



“NEW GLOUCESTER TOWN NEWS”

2015 Fall Edition

www.newgloucester.com

(207) 926-4126

Town Manager

Citizens, welcome to the New Gloucester Town News. Reporting to you from Town Hall, this newsletter will be available in electronic format by email subscription and posted to the Town website. Our goal is simple, to keep you better informed about town governance. Each quarter you will hear the news from our municipal department heads. To subscribe please send an email to Sharlene Myers at smyers@newgloucester.com with the words “subscribe me” in the subject line.

As Town Manager, I take pride in many things about our community. One of those is the level of service that our town government provides and our ability to control costs. As you know the first half of tax year 2016 taxes are due on October 9th. This year our property tax mil rate rose by one percent. This limited increase can be attributed to a number of factors, including: the commitment of our employees to work efficiently, the dedication of our budget committee, and the hard work of the Board of Selectmen. Perhaps most importantly, it’s also because of our partnership with School Administrative District 15, and their ability to control costs while offering top-notch educational opportunities for our children. I have tremendous respect for the job they do.

In other news, one of our key personnel, Fire and Rescue Chief Gary Sacco, will be retiring effective October 2nd. Chief Sacco has served with the Department since 1996 and has served as Fire and Rescue Chief since 2004. Quoting Chief Sacco, “I have seen and been part of many changes over my years here... I have been fortunate enough to work with very good people along the way...” “I have a great deal of pride in this department and am

grateful to all of those that have had a hand in making it what it is today.”

Deputy Fire Chief Roger Levasseur will take command as Interim Fire Chief at 4 pm on October 2nd, and will serve until the search for a new Chief has been completed. I have confidence in Interim Chief Levasseur’s leadership. The Chief’s position has been advertised and applications will close on October 23rd. I look forward to reviewing the candidates and coming to a decision with assistance from representatives of the New Gloucester Fire and Rescue Department and the Selectmen.

A strong leader that has helped to shape our Fire and Rescue, we wish Chief Sacco success in his future endeavors and thank him for his service.

In other staffing news, please join me in welcoming Yvette Dailey to New Gloucester Town Hall -- our new Deputy Clerk. Yvette comes to us from the Town of Waterboro.

I look forward to sharing the news from Town Hall with you each and every quarter via the New Gloucester Town News!



*Paul First
Town Manager*

Clerk's Office

TAXES: The first payment of the 2016 taxes is due on Friday, October 9th and interest begins on Saturday, October 10th. Payments may be made at the Town Hall by mail or on our website www.newgloucester.com. We accept cash, checks, and debit or credit cards, to which a processing fee is applied. If making payment by mail and you wish to have a receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

DOG LICENSES: Dog licenses will be available for the 2016 licensing year on or about October 15th. 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.

SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATIONS: You may begin licensing your snowmobile for the 2015/2016 season on October 15th. If the snowmobile was purchased in a private sale (no dealer involved), we will need a bill of sale and the old registration. Sales tax will be collected at the time of registration.

ELECTION: November 3rd is the date of the upcoming election. There are three referendum questions on the ballot. Once the ballot is received from the State, it will be posted on our website. Elections are held at the New Gloucester Fire Station, 611 Lewiston Road, New Gloucester. Polls are opened from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Absentee Ballots will be available at the Town Office during normal business hours. If you have not registered to vote in New Gloucester, you may do so at the Town Office or at the polls. Some form of identification is needed such as a picture ID. If you are new to the area and have not changed the address on your license, we will need to see proof of residence such as: a rent receipt, cable bill, power bill, etc., with your physical address on it.

Please check the Town's website www.newgloucester.com or the Town's cable access TV Channel 3 for additional announcements and news or call us at (207) 926-4126 ext. 1.

Sharlene Myers
Deputy Clerk

Yvette Dailey
Deputy Clerk

Fire & Rescue

LONG TIME RESCUE SERVICE MEMBER STEPS DOWN FROM ACTIVE DUTY: Avis Ford has been a member of the New Gloucester Rescue since 1975, when a group of residents saw the need to provide medical help for community members and those visiting town. Through those years she has seen and been part of many emergency calls, including assisting with the delivery a baby a few years ago. This past July Avis stepped back from active duty with the EMS service but still remains a member of the department's Auxiliary. At our 2015 EMS Open House we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the New Gloucester Rescue Service. Avis along with the other original members in the community were recognized for their efforts with a plaque bearing each member's name.

FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE: This year's Fire Prevention Week will be from October 4-10. The theme this year is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep -- Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm." The department will hold its annual open house on Wednesday October 7th beginning at 5PM. There will be fire trucks on display, live demonstrations, food, and other activities. We hope that you bring the whole family to enjoy this fun educational activity.

TRAINING AND PARTNERSHIP PAYS OFF: On a recent Saturday afternoon the ambulance was called for a bicyclist experiencing chest pain on the side of the road. Upon arriving at the scene the patient requested to be transported to a Portland area hospital. On the way through Gray, the ambulance picked-up assistance from Gray Fire and Rescue. Thereafter the patient went into full cardiac arrest, but was revived on the side of the turnpike entrance and delivered conscious and alert to the hospital. Thanks to Gray Fire and Rescue.

Gary Sacco
Fire/Rescue Chief

Parks & Recreation



With the start of the school year the New Gloucester Parks and Recreation Department is ready to hit the ground running. This fall we have gymnastics and cheer tumbling, competitive cheering, after school activities and adult flag football and volleyball. We are also working on a master plan for our recreational facilities. If you would like more information about any of our programs, please visit our website at www.newgloucester.com or like us on Facebook. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that help out and make it possible to run our programs. I would also like to thank Fred Brusseau for donating our new Parks and Recreation logo.



Coach Becky Norton getting the girls stretched out to start our Diamond Cheering Program.



Coach Eric Lynes and his assistant coach Toby teach the kids how to dribble.

*Harvey Price
Parks & Recreation Director*

Planning

The Town is considering zoning changes in the Upper Village to promote the vision for the area as a compact, mixed-use village area. A public hearing was held on the proposed changes at the Amvets on September 1st. Town Planner Will Johnston gave a presentation explaining the rationale behind the creation of a new Upper Village Zoning District and the district's main components. The Planning Board received comments from the public, and members of the Land Management Committee (LMPC), were on hand to answer questions and provide additional background. At a subsequent meeting, the LMPC recommended that the Selectmen place the zoning amendments on the warrant for a Special Town Meeting, sometime this Fall.

The forum also included a workshop on the Upper Village Master Plan, which the LMPC has been refining over the past year. Public comments centered on details of the plan regarding road and driveway locations and other specifics. It was reiterated that the plan is a concept document, and that the actual development of the Upper Village may unfold in different ways depending on engineering, investment and other factors. Some members of the public felt that the plan needed additional public outreach, and the LMPC agreed to hold another workshop in the future.

Copies of both the proposed zoning changes and the Upper Village Plan can be found on the Planning Department webpage at www.newgloucester.com.

If you have questions concerning the documents, contact Will Johnston at 926-4126, Extension 4 or wjohnston@newgloucester.com.

*Will Johnston
Town Planner*

Public Library

This past summer we hosted Sparks Ark to kick-off our summer reading program. July saw our annual Pet Show and Craft Night. August was the end of the summer reading program with the Library Players presenting “A Real Superhero” by Tim Terranova, reading awards and cartoonist Jay Piscopo. We read 4300 books! We were proud to introduce our new mascots, NGPL Guy (in the play) and NGPL Gal (helped with handouts). Watch for one or both at upcoming events.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 2nd is First Dibs for Kids Book Sale, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. No adults are allowed in without a child.

October 3rd is the Annual Book and Bake Sale, 8:00 am – 12:00pm.

October (TBA) the Kindergarteners will be coming to the library for Kindergarten Kick off. Thank you to the Friends for underwriting this program.

November 29th is the Annual Open House and Christmas Tree Lighting. Join us for caroling and refreshments

For more information, please call the Library at (207) 926-4840.

Suzan Hawkins
Library Director

Carla McAllister
Assistant Librarian

Public Works

The Public Works department had yet another busy summer in 2015. We started July by ditching, replacing culverts, and then paving Cobbs Bridge Road. This is a project that was much needed. The crew then moved on to ditching, tree trimming, and culvert replacements on Hatch Road and Rowe Station Roads.

As we continue to maintain all of our roads, including grading our gravel roads on a continuous schedule to prepare for winter, we also keep up with all other road issues, including storm damage.

Beginning in October the crew will start preparing all equipment for winter operations. Speaking of winter, always remember to prepare yourself and your loved ones for the weather that lies ahead for the next five months. If you are in need of winter sand for your personal driveway or walkway, remember that there is a sand stock pile for taxpayer use located outside our sand/salt building at the Public Works facility, located in the Upper Village. To help ensure sand for everyone, we kindly ask residents to follow a two five-gallon pail guideline per trip.

Also, please remember that the Town of New Gloucester discourages any parking beside the roadways to make it easier for the Public Works Crew to do their job, effectively removing snow and ice and making our roads safer for everyone.

Thanks for your help and support and have a safe and happy Fall/Winter season.

Ted Shane
Public Works Director
(207) 926-4574

