

NEW SALEM NEWS – October Newsletter

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Editor's Note: Last month several people with yahoo.com accounts did not receive their newsletters due to technical failure. It appears as if the number of attachments may have increased the size of the newsletter to a point where it exceeded the recipient's email size limit. As a result, attachments will be minimized and links to information will be preferred.

Bus Service for New Salem from Worcester to Northampton

There's a new bus service that stops in New Salem. The service which is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation goes from Worcester to Northampton twice daily. For more information pick up a schedule from the New Salem Store or go to www.maxpressbus.com.

Complete the Fence Petition

Concern has surfaced about the need to complete the fence which borders Wendell Road at Swift River School. As there is now a running track which goes along the inside of the fence, child safety is more at risk. See the attached write-up for details.

Watershed Forest Management Tour

On Monday, October 12th at 2:00 pm, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will be sponsoring a Watershed Forest Management Tour. Please join us for a walk through a declining hemlock forest that has been marked for a timber harvest. We'll talk about hemlock decline, biodiversity, and the whys and hows of watershed forest management. You'll have a chance to talk with the new Quabbin Forester for New Salem and Petersham and other Division of Water Supply staff members, and enjoy a walk in the autumn woods. Please wear sturdy shoes and long pants. The tour will be a mix of walking on woods roads and gentle off-trail hiking on easy to moderate terrain. Meet at the DCR Office at 21 Elm Street in New Salem. Please RSVP if possible to Helen.Johnson@state.ma.us

Town Halloween Party Planning

A town Halloween Party is being planned for Saturday, October 31st. If you would like to help in the planning, contact Deb Rolski at 978-544-3327.

1794 Meetinghouse Roof Replacement

The 1794 Meetinghouse roof is currently undergoing a roof replacement. Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign by the 1794 Meetinghouse, bringing in over \$17,000 in donations, enough money was been raised to replace the roof of the building, which is owned by the Town and leased to the Meetinghouse. An assessment had indicated that it would not make it through another winter if not replaced. The Meetinghouse also wants to restore the interior plaster and paint, replace or rebuild the shutters, and catch up with a number of minor improvements to improve access to the building. Any help with donations would be greatly appreciated. Your donations, big and small, make a big difference. You can donate online at <http://www.1794meetinghouse.org> or you can send checks to 1794 Meetinghouse, PO Box 8, New Salem MA 01355. All donations are tax deductible.

New Meditation Course To Begin

A new meditation class will be conducted by New Salem resident Jo Ellen Boskind at the White Elephant Yoga Studio in Orange. It will start on Monday, October 19 from 6:30-8:00 pm and run for four consecutive weeks, concluding on Monday November 9. This class is suitable for beginning and experienced meditators alike. It will include guided meditation and discussion around integrating the lessons of meditation into everyday life. For further information and to register contact Jo Ellen Boskind LICSW at jboskind@westmass.com or call 978 249-092

New Salem Library News.

Lego Club: The Lego Club will meet on Tuesday, October 6th at 3:30 pm. Open to ages 5 and up.

Pizza and Pages: On Wednesday, October 14th, from 4:00-5:00 pm, our dystopian book club is taking a wild leap in a new direction and will be discussing *Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman. Come join us for dinner and make some new friends! The New Salem General Store will be providing the scrumptious pizza.

Teens and Tweens: It's harmonica time! Come learn to play the harmonica starting Wednesday, October 14th. Free Hohner harmonica to each participant. Come on the school bus! This group will be meeting on Wednesday, October 7th and every Wednesday from 1:30-5:30. It is open to kids 11-18 from any town! Call 978-544-6334 for more info.

Bulletin Boards: The New Salem Public Library has two bulletin boards to the left of the front desk as you enter. One lets you know what the Friends of the Library has been up to in its mission to support the library, and the second one gives regular library programming information. Be sure to check these out. On the third wall on the left near the end of the desk is a list of new titles available on our shelves.

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.

Museum Passes: The Library has two more passes to the Clark Institute in Williamstown and the Brattleboro Museum in Brattleboro VT and a Butterfly Museum Pass. Please call to reserve your pass.

Friends of the New Salem Public Library

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library welcomes people to attend meetings, offer suggestions, and volunteer to help us with events etc. They are generating a list of "jobs," you could help with to keep the library beautiful.

Massachusetts Broadband Update

Please read the September/October 2015 Newsletter from The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at <http://broadband.masstech.org/news-and-updates> . In this edition, we discuss the progress we have made toward "last mile" broadband, the impact of broadband on in-home health care, the State department led media tour of Leverett's broadband network and the town of Royalston's wireless broadband project. Thank you for your continued interest in the MBI as we work to extend access to affordable high-speed Internet across the Commonwealth.

Community Garden Update

Cover Crop Bulk Order: We have had a pretty successful growing season and we have a few more veggies to pick. We will be putting our gardens "to bed" by November. If you are interested in doing a cover crop to supplement your soil, we can do a bulk order. We will be going shopping so let Sandy (sspiewak20@yahoo.com) know if you want to share in buying. You can view possible types of cover crops at Cover Crop Guide <http://covercrops.cals.cornell.edu/fall.php>

Ideas: If you have ideas on how to change and improve our garden let us know. We are going to measure and price a fence and two gates, then begin writing grant proposals. The Agricultural Commission will be applying for grants in order to have speakers this winter at the library. Hope to see you there! Those presentations will be advertised in the New Salem News and around town.

Council on Aging News

Lunch & Bingo: We will meet at the Town Hall for lunch on October 9th and 23rd. We will gather at 10:00 am for Bingo with lunch to follow at noon. Please call Hendra Reidy to sign up. (978-544-2178).

Busy B's: Busy B's continue to meet at the Stowell Building on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 pm. Please bring your project and join us, or just come to visit.

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

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

TOWN NOTICES

FY16 Preliminary Real Estate & Personal Property 2nd Quarter Tax Bills Due

This is to remind you that FY2016 2nd Quarter Preliminary Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are now due and payable. The due date for this quarter's bills is November 2, 2015. Payments received after that date will be charged interest and fees.

Payment stubs for this bill were included with the 1st quarter bill. 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 newsalemtax@aol.com.

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. Bills may also be paid online at www.unitaxonline.com through November 2 (be sure to enter 2016 for Tax Year). Cash payments may be made during the Tax Collector's office hours at 24 S. Main Street on Tuesdays 5-7pm and Thursdays 10am-Noon.

Board of Assessors Seeks Two Replacements

The Board of Assessors is seeking two replacements. One for the pending retirement of chair Phyllis Stever, who has served for ten years, and the other for the open slot previously existing. It is required that the board have three members, however a board of two members meets the minimum requirement for a quorum. The pending departure of Phyllis will leave the board (and the town) in a predicament where, **with only one assessor, we cannot legally function, sign paperwork required by the state, and allow the town to operate.** 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.

Planning Board Seeking New Member

The Planning Board is looking for a new member to replace one who retired. If you might be interested, please email hughtfield@gmail.com, or phone Hugh at 978-544-1856.

Board of Health Seeking Relief Attendant

The Board of Health is looking for a relief attendant at the Transfer Station. You can either contact Bob at the Transfer Station or see Donna at the Board of Health office at the Stowell Building on Thursdays from 9:00-noon or call 978-544-1856.

Transfer Station News

Hugh McKay won the free bags at the Transfer Station for the month of September. Thank you, Hugh, for helping to keep New Salem clean. If you are interested in trying to win some free transfer station bags just talk to Bob at the Transfer Station.

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.

UPCOMING

November 2 2nd Quarter Real Estate & Personal Property Tax Bills Due

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.