



"NEW GLOUCESTER TOWN NEWS"

2018 Fall-Winter Edition

www.newgloucester.com

(207) 926-4126

Town Manager

General Assistance

Kids are headed back to school, mornings are less humid and cold weather will be here before we know it! The Town's General Assistance administrator will soon be taking heating assistance applications. Please call the Opportunity Alliance at 874-1175 to schedule your appointment. If you know someone who may need assistance with heating costs, please pass this along to them.

Winter Sand

Speaking of colder weather, Public Works will soon be stocking sand at the Public Works Garage, 1036 Lewiston Road. Residents are allowed two, 5-gallon pails of sand per storm. For this year, the garage and public sand pile will remain in the Upper Village.

New Public Works Facility

We are in hopes to break ground on the new garage this fall. We are presently waiting for the completion of the DEP permitting process and most recently received Planning Board approval. There is a sketch of the building hanging in the hall at the Town Office if you would like to peek. Or, if you want to see the complete set of blueprints, I have them in my office and I would be happy to show you.



Town Buildings and Grounds

Please be advised that the Select Board updated the Town's Building and Grounds Policy. It is now required that all pets be on leashes at all times. Unfortunately, this was a necessary change due to dog feces left on town property. Pet owners are reminded that it is a requirement to clean up and properly dispose of your pet's feces. Additionally, please know that pets are not allowed in the Playground area.

Town Auditor

The Town's auditor, RHR Smith, will soon be here to complete the audit on fiscal year 2018. The Town was recently made aware that RHR Smith was peer reviewed and received the highest rating of pass. This affirms that we have a quality auditor and a quality controls systems place.

Newsletter

As a team, we have decided to reduce the number of newsletters to two per year. They will be distributed in the early fall and mid-spring. We felt that this was an ideal and more efficient use of the limited resources we have. It is also our belief that it will be a better, more comprehensive product for you.

Carrie Castonguay
Town Manager

Animal Control

Dog Licenses:

Dog licenses will be available in October for the 2019 licensing year. All dog licenses expire December 31st of each year. A spayed or neutered dog license is \$6 and a non-spayed or neutered is \$11. If a new dog registration, please bring the rabies vaccination certificate along with the spay/neutering certificate. You may always register your dog online through the State of Maine Animal Welfare website at:

https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl



E-mail Address

Do we have your email address on file for your dog license(s)? Starting in October, we send reminders out via email reminding you to register your dog. Reminders are done in October, November and December and then weekly in January until the deadline on January 31st. After January 31st, there is a \$25 State mandated late fee assessed for late licensing.



Winter

Winter months can be hard on your pets. Please make sure they have fresh water and extra food when it's cold to help them keep hydrated. Hay or straw is also helpful in their doghouses. If you use ice melting agents, please be careful on the type used. Some types can burn the pads on your pet's feet.



New Dog Laws:

The Legislature has approved two new categories for dog licensing:

Dangerous Dog

If a dog is deemed a dangerous dog by the court after August 1, 2018, dog owner(s) will need to pay a \$100 licensing fee and they will receive a special dog tag and must be licensed every year.

Nuisance Dog

If a dog is declared a nuisance dog by the court after August 1, 2018, dog owner(s) will need to pay a \$30 licensing fee. If the court determines that the dog is no longer a nuisance dog, the owner will need to bring in the court paperwork stating that they are no longer a nuisance and they will be issued a regular dog license.

Animal Control
(207) 893-2810



Assessing

Homestead Exemption

There are a number of tax payers who have not taken advantage of the Homestead Exemption. To qualify for this \$20,000 reduction in the taxable amount of real estate, the property must be your residence and you must have lived there for at least one year. Applications for this as well as other exemptions are available on the Town's website: www.newgloucester.com; click on Town Departments, click on Assessing, and the link to the forms is on the right of the page. Please complete the form and drop it off to the Town Office or mail it (385 Intervale Road, New Gloucester, ME 04260).

Other Exemptions

Other Exemptions available to property owners are: Blind Exemption; Veteran's Exemption; and Widow of Veteran's Exemption. If you would like more information on these exemptions, please contact the Assessing Department. Forms can be found on our website www.newgloucester.com, under the Assessing Department.



Tax Bills

Tax Bills will be arriving in your mailbox soon. If you have questions concerning your assessment, please contact the Assessing Office (207) 926-4126 x2.



If you purchased your home after April 1st, the tax bill will be mailed to the owner of record prior to April 1st. As the new owner, you can call or email to request a copy of the tax billed to be sent to you. Please call the Town Office (207) 926-4126 x1 with any questions.

Addresses

Have you recently changed your address? Have you moved? Have you added a Post Office Box? Has your road name changed? If any of these questions pertain to you, please contact the Assessing

Office
(207) 926-4126 x2 to update your address.



Michael O'Donnell
Assessor's Agent

Clerk's Office

Tax Bills

Tax Bills will be going out within the next couple weeks. If you currently have a credit balance on your tax account, this will reflect on your tax bill on the stubs at the bottom of the bill.

As a reminder, the first due date for real estate and personal property taxes is **Friday, October 5, 2018**; the second half is due **Friday, April 5, 2019**.

We accept cash, checks, and debit or credit cards, to which a processing fee is applied. Payments may be made at the Town Office, by mail (385 Intervale Road, New Gloucester, ME 04260) or you may go to our website www.newgloucester.com and pay by e-check, debit or credit card.

If making payment by mail and you wish to have a receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



We would like to remind taxpayers that you do not have to wait until the due date to make payments. Payments can be made weekly or monthly. We want to make this process as easy for you as possible. Please keep in mind if each payment is not paid in full by the due date, interest will begin accruing the next day.

If you have any questions concerning your bill or balance, please call the Town Office (207) 926-4126 x1.

ATV Registrations

ATV registrations cost \$34 for a renewal and \$35 for a new registration. All ATVs expire June 30th.



Boat Registrations

Boat registrations costs are based on year, length and motor size. If using the boat in a Maine lake or river, a milfoil sticker must be purchased. All Boats expire December 31st.



Snowmobile Registrations

Snowmobile registrations will be available for 2018/2019 season starting mid-October. All Snowmobiles expire June 30th.



Reminder: if an ATV, Boat or Snowmobile, is purchased through a private sale or from out of state, please bring in your bill of sale. Sales tax of 5.5% must be paid on the purchase price, when registering for the first time. If purchased through a dealer, please bring in your dealer paperwork.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Hunting and Fishing Licenses expire each December 31st. You can purchase next year's license beginning in December.



If you have any questions, feel free to call us at (207) 926-4126 ext. 1.

Sharlene Myers
Deputy Clerk

Kimberly Getchell
Deputy Clerk

Code Enforcement

Are you thinking of installing a wood stove in your home? Summarized below are some of the code requirements for installing woodstoves:

- ❖ Woodstoves must be located at least 36" from combustibles (including framing members behind wallboard or plaster) unless protection is provided.
- ❖ Floor protection must be used, extending at least 18" beyond the edges of the stove. Manufactured floor protectors can be used if they are U. L. Listed and used per the manufacturer's instructions.
- ❖ Chimney connectors must be at least 18" from combustibles unless protection is provided.
- ❖ Chimney connectors must be as short as possible, adequately supported with the joints fastened with at least 3 screws or rivets per joint, and made of at least 26 gauge metal (thicker if over 6" in diameter - as for specifications on pipes larger than 6").



- ❖ Wood burning equipment must be vented into a lined, masonry chimney or approved equivalent such as factory built pre-fab chimneys, "metalbestos", or similar arrangement.
- ❖ The chimney connector for a fireplace insert stove must extend to the lined portion of the chimney flue. Woodstoves and fireplace insert stoves can be installed in manufactured metal fireplaces if done in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

- ❖ Improper use of a wood fired appliance can be dangerous. **Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.** Do not burn trash or other combustibles in the stove, etc., and have your chimney cleaned regularly.

It is the goal of the Code Enforcement Officer to keep the Town and its residents safe. This can cover a range of requirements: making sure newly constructed homes are safe for families to live in and grow; and making sure new businesses are both safe and accessible to the public.

Duties include permitting of any new structure in the Town of New Gloucester, inspection of buildings, septic system installations, plumbing & shoreland zoning projects. We have several helpful handouts and maps in the office. The web site has numerous pages that will assist our citizens.

Feel free to call me with any questions or to schedule an appointment (207) 926-4126 ext. 3.

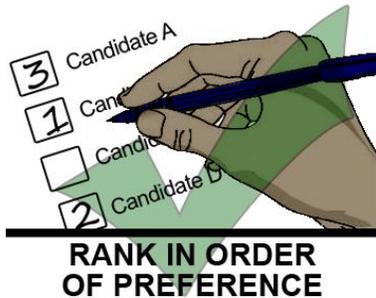
Debby Parks Larrivee
Code Enforcement Officer



Elections

The first State Wide Rank Choice Voting was held on June 12, 2018. It was very busy for a Primary Election, and everyone seemed to have a good grasp of how the process works.

The November 6, 2018 Gubernatorial Election will be the next chance for voters to test this new system. Races affected will be U. S. Senator and Rep. to Congress (Districts 1 and 2).



New Information

If you have a change of address, name change or are simply a new voter, you may register to vote at Town Hall, (385 Intervale Road) or at the polls. Make sure you bring I.D. and something showing your current physical address (i.e. rent receipt, bank statement, utility bill).



Absentee Ballots

Would you like to receive your Absentee Ballots via your mail box? Please click on this link: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html> and complete the form. The Town will receive the request and mail out your ballots when they become available. You may also call the Town Office (207) 926-4126 ext. 1 and make a phone request. Please keep in mind if calling, we must speak with the voter.

Ballot Clerk

If you are interested in being a Ballot Clerk at the polls, please contact Kimberly Getchell at kgetchell@newgloucester.com (207) 926-4126 ext. 1.



Polls

Voting is held at the New Gloucester Fire Station, 611 Lewiston Road. Polls will be open from 6:00am - 8:00pm

Kimberly Getchell
Registrar

Fire Department

With the summer coming to an end and fall quickly approaching, the Fire Department would like to review what has occurred over the past few months. It's been a busy summer with a slight increase in calls over last year and expect to surpass 600 calls for the year. This continues a trend we have been experiencing over the past few years.

Open House

In June, we had our annual Open House where all New Gloucester residents are invited to come and tour the department, participate in some fire prevention activities and enjoy some hamburgers and hot dogs. Though the rain did make us change a few of our activities, all in all, it was a good turnout and our members enjoyed visiting with everyone.



Recruitment

During the Open House we also used this time to recruit anyone who may be interested in joining the department. For various reasons we have lost an unusual number of members this year from both Fire and Rescue. On the Rescue side we were already short staffed, so these losses affect us greatly. We are always in need of new members and anyone who is interested can stop in to the fire station and talk with Chief Jim Ladewig to see what it takes to become a member and what we have to offer. Please call 207-926-4142 if you think you may be interested, we have all different levels of participation you can do with the department.



Equipment

We are constantly updating and training to ensure that we are capable to provide quality services to the residents of New Gloucester. Our Fire and Rescue staff train every month to keep up with new advances in fire and EMS. We will be receiving all new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus in the upcoming months to replace our older units. We are also looking at updating some of our EMS equipment in the near future.

Fundraisers

In the upcoming months, we will be having a couple of fundraising events. Our Chicken Bar-B-Que will be held at Thompsons Orchard again this year. In late October, we will be having our Hunter's Breakfast at the fire station.



Please join our Facebook page for find dates and times for these events and any other information that we post from time to time. We hope to see all of you at our events.

We invite all of you to stop by the station at any time. We would be happy to show you around, answer any questions and explain how we go about continuing to provide outstanding services to the residents of New Gloucester.

*Chief Jim Ladewig
New Gloucester Fire & Rescue*

Parks & Recreation

Playground

The New Gloucester Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Town, continue to implement the Land and Water Conservation Grant at the fairgrounds. The playground is complete and has been a huge success. The amount of use it is getting is great to see.



Pavilion

Thank you to all who helped with the planning, organization and construction of the pavilion at the Fairgrounds. There are a few finishing touches left for completion, like a final coat of paint on one of the picnic tables, but it is functioning as designed. We are excited and happy that this structure is finally in place and has been recently utilized for a couple birthday parties.



Farmers Market

The Parks & Recreation Committee is starting a Farmers Market. The market will be open beginning Saturday, September 1st through October 13th, from 9:30am to 1:00pm. If you or someone you know, is interested in being a vendor, please contact Coordinator, Kathleen Potter, at farmersmarket@newgloucester.com or (207) 712-4738. She will be happy to answer any questions.



Special Thanks to Fred Brusseau for the stunning Farmers Market Posters.

Fall Programs

Sign-ups have begun for all Fall programs. Please check the Town Website or our New Gloucester Parks & Recreation Facebook page for more information on all programs.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give us a call (207) 926-4126 ext. 1 or you may email us at recdirector@newgloucester.com

*Carrie Castonguay
Interim Parks and Recreation Director*

Planning

The newly formed Comprehensive Plan Update Committee is working hard to lay the ground work for the task ahead. We last updated our comprehensive plan in 1990 and a lot has happened in New Gloucester since then!



Part of the comprehensive plan process is a chance for all of us to get together and really talk about our town. We will be looking for input from the public throughout this process and hearing from as many of you as possible is crucial to creating a good plan. To help set the stage for the committee's work think about these questions:

1. What are the best parts about being in New Gloucester?
2. What is the greatest challenge that we will face as a town in the next decade?

Let us know your answers! There is a form up on the town's website (look for an announcement on the front page and on the committee's page). You may drop off the completed forms to the Planning Office or send them via email to me.

If you want to receive regular email updates on the progress of the update committee's work contact me at shastings@newgloucester.com and

keep an eye on the committee's page on the town website. Also keep an eye out for more opportunities to participate in the coming months!



In other Planning news:

The Planning Board recently welcomed Rebecca Klotzle as its newest member. There are still vacancies if you know anyone that would be interested!

The Economic Development Committee held two forums earlier this year: one on the regional economics of Southern Maine/Greater Portland and one on the creative economy in rural Maine towns. You can watch recordings of these forums on the town website. Look for their next forum on Agriculture sometime this fall! There are vacancies on the committee so if you want to be a part of what the EDC is doing get in touch.

*Scott Hastings
Town Planner*



Public Library

Where does the time go? Here it is almost the start of the new school year. The library has been busy. To be truthful, that is the way we like it. Nothing worse than a slow day.

Canoes and Kayaks

The canoes and kayaks program has been very active. Even though the program is a Parks and Rec program, the boats are checked out at the library. The canoes and kayaks cannot be booked ahead of time, it is a first come first serve program.



Mad Science

The library had the kick off of the summer reading program with Mad Science. Cosmic Carl was here and a good time was had by all. The program was science of sound and is awesome.



4H Group

Our 4H group planted a Liberty Elm Tree (Elmie) out by the Gazebo. We are looking forward to watching Elmie grow for many years. The group will also have an exhibit at the Cumberland Fair, September 23 thru 29th.



The 4H Group with Elmie (Sydney, Laney, Elisabeth, Alex, Haven and Serenity)

Pet Show

Our annual Pet Show was held in July. Unfortunately, the high temperatures and humidity were too much for the alpaca and horse to attend. Baxter was a stubborn cat that night as he refused to leave the cool library. All in all it was a fun night with the bearded dragons, chickens, a frog and guinea pigs.



Library (cont'd)

Storytime

Every Friday is Storytime at the Library. If I am unable to read to the group, the Library is fortunate to have a trio of young ladies that will step in and help. Thank you Miss Ceci, Emily and Katherine.



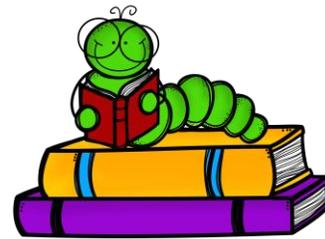
Craft Night

The theme of Craft Night at the Library was musical instruments. The instruments made accompanied Tommy Driscoll, who played his guitar in the Gazebo on the last night of the summer reading program. Thank you to Katherine Morris who helped organized Craft Night.



Summer Reading Program

End of summer reading: Our Friend and friend Claire was home from Arizona. She stopped by to visit, and got roped into sorting books for the next book sale and working the end of the reading program event. Once a Friend always a Friend.



The end of summer reading program was again, a success. Awards were handed out after the Library Players performed their play. It was an awesome turnout with new attendees. If you missed the play it will be replayed on New Gloucester Cable TV Channel 3, and a DVD will be available at the library.

If you watch the performance, you will learn why this actors is and what he is doing on the ground...

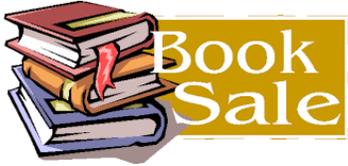


Library (cont'd)

Upcoming Events:

Fall Book Sale

Friday, October 5th, First Dibs for Kids, 5:30-7 pm. This one is for the kids. No adults allowed in without a child. Saturday, October 6th, 8am-12pm, is the book sale for everyone. There will also be a bake sale with scrumptious treats.



Halloween

Wednesday, October 31st, is Halloween. The Library will be open welcoming all sorts of ghosts and goblins. Who had the most imagination when it comes to costumes? One year, we had someone dressed as a refrigerator. Looking forward to seeing all the kids that evening



Craft Supply Sale

The Library is hosting a Craft Supply Sale. Date and time are to be determined. Please keep watch of the calendar for more information.

Open House

The Library will be hosting their annual Open House on Sunday, November 25th. This event coincides with the Historical Society's Annual Tree Lighting of Tiny Timber, in front of the Town Hall. The Tree is lit at 4:30pm and all are welcome to visit the Library after and warm up with hot cocoa and goodies. Baxter, the Library Cat, will be in attendance that evening.



Holiday Story Time

Tuesday, December 4th, is the annual Holiday Story Time. Come hear stories read by the kiddos of the Library family. We will be starting at 6:30pm, with the goal of being finished around 7:30pm, as it is a school night.



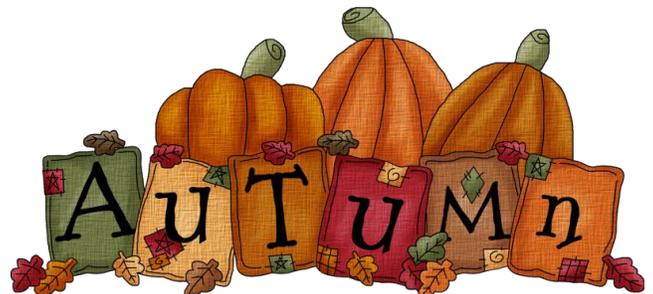
Cabin Fever Book Sale

Saturday, February 9th will be the Cabin Fever Book and Bake Sale, from 8:00am-12:00pm. This is the sale where we also offer games, puzzles and sweets for sale.



*Suzan Hawkins
Library Director*

*Carla McAllister
Assistant Librarian*



Public Works

Road Work

The Public Works Crew has completed some of their summer road work, with the exception of paving, and then we will prepare ourselves and the equipment for the upcoming winter months. And we will also be ditching and replacing culverts on many other local roads as well.



Gilmore and Upper Village Roads have been ditched and are ready for paving. During August, and the crew is working on Mayall Road and Long Bennett Road, with paving on these two roads to follow.

After these roads are complete we will then focus on, but not limited to, Durham Road, Rice Corner Road and Quarry Road to name a few.

School will be back in session soon so please drive with caution so our kids get to and from school safely.

Winter

Winter is just around the corner. Everyone knows this can be a joyous time of year with family, friends and holiday get together. Please keep in mind the weather conditions and the time it takes to travel during these winter months. Please take time to make sure your tires are in good condition and are properly inflated. Other things you may want to have in your vehicle include an ice scraper, flashlight, blanket and a shovel. As always the Public Works personnel will do everything in their power to make the driving conditions as safe as we can.



Some helpful winter tips:

- ❖ When shoveling your driveway try and put the snow on the side of the driveway opposite from the direction the plow trucks will be coming from. This will keep the snow from being deposited back in the driveway as we clear the road.



- ❖ Please be aware that it is unsafe and against the law to put snow into the road way. If these areas freeze they could become a hazard.

- ❖ Mailboxes are always a concern in the winter to both the mailbox owners and the



plow truck drivers. If you are unsure about your mailbox's location (newspaper boxes also) please see the Town's website for more information and installation instructions.

- ❖ Please slow down when you see a plow truck. With blowing and drifting snow, the visibility is not good for either you or the truck driver. Please remember, the trucks are putting down sand for your benefit so avoid following too close, as sand will bounce off the road.

- ❖ As always we would like to thank you for your help and cooperation this winter season. We strive to do the best job we can, regardless of the time of day or night in any and all weather conditions.

Always remember to report any road hazards to the Public Works Department at 207-926-4574, such as trees in the road, pot holes, deceased animals, street signs that are not clearly visible, and even damaged shoulders of the road.

Ted Shane
Public Works Director

Water District

2018 has been a year of steady and reliable operations for the Water District. During this time, the Board has continued work to maintain high quality and cost-effective service.



Meetings

We have been taking part in meetings with Maine DEP, Maine Drinking Water Program, and Maine Rural Water Association, along with other small districts such as ours. These meetings are aimed at identifying the unique needs of very small systems and opportunities for State support.

Auburn Water District

The District continues to receive excellent service from our contract operator, Auburn Water District. Auburn will be moving on from their role at the end of 2018 and the Board is currently in the process of lining up a new operator to provide a smooth transition going into 2019.

Water Testing

All recent water testing has returned positive, passing results. These results again confirm the safety and quality of our water source. All customers were mailed a copy of our annual Consumer Confidence Report earlier this year which includes testing results. For those who are not customers and are interested in seeing these reports, they can be downloaded on the Water District section of the Town of New Gloucester website.



Payments

Did you know you are able to pay your Water Bill online? Debit, Credit and e-Check are accepted. Click on this link <https://ngwd.androgov.com/> and following the instructions.



Contact Information

Please contact one of the Trustees if you have any questions:

Dan Bannon, Chairman
Cell: (207) 671-2583

Norman Chamberlain, Vice-Chairman
Cell: (207) 754-9959

Vaughn Hardesty, Treasurer
Home: (207) 926-4096

Emergency
Auburn Water District
(207) 784-6469

Daniel Bannon, PE
Chairman - NGWD Board of Trustees



Change Your
Clocks Back &
Smoke Alarm
Batteries



Newsletter

Do you know someone who might like to receive a copy of the “New Gloucester Town News” Newsletter in their email?

Please have them send an email to smyers@newgloucester.com with the words “Subscribe Me” in the subject line and they will be added to our email subscriber listing.

Time Change

Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 2:00am. Please make sure to set your clocks back one hour.

Fire Departments suggest changing your smoke alarm batteries every six months to coincide with the time change.



Website – Channel 3

Please check the Town of New Gloucester website www.newgloucester.com or the Town’s cable access TV Channel 3 for additional announcements and news