



# “NEW GLOUCESTER TOWN NEWS”

*2017 Fall Edition*

[www.newgloucester.com](http://www.newgloucester.com)

(207) 926-4126

## Town Manager



### Taxes and the Homestead Exemption

The first due date for real estate and personal property taxes was Friday, October 6, 2017; the second half is due April 6, 2018. I have noticed 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](http://www.newgloucester.com); go to Town Departments, Assessing and the link to the forms is on the right of the window.

### Road Construction

The Morse Road culvert is complete and paved. The Outlet Road and Peacock Hill Road also saw a fresh coat of pavement this past summer. McIntire Road will be started this fall with ditching, culvert replacement and brush cutting.

### 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.

### Fairgrounds

The Playground is complete! Thank you to all who helped with the planning, organization, installation and promotion. We are looking forward to the community build for the pavilion. It is gratifying to see the community utilize this remarkable Town resource.

*Carrie Castonguay*  
*Town Manager*



## Clerk's Office

### Election:

The November 7, 2017 State Referendum Election is just around the corner. **The polls will be open from 6:00a.m. - 8:00p.m.**, at the New Gloucester Fire Station, 611 Lewiston Road. Absentee Ballots are now available and may be picked up at the Town Office. If you wish an Absentee Ballot be mailed to you, you may download a form on the Town Website, call the Town Office or complete a form online at the Secretary of States website:

**<https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>**

until November 2, 2017, without special circumstances. If you would like to view a sample ballot, please check the front page of the Town website [www.newgloucester.com](http://www.newgloucester.com).

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 residency, something that shows your physical address on it such as: a rent receipt, cable bill, power bill, etc., with your physical address.

The Elections staff has been busy getting ready and training ballot clerks for this and future elections. If you are interested in working the polls at future elections please contact Kimberly Getchell at 926-4126 ext. 1 or [kgetchell@newgloucester.com](mailto:kgetchell@newgloucester.com).



### Dog Licenses:

Dog licenses are now available for the 2018 licensing year. All dog licenses expire December 31<sup>st</sup> 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](https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl)



### Snowmobile Registrations:

Snowmobile registrations are now available for 2017/2018 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.



Please check the Town of New Gloucester website [www.newgloucester.com](http://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



# Assessing

## Homestead Exemption FAQs

### What Is The Homestead Exemption:

The homestead exemption provides a reduction of up to \$20,000 (\$15,000 for 2016 and \$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.



### 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](#).

### How Do I Apply For The Homestead Exemption:

The homestead exemption application is available at most municipalities or you may download the application at:

[www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/homesteadapp.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/apps/homesteadapp.pdf).

The completed application must be submitted to the municipality where you reside. If your home has 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.

### 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.

### 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.

*Michael O'Donnell*  
*Assessor's Agent*



## Code Enforcement

Keep your Home Energy Efficient & Safe this Holiday Season!!

- ❖ Plug your holiday lights into a timer 
- ❖ Replace your furnace filter monthly to keep your furnace running efficiently
- ❖ Never run electrical cords under rugs or carpeting. This is a fire hazard! 
- ❖ Cook your holiday meal in a slow cooker for only about 17cents worth of energy
- ❖ Buy Energy Star LED lights for 70% less energy use
- ❖ Cook as many dishes as possible in your microwave for 75% less energy use than a conventional oven 
- ❖ Don't open the oven door to take a peek at that turkey! Use the oven light instead. Opening the oven door lowers the temperature by 25 degrees which increases cook time and wastes energy
- ❖ Use reflective ornaments and tinsel for energy free decorating

*Debby Parks Larrivee  
Code Enforcement Officer*



## Fire Department



With the temperatures beginning to drop and the winds out of the north getting stronger, it's time to start preparing for winter. There are a few things that we all need to do to make sure we are ready when that first snowfall hits.

In our attempts to keep warm on those cold mornings, we start using our heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces. It is important that we have them checked and cleaned by a qualified service technician. While sitting unused, birds and other animals could have made nests in the flue or inside the unit causing it to not operate properly or be a fire hazard. The units also could not vent properly causing carbon monoxide to accumulate in your home. Carbon monoxide is a very dangerous gas that causes many injuries and deaths during the winter due to heating systems not operating properly. It would also be a good idea to make sure your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly and have new batteries.



Also with the snow comes ice and slippery steps and sidewalks. Make sure to keep those paths clear and that you have a good supply of salt and sand prior to the beginning of winter. We are continually making calls to homes for persons who have fallen



on the icy walkways.

## Fire Department (cont'd)

In closing a reminder again to make sure that you have your address clearly visible from the roadway and keep it visible during the snowfall. If in the unfortunate instance we do have to respond to your residence we do not want to be delayed unnecessarily due to not being able to see or read your address on your home.



*Chief Jim Ladewig  
New Gloucester Fire & Rescue*

## Parks & Recreation

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 has



been a huge success and the amount of use it is getting is great to see.

The frame for the pavilion is up and we are planning a committee build for the roof on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9am until it is completed. If you would like to help us with this project please contact me, Harvey Price, Parks and Recreation Director, via email at [hprice@newgloucester.com](mailto:hprice@newgloucester.com).

The Parks & Recreation soccer season was a



great success for kids in grades 3-6, and would not be possible without the help from all of our volunteer coaches. The department would like to say, THANK YOU to all of them for the time and dedication to the children of the program.



*Harvey Price Jr  
Parks and Recreation Director*

## Planning

Hello! I am excited to be your new Town Planer here in New Gloucester. Everyone has been very welcoming and I am enjoying learning more about the wonderful community that exists here. New Gloucester has a long and dedicated history of active planning led by engaged and thoughtful residents. I am proud to be here and to help continue that tradition.



## Planning (cont'd)

The planning office staffs the towns Economic Development Committee, Land Management Planning Committee and the Planning board. The Economic Development Committee is looking to form an action plan for its ongoing efforts and wants to hear from local businesses about what the town can do to improve business conditions in town. Please look for a survey to be put out by the committee in the next month to provide your input. It will be available on the town website and at town hall. If you have any questions or want to be notified when the survey is complete please let me know!

The Planning Board still has two vacancies and I encourage anyone with an analytical mind and interest in the development process to contact me about joining. No previous experience necessary! It is an interesting and informative board to be a part of and I hope we can get it back to full strength soon.

*Scott Hastings*  
*Town Planner*



## Public Library

Seems like we start a new year, I turn around and it's already Fall. They say as you get older, time flies. We believe that here at the library.

Since the last newsletter we have had our Pet Show, end of summer reading program, Library Players play, Fall Festival of Books and First Dibs for Kids Book Sale, Indie Author Day (a celebration of those who self-publish) and our first Walk with the Library.



Baxter, Library Mascot and his Pet Show Friends



*Library Players*  
*August 2017*

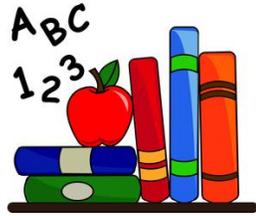


Audience enjoying the Library Players Play and End of Summer Reading Awards

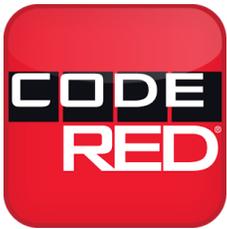
Do you like to read? Looking for someone to discuss your books with? Both of the library's book groups (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 10 am and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6 pm) have openings. All types of books are read, and each group member gets a turn picking the book for the group to read. And best of all, the library provides the book.

## Library (cont'd)

New this coming winter (late December), Dunn School and the Library will be starting a book group for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Space will be limited, so watch the Library's Facebook page and your child's school tote for more information as time gets closer. You do not have to be a Dunn school student to take part.



Have you heard of CodeRED? I attended a workshop for Librarians put on by Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency (CEM) and CodeRED was just one of the topics covered. Information is critical before, during, and after a disaster or emergency. There are several tools available to the Cumberland County area to stay informed, one of which is CodeRED. CodeRED is the



emergency alert system used by each of the Public Safety agencies in Cumberland County to notify our citizens of emergencies in the area such as severe weather alerts, evacuation notices, missing persons and dangerous situations. You can choose to receive messages via phone call to your landline or mobile device, or by text or email. Registering for CodeRED is free and simple. To sign up, please visit the Cumberland County website [www.cumberlandcounty.org](http://www.cumberlandcounty.org) and click on the CodeRED logo at the bottom of the page. If you do not have Internet access, you can sign up for CodeRED by contacting the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center at 207-893-2810. Another suggestion is to sign up for those counties that you normally drive through. There is no charge for this program.

4H started up in October. For those who attended the Cumberland Fair, you may have seen our club's exhibit. During the summer we had a couple of raised garden beds at a member's house. The garden became our exhibit and lots of pictures were taken. The kids grew, among lots of other things, radishes, beans and sunflowers. We won a ribbon! Not bad for a first year. The 4H group is open to those between 5 and 18 years of age (10 and under must have an adult in the room). We have done lots of things, even had a pig come to the library. (The pig is a pet and lives in the house!). We have also built catapults and made maple syrup. This year we have decided to expand our horizons and do the arts along with the sciences. Space is limited, so call ahead to register.



Please check the Community Calendar on the Town website [www.newgloucester.com](http://www.newgloucester.com) for updated dates and times for meetings or clubs you might want to attend or join.

For more information, please contact the Librarians at (207) 926-4840 or you may email: Sue [srhawkins@newgloucesterlibrary.org](mailto:srhawkins@newgloucesterlibrary.org) or Carla [cmmcallister@newgloucesterlibrary.org](mailto:cmmcallister@newgloucesterlibrary.org).

*Suzan Hawkins*  
Library Director

*Carla McAllister*  
Assistant Librarian



## Public Works

The Public Works Crew has completed most of their summer road work to prepare themselves for the upcoming winter months. And we will also be ditching and replacing culverts on many other local roads as well.

Outlet Road and Peacock Hill Road are completed at this time, and the crew will begin work on McIntire Road about the second week of October, with it being late in the construction season it is doubtful that McIntire Road will get paved this fall.



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.

Another job that got completed this summer is a large culvert replacement on Morse Road at the intersection of Dave Snow Road, this job went very well and in a timely fashion so we were able to open the road in time for school buses to travel for the beginning of the school year. This culvert replacement will allow for fish passage in that brook for many years to come.



Also on the Morse Road, the final layer of surface pavement was put on the section from the railroad tracks to Route 231, this project has allowed for a much safer roadway for people traveling to and from Pineland Campus.



Thanks for your help and support to the Public Works Department and have a safe fall and winter season.

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*  
*(207) 926-4574*



### Time Change

Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 5, 2017 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 to coincide with the time change.



### 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](mailto:smyers@newgloucester.com) with the words "Subscribe Me" in the subject line and they will be added to our email subscriber listing.