

NEW SALEM NEWS – May Newsletter

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May 4	Book Discussion Group at the Library
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May 5	Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers Reading Time at the Library
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May 25	<i>Aging in Place</i> Presentation
May 27	Council on Aging Luncheon

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 8:00–2:00 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. The Salvation Army will pick up leftover **eligible** items again at the Old Town Hall. If you have friends in area towns that would like to participate, they are welcome to contact Lynn and join us.

Old Home Day Committee Seeking Vendors

The Old Home Day Committee is seeking vendors for this year's Old Home Day which will take place on Saturday, July 16th. Vendors set up on the Common from 10:00-3:00 and offer their wares to the Old Home Day visitors. The cost is \$10 for a 10' by 10' area. A vendor form is attached to this newsletter if you are interested or you could contact nsoldhomeday@gmail.com.

New Spring Schedule for Worcester to Northampton Bus

Maxbus that stops in New Salem on the way to Worcester and Northampton has a new spring schedule. The bus leaves about an hour later in the morning and returns an hour or so earlier in the afternoon. The schedule can be found at www.maxpressbus.com

New Salem Library News

Book Discussion Group: The Book Discussion Group will be talking about *Girl at War* by Sara Novic on Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00 pm.

Toddler & Pre-Schooler Reading Time. On Thursdays May 5th 12th, 19th and 26th from 10:30 to 11:30 am there will be a Toddler and Preschooler Reading Time featuring local readers. Snacks will be provided. People wishing to volunteer as readers for this program may call the library at 978-544-6334.

Lego Club: The Lego Club will be on Saturday, May 14th from 12:30-2:00 pm. This program is offered at the same time the 2nd Saturday of each month.

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!

Friends of The New Salem Public Library News

Feasting in 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 (978-544-6334) to reserve a snack!

Tag Sale Table at the Town Wide Tag Sale: The Friends of the Library will be having a Tag Sale Table at the Town-wide Tag Sale on May 7. All proceeds from sales will go to the Friends for programming and books for the library. Any small items are welcome especially toys and games suitable for children. All you have to do is bring them up to the tag sale which begins at 8 am on May 7. The Friends' table will be set up in front of the side door of the library. If you are not available you may drop off items at the library

the Thursday before the sale, May 5. Please don't drop them off any earlier as space is limited and we'd like to keep the library neat and ready for patrons. Many thanks for your help.

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.

Upcoming sessions will take place on Wednesday, May 25 and Wednesday, June 22 at the New Salem Library 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

Luncheon: The Council on Aging will be **moving back to the Town Hall** in May. They will be meeting on Friday, May 13th and Friday, May 27th at 10:00 am for Bingo and visiting followed by lunch at noon. 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

We finally have spring! With that said, we are looking for plants to be donated for the Old Home Day plant sale to support our fence project. If you have plants that need dividing or want removed, please let me know. I will come over to your home to pick them up or divide them for you. Contact Sandy at 413-219-4458 or sspiewak20@yahoo.com. Also, there are 3 available plots at the garden, if you are interested in planting in full sun. The cost is \$10 per plot and \$5 for shed key. Thanks! Let's get growing together!

Prayer Shawl Ministry of New Salem

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of New Salem will meet Friday, May 20th 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

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)

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

FY2016 Real Estate and Personal Property 4th Quarter Tax Bills Due

This is to remind you that FY2016 4th Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are now due and payable. The due date for these bills is May 2, 2016. Payments received after that date will be charged interest and fees.

Payment stubs for this bill, as well as the 3rd Quarter bill, were included in the mailing sent out at the end of December. If you have trouble locating the stub and wish to find out the amount due you may call (978) 544-5775 and leave a message stating your name, phone number and the address of your property. The Tax Collector will call you with the amount of your bill. You may also email your request for this information to newsalemntax@aol.com.

It is also possible to look up your bill information online at www.unitaxonline.com whether or not you plan to pay online.

- Enter www.unitaxonline.com in your web browser.
- Select Town of New Salem from the drop down menu in the box under "Search".

- Select bill type under transactions (Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate).
- Then click on “Need help finding your bill?” on the transaction screen.
- Fill in the requested information on the popup screen and press continue.

Non-cash payments may be deposited in the black 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. Bills may also be paid online at www.unitaxonline.com (select New Salem from the Search menu). Please note that the online option is not available after the due date. Cash payments (bring exact change, please) may be made at 24 S. Main Street during the Tax Collector’s office hours on Tuesdays 5-7pm and Thursdays 10am-Noon.

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 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 recently added a third member to the Energy Committee, but two more openings 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.

UPCOMING

June 22	Aging in Place
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.