

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

ISLAND ITEMS

MAY 2017

VOLUME 132

20 Years and Still Blooming!

Great Island Garden Club

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 13th, 2017
8:30 – 11:30 AM
New Castle Rec Center

Just in time for Mothers' Day, the GIGC is holding its 20th anniversary plant sale. This year's plant of the year is the dwarf fothergilla gardenii, or witchalder, a white-blooming small shrub with exceptional fall foliage, available for pre-order. In addition, members are digging and dividing their own perennial specimens and supplementing them with sought-after species from wholesale greenhouses. Garden gloves and gently-used treasures will also provide thoughtful Mothers' Day gifts. Come and do your shopping for Mom this year at the Plant Sale.

2017 GREEN WASTE DATES

Saturday	-	May 6
Saturday	-	June 10
Saturday	-	August 19
Saturday	-	September 9
Saturday	-	October 14
Saturday	-	November 18

The green waste dumpster will be available to island residents one Saturday each month during the 2017 growing season. The dumpster is located at the Common next to the library. Green waste volunteers will be on duty from 8am 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 the clothes clean and dispositions cheerful.



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

As spring quickly approaches the time to start planning for a healthy lawn is now. Your conservation commission would like to remind you that you can help protect the water quality surrounding the island, rivers, bays and marshes by reducing the amount of fertilizers and pesticides used on your lawn. NHDES recommends the following lawn care guideline which will help reduce the amount of fertilizer needed. For more detailed information go to:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/sp/documents/sp-2.pdf>

1. Aerate the soil for better water and air penetration
2. Test the pH of you soil. Plants are happiest at a soil pH between 5 and 7. UNH will test your soil for a small fee and make recommendations as to how to properly balance your soil.
<https://extension.unh.edu/Problem-Diagnosis-and-Testing-Services/Soil-Testing>
3. Leaving grass clippings on your lawn will naturally fertilize it.
4. A single application of slow release fertilizer in the fall should be adequate for most lawns.
(only fertilizer containing a minimum of 50% slow release nitrogen can be used in New Castle per zoning ordinance section 9.2.8.4).
5. Maintain your grass at 2 inches for better root growth and nutrient absorption.

6. Keep a healthy and well distributed stand of trees to keep grass from the full heat of the sun.

And please consider planting a buffer of plants along the water's edge. There are many native species that will enhance the beauty of your property and help absorb water and pollution before it enters the ocean and bays. In addition buffer plants may help reduce erosion. The following is a webpage that lists recommended plants for our area.

https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/vrap_native_plantings.pdf

Thank you for your efforts!

New Castle Conservation Commission



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON NEW CASTLE/ RYE BRIDGE PROJECT

There will be a NHDOT meeting on Thursday, May 4 from 7 to 9pm at 301 Wentworth Road, Recreation Building regarding the Rye/New Castle bridge project. The public is welcome to learn about the new design and construction schedule.

TREE CUTTING IN NEW CASTLE

The removal and maintenance of trees and brush from a property is sometimes necessary. The Conservation Commission would like to remind our community about the importance of preserving as much of our native vegetation on the island as possible. Not only does native vegetation contribute to the beauty of our island and to the wildlife that are supported by it, native trees and shrubs protect our shoreline and freshwater wetlands. Native vegetation that buffers our shoreline prevents erosion and reduces pollution entering the waters by allowing rain to seep into the ground before entering waterways/wetlands and the ocean. When cutting trees on your property the town has strict guidelines on what can be removed. Be sure to ask your tree removal service prior to any cutting if they are familiar with our town ordinances. There are 2 local buffer zones you need to consider prior to cutting any vegetation:

WATERFRONT BUFFER ZONE

- A 100ft waterfront buffer zone is established from the highest observable tide which includes land that borders on tidal waters such as banks, bogs, and salt marshes.
- A 100ft waterfront buffer zone is established from the edge of our class A wetlands which include: Lavenger Creek, Secret Pond, Quarterdeck Lane, Pit Lane "A", and River Rd salt marsh.
- A 50ft waterfront buffer zone is established from the edge of our class B wetlands. All wetlands in our town may be referenced in the New Castle Zoning Ordinance, and the map is located in the town hall under the Wetlands Study, Oak Hill Environmental Services, 10/2005.

Within the WATERFRONT BUFFER ZONE:

- Branches may be trimmed, pruned and thinned.
- Vegetation less than 3 feet **MUST** be left intact to control erosion along the water's edge.
- Tree removal **MUST** follow a grid system designated by NHDES. Please call the Town Office and leave a message for the Conservation Commission, (a volunteer Commission member will get back in touch with you as soon as they are able) or call NHDES, Pease Office, Wetlands Bureau at (603) 271-2147 for guidance.
- Any stump from a fallen or cut tree **MUST** remain intact within the wetland buffer.

NATURAL WOODLAND BUFFER:

A NATURAL WOODLAND BUFFER ZONE is 150ft from both the shoreline/tidal land and freshwater wetlands.

- If your lot is larger than ½ acre, 50% of this zone **MUST** be left in an unaltered state.
- If your lot is ½ acre or less, 25% of this zone **MUST** be left in an unaltered state.
- Any stump from a fallen or cut tree **MUST** remain intact within 150ft of the wetland.

An unaltered state means existing natural native vegetation is allowed to grow without cutting, limbing, trimming, pruning, mowing and other similar activities except as needed for plant health, normal maintenance and renewal.

For more information on wetland buffers and tree cutting, please refer to the New Castle Zoning Ordinances in section 9.2.8 or

contact the Conservation Commission at the town hall.

It is a privilege to live on this pretty little island. Let's all work together to keep our island and all adjacent wetlands and waterways healthy and resilient in the coming years.

Respectfully,

Lynn McCarthy
New Castle Conservation Chair

TOWN MEETING – TUESDAY, MAY 9

On Tuesday, May 9, 2017, the residents of the Town of New Castle will have the opportunity to cast their votes in the town election at the Recreation Building. The polls will be open from 9am to 7pm. The business portion of the meeting will follow at 7pm.

NEW RESIDENTS & NEW VOTERS: You may register to vote at the polls. Be sure to bring photo ID, Passport or other proof of nationality, and proof of residence that shows the street address, not just the PO Box number.

REGISTERED VOTERS: When you check-in to vote you will be asked for an official photo ID.

TOWN OFFICE CANDIDATES

Select Board Member 3 year term
Damon Frampton

Treasurer 3 year term –
Tom Smith

Budget Committee 3 year term –
Michael Traister

Cemetery Trustee 3 year term –
James Cerny

Library Trustee 1 year term –
Jane Finn

Library Trustee 2 year term –
Laurie Chandler

Library Trustee 3 year term –
Brad Greeley

Trustee of Trust Funds 2 year term –
Laurie Chandler

Trustee of Trust Funds 3 year term –
Dave Borden

Supervisors of Checklist 3 year term –
No candidate filed

Open School Board Offices

School Board Member 3 Year Term –
Dick Spaulding

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Office is Open to Public: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. In addition: Tax Collector office hours are extended to include Fridays during the “high season” in November and December.

Priscilla Hodgkins
Town Clerk/Tax Collector



New Castle Public Library

“In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.” ~ Mortimer J. Adler

It has been a lively winter at the library. In addition to knitting, writing, and book groups, we have enjoyed a series of programs and events that brightened the short winter days and filled us with warm community, learning and fun. Here are some highlights:

Afghanistan Presentation – retired military officer & community member Dawn Lake spoke about Afghanistan on January 25th. She talked about the history of Afghanistan; women’s issues; the differences between the Taliban, Al Qaeda & ISIS; roles of the U.S. military; and she shared personal stories & photographs. More than 30 community members enjoyed Dawn’s incredibly informative talk. Thank you Dawn for sharing your expertise and experiences in the Middle East with all of us.

New Castle Community Read - A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman - The library held its first ever community-wide read. 43 members of the community joined in the reading of this New York Times best seller. We held two meetings to discuss the book and eat carrot cake.

Adult Art for Beginners was so successful (18 participants and 5 on the waiting list) that we created additional art programs. In March we held a three-week program on Drawing. The 14 artists experimented with a variety of materials – pen, pencil, charcoal, crayon, and marker. In May we will host another three-week

Drawing class, and then Jenny Rosenson will retire for the summer. Many thanks to Jenny for lending her time, creative skills, and generous spirit to our enthusiastic artists.

Introduction to Bridge

Fundamentals - Session 4 began on January 4th and will end in May. Our twelve participants have made such progress that we may need to rename this program. Many thanks to Dick Spaulding for continuing to lead this program with great humor, patience, and expertise.

Library Bus Trips – The library hosted its fourth bus trip on Saturday, April 29th to the Boston Ballet to see ***Sleeping Beauty*** at the Boston Opera House. Lunch was provided for the bus ride (catered by Carl’s Take Away Café). We have thoroughly enjoyed all of our bus trips – John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Peabody Essex Museum/American Impressionist: Childe Hassam & the Isle of Shoals, Boston Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops, and the Boston Ballet. Thank you to all of you who have joined us on these wonderful adventures.

New Materials at the Library –

DVDs: Florence Foster Jenkins, Loving, The Accountant, Arrival, 20th Century Women, Patriots Day, Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children, Antarctica Ice & Sky, Victoria (Masterpiece Theater), Homeland season 5, A Place to Call Home season 4, The Americans season 4, Grace & Frankie season 2, ...

Family Movie Night: The Gruffalo, Good Dinosaur, Nine Lives, ...

New Books: *Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner, *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance, *No Man’s Land* by David Baldacci, *Fifth Petal* by Brunonia Barry, *Below the Belt* by Stuart

Woods, *The Case Against Sugar* by Gary Taubes, *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline, *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders, *Never Caught* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, *The Hour of Land* by Terry Tempest Williams, *Runners World Cookbook: Meals on the Run*, *The Treacherous Net* by Helene Tursten, *If Not For You* by Debbie Macomber, *The Dry* by Jane Harper, ...

New Audio Books on cd: *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney, *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult, ...

Library Hours:

Tuesday 12–5

Wednesday 12–5

Thursday 9–3

Friday 12–5

Saturday 9–12

Story Times: Thursdays at 9:30am & Saturdays at 10am

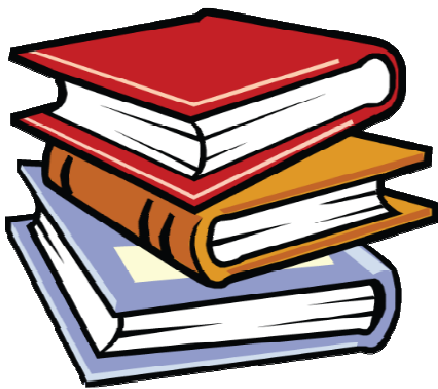
Drop in for a Stitch Knitting Group:

Tuesdays at 3pm

Adult Library Book Group: 1st Wed. each month at 3pm

Happy Reading!

Christine Collins, Library Director



CONGREGATION CHURCH YARD SALE

Spring is here!

It's time for the annual New Castle Church Yard Sale where you will find tremendous treasures such as collectibles, books, small appliances, gently used clothing, linens, and of course "white elephants".

Join us on Saturday, May 6th from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

After shopping, plan to have a lunch of hot dogs, chips and soda.

We predict it will be a lovely day on the island!



New Castle Historical Society

A very active season has begun! The Historical Society welcomes all new members and encourages all newcomers to town to visit and learn about the following activities:

Piscataqua Discoveries: We've been working with Emerson "Tad" Baker, local historian, author and archaeologist, to identify and display artifacts, shards and sherds donated by Ray and John Demers. The Demers recovered important and fascinating archaeological artifacts from diving expeditions in Harts Cove in the 1970's and 1980's. They have generously donated many of these artifacts to the Historical Museum. These discoveries tell a long-lost story of New Castle's active history preserved under water.

May 17: Dessert and *History of the Portsmouth Navy Yard*, Gary Hildreth, Deputy Public Affairs Officer at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, former submariner, will speak on the Navy Yard's heritage and history. The program will be hosted by the Community Supper Program and the Historical Society at the Parish Hall. Dessert at 6:30 p.m., the talk will begin at 7:00 p.m.

June 7: The Maude H. Trefethen third and fourth graders will visit the Historical Museum to learn about New Castle history, the archeological artifacts and be introduced to "Millie", the incredible working tide mill replica.

June 27: Emerson "Tad" Baker, historian, author and archaeologist will present a program about the history, uses and origins of the artifacts in our

Piscataqua Discoveries exhibit at 7:00 pm at the Museum.

July 1: Saturday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Museum. Opening of the *Piscataqua Discoveries* exhibit. Ray and John Demers will talk about their adventures in Harts Cove and Salamander Point. Opportunities for questions and answers.

July 18: Annual Piscataqua Café Celebration for members. Wine and hors d'oeuvres. Gary Sredzienski, accordion player and long distance swimmer, will entertain us with sea shanty ballads and accordion history. At the Piscataqua Café, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

August 15: *A Soldier's Mother Tells Her Story* - a civil war reenactment customized to New Castle by Sharon Wood from NH Humanities Council. At the museum at 7:00 pm.

September 19: Hollis Broderick will talk about his recently purchased topographical painting of Fort William and Mary on the Piscataqua River in the Province of NH in America. A remarkable water color, it was painted c. 1704 to show Queen Anne what had been created with her investments in the Fort. 7:00 p.m. at the Museum.

October 17: *A Watery Kingdom Transformed: the Piscataqua Region, 1550 to 1850*, presented by UNH historian Jeff Bolster. This is a well documented and colorful history of the settlements and towns along the Piscataqua River. 7:00 p.m. at the Museum.

The mission of the Historical Society is to discover, preserve and present New Castle's history for the education and enjoyment of our members and the town. Many hours are dedicated by our board members and volunteers who work steadily towards this goal. Many thanks and applause to these dedicated people.

Nancy Borden, President
New Castle Historical Society

VOLUNTEERS

I was at Barbara Ross's house, a former workmate and friend, the other day and her husband, Richard Hopley, asked if I knew he had retired from the New Castle Fire Department. Richard had volunteered for over **35 YEARS** on the fire department. I did not know he had retired, and I asked if I could write an article about him but alas he declined. So along with Richard, here are some other people who deserve thank yous from the town. Richard White, former fire chief, for his years of service, Terry and Teddie Golter for their tremendous dedication as EMT's. All the volunteer fire department members! And the Police Department, who give extra time to make New Castle a better place.

I can safely say on behalf of myself and many others, to "Thank" all the volunteers on the town boards. The town is blessed to have so many dedicated people. There are many who have served on various boards for many years: Walter Liff, Rus Cox, Chet Fessenden, Reg Whitehouse.....the list goes on.

So I ask all those whom the volunteers serve to take a minute and thank them for their service. A kind word of gratitude goes a long way. And yes the quiet ones who give and go unnoticed – such as Mike McAndrew and to any of the rest that that I may

inadvertently forgot. Of course, let us not forget the Garden Club, to make New Castle beautiful. **THANK YOU**
RSVP Volunteer Rosemary York for 15 plus years working in the town office. Thank you. Bravo.

HYDRANT FLUSHING – EXCITING TIMES IN NEW CASTLE

Photo by Jim Cerny



Cemetery Trustees: Find a Grave in Riverside Cemetery.

By Jim Cerny

The “Find A Grave” Web site is an excellent resource for tracing family history, with pictures of gravestones and often additional information about those buried. New Castle’s Riverside Cemetery has 1,117 names in their database, mostly the work non-New Castle volunteers. See:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=103082&CScn=riverside&CSctry=4&CSst=32&CScty=1904&>

Oceanside Cemetery is also in their database, showing 25 names.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2362860&CScn=oceanside&CSctry=4&CSst=32&CScty=1904&>
Frost and Marvin Cemeteries are also searchable.



The NH Army National Guard conducted their Best Warrior Competition in early April. It was a 12 mile run with 35 pound military back pack and a replica rifle (“Rubber duck”). Weather was excellent with about 20 marching/running. The first finisher was Rudy Santos in 2 hours 26 minutes. Photo by Jim Cerny