



“NEW GLOUCESTER TOWN NEWS”

2016 Fall Edition

www.newgloucester.com

(207) 926-4126

Town Manager

I'm pleased to announce that the Town of New Gloucester, and the Town of Gray, hired Mikayla Trafford as Animal Control Officer. Mikayla grew up on a small farm here in New Gloucester. She has experience working for animal shelters, the Maine Lab Rescue, and in the boarding and raising of domestic pets and livestock. She will be attending the state certification training in Orono the week of October 24th. This is a full week of training that culminates in an exam for state certification. Sharing an ACO with Gray allows for coordination of our efforts and cost savings -- for example, we will be sharing the cost of the weeklong training. Please join me in welcoming Mikayla. You can reach the Animal Control Officer through Cumberland County Dispatch at (207) 893-2810.



The Town of New Gloucester will hold a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. Memorial School, 86 Intervale Road, New Gloucester, Maine. At the Special Town meeting voters will decide upon a proposed moratorium for Marijuana Retail Establishments and Social Clubs. If Question 1 passes on November 8th, recreational marijuana retail establishments and social clubs would be banned until the Town has the opportunity to establish ordinance that regulates the location and operation of such establishments. This ordinance would have to be enacted at a future Town Meeting. You can find a copy of the proposed moratorium language on www.newgloucester.com.

In other news, it's been a busy summer for our Public Works Department. Public Works Director Ted Shane has detailed information in his enclosed update. The Town continues to work on the design and planning of a new Public Works facility. Town Planner Will Johnston has more information in his enclosed article.

I understand that many homeowners, especially those with dug wells, have been challenged by this summer's drought conditions. While we recently experienced rainfall that may help to alleviate the drought, if you are still in need of a location to fill your portable water tank, please call Town Hall.

Paul R. First
Town Manager



Clerk's Office

ELECTION: November 8th is Election Day. The ballot consists of selecting to vote for: President/Vice-President; Representative to Congress; State Senator; Representative to the Legislature; Register of Probate; and County Commissioner. There are also six referendum questions on the ballot. A sample ballot is available on our website www.newgloucester.com. Elections are held at the New Gloucester Fire Station, 611 Lewiston Road, New Gloucester, Maine. **Polls are open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm.** Absentee Ballots are available at the Town Hall during normal business hours. If you have not registered to vote in New Gloucester, you may do so at Town Hall 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.



DOG LICENSES: Dog licenses are now available for the 2017 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.

SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATIONS: Snowmobile registrations are now available for 2016/2017 season. 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.

TIME CHANGE: Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 6, 2016, at 2:00 a.m. Please make sure to set your clocks back one hour. Fire Departments suggest changing your smoke alarm batteries every six months please change your smoke alarm batteries.



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 or call us at (207) 926-4126 ext. 1.

Sharlene Myers
Deputy Clerk

Kimberly Getchell
Deputy Clerk

Code Enforcement/Assessing

Homestead Exemption FAQs

WHAT IS THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: The homestead exemption provides a reduction of up to \$15,000 (\$10,000 for years prior to 2016) in the value of your home for property tax purposes. To qualify, you must be a permanent resident of Maine, the home must be your permanent residence, you must have owned a home in Maine for the twelve months prior to applying and an application must be filed on or before April 1 with the municipality where the property is located. The exemption applies to any residential property that is assessed as real property. For instance, a mobile home located on a rented lot may qualify for the exemption. You can download the application at www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/homestead_app.pdf. (2/1/16)



Code Enforcement/Assessing (cont'd)

AM I A PERMANENT RESIDENT: A permanent resident is an individual who has a true, fixed and permanent home to which the individual, whenever absent, has the intention of returning. You may have only one permanent residence at a time and, once a permanent residence is established, that residence is presumed to continue until circumstances indicate otherwise. For more information, see [36 M.R.S. § 682](#). (5/20/14)

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: The homestead exemption application is available at most municipalities or you may download the application from the State website at www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/homestead_app.pdf. The completed application must be submitted to the municipality where you reside. If there is more than one owner, only one signature is required. Forms filed after April 1 of any year will apply to the next year's tax assessment. (5/20/14)

DO I HAVE TO APPLY FOR THE EXEMPTION EACH YEAR: No. Once the exemption has been approved, it will remain in effect as long as your ownership and residency status remains unchanged. (5/20/14)

CAN I HAVE MORE THAN ONE EXEMPTION: No. The homestead exemption is limited to only your primary residence; camps, vacation homes and second residences do not qualify. If you also qualify for a veteran or blind exemption, the homestead exemption is in addition to those exemptions. Please visit our [Property Tax Exemptions](#) page for more information. (5/20/14)

Debby Parks Larrivee
Code Enforcement Officer/Assessor's Agent



Planning

Update on Public Works Facility Planning



Concept Elevation for New Public Works

Planning has moved forward on construction of a new public works facility for the Town. Last June, a workshop was held at which time the Public Works Design Committee (PWDC) presented a concept plan for a facility to be constructed at the site of the Fire Station at 611 Lewiston Road. This location was chosen as the best site for the facility based on an assessment by the consulting firm Oak Point Associates – a finding that was endorsed both the PWDC and the Board of Selectmen in November 2015.

At the workshop, a background presentation was followed by questions and feedback from the audience. A representative of Oak Point was on hand to field questions, as was a hydrogeologist retained by the Town, who addressed questions pertaining to groundwater impacts. There was broad agreement among workshop participants that a new facility was needed in light of the deteriorating condition of the existing physical plant in the Upper Village. Much of the discussion centered on the location and possible impacts of the new facility.

Over the summer, the Town preceded with solicitation of qualified firms to design and build the project. After review of qualifications and interest statements from a number of firms, the Town chose four design-build teams to submit detailed proposals based on a RFP developed by the PWDC and staff. In September, the four firms submitted their proposals, and made presentations to a joint meeting of the Selectmen and PWDC.

Planning (cont'd)

At press time, the Committee was in the process of reviewing proposals – evaluating, not only costs, but other factors such as long-term maintenance and efficient design. The PWDC will then make a recommendation to the Selectmen, who will formally select the team to design and construct the facility pending voter approval.

The process going forward is to develop a funding plan based on the final negotiated bid price of the chosen design-build team, to hold another workshop to solicit feedback from the public, and to schedule a Special Town Meeting for citizens to vote on a warrant article authorizing the project and the proposed funding package.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at 926-4126, ext. 4 or wjohnston@newgloucester.com.

*Will Johnston
Town Planner*

Public Library

We cannot believe how fast the summer has come and gone. Our summer programs consisted of the Annual Pet Show, the Library Players presented their play “NGPL Girl: the Return of Red Ray”, the summer reading program and the Chewonki owls came for a visit. Also, the Library mascot, Baxter, stopped in for a quick summer visit.



Cast of NGPL Girl: the Rise of Red Ray



Olivia, the Great Horned Owl

In September four members of the Maine Chapter of Sisters in Crime came – Jen Blood, Kate Cone, Kathy Lynn Emerson and Lea Wait-- and did a panel discussion and held a signing. The library was awarded a check for books the Love Your Library Award from the national Sisters in Crime group.



Sisters of Crime

The Friends of the Library had their First Dibs for Kids and Fall Festival of Book Sale. The Friends group did an awesome job. The next book sale is our Annual Cabin Fever Book and Bake Sale on February 11, 2017.

Sunday, November 27th, at 4:30 p.m. is our Annual Open House along with the Historical Society’s tree lighting of “Tiny Timber”. Please join us for cocoa and goodies, a spot to warm up and music of the season.

Tuesday, December 6th, at 6:30 p.m., is our Holiday Story Time, an evening event. Rumor has it that Baxter will make an appearance for Story Time.

For more info, please contact us at (207) 926-4840.

*Suzan Hawkins
Library Director*

*Carla McAllister
Assistant Librarian*

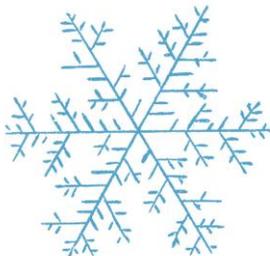
Public Works

As the Summer/Fall season comes to an end, the Public Works Department is starting to wind down a successful season of road work. The Department has done a lot of ditching and culvert replacements and was able to pave five roads with a lower than normal cost per ton of asphalt. The crew worked very hard and I am appreciative of their efforts.

Winter is just around the corner. Everyone knows this can be a joyous time of year with family, friends and holiday get togethers. 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.



There are a few projects in the Public Works Department that the crew will be out working on this winter. Projects that you will see the crew doing include tree cutting and trimming on many town roads, cleaning out culverts, replacing street signs as needed, along with other maintenance items on our to do list. Please be extra careful when you see work area signs on New Gloucester Roads.



Some helpful winter tips:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

Happy Holidays

Ted Shane

Public Works Director

(207) 926-4574

