



# “NEW GLOUCESTER TOWN NEWS”

*2018 Winter Edition*

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

(207) 926-4126

## Town Manager

As I write this, we in the middle of our budget process. For those unfamiliar with budgeting it is an estimate of income and expenses for a set time period. For us, this time period is from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. We are trying to predict expenses and revenues 18 months into the future.

Municipal budgeting is a unique animal. It is comprised of three parts: the municipal, the county, and the school. Some people are not aware that what the town spends on its expenses it is actually a small portion of the overall budget. This small portion is under the control of the Municipal Officers and the Town Manager. The majority of the budget is the town's share of the school budget coupled with another small portion going to the County. This majority is under the control of the school board and the county commissioners.

Last year the increase in the homestead exemption caused the Town's valuation to drop by about two million dollars. This meant that more funds needed to be raised by tax dollars. This year, I anticipate that we will recoup approximately one and one half million dollars in valuation. I encourage anyone who has not yet filed his or her homestead exemption to do so. The form is on the Town's website or you can come into the office and get a copy.

Our revenues are stable with little estimated change. We are, however, watching a couple legislative proposals; one that may affect excise tax revenue. Additionally, we are always watching to see what the legislature will do with revenue sharing.

We have a new Animal Control Officer. Please join me in welcoming Rich Burton to New Gloucester.

As always, please call or come see me and I will do my best to answer everyone.

*Carrie Castonguay*  
Town Manager



## Animal Control

**DOG LICENSES:** Dog licenses are issued by the Clerk's Office at Town Hall. Licenses are for one year and expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. License fees are as follows:

- Neutered/Spayed Dog - \$6.00
- Unaltered Dog - \$11.00



## Animal Control (cont'd)

According to State of Maine Laws, any dog over the age 6-months must be licensed by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Licensing for the following year will begin on or around October 15<sup>th</sup>. When licensing your dog(s), please bring with you the following paperwork:

- A current Maine rabies certificate
- A Spay/Neutering certificate if the dog has been altered

Late Fee: Effective February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, there will be a State mandated late fee of \$25.00, plus the \$6 or \$11 fee mentioned above.



### **DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN REGISTER YOUR DOG ONLINE?**

Visit our website at [www.newgloucester.com](http://www.newgloucester.com). Click on the “Licensing & Registrations” sidebar, then click on “New and Renew Dog Licenses.”

You will need the following:

- Credit card
- Rabies certificate
- Your veterinarian’s information
- A license/tag number (if a renewal)
- Spay/neuter form

The online dog licensing service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

**Be a good neighbor – pick up after your pets ☺**

Richard Burton  
Animal Control Officer



## Clerk’s Office

**BOAT REGISTRATIONS:** Boating season will be here before we know it and the 2018 stickers are available. Any motorized watercraft must be registered.



All motorized watercraft on inland waters must display the lake and river protection sticker *Preserve Maine Waters* otherwise referred to as a Milfoil sticker. *Motorized watercraft* includes any boat with any type of motor, including canoes with electric motors and personal watercraft. A sticker is not required to operate a watercraft in tidal waters. Please contact your regional Warden Service headquarters for the exact boundary between tidal and inland waters on specific rivers.

Owners of non-Maine registered boats are required to purchase and affix a lake and river protection sticker. A new lake and river protection sticker must be purchased every year (\$20) and is required to be permanently affixed to each side of the bow of all motorized watercraft when operating on inland waters.

**HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES:** Resident Hunting and Fishing Licenses for 2018 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.



## Clerk's Office (cont'd)

**TAXES:** The second payment of the **2018** taxes is due on **Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**. Interest begins on Saturday, April 7<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*.

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:** Are you interested in serving your community? Do you like getting out and meeting new people? New Gloucester has Boards and Committees that are looking for members. If you are interested in volunteering, please check our website for a listing of Boards 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 DATE:**

#### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:**

Monday, May 7th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., at Memorial School, 86 Intervale Road in New Gloucester.

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*

## Elections

Mark your calendars for the next Primary and potential Referendum Election on June 12, 2018. Polls will be open from 6:00a.m. – 8:00p.m., at the New Gloucester Fire Station, 611 Lewiston Road. If you are not registered to vote in New Gloucester, or have an address change or name change, please fill out a Voter Registration Card at Town Hall, 385 Intervale Road, or at the polls. Please remember to bring I.D. and something showing your current physical address (i.e. rent receipt, utility bill, bank statement).

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

*Kimberly Getchell*  
*Registrar*



## Fire and Rescue

The New Gloucester Fire and Rescue experienced one of our busiest years. The department responded to a total of 619 Fire and EMS calls in 2017. The increase in incidents again brings up the subject of everyone ensuring that their address is posted in a visible location from the street and kept clear of snow and vegetation. In an emergency, seconds count and finding the location of the incident quickly is very important.



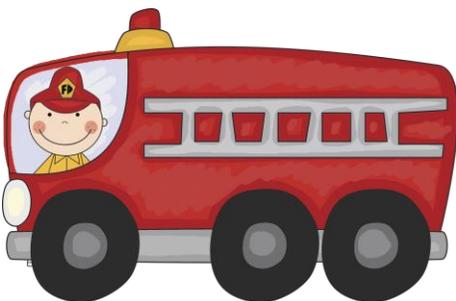
## Fire Department (cont'd)

Finishing out the year the department participated in many Fire Prevention activities at Dunn and Memorial Elementary schools, and at local daycares. We would like to thank all of you for allowing us to visit with the children and promote good fire prevention habits. I know the department enjoys the opportunity and time spent with everyone.



We would also like to thank all of the community support that we received again this year at our annual Chicken Barbecue and Hunter's Breakfast. We had a great turnout at both events and would like to thank Thompson's Orchard for allowing us to have the barbecue at their location for the second year. We look forward to having the event held there for years to come. We hope to see all of you at these and our other events throughout the year. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support and we are always looking for anyone who would be interested in becoming a member of our department.

*James Ladewig*  
*Fire/Rescue Chief*



## Library

With cold weather comes snow, and your safety is important to us. If the weather is bad, and we are closed, all items that are due that day are now due the next day. No school DOES NOT mean that we are closed. But either way, if driving conditions are bad, please call to make sure we are here before you head out. No book or movie is worth you getting stuck or hurt.



*Did you ever wonder what our "Friends of the Library" do or why they are an integral part of the New Gloucester Public Library?*

Twenty-seven years ago, we had a dream of more space. At that time, we were located in what is now known as the Meetinghouse and was nick-named the most crowded Library in the Southern Maine Library District. The Library started working on making the move a reality by raising awareness in the Town of how crowded the Library was and to raise funds. The "Friends" were the moving force behind us.

The Library has been in its current location for twenty years, moving in right after the January 1998 Ice Storm. Large carts were filled with books and pushed across the parking lot. Friends and friend's alike helped load, push and unload carts.



## Library (cont'd)

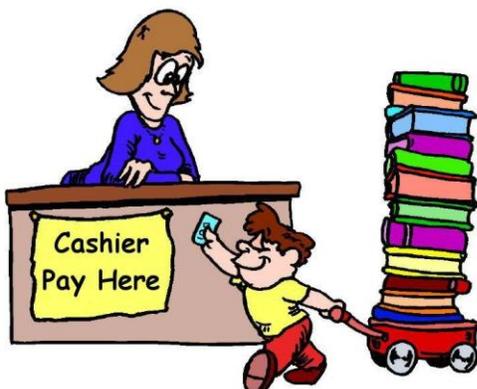
Now, our “Friends” group is here to support us by helping cover costs like programming, purchase of the Maine Student Book Award and the Chickadee Award nominee books. Other items the “Friends” have helped with was the purchase of lights for the Gazebo and display case. Also, without the “Friends”, there would be no garden shed.

Book sales happen twice a year at the Library they are run by the “Friends”. They come in weekly (usually on a Tuesday) to sort and clean books, movies, puzzles, games and audiobooks. The “Friends” are looking for some help not only physically but also someone who would like to organize the selling of books online. This could be done in the comforts of your home. Are you that person???

### **IMPORTANT DATE:**

#### **CABIN FEVER BOOK AND BAKE SALE:**

Saturday, February 10, 2018, at 8:00am – 12:00pm, at New Gloucester Public Library, 379 Intervale Road in New Gloucester. There will be books, movies and goodies available to purchase as well as games and puzzles.



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

*Suzan Hawkins*  
Library Director

*Carla McAllister*  
Assistant Librarian

## Parks & Recreation

Our Diamond Cheerleaders are in the full swing of their competitive season. Their season wraps up in the middle of March and then we will have our cheer tumbling and gymnastic program.



This spring when the snow finally melts we will be having a community build for the pavilion roof. Once we get a better idea of when that will be, we will be asking for help to complete the project. I would like to thank all members of the Parks and Recreation Committee for their countless hours of work and helping out with the Parks and Recreation Department.



GNG Little League Sign-Ups for Tee Ball, Baseball, & Softball. Registrations are now open and will end on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 and open to boys and girls ages 4-16. Play starts in April, as soon as the fields are ready. To sign-up, please go to the website [www.gnglittleleague.com](http://www.gnglittleleague.com).

*Harvey Price*  
Parks & Recreation Director

# Planning

Big things are in the works here in the Planning Department. In December the Selectmen appointed a new 15 member committee to undertake an update to the town's Comprehensive Plan. A town's comprehensive plan takes stock of where the town is and then sets goals for where the town's residents want it to be. We last updated our comprehensive plan in 1990 and a lot has changed since then. An update lets us find out exactly what has happened in town and see how we are doing.



The comprehensive plan process is also a chance for all of us to get together and really talk about our town. What do we like about New Gloucester? What might we like to change? Where do we want to be in the future? In order to get the most out of this process we need as many residents as possible to be a part of the process.



Would you like to receive regular email updates on the progress of the update committee's work? Please email me at [shastings@newgloucester.com](mailto:shastings@newgloucester.com), and keep an eye on the committee's page on the Town website. The committee will be meeting every second Tuesday at 6:30pm in the meeting house. The public is always welcome! Also keep an eye out for activities and events this summer!



On Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30pm the town's Economic Development Committee is hosting USM professors Dick Barringer and Joe McDonnell to give a talk about their ongoing research into economic and community development here in Maine. Everyone is welcome to come!

*Scott Hastings*  
*Town Planner*



## S.A.D. #15

It's the time of year when the School District begins meeting and discussing the Budget for the next year (2019). Below is a list of Budget Related Meetings. All meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions, you may contact the Superintendent's Office at (207) 657-9201.

MEETING	DATE	TIME	PLACE
School Board Budget Meeting	January 31	6:30	Russell School Gym
School Board Budget Meeting	February 14	6:30	Central Office
School Board Budget Meeting	February 28	7:30	High School Library
First Draft of Comprehensive School Budget	March 21	6:30	Pennell Complex (Gray)
School Board Budget Workshop	March 28	6:30	New Gloucester Meeting House
Final Budget Recommendation from School Board Finance Committee	April 11	6:30	Central Office
School Board Budget Straw Vote	April 25	6:30	High School Library
School Board Signature of Warrant Articles for Public Referendum Vote	May 2	6:30	New Gloucester Meeting House
Town Meeting/Budget Validation (Public Vote)	May 17	6:30	High School Cafeteria
Budget Referendum (Public Vote)	June 12	All Day	New Begin Gym (Gray) Fire Station (NG)
School Board Validation of Referendum Results	June 13	6:30	New Gloucester Meeting House



## Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed reading this issue of the New Gloucester Town Newsletter.

If you know someone that would like to receive the Newsletters emailed directly to them, please have them send an email to [smyers@newgloucester.com](mailto:smyers@newgloucester.com) with the words "subscribe me" in the subject line. We will add them to our email listing.

Thank you and have a nice day.

