

## *New Salem News November 1, 2016*

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Property taxes due
- 5 Friends of the Library wine tasting
- 5 Open art studio at Donna Eaton's
- 8 Election
- 9 Peter Christoph bird photography slides
- 10 Council on Aging pizza party
- 10 Holiday wreath-making
- 13 Yoga Vistas Mindfulness program
- 13 1794 Meetinghouse beading party

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 3 Edwardian Christmas Tea
  - 14 Library book group
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#### **The Election, Finally**

The New Salem polls are open Tuesday, November 8, 7a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Old Library, 24 South Main St. You can see a sample ballot at <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx> Contact Stacy Senflug with questions at [\(978\) 544-2731](tel:9785442731) or [newsalemsclerk@aol.com](mailto:newsalemsclerk@aol.com) .

#### **Lunch, Pizza, and Bingo: New Salem Council on Aging**

Our luncheons in November and December will move to the Stowell Building. Since the well at the Stowell Building is dry at the moment, if you can bring a jug of water it would be appreciated. If you like to drink water with your meal, it would be good to bring a small bottle with you.

We will gather before the luncheons for coffee and Bingo at 10 with lunch to follow at noon. Be sure to call Hendra Reidy to let her know that you are coming. [\(978-544-2178\)](tel:9785442178)

On November 10, a THURSDAY, we will have a pizza party. The cost will be \$5 per person. Be sure to let Hendra know that you are coming to that as well!!

#### **Edwardian Christmas Tea with the Friends of the New Salem Public Library**

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library will be hosting an “Edwardian Christmas Tea” in the historic New Salem Academy Building on the New Salem Town Common on Saturday, December 3rd from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The building, constructed in 1908, is now the private residence of the Abbouds, who have kindly offered to open their beautiful home for this special “Friends” event.

Tea and delicious snacks will be served beginning at 3:00 p.m., followed by a unique presentation by Mrs. Gordon, who will take you back in time as she describes her plans for the 1908 holiday, including preparation of a Christmas dinner. She will talk about what ladies, gentlemen, and children wanted in their stockings that year, plus consult her 1908 Sears & Roebuck catalogue to let you know what things cost on your “Christmas Wish List”!

If you would like to get into the tea-time spirit (though not a requirement), then wear something in Victorian style such as gloves, hats and fans.

In addition to the tea and program, there will be a Holiday Book Sale, where the Friends offer a wide selection of lightly used books suitable to give as gifts at very reasonable prices. Also, a raffle is being held for a Tea-themed basket.

This event is free and any donations made to the Friends of the New Salem Public Library are much appreciated.

### **Book sale donations sought**

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library are seeking donations of lightly used adult and children's books for their annual Holiday Book Sale in December. The books should be suitable to be purchased for gift giving and can be dropped off at the library. All proceeds from the Holiday Sale benefit the library.

### **Free Weekly Playgroup**

Come and enjoy stories, songs and craft activities with your child(ren) and other families from your community at the Swift River School on Tuesdays, 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. This Playgroup, facilitated by Emily Joseph, is intended for children 0-5 years of age and is sponsored by the Swift River School and Union #28 Community Network for Children. Program not held during school closures. See the CNC Website for program and event

schedules, <https://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/home>. For more information, please contact Gillian Budine, (978) 544-5157 or email [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com).

### **Talk, Read & Play home visits for little folks**

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 to ask questions, call [978-544-5157](tel:978-544-5157). Find flyer and more details at the Community Network for Children's website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren>

### **1794 Meetinghouse Beading Fundraiser**

Fall beading party fundraiser returns to the Central Congregational Church, New Salem, Sunday, November 13 - 1:00 - 5:00pm. Admission is \$10 plus the cost of beads. Cash or check at the door, advance registration preferred. Call Lynn Boudreau at 978-544-7490 to register and to answer any questions you may have!

### **Library News**

November 9, Wednesday at 7:00 pm: New Salem Public Library welcomes Peter Christoph, who is presenting a narrated slideshow of his favorite bird photographs all taken right here in Massachusetts. The program is both entertaining and informative as he shares both stories and the techniques he used to capture the images. Peter will also have available the companion book BIRDS and hold a book signing after the presentation. (This program is supported by a grant from the new Salem Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.)

November 10, Thursday at 7:00 pm: Holiday Wreath Making Workshop with Kay Leonard. There is a 12 person limit for this event. To sign-up or get information on materials and cost, please call Kay: [978-544-7645](tel:978-544-7645)

November 13, Sunday: Yoga Vistas, an ancient practice in a modern time, will hold Series 1, "Mindfulness" at the New Salem Public Library. Join Darlene Reilly for this first in a series of discussions exploring culture, tradition, and society through the lens of mindfulness and the mind-body connection. Series 2 date and topic to be announced. (This program is supported by a grant from the new Salem Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.)

December 14, Wednesday: The Book Discussion Group's selection is *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Books now available at the New Salem Public Library.

### **Open Art Studio at Donna Eaton's**

Date: Saturday, November 5th, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:30 p.m. no early birds thanks

Location: 837 Daniel Shays Highway, New Salem

More information: [artistdme@yahoo.com](mailto:artistdme@yahoo.com)

### **Wine Tasting with Friends of the New Salem Public Library**

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library still have tickets available for their wine tasting fundraiser on November 5 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Quabbin Sky Vineyard on Hunt Road. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the library front desk, from any Friends board member or by calling [978-544-2611](tel:978-544-2611). Tickets can also be purchased on Nov. 5 at the event.

### **Broadband Update**

On March 14, the Baker-Polito Administration with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) issued a joint letter to participating towns supporting the concept of “last mile” broadband projects. This effectively signaled the end to the Governor’s months-long “pause” on the broadband project.

Our participation in a May petition to the Governor and other political action paid off in a clear directive from the governor for the project to begin. New Salem was chosen as one of the six first round towns.

As it has been MBI’s policy not to fund a shared regional ownership, all towns must build and own their network. In response, WiredWest has developed an alternate plan to regionalize management, maintenance and a shared Internet Service Provider to comport with state guidelines and benefit from a regional operations model – but not ownership.

Members of the Broadband Committee, Selectboard, Finance Committee, and the Town Clerk have been working since June with MBI and the State on a process to assess New Salem’s financial viability to own and operate a sustainable broadband network. We are pleased that MBI is assisting us in these efforts and that WiredWest is providing advice and support as we move through this process.

We completed our town readiness profile assessing financial viability and received our “green light” letter from the State and Bond Counsel in August.

In September, we received our final approval from MBI and can proceed with the preliminary step of the construction project, which is a pole survey.

New Salem is scheduled for pole surveying to begin on November 13. This is expected to take four to five weeks to complete and is paid for entirely by funds from MBI. You may see workers and trucks marked “Osrose” along town roads during this time. Further details of our plans will be laid out through additional communication and informational sessions in the coming months. We do not want to miss this chance to bring broadband to New Salem, as it will not come around again.

-- The New Salem Broadband Committee (sent by Kathy Soule-Regine, [sregine@aol.com](mailto:sregine@aol.com))

### **FY2017 Preliminary Real Estate and Personal Property 2nd Quarter Tax Bills Due**

The 1st and 2nd quarter Fiscal Year 2017 Preliminary Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills were mailed out June 30. This is to remind you that FY2017 2nd Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are now due and payable. The due date for the 2nd quarter bills is November 1, 2016. Payments received after that date will be charged interest and fees.

If you have questions regarding your bill you may call [\(978\) 544-5775](tel:9785445775) 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](tel:9785445814).

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 to 7 p.m. and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 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).