

# TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

## New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

### ISLAND ITEMS

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*FEBRUARY 2015*

*VOLUME 123*

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#### ISLAND ITEMS DELIVERED!

The New Castle Select Board recently voted to reinstate the mailing of Island Items, the quarterly town newsletter, to all households in New Castle. For the past several years, we have experimented with having it available on the website, as well as at the Town Hall for those interested in a hard copy. However, we have heard from a number of residents who say that they just don't get a chance to access the newsletter in these ways. Therefore, beginning with this issue, along with the August and November issues, we will be mailing them to your post office box. As always, the May issue of Island Items will be inserted in the annual Town Report and hand-delivered to your home.

If you have a suggestion for an article, please contact Pam Cullen at the Town Hall.

#### NEW CASTLE WEBSITE

The New Castle website, **[newcastlenh.org](http://newcastlenh.org)**, is a wonderful resource of information about what is happening in the Town. There's a calendar of when meetings are taking place, important updates and information from each department in town, and the opportunity to sign up for receiving agendas and minutes from all the town boards and committees. Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the homepage to sign up if interested.

#### TOWN HALL RENOVATION UPDATE

At the 2014 Town Meeting, Catherine Truman, architect, and Rodney Rowland, committee chairman, made a presentation regarding the Town Hall restoration/rehabilitation project. At that time, there were two design options and estimated costs presented: Design Option 1 included keeping the town's main meeting room on the first floor (preliminary estimated cost of \$1,407,182); and Design Option 2 included moving the main meeting room to the grand hall on the second floor (preliminary estimated cost of \$1,549,118). Both options included renovating the interior of the town hall and included a handicapped accessible entry on the back of the building.

At that same Town Meeting, voters passed a warrant article for \$15,000 for further study and detailed plans for the town hall renovation.

Since that time, the Town Hall Renovation Committee (Rodney Rowland, Lorn Buxton, Dave McGuckin, Patty Cohen, Etoile Holzaepfel, and Jane Finn) has been busy researching all potential costs associated with the renovation, as well as refining the project. Following are a few highlights of what has been done to date:

- From May - July 7, 2014 the Select Board hosted open houses and tours of the building for residents who wanted to review the plans and offer input.

- Based on input from residents and the desire for improved meeting space, at its July 7, 2014 Select Board meeting, the board voted to pursue “Design Option 2” which included renovating the grand hall on the second floor to be used as the primary meeting space for the building.
- Town Hall Renovation Committee members met with all town personnel to gain additional feedback and input about the office layout and space needs.
- A boundary survey of the town hall and surrounding property, including elevations of windowsills and roofline, was completed by a licensed land surveyor.
- Grant funding options were researched and targeted, including applying for an LCHIP grant (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program). LCHIP grants can fund up to several hundred thousand dollars if awarded.
- Energy conservation grants have been, and are continuing to be, researched and targeted for application this year.
- An archivist was hired to organize and categorize important historical documents of the town hall.
- A hazardous materials survey is being completed to define that element of the project.

You may recall that a group of dedicated volunteers worked for several years and, in 2013, successfully secured the town hall on the NH State Register of Historic Places. That registration gives the town hall pre-qualification for several grant funded programs, such as the LCHIP grant mentioned above, and was a primary motivation for the registration. Additionally, early investigation on this building resulted in

a building condition report and an energy audit to be used going forward.

Over the past several months, the Town Hall Renovation Committee has continued to research all costs, including possible contingencies as well as all “soft costs” such as moving and temporarily relocating town employees during the renovation. The total project cost is now estimated to be no more than \$1,500,000, which encompasses all possible costs associated with the project. This does not include any possible grant funding which would offset the total amount. A warrant article for a ten-year bond to fund the renovation is being prepared for the upcoming May 12, 2105 Town Meeting. Residents will vote on whether or not to pursue the ten-year bond to fund the project (see article in this issue by the Capital Improvement Committee, CIP, for more info about the 10-year bond and its impact on the tax rate).

If you would like additional information or have input, comments, or questions about the town hall renovation project, feel free to contact one of the committee members or come to one of the Town Hall Renovation Committee meetings which are open to the public (see town website calendar at [newcastlenh.org](http://newcastlenh.org) for updated meeting schedule). Meetings are usually held in the morning during the first or second week of the month. Minutes of the Town Hall Renovation Committee are also posted on the website. Architect’s proposed design renditions and floor plans can be seen in the glass display case inside the front entrance to the Town Hall.

The New Castle Town Hall, built in 1894 by the Knights of Pythias and sold to the town in 1927 for use as a town hall for all residents, is a true gem in our community. If funded, the

renovation project will result in dramatically improved functionality, building code compliance, better access, and a meeting space that will allow for improved participation and communication at land use board meetings and other town functions.

If you'd like to see details of the renovation plans or tour the upstairs grand hall, please let us know and we'll arrange to show them to you. Even though currently in disrepair, the grand hall never fails to impress our visitors.

Town Hall Renovation  
Committee



### **Report from the New Castle Capital Improvement Planning Committee.**

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The New Castle Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Committee is tasked by the Select Board to review capital budget requests for the Town, and maintain the 20 year Vehicle and Equipment (V&E) capital budget projection model.

The purpose of this article is to provide information to Town residents regarding proposed capital budget items which will come before the Town for a vote at both the School District Meeting (March 10), and the annual Town Meeting (May 12).

For the 2015-16 budget, the Town will be asked to approve annual funding of the V&E Fund, and funding for 2 proposed capital construction projects: a) renovation of the Town Hall; and b) renovation of the MHT School.

**Please note: the renovation project for the MHT School will be voted on at the School District Meeting on March 10, 2015. The Town Hall renovation project and funding for the V&E Fund will be voted on during the annual town Meeting on May 12, 2015.**

A summary of the potential financial impact to the Town, and to Town residents is provided below.

#### V&E Funding Request

2015-16 V&E Funding Request = \$126,500

(subject to Budget Committee and Select Board approval)

The V&E fund, in essence, is a long-term savings account used by the Town to gradually, and thoughtfully plan for major capital expenditures for the Town. The V&E fund is limited to anticipated capital purchases for Town, Police and Fire Vehicles and equipment. The principal benefit of the V&E Fund is to spread the cost of current and future vehicle & major (over \$10,000) equipment purchases over time. By using this approach, the impact on the Town Budget, and thus on Town Tax-payers is moderated. In other words, when the need arises to replace a police vehicle, fire truck or town utility truck, the money has already been set aside and is available for purchase. Without the V&E Fund, annual tax rates could, and would fluctuate significantly year-over-year, to collect tax money to pay for major capital purchases.

On an annual basis, the V&E Fund is reviewed to confirm the need, timing and estimated costs of vehicles and equipment – leading to development of an annual funding request of Town residents to the V&E Fund.

In 2015-16, expenditures from the V&E Fund will be made for the following planned purchases:

- a) Replacement of Police Vehicle -  
\$ 42,800
- b) Replacement of Town Pick-up Truck -  
\$ 56,000

c) Lucas Compression Device -

\$ 15,000

TOTAL \$113,800

### MHT Renovation Project

The School Board is bringing forward a request to renovate the MHT School at a cost of \$998,000.

This project is expected to be financed through municipal bonds over a 10-year period. The anticipated interest rate on these bonds is 3.5%. If approved, the project is expected to begin in June, 2015, with an estimated completion date of August, 2015. The first monthly bond payment is projected to occur on February, 2016. Outlined below is summary of the tax impact of this project:

- Project Cost: \$998,000
- Financing Costs: \$195,147
- Year 1 mil rate increase: \$0.20 per \$1,000
- Year 1 tax increase on a home with an assessed value of \$1M \$200
- Year 10 mil rate increase: \$0.16 per \$1,000
- Year 10 tax increase on a home with an assessed value of \$1M \$160

### Town Hall Renovation Project

The Select Board is bringing forward a request to renovate the Town Hall at a cost of \$1,500,000.

This project is expected to be financed through municipal bonds over a 10-year period. The anticipated interest rate on these bonds is expected to be 3.5% (or less).

If approved, the project is expected to begin in May, 2016, with an estimated completion date of April, 2017. The first monthly bond payment is projected to occur in August, 2016.

Outlined below is an estimate summary of the tax impact of this project:

- Project Cost: \$1,500,000
- Financing Cost: \$307,000
- Year 1 mil rate increase: \$0.32 per \$1,000
- Year 1 tax increase on a home with an assessed value of \$1M \$320
- Year 10 mil rate increase: \$0.24 per \$1,000
- Year 10 tax increase on a home with an assessed value of \$1M \$240

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Please note that the Town currently is paying 10-year bonds for the construction of the Police/Fire Station (financed portion of the project cost = \$1,100,000), and for purchase of the back channel islands (financed portion of purchase price = \$150,000). These projects were approved in May 2009 and December 2009, respectively.

The financing of these projects will conclude in 2019. The net tax benefit, in current dollars of the pay-off of these current bonds will be:

- Reduction in (current) mil rate: \$0.24 per \$1,000
- Reduction on tax on a home with an assessed value of \$1M \$240

The retirement of these bonds will help mitigate, in 4 years, the impact of these two new (Town Hall and MHT School) proposed capital construction projects.

The principal balance of these two bonds as of June 30, 2015 is \$600,000 (\$525,000 for the Police/Fire Station and \$75,000 for the Back Channel Islands).

Submitted by: New Castle  
Capital Improvement Planning Committee

## NEW CASTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

I was a library rat. Libraries are the mainstays of democracy. The first thing dictators do when taking over a country is close all the libraries, because libraries are full of ideas and differences of opinion, all the things we say we want in a free and open society. So keep 'em, fund 'em, embrace and cherish 'em. ~ *David Baldacci interview, The New York Times Book Review, November 30, 2014*

As we start a new year the library would like to thank community members for their generous support. We have received several contributions over the past year that have allowed us to enhance our materials collection and programming. We are particularly thankful for the incredible generosity of the McGuckin family and friends who donated to the library in memory of our dear and wonderful friend Sally.

Our favorite part of winter is library time with students at MHT! In January we had great fun with our **I Wonder Why** program for Kindergarten and first grades. Each week we read a picture book and then explored all of our questions using the *I Wonder Why* series and other non-fiction sources. Our goal is to encourage intellectual curiosity and increase the reading of non-fiction materials. During the month of January I also had the pleasure of working with Will Purcell for a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade book discussion on *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies. We enjoyed in depth discussions about getting along with siblings, making friends, dealing with problems, understanding strengths and weaknesses in yourself and others, and working out academic struggles. The book also introduces readers to economic and marketing terms, along with math concepts needed to figure out revenue, product cost and profit margins. Charts, graphs and sales receipts add to the real life quality of the book. In February second graders will visit the library for a biography series on American presidents. In March we look forward to

having the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the library for a book discussion on *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.

### **New Materials at the Library –**

**DVDs:** Draft Day, Begin Again, And So It Goes, The Hundred-Foot Journey, The Giver, Equalizer, If I Stay, This is Where I Leave You, Magic in the Moonlight, Major Crimes season 2, The Blacklist season 1, The Goodwife season 5, Last Tango in Halifax season 1, The Newsroom season 2, ...

**Family Movie Night:** Million Dollar Arm, Maleficent, Planes Fire & Rescue, Warren Miller's Wintervention, Warren Miller's Cold Fusion: The Power of Snow, Warren Miller's Riders Collection, When the Game Stands Tall, Dolphin Tale 2, ...

**New Books:** *Gray Mountain* by John Grisham, *Nora Webster* by Colm Toibin, *A Path Appears* by Nicholas Kristof, *Yes Please* by Amy Poehler, *The Burning Room* by Michael Connelly, *Make It Ahead* by Ina Garten, *Escape* by David Baldacci, *Family Furnishings* by Alice Munro, *The Handsome Man's De Luxe Café* by Alexander McCall Smith, *Small Victories* by Anne Lamott, *Us* by Davaid Nicholls, *Close Your Eyes Hold Hands* by Chris Bohjalian, *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande, ...

**New Audio Books on cd:** *The Secret Place* by Tana French, *The 100-Year-Old Secret* by Tracy Barrett

**Library Hours:** Tues. & Wed., 12 to 5, Thurs. 9 to 3, Fri., 12 to 5, Sat., 9 to 12.

**Story Times:** Thurs. at 9:30am & Sat. at 10am

**Adult Library Book Group:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. each month at 3pm

**Drop in for a Stitch Knitting Group:** Tues. at 3pm.

Happy Reading!

Christine Collins, Library Director

## TOWN CLERK NEWS

**The Town Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, May 12 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Polls will open for voting at 9:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Location: New Castle Recreation Center, Great Island Common, 301 Wentworth Road  
April 7 is the last day to petition the select board for warrant articles. The Town Warrant will be posted by April 28. Town Reports including the warrant will be distributed by May 2.

Filing period for candidates for town offices is from Wednesday, March 25 to Friday, April 3.

### Open Offices / Current Office-holders

Select Board Member	3 Year Term
Treasurer	1 Year Term
Budget Committee	3 Year Term
Cemetery Trustee	3 Year Term
Fire Ward	3 Year Term
Library Trustee	3 Year Term
Trustee Of Trust Funds	3 Year Term

### Voting ID Laws Questions and Answers

#### What type of ID will I need to vote?

- Driver's license issued by any state or federal government;
- Non-driver ID card issued by NH DMV or motor vehicle agency of another state;
- Photo ID card for "voting identification only" issued by NH DMV (RSA 260:21);
- United States armed services identification card;
- United States passport or passcard;
- NH student ID card (see more information below);
- A photo ID not mentioned above, but determined to be legitimate by the moderator, supervisors of the checklist, or clerk of a town, ward or city. If any person authorized to challenge a voter does so under this provision, the voter shall be required to fill out a challenged voter affidavit before obtaining a ballot.
- Verification of the voter's identity by a moderator or supervisor of the checklist or clerk of a town, ward or city (not a ballot

clerk). If any person authorized to challenge a voter does so under this provision, the voter shall be required to fill out a challenged voter affidavit before obtaining a ballot.

An acceptable photo ID must have an expiration date or date of issuance. The ID will remain valid 5 years beyond the expiration date unless the voter is 65 or older in which case an acceptable photo ID may be used without regard to expiration date. The name on the ID shall substantially conform to the name on the checklist.

#### What if I do not have an approved photo ID?

Any voter who does not present an approved photo ID will be permitted to vote after executing a "challenged voter affidavit". A voter who does not have an approved photo ID may obtain a free photo ID for voting purposes only by presenting a voucher from their town/city clerk or the Secretary of State to any NH DMV office that issues identification.

#### Is there any post-election action required by me after I vote without an approved photo ID?

If you filled out a "challenged voter affidavit" in order to vote on Election Day, you will receive a verification letter from the Secretary of State requesting confirmation that you voted in the election. If you do not respond in writing to the Secretary of State within 90 days of the date it was mailed, the Attorney General will conduct an investigation to determine whether fraudulent voting occurred.

#### More on student ID cards:

Acceptable student photo ID cards must be issued by:

- A college, university, or career school approved or licensed to operate in New Hampshire
- A public high school in New Hampshire
- A non-public high school in New Hampshire accredited by a private school accrediting agency that is recognized by the NH Department of Education.
- Dartmouth College
- A college or university operated by the university system of New Hampshire or the

community college system of New Hampshire

Beginning in 2014 all colleges or universities operated by the university system or community college system of New Hampshire must include the date of issuance on the student ID card. Student ID cards without a date of issuance will be accepted until September 1, 2018. Each August the Commissioner of the Department of Education will provide to the Secretary of State a list of all approved, licensed, and accredited schools from which a student ID is acceptable.

Acceptable student photo ID card must be issued by:

- A college, university, or career school approved or licensed to operate in NH
- A public high school in New Hampshire

If you have any questions contact Priscilla Hodgkins, Town Clerk/Tax Collector or BJ Riordan, Deputy Town Clerk.

You may also contact the Secretary of State's Office - Elections Division.

Phone: 603-271-3242

Fax: 603-271-6316

Website: <http://sos.nh.gov/ElecOff.aspx>

Priscilla Hodgkins

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Email: [phnewcastle@yahoo.com](mailto:phnewcastle@yahoo.com)

Phone: 431-6710 ext 11

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs.

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

### **Maude H. Trefethen Elementary School ~ Written by: Samantha Fuller**

It is hard to believe the school year at MHT is more than half over. It has been another fantastic year filled with many great experiences and opportunities for our students. The following is a glimpse of some of the great activities that have already occurred to date.

Beginning this past September and continuing throughout the year thus far, MHT has invited several authors to visit our students sharing their personal experiences of writing and/or

illustrating books. We have been fortunate to have met quite a variety of authors each with their own style and flair for writing.

During October our sixth graders together with the Rye sixth graders visited Merrowvista Environmental Camp in Tuftonboro, New Hampshire for a three day adventure. The program promotes community building, exploration through observing and hands on development of the natural earth, making healthy choices, launching leaders and most importantly “finding your best self while seeing the best in others.”

Throughout Nov. and Dec. students participated in after school clubs offered at MHT, such as World Language Club and Chess Club.

Also in December, students presented their annual *Holiday Soup and Song*. This spectacular event showcased all of the beautiful festive songs students had learned in Music and Band class. Parents, friends, and community members were invited to attend and enjoy delicious hearty homemade soups while being serenaded by our talented students. As always it was a joyous and spirited celebration.

Our MHT community has participated in several charitable drives so far this year. *End 68 Hours of Hunger* was one charity that students became passionate about. Our children were made more aware of the urgency to supply kids in need with extra nutritional food during the 68 hours of the weekend. As always our MHT families have shown their abounding generosity and compassion in supporting all the drives.

We look forward to spring time and all the exciting events we continue to plan here at MHT. How fortunate our students are to be part of this beautiful and compassionate community. All together our New Castle community is helping to create a solid foundation for our MHT students to follow as they pursue their educational endeavors.

## **New Castle Volunteer Firefighters Assoc. ( NCVFA )**

The members of the New Castle Fire Department ( NCFD ) kicked off their annual toy and fund drive on Tues., Dec. 2 at the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel's Festival of Lights. For those residents who have not made the Festival a part of your holiday activities, I strongly encourage you to do so next year. Santa in a horse drawn carriage, the Nut Cracker Ballet, homemade hot chocolate and holiday treats, a gingerbread house and breath taking decorations are only a part of the festivities.

Once again, the NCFD was asked to partner with the hotel in hosting the event. With Engine 1 on scene, firefighters lifted children up into the cab, handed out candy canes and in the process collected 2 truckloads of toys. Over the next 3 weeks, additional truckloads were collected from drop off locations in town resulting in the department's most successful drive to date. Because of a true spirit of giving, over 600 families in need with children had a happy Christmas morning. A special note of thanks to the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club who helped with the collection process and Operation Blessing who handled distribution.

Thanks to the generosity of so many new Castle residents, the fund drive also experienced a record breaking year. Approximately \$10,000 will be distributed among local charities that are basically in the same business as the fire service; helping people. Such organizations include but are not limited to the Salvation Army, Families First, St. John's Common Table & Operation Blessing. The men and women of the NCFD are tremendously proud of their efforts to help those in need and even prouder of the many residents who support those efforts.

Peter Rice, Firefighter

## **How to Protect Your Property in an Emergency**

The Residential Knox-Box® is a highly secure, key safe designed for residential dwellings that only local emergency responders can access. With a Knox- installed, property owners store keys, access cards and gate keys near the building entrance and fire, paramedics or police simply remove your entrance key stored inside utilizing a master key controlled by the fire and police departments. They provide assistance and re-lock your door when they leave. Without this system, the fire department must gain access by forcible entry. This generally results in damage to doors or windows and their accompanying facings. After forcible entry, it is commonly difficult to secure a building again after the emergency has been controlled. Repairs made after a single forcible entry will likely pay for the purchase and installation of a Knox-Box®.

Benefits of installing a Residential Knox-Box®:

- One-time purchase, no monthly fee
- Worry free seasonal travel
- Key locked in Knox-Box®; not hidden for burglars to find
- Key readily available to responders; no relying on a neighbor to be home to let the responders inside
- Door or windows not damaged by responders trying to access your home
- Security a top priority – Knox-Box® is UL listed against physical attack

If you would like to order a Knox-Box® right now, or if you have questions, please call the NCFD at (603) 436-1132.

Dennis Dinsmore - Fireward

## **Fire Department**

With the winter upon us and the snow piling up, please remember to be ready for emergencies. Stock up on flashlights, batteries, water, and non-perishable food. For a complete list of what you should have in an emergency kit, visit **readynh.gov**.



**Fire Extinguishers:** Check dates and gauges on a regular basis to be sure they are ready to use. The gauge needs to be in the green. Once a year, tip the extinguisher upside down to be sure the contents haven't dried up and it still moves. Learn the word PASS. P means pull the pin. A means aim the nozzle. S means squeeze the trigger, and the second S means sweep as in moving over the fire. Remember that an extinguisher can only do its job for the first 30 seconds of a fire and will operate for only 10 seconds. Be prepared to call 911.

**CO Detectors:** Because houses are closed up more tightly in the winter, CO detectors need to be checked more frequently. Push the test button on the detector to check that it's functioning properly. Make note that alarms have a recommended replacement age, which can be obtained from the product literature or from the manufacturer.

**Never ignore an alarming CO alarm. It is warning you of a potentially deadly hazard. If the alarm signal sounds do not try to find the source of the CO:**

Immediately move outside to fresh air. Call 911. After calling 911, do a head count to check that all persons are accounted for. DO NOT reenter the premises until the emergency services responders have given you permission. You could lose consciousness and die if you go in the home. If the source of the CO is determined to be a malfunctioning appliance, DO NOT operate that appliance until it has been properly serviced by trained personnel.

**Vents:** With all the snow we have received thus far, it's important to check vents of appliances to be sure they are free from ice and snow. A plugged vent can cause a fire. Check all your vents frequently, particularly after a snowstorm. Stay warm and stay safe!

**GREAT ISLAND GARDEN CLUB (GIGC)** GIGC winter activities continue. In January we enjoyed listening to Leigh Sorensen, a landscape designer, point out the basics of landscape architecture that can make large and small projects alike result in all the contributing parts of the design coming together for a greater all-over effect. Ms. Sorensen has been in the business of providing hardscape and landscape design, and her work has been published in magazines, newspapers, and books. On February 3 we hosted an event entitled the Ecological Challenges Facing Great Bay and the Piscataqua River to which the public was cordially invited (see below).

For further information on our club please feel free to contact our current president, Jane Finn, 436-7336, or past president, Ann Tarlton, 319-8660.

**Upcoming meetings and topics are as follows:**

**Tuesday, April 7**

“Container Gardens” – Tony Eliot of Snug Harbor Farm

Snug Harbor Farm in nearby Kennebunk, ME, grows a wide variety of unusual annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs and has an amazing shop for the gardening enthusiast. Tony will help the club members create an amazing container during this workshop.

**Tuesday, May 5**

“Gardening Simplified for Changing Lifestyles: Plant This, Not That” – Kerry Ann Mendez Mendez, owner of Perennially Yours in Kennebunk, ME, is dedicated to teaching people of all ages the art of low-maintenance perennial gardening and landscaping. This lecture will provide easy-to-follow downsizing strategies, recommended no fuss plant material, and design tips for stunning year-round gardens that will be as close to “autopilot” as you can get.

**Saturday, May 16**

Our annual Plant Sale – more information to come as we get closer to that date.

Gail Kelly - For the Publicity Committee

## SNOW REMOVAL

Please remember to not push snow onto town streets or the State Route 1B. Violators are subject to fines.



## ***GREEN WASTE DAY”***

The green waste dumpster will be available to island residents one **Saturday** each month during the 2015 growing season. The dumpster is located at the Common next to the library. Green waste volunteers will be on duty from 8 AM to 11AM. No afterhours dumping is permitted. Because plastic bags are not biodegradable, these must be emptied and reclaimed. Using disposable paper bagging keeps clothes clean and dispositions cheerful.  
**MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, JUN 13<sup>th</sup>, JUL 11<sup>th</sup>, AUG 15<sup>th</sup>, SEP 12<sup>th</sup>, OCT 17<sup>th</sup>, NOV 21<sup>ST</sup>**