



# “NEW GLOUCESTER TOWN NEWS”

*2017 Winter Edition*

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

(207) 926-4126

## Town Manager

Budget season is here once again. Thank you to the many volunteers that serve on the Capital Improvement (CIP) and Budget Committees, and to the Board of Selectmen. I appreciate the dedication and partnership of all of those involved. At this point in the process, the CIP Committee and Board of Selectmen have completed their meeting schedules. The Budget Committee will begin meeting this week. The Public Hearing for the FY18 municipal budget will be held Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm at the New Gloucester Meetinghouse. A summary of the draft budget will be presented at that time. Please come and join us.

I understand that the SAD 15 School Board expects to receive their draft budget and begin discussions during the month of March. This year’s School Budget will be under the guidance of our new Superintendent, Dr. Craig King. Please join me in welcoming Dr. King to our community. You can learn more about the school budget process at: <http://www.msad15.org/budget/>

As many of you know, April 4<sup>th</sup>, following the conclusion of this year’s budget process, I will be leaving the Town of New Gloucester. It’s been a difficult decision for me, as I’ve been given tremendous opportunity here during the past seven and one half years. New Gloucester is a wonderful community and I have truly enjoyed getting to know many of you. But I have decided that it’s time.

My wife and I talk a lot about how we can do better at balancing both of our jobs and the time it takes to be parents. They’re tough decisions. But as our kids grow older, we’ve decided now is the time that we need prioritize family, which will entail a few career adjustments.

I will be leaving behind a very dedicated and skilled staff, and an engaged and hardworking board.

It’s my sincere hope that the next Town Manager enjoys New Gloucester as much as I have.

*Paul R. First*  
*Town Manager*

## Animal Control

Dog licenses expire December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Dogs must be registered by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, a \$25 late fee will be charged.

Remember that dogs tied outside need hay or straw in their doghouses and extra food when it’s cold to help keep them warm.

Be sure your pets have fresh water in the winter, as snow is not enough to keep them hydrated. You should continue to use flea and heartworm preventives through December.

Be careful of the ice melting agents you use, as some can burn the pads on your pets’ feet.

Have a safe and warm winter, and keep those pets warm and safe.

*Mikayla Trafford*  
*Animal Control Officer*



## Clerk's Office

**BOAT REGISTRATIONS:** Boating season will be here before we know it and the 2017 stickers are available. Any boat with a motor must be registered.

The *Preserve Maine Waters* sticker (*Milfoil Sticker*) for boats that are used in Maine lakes or rivers is now a part of the renewal sticker. People coming into Maine with a boat who plan to use the boat in Maine must purchase a Milfoil Sticker at a cost of \$20. Boat registrations expire December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

**HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES:** Hunting and Fishing Licenses for 2017 are available at Town Hall. Fishing Licenses are \$27. Hunting Licenses are \$28. Combination Fishing/Hunting Licenses are \$45. All Licenses expire December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.



**TAXES:** The second payment of the 2017 taxes is due on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and interest begins on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Payments may be made at the Town Hall, by mail or on our website [www.newgloucester.com](http://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.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEES:** Are you interested in serving your community? Do you like getting out and meeting new people? New Gloucester has several Boards and Committees that are looking for members. If you are interested in volunteering, please check our website for a listing of Board and Committees looking for members, complete an application and drop it off at Town Hall or email it to [smyers@newgloucester.com](mailto:smyers@newgloucester.com). The application will be placed on the next Board of Selectmen's agenda for appointment.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:**

Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at Memorial School, 86 Intervale Road in New Gloucester.

### **ELECTION:**

Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the New Gloucester Fire Station, 611 Lewiston Road. Polls are open from 6:00am to 8:00pm. This Election includes any State Referendum Questions and voting for those running for Board of Selectmen, MSAD #15 School Board and Water District Trustees.

For additional announcements and news, please check the Town's website [www.newgloucester.com](http://www.newgloucester.com) or the Town's cable access TV Channel 3 or call us at (207) 926-4126 ext. 1.

*Sharlene Myers*  
*Deputy Clerk*

*Kimberly Getchell*  
*Deputy Clerk*



## Code Enforcement Office

**WHAT IS THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION?** The homestead exemption provides a reduction of up to \$20,000 (\$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.

**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.

**HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION?** 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. The application can be found on the Town website: [www.newgloucester.com](http://www.newgloucester.com).

**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 contact me at (207) 926-4126 ext. 3, with any questions.

*Debra Parks Larrivee  
Code Enforcement Officer*

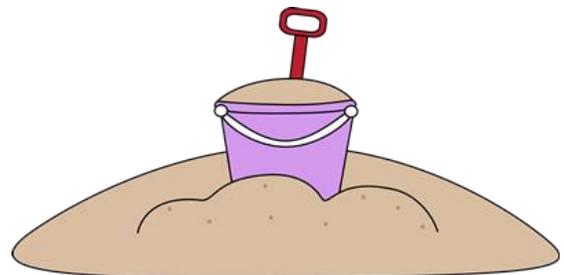
## Fire and Rescue

**WINTER READINESS:** With winter in full swing, here are some items that help in seeing us safely through. It is always a challenge finding locations when responding to an incident. Properly identifying your address, making your house numbers clearly visible is very important, especially in case of an emergency. With the accumulation of snowfall around mailboxes, it is important to keep your house numbers visible for emergency responders.

When cleaning out your wood stove, be sure to remove the container of ashes from your home. Even though there is no visible smoke, there is still carbon monoxide being emitted from the ashes. Always make sure your carbon monoxide detectors are present and in working order.



Lastly, 17,000 people died last year due to falls from icy conditions. Please make sure you have plenty of sand and salt on hand to keep all walkways and steps clear and safe.



*James Ladewig  
Fire/Rescue Chief*

# Public Library

This winter the library has been busy. We had our annual Open House, our Holiday Pajama Story Time (thanks to the kiddos that read and Baxter who came for a visit), and kicked off a new book club for middle schoolers.

We were also the recipient of a MakerSpace (also known as a Makey Makey Space) from Max Strickler. Max who started volunteering at the library as part of a scout project, chose to finish his scouting career by making our new space his Eagle Scout Project. We had our grand unveiling the same day that we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> Cardboard Challenge.



MakerSpace



L-R: Patrick Estes; Suzan Hawkins, Librarian; Max Strickler

The February Cabin Fever Book and Bake Sale, will be held February 11<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00am-12:00pm. This sale features games and puzzles along with plenty of books, music, DVDs and goodies. The next sale will be Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00-12:00pm, with First Dibs for Kids the night before (no adults allowed in without a child) from 5:30-7:30 pm.



Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00pm, author Tim Caverly will be joining us for the afternoon. He has been a Maine State Forester and worked at Sebago State Park. Currently living in Millinocket, he teaches and loves to write. His web page is <http://allagashetails.com/>. Plan now to join us on the 29<sup>th</sup> for a fun afternoon. Light refreshments will be served.

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

*Suzan Hawkins*  
Library Director

*Carla McAllister*  
Assistant Librarian

