and we have a wait list. Hendra will contact you if you signed up concerning payment, lunch choice and times.

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.

Swift River Valley Historical Society Schedules Hikes and Bus Trips in Quabbin

Limited spaces so contact the office immediately by phone (978-544-6882) or email at megansrvhs@gmail.com.

Hike #1: Sunday, May 3rd, hike to Macedonia section of New Salem. Meet at New Salem Common at 11:00 am. This is not a hike that approaches the reservoir, for those who might want a hike that goes to the water.

Hike #2: Sunday, May 17th, a walk "to and over Greenwich Village" - meet at Gate 43 11:00 am.

Bus Trip #1: Sunday, June 21st bus trip through New Salem & Dana, depart from SRVHS 11:00 am.

Bus Trip #2: Sunday, October 4th Prescott bus trip, depart from SRVHS at 11:00 am.

Hike #3: Sunday, October 18th, hike to Indian Kitchen & plane crash site, meet at gate 40, 11:00 am.

Hikes are free; a \$25 per person donation is asked for bus trips, space reserved in advance. Send checks to: Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS) at P.O. Box 22, New Salem, MA 01355.

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

Notice of Property Inspections by Assessors Office – FY2016

The New Salem Board of Assessors will be conducting property data quality inspections

of various properties in New Salem beginning in late April through September of 2015. These inspections will be conducted by Duane Adams, from Mayflower Valuation, and by Kenneth Holmberg, the New Salem Assistant Assessor, both of who will carry a field ID card and use a personal vehicle. Notices are being mailed to all parcels in the areas we plan on inspecting for data quality.

The inspection takes a few minutes generally and includes an exterior inspection and measure of improvements and an interior inspection to verify data such as bedroom and bathroom count, physical condition, and square footage of living space.

The inspections are to verify the data on the property record card to ensure your property value will be based on accurate information. In addition to sale inspections and permit inspections, the Assessors are required by the Department of Revenue's Guidelines for Development of a Minimum Reassessment Program to conduct cyclical inspections on a portion of parcels each fiscal year to meet our state approval requirement to inspect each parcel at least one every nine years.

The staff of the Assessor's Office also conducts sale and permit inspections throughout town all year long. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your cooperation. As always, we appreciate your assistance in ensuring your data is accurate and your value is fair. We encourage you to review your property record card, available in the Assessor's Office. Questions may be addressed to 978-544-5814 or newsalemassessor@hotmail.com.

Town Election Notice

The following town offices are up for election at this year's annual town election in 2015:

Selectboard	3 year term
Board of Health	3 year term
Assessor	3 year term
Planning Board	5 year term
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)

Annual Town Election Monday, May 4

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

New Salem Democratic Caucus Scheduled

The New Salem Town Democratic Caucus will be Saturday, May 30 at 9:00 am at the Stowell Building. The main purpose of the caucus is to select delegates to the State Democratic Convention. The New Salem Town Democratic Caucus is somewhat later this year because the State Democratic Convention is on Sept. 19 instead of in June as in previous years. More information will be forthcoming so stay tuned.

Tax Collector's Office Closed May 28 Through June 11

Tax Collector's Office will be closed Thursday May 28 through Thursday June 11

-Money orders will be accepted in lieu of cash payments during this period of time.

-Money orders or checks may be placed in the black tax payment drop box located in front of the Town Hall.

-Money orders or checks may also be mailed to the Tax Collector, 24 S. Main St., New Salem, MA 01355

-Payments for current bills may be made online at unitaxonline.com

-If you have questions email newsalemtax@aol.com and the Tax Collector will get back to you as soon as possible.

New Salem Transfer Station News

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 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

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

UP & COMING

June 1	Annual Town Meeting
June 21	SRVHS Bus trip through New Salem and Dana
July 18	New Salem Old Home Day
October 4	SRVHS Prescott bus trip
October 18	SRVHS Hike to Indian Kitchen and plane crash site from Gate 40

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.