

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

ISLAND ITEMS

MAY 2012

VOLUME 112

TO NEW CASTLE PROPERTY OWNERS USING MUNICIPAL WATER AND/OR SEWER

For the past year or so, water and sewer bills have risen so dramatically that the New Castle Public Works Board and Select Board have been exploring ways to mitigate these increases.

As New Castle is a water and sewer customer of Portsmouth and due to the federally mandated requirements that Portsmouth upgrade it's sewer facilities, New Castle will continue to bear it's share of the cost of this upgrade.

A reduction in minimum usage charges for New Castle property owners has been reviewed and discussed at length. It was determined that minimum usage charges will continue for now.

As water and sewer charges will likely continue to increase, the Town has recently begun discussions with the City of Portsmouth to explore the economics and potential benefits of conveying all of the Town's water and sewer systems to Portsmouth.

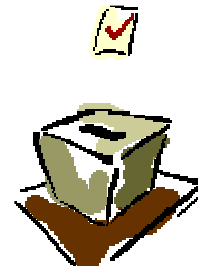
The discussions with Portsmouth are in the early stages but please know that the Town is aware of the continuing burden of water and sewer charge increases and that these charges have significant impacts on property owners budgets.

We will keep property owners informed of the progress of these discussions.

Sincerely,
New Castle Select Board

TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012 VOTING - 9AM to 7PM REC BUILDING

On Tuesday, May 8, 2012, the residents of the Town of New Castle will have the opportunity to cast their votes in the town elections at the Recreation Building. The polls will be open from 9am to 7pm. The business portion of the meeting will follow at 7pm.



SOCIAL JURRIED ARTS - CRAFTS SHOW AND STRAWBERRY SOCIAL SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd

Artists and crafts people representing Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine will be displaying their artwork on the grounds of the New Castle Congregational Church on Rt. 1B in New Castle on Saturday, June 23 from 9:00-3:00.

Artists will be showing their oils, watercolors, pastels, photographs, acrylics and other media. Some of New England's finest artists and craftspeople will be participating in the show. Delicious food will be available in the Parish Hall.

Our famous Strawberry Social will take place from 11:00 to 1:30, featuring scrumptious strawberry shortcake. For further info, please contact Jane Finn at rimplefinn@gmail.com.

“GREEN WASTE DAY”

The green waste dumpster will be available to island residents one **Saturday** each month during the 2012 growing season. The dumpster is located at the Common next to the library and green waste volunteers will be on duty from 8 AM to 11AM. No after hours 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.

Please mark these dates.....

Jun 2nd
Jul 7th
Aug 4th
Sep 8th
Oct 13th
Nov 17th



The Town of New Castle has been recognized as a 2012 “Editors’ Choice” winner in *Yankee Magazine’s Travel Guild to New England* for the May/June 2012 issue for **BEST FAMILY BEACH.**

GREAT ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

DIG WE MUST! SAVE THE DATE...

New Castle...Greater Island Garden Club (GIGC) members are digging all over the island of New Castle. They're not looking for ancient artifacts. They are gathering plant treasures for the GIGC Plant sale on Saturday, May 14 at the Recreation Building adjacent to The Commons on Wentworth Road in New Castle. Hours are from 8:30 am to 1 pm. Traditionally, gardeners begin gathering at 8 am or earlier to ensure they don't miss an exotic garden treasure.

The unique draw of this plant sale is that most plants have already wintered over in New Castle's blustery winds, making their chances of survival in buyers' yards close to 90%, the club estimates.

Another attraction for gardeners and non-gardeners alike is the free advice one gets from master gardener members. The experts can be identified by their flower hats or hair garlands and will be waiting to guide and counsel visitors. Efficiency comes into play as well. Plants are grouped according to the light and soil conditions a gardener has in her/his yard, i.e. full SHADE, full SUN or SUN/SHADE designating the most favorable growing conditions for each plant. Plant categories, such as lilies, Solomon's seal and ferns plus landscaping plants featuring trees and bushes are grouped in different sections.

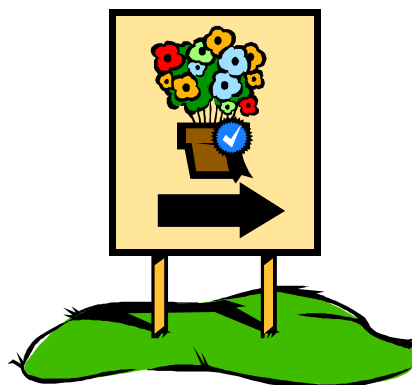
A relatively new area features only succulents, which, with warming climate changes, are a popular choice. They are planted in special small handmade troughs of tuffa, made concrete and other secret ingredients. To be au courant, a gardener these days needs to display a succulent pot, brought inside to winter.

Another new feature this year is the "Everything Except the Kitchen Sink" section, which will feature unusual combinations of plants and containers. For instance tomato plants will be growing in tomato cans with a picture of tomatoes. Old cooking pots will have ferns dripping over the edge, all of which would be wonderful gifts, guaranteed to bring smiles to the recipient.

An old but incredibly popular area of the sale is the Garden Treasures section. Contents vary each year and have included things as diverse as garden furniture sets complete with umbrella, statuary, unusual urns and flower pots, window boxes and even garden gnomes.

Finally, there will be a silent auction section which features flower paintings, gardening services and exotic plants. Guests put down bids prior to the winners being announced at the end of the sale. You do not have to be present to win. Purchases at GIGC Plant Sale will be used to purchase the flowers and other greenery which the club plants at the New Castle Post Office, Town Hall, Church, Library and Recreation Center. These plantings are entirely designed, purchased, planted, watered and weeded by members of the GIGC and local school children.

Anyone who would like to donate garden treasures to the Garden Club or share overgrown plantings such as bulbs, which garden club members will gladly dig should call Ann Tarlton, President of GIGC at (603) 319 8660.



NEW CASTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be -
I had a mother who read to me.
~Strickland Gillilan

The library has spent the last few months upgrading our systems and technology. The highlight of our upgrades is a new integrated library system that allows us to have our catalog online and send email overdue and reserve notices. If you haven't seen it yet, go the library website (accessed through the town website) and click on "Online catalog". To access your account, enter your library card number and your telephone number. If you do not know your card number, email or call me at the library. Patrons may search the catalog, reserve books and renew books online. You may also log into NH Downloadable Books/OverDrive through our library catalog to access more than **4,000 audiobook titles and 1,000 e-book titles.**

Many thanks to **friends and family of Pat D'Antonio** for your very generous contributions to the library in memory of Pat. Pat was a long-time volunteer & friend of the library and we miss her dearly.

MHT continues to visit the library on Thursdays where we enjoy reading, choosing books, library scavenger hunts, reading programs... In March we had a book discussion on *Iqbal* by Francesco D'Adamo with the 5th & 6th graders. *Iqbal* is a fictionalized account of the real Iqbal Masih, a brave, young activist who brought global attention to the reality of contemporary child labor.

A reminder that our adult **library book club** continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month – I have a 2012 book list available for anyone interested in attending.

New Materials at the Library -

DVDs: *Unknown* (Liam Neeson), *Ides of March* (George Clooney, Ryan Gosling), *Moneyball* (Brad Pitt), *I Don't Know How She Does It* (Greg Kinnear, Sarah Jessica Parker), *Contagion* (Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Winslet, Jude Law), *Midnight in Paris*, *The Big Year* (Steve Martin), *Downton Abbey season 2*, *J. Edgar* (Leonardo Dicaprio), *Bridesmaids* (Kristen Wiig), *The Descendants* (George Clooney), *American Experience: The Amish*, *My Week With Marilyn*, *Beginners* (Christopher Plummer), *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* (English), *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* (Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock)...

Family Movie Night: Hugo, Hop, Alvin & the Chipmunks Chipwrecked, The Muppets, War Horse, We Bought a Zoo ...

New Books: *Calico Joe* by John Grisham, *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker, *The Beginner's Goodbye* by Anne Tyler, *Red Ruby Heart in a Cold Blue Sea* by Morgan Calla Rogers, *Lone Wolf* by Jodi Picoult, *When I Was a Child I Read Books* by Marilyn Robinson, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo, *The House I Loved* by Tatiana de Rosnay, *Final Storm* by Jeff Shaara, *Strategic Vision* by Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Defending Jacob* by William Landay, *The Flight of Gemma Hardy* by Margot Livesey, *Believing the Lie* by Elizabeth George ...

New Audio books on cd: *Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, *Mockingjay*, *Litigators* by John Grisham, *Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker, *Leaving Home* by Jodi Picoult, *The Paris Wife* by Paula MacLain, *Harry Potter series*, *Chomp* by Carl Hiassen, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith, *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks ...

Library Hours: Tuesday 1-7

Wed., 1-5; Thurs. 9-3; Fri. 1-5; Sat. 9-1

Story Times: Thurs. at 9:30am and Sat. at 10am.

Happy Reading!
Christine Collins, Library Director

NEW CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The New Castle Historical Society has a small wish list and if you can help, we are very much appreciative. Our wish list for the society is as follows:

Step stool
Small ladder
Screwdrivers
Three hole punch
Rake, shovel, trowel
(gardening tools)
Wall Clock



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those families who so generously asked that donations be made in the name of their love ones.

Thank you Ruth Lanham and family, we are honored to have donations in William Lanham's name.

Thank you D'Antonio family, we are honored to have donations in Pat D'Antonio's name.

Thank you Feder family, we are honored to have donations in Jo Feder's name.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION

On Tuesday, May 15 at 7pm, the Historic Society will present a second talk by Neil Novello who will speak about the Portsmouth Naval Prison. This presentation will be held at the Rec. Center. Please note the change of venue. This is open to the public.

During his 25-year career, Mr. Novello has worked with people ranging from a MacArthur genius grant winning choreographer, Liz Lerman (*The Shipyard Dance*), to a black velvet art dealer in the US-Mexico border town (*Black Velvet Art*), to the die-hard practitioners of dirt track stock car racing in Mississippi (*Dirt: Thrills, Chills and Spills*), to immigrants and their experiences (*America: The New Immigrants*).

In 1998, Mr. Novello formed The Iguana Division, Ltd. (changed to *The Iguana Division, LLC* in 2009) to produce family biographies, documentaries and institutional video communication tools.

We are sorry for any patrols that came to the April 10th presentation of Mr. Novello, and were turned away. Due to the large crowd, the Historical Society had to turn people away in order to meet the fire safety code. So those of you who missed that talk, now have another chance.



NCCC GUILD NEWS

SAVE THE DATES!

MAY 12th and JUNE 23rd

On May 12, the Church will hold its semi-annual Rummage and Boutique / Collectibles / Books / White Elephants / Bake Sale and delicious hot dogs. This event will be held rain or shine at the Church Parish Hall on Main Street from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Donations of gently used clothing and household items are appreciated. Please, no old computers, appliances nor television sets. Ruth Lanham and Anne Kern are co-chairs of this event.

On June 23, the Arts and Crafts Fair will be held on the Church grounds, with many local artists and craftspeople selling their wares at this juried event. All mediums of art work as well as pottery, fiber arts, photography, jewelry and much more will be available. This Fair is from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and admission is free. Goodies and luncheon will be for sale. Denny Turmelle and Jane Finn are co-chairs for this annual Fair.

Also, in conjunction with the Arts and Crafts Fair will be a Strawberry Social in the Parish Hall from 11:00 AM to 1:30PM. This will feature homemade shortcake biscuits, fresh local strawberries, and real whipped cream. These strawberry shortcakes may be enjoyed in the Parish Hall, or may be a take-out treat for later in the day. Ruth Lanham, Nancy McCarthy and Deb Schulte are co-chairs for this delicious dessert.

The New Castle Congregational Church Guild meets on the third Monday of most months. Upcoming meetings will be on May 21, and June 18 at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall. The July 16 meeting will be a pot-luck picnic at the Common at 11:30AM. We ask our members to bring a few canned goods to the picnic which we will donate to the Food Pantry on Junkins Ave. in Portsmouth. There will be NO meeting in August.

All women are invited to join this group. It is non-denominational and welcomes women of all faiths. Our mission is to provide fellowship and to

raise money for our church as well as other worthy causes.

Deb Schulte and Maggie Kennedy,
co-Presidents

Church Proposes a Gazebo

The New Castle Congregational Church is proposing to partner with members of the community to construct a gazebo on the side lawn of the church for the benefit of the entire community. Local residents will help build the structure, and the whole community will be encouraged to use the gazebo. This could be a gathering place for residents of all ages, where conversation, art, music, or children's programs would be just part of what might happen here. Why now? In 2006 New Castle Congregational Church signed a contract with T-Mobile to put a cell-phone antenna in the church tower. In order to improve the reception, a fiberglass replica replaced the wooden belfry cap. Since T-Mobile needed a license from the FCC to operate the antenna, Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act mandated a review by the NH Division of Historical Resources. They approved the project with the condition that the original belfry cap be removed, restored, and maintained until its replacement on the tower when the contract ends. Preservation Timber Framing, Inc. of Berwick, Maine has restored the cap, and it is now ready to be returned to the church property. We propose that the belfry cap be used as part of a useful structure for the church and community, a gazebo whose crowning feature is the original cap. The gazebo would be constructed in a way that would allow the original cap to be replaced on the steeple at the end of the cell-tower contract. The fiberglass replica could then be placed on the gazebo.

The church envisions the gazebo to be a joint project with the community and is actively seeking people to help us realize our goal. For more information please call Leonard Seagren at 765-6249 or Etoile Holzaepfel at 436-3676.