

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

ISLAND ITEMS

NOVEMBER 2014

VOLUME 122

TAX RATE

The New Castle tax rate for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 will be \$6.60, an increase of \$0.21 or slightly less than 3.3%. The impact on a property assessed for \$1 million would be \$210. The rate had been unchanged for the prior three years

The following table compares the new rate to last year's rate.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Town Rate	\$2.28	\$2.28
County Rate	1.08	0.99
School - Local Rate	0.99	0.69
- State Rate	<u>2.25</u>	<u>2.43</u>
Total	<u>\$6.60</u>	<u>\$6.39</u>

We had been able to hold the overall tax rate flat for several years by absorbing changes in the unassigned fund balance. The unassigned fund balance is the result of favorable variances between actual and budgeted (i.e., appropriated) performance in Town operations.

Again this year, the Town portion of the rate is unchanged at \$2.28. However, this year we are faced with increases of \$87,940 from the School and \$56,861 from the County that are beyond Town control and our ability to prudently absorb.

The County budget was up only slightly over 2%. However, it is allocated among towns based on assessed valuations. Our increase in

the County rate of about 9.1% implies that one or more of the other towns in Rockingham County were assessed downward.

The School portion of the rate is composed of the New Hampshire Education Tax and a supplemental local rate. Under current state statute, municipalities retain all of the Education Tax raised. The total School portion of the rate is \$3.24, an increase of \$0.12 or 3.8%.

Select Board

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

As you are aware, in recent years, the cost of water and sewage disposal has been on the rise. The New Castle Water and Sewer Commission diligently tries to keep these fees as low as possible, but the greatest factor in the costs is beyond our control--namely the fact that we must pay Portsmouth for our water and disposal of sewage. The costs needed by Portsmouth to continue to offer clean water and waste disposal may soon have to be increased; and so, the cost to our residents will obviously have to be raised proportionately.

Bills are issued every fourth month: April, August, and December. The bills are based on the number of "units" used. Each unit equals 748 Gals. A "minimum charge" of 20 units applies to all accounts. As of this writing, the minimum charge for 20 units of water is \$58.80 (20X\$2.94), and for 20 units of sewer it is

\$227.60 (20X\$11.38). Every unit beyond the minimum is charged is charged at the same rate for both water and sewer.

Please always check for leaky faucets, or flapper valves that are not closing on your toilets. We have blue dye tablets available at the town office free of charge to put in the back of your toilet to see if it is leaking. Please stop by the Town Hall and ask Pam Cullen for the dye tablets. Also, wait until you have **full** loads before running your dishwasher or washing machine. Testing your toilets and making minor changes to your washing habits can save you money!

Winter Problems: Last winter, several unoccupied houses sustained water damage due to frozen-broken pipes while the occupants were away from home. We urge you to look into installing either a temperature alert alarm (that shows when in the inside temperature drops below freezing), or a wet sensor (that shows when a basement floor is wet). Most of either of these types come with a light that can be placed in a window and will shine when a problem is detected. This light will tell your neighbor or someone you have requested to watch your home, that attention is needed immediately. If you already have a security system installed, you may be able to install and automatic dialing system to the company when interior temperatures drop or water is detected. Finally, if you are going to be gone for a lengthy period, you may want to consider draining your pipes and shutting off the water supply.

If a pipe breaks, you may not only have to face a huge water bill, but items in your home could be destroyed and you may face a mold problem that needs to be mitigated for health reasons.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Liff, Chairman

Supervisors of the Checklist

At the May Town Election Maggie Kennedy was elected as Supervisor of the Checklist replacing Sherri Becker whose term ended. We would like to thank Sherri for her six years of dedication to our Community.

The September 9th State Primary Election went smoothly and we look forward to the November 4 State General Election.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Supervisors of the Checklist.

Supervisors of the Checklist

Karen Mitchell, Chair

Darcy Horgan

Maggie Kennedy



The Importance of Visible House Numbers

Dennis Dinsmore, Fireward

"911, state the nature of your emergency and what is your address?"

You are in urgent need of the fire department, an ambulance or law enforcement and its 2:00AM, you give the 911 operator your location; house number and street name.

Then you anticipate their arrival. Seconds turn to minutes and more minutes and you need help NOW! The ambulance, or police officer or firefighters are going up and down your street trying to find your home.

Emergencies are not scheduled and can happen at any time, to anyone. Take part in helping yourself and have your house numbers prominently displayed near the front door, under a light in a size and color that is easily visible from the street. At any moment, minutes can make a difference in your life, or the life of a loved one. Take a few minutes to make sure the New Castle emergency responders can easily locate your house number.



The New Castle Fire Department Needs More Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians

Dennis Dinsmore, Fireward

The NCFD is very fortunate to have highly trained and committed volunteers on the department and we need more of them. If you have considered learning more about fire safety and taking care of yourself or a family members in an emergency, consider joining the NCFD to get educated.

NCFD emergency responders conduct weekly training sessions utilizing high quality, modern safety equipment and techniques, with locally staged practice evolutions depicting real life emergency scenarios for water search and rescue, woodland fires and live smoke / fire exercises.

If you know of a friend, co-worker, cousin, son, daughter, niece, or nephew who lives in the seacoast and has considered a career or just wanting to get involved with emergency services, point them to the NCFD.



THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Exquisite crafts and the fragrant balsam wreaths and fresh greens arrangements welcome you to the Village Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Great Island Recreational Building, from 8 AM – 2PM. This not-to-be-missed event features fabulous hand crafts many of which are made from local driftwood, shells, and sea glass. Also, unique Christmas ornaments, one of a kind birdhouses, hand knitted scarves, hats and mittens as well as texting gloves. Fairy houses will be new this year!

Gorgeous greens gathered from the island gardens are masterfully arranged in lined baskets while hand decorated balsam wreaths are signature items. Be sure to place your order for a custom-made wreath to complement your front door! Blooming amaryllis and paper whites as well as colorful everlasting bouquets are popular, too.

Delicious home-baked breads, pies, cookies and bars are available for immediate snacking or to bring home and fill your freezer - to be proudly served to your guests during the holidays. Yummy fudge, barks and candies made by the best cooks in town are such a treat that even the staunchest dieters can not resist them! Our Hospitality Baskets are ready-made gifts for all the hard-to-buy-for people on your list. They include specialty items for the knitter, the gourmand, favorite dogs or cats, games nights, afternoon tea and biscotti, even a mailable box filled with great snacks for a college student studying for final exams!

Jewelry and beautiful dress scarves are perfect for a special gal. "Red" Elephants are like white elephants except all have a Christmas theme. These treasures are low priced and some may become humorous stocking stuffers. The Great Island Cookbook first published in 1965 and reprinted many times since then, is the perfect gift for all cooks. In addition to recipes with the names of the local cooks who submitted them, is an interesting history of the

New Castle Congregational Church and the town. A Silent Auction will include works of art from local artists, photography, gift certificates to restaurants and businesses, original jewelry, and perhaps an antique or two.

Tables will be set up for Morning Coffee featuring a variety of mouth-watering home baked goodies, and a Luncheon will be served that is always a big hit with the shoppers and workers alike! It is wonderful to see folks sitting at these tables and chatting with friends and neighbors, while enjoying good things to eat. Santa Claus always attends this Fair and has a special place on the stage to meet with the children and listen to their wishes. This is the perfect place to find the warm island spirit for which we are so well known.

The Village Christmas Fair is sponsored by the New Castle Congregational Church Guild. The women of the Guild meet on Monday mornings from February through June, and again in September through November creating the crafts sold at this event. Guild members and friends also make the Green arrangements in October, November and early December.

The NCCC Guild is a non-denominational group for women whose mission is to work for the Church and for other charities. All women are welcome to join us.

Deb Hutchinson Schulte



NEW CASTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

When I discovered libraries, it was like having Christmas every day. ~

Jean Fritz

The library is very fortunate to receive generous contributions that allow us to provide a great selection of materials and programming. In the past few months we have received several noteworthy gifts.

I would like to begin with a huge thank you to **CJ Cogswell** and **All Makes Sew and Vac Center**. Our library/Macomber Room vacuum has been in service for more than 15 years and finally gave out. Thanks to a **very generous discount from All Makes Sew and Vac** we have a new, high quality Miele vacuum. If you are in need of a new vacuum please check out their store at 180 Islington Street. Make note that they will be changing locations soon to **Plaza 800 by Pic-N-Pay/Hannaford Supermarket**.

In October, the library received a **\$150 donation from Seacoast Rotary Club** for the purchase of children's books. This is a wonderful gift and allows us to purchase some special books for our collection. Many, many thanks to Seacoast Rotary Club!

An additional thank you to **our many patrons who have made monetary donations this past quarter**. These donations have enabled us to purchase Audio CDs and DVDs, as well as provide additional programming for our summer reading program.

Programming Notes:

On October 22nd we hosted 30 children and their parents/caregivers to a **Halloween Open House**. Halloween books and movies were on display, pumpkin chocolate chip muffins devoured, and art projects were enjoyed – pipecleaner spider pencil toppers, ghost hangings, pumpkin patch community art, and

Halloween bracelets and necklaces. It was a festive, fun afternoon.

The Library will host a **Family Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 10th at 1pm** (this is an early release day). And we will host a **Holiday Tea on Wednesday, December 17th at 3pm**. We hope you can join us!

New Materials at the Library –

DVDs: Hungry for Change, Divergent, Fading Gigolo, The Other Woman, Love Punch, Skyfall 007, Words & Pictures, Fed Up, Chef, Closed Circuit, Safe Haven, Big History, Parenthood season 5, Elementary season 2, Person of Interest season 3, Revenge season 3, Chicago Fire season 2, The Wire season 2, Homeland season 3, Castle season 6, Scandal season 3, True Detective season 1,

Family Movie Night:

Ice Age Continental Drift, Free Birds, Rio 2, ...

New Books:

The Heist by Daniel Silva, *Power Play* by Catherine Coulter, *Act of War* by Brad Thor, *A Call to Action* by Jimmy Carter, *Cut and Thrust* by Stuart Woods, *Edge of Eternity* by Ken Follett, *Love Letters* by Debbie Macomber, *Personal* by Lee Child, *Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good* by Jan Karon, *Stories* by Jane Gardam, *Leaving Time* by Jodi Picoult, *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson, *Some Luck* by Jane Smiley, *Station 11* by Emily Mandel, *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage* by Haruki Murakami, ...

New Audio Books on cd:

Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty, *Last Anniversary* by Liane Moriarty, *Three Wishes* by Liane Moriarty, *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell, *Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell, *The Heist* by Daniel Silva, *Quiet: The Power of Introverts* by Susan Cain, *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin, *Think Like a Freak* by Steven Levitt, *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, ...

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

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

Drop in for a Stitch Knitting Group:
Tuesdays at 3pm

Happy Reading!

Christine Collins, Library Director

GREAT ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

Great Island Garden Club (GIGC), in existence since 1997, continues actively to pursue its mission to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and horticulture while assisting community beautification. To this end we hold monthly general meetings with speakers on a variety of gardening related topics, workshops for our members, and change over the seasonal plantings you see around town in front of the Post Office, the designated area in front of the annunciator at the Congregational Church, and in front of the Town Hall. In early October we planted mums, cabbage, kale, and trailing ivy in these areas for all to enjoy as they drive or walk by. Our more recent fundraising efforts have resulted in the completion of the sustainable garden in front of the Recreation Center and entrance to the Library.

The club meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Macomber Room, upstairs at the Library for coffee and refreshments, a brief meeting, followed by a speaker of interest. For more information about 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, November 4**

“Managing Insects in Your Garden” – Ruth Axelrod

An introduction to the principles and practice of eco-friendly Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including attracting beneficial insects, managing harmful insects in non-toxic ways and, when necessary, using pesticides safely. Ruth is an active Master Gardener volunteer, whose passion is educating people about eco-friendly gardening, particularly those practices that help improve and protect the quality of water in our rivers, lakes, and bays.

Tuesday, December 9

Holiday Luncheon at the Wentworth Country Club (members and invited guests)

Tuesday, January 6

“Landscaping with Fun” – Lee Sorensen

Lee has been in the landscape business for 25+ years and with her crew can do hardscape and live planting design and implementation.

Tuesday, February 3

“The Challenges Facing Great Bay and the Piscataqua River” – Jeff Barnum

Mark your calendars, as the **public is invited** to hear Jeff Barnum, who is CLF’s (Conservation Law Foundation) Great Bay-Piscataqua Waterkeeper, working to address water quality issues throughout the Great Bay estuary. Jeff comes to the position having served as president of the Coastal Conservation Association of NH (CCA), has an extensive history of civic engagement, and brings additional perspective as a recreational fisherman. Come hear Jeff as he speaks to a topic of interest to us all.

Gail Kelly

For the Publicity Committee

FIRE, FIRE, GET OUT, IMMEDIATELY!

Fire, fire, get out, leave immediately! These are frightening words to hear but they could save your life and your home if you have a central monitoring system for fire.

New Castle has about 450 homes, many of which are of wood construction and closely packed together. A fire in one could quickly spread to another. In firefighting seconds, not minutes, count and a central monitoring system can protect your life, your home, and the home of your neighbors. Many fires start when the homeowner is asleep or away and central monitoring can save your life and give the fire department early notice. By the time a fire is discovered by someone outside the home, there is poor probability of saving the home. It is estimated that only about 40% of homes have central monitoring. It is our hope that all homeowners will consider one. . Several alarm companies service homes in town and would be glad to give you an estimate of the cost of installing one. Most insurance companies give some discount on your home insurance if you have an alarm system. The cost is certainly worth it to save your life or reduce damage to your home.

Educating our residents is the best means of getting this important message to homeowners. We plan to do this with a series of small meetings. It will be worthwhile for you to attend a meeting, date and time to be announced.

More importantly, if there is a fire in your home: Get Out, Leave Immediately!

Robert Rais and James Rini

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

The purpose of the notice is to clarify the budget process for our town.

When you look at your property tax bill you'll see our tax rate (in 2013 at \$6.39 per \$1,000 valuation) is made up of 4 components, County, School, Town, and State Ed. Two of those rates, County and State Ed are amounts that by law we are required to pay with no opportunity to approve or disapprove by vote of the townspeople.

However, the Town and School rates are voted upon by townspeople at their individual Annual Meetings, School in March and Town in May.

Over the past few years there has been considerable discussion of both a renovation and addition to the MHT Elementary School. Hence, it is possible a Warrant Article in the vicinity of \$2 Million will be presented at the Annual School District Meeting in March 2015.

The budget process for our next fiscal year (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) will begin in January 2015, with the School Budget reviewed first and followed by the Town Budget. The town portion of the budget is voted at Town Meeting in May.

Meetings are being held regarding the school issue and dates can be found on the school website. All are encouraged to attend.

The Budget Committee meets each Tuesday from January through April and you are invited, and encouraged, to attend. Details for all meetings are posted on the Town website and at Town Hall.

Again, please note, we have two meetings requiring your vote at two separate times (March and May).



FREE HOME ENERGY WORKSHOP

- Learn How to Save Energy in Your Home
- Gain a Better Understanding of Building Science
- Tips for Do-it-Yourself Energy Saving Projects
- Take Part in the Home Performance with Energy Star Program

\$100 Energy Audit
Up to \$4000 in incentives

WHERE:

Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Rd.

WHEN:

Wednesday, November 19, 6:00-7:30pm
refreshments with local food and beverages before

HOW TO REGISTER:

buttonuprye.eventbrite.com

MORE INFO:

buttonuprye.eventbrite.com
OR contact the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI) at 603-536-5030

SPONSORS:

Rye Energy Committee
North Hampton Energy Committee
New Castle Energy Committee
Rye Public Library
Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative



Workshops conducted by independent Building Performance Institute (BPI) Certified Energy Professionals.
For questions or inquiries contact the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI) at **603-536-5030**

The workshops are free and open to the public thanks to funding provided by the state utilities - Public Service of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Electric Coop, Liberty Utilities and Unitil. For info on state efficiency programs go to the **For Your Home** tab on **NHSaves.com**

NEW CASTLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR

HOLIDAY WREATH ORDER FORM

Traditional Wreath

This classic Christmas Wreath includes pine cones, berries, grasses and a cardinal, apple or other ornamental accent.

Shell Wreath

The perfect coastal home Christmas wreath features shells, starfish, berries and sprigs

Williamsburg Wreath

Our Premier offering includes pin



e cones, berries, lotus pods, everlasting fruit and eucalyptus leaves.



Boxwood Tree

These miniature trees are approx 12" - 15" high and are individually decorated for the season.

Payment: Please make checks payable to NCCC Guild and mail to NCCC Guild, c/o
PO Box 158, New Castle, NH 03854

PickUp: at the New Castle Congregational Church Village Christmas Fair, Saturday
December 6th, 8am - 2pm, New Castle Recreational Building. If you are unable to
pickup or have any questions please call Nancy at 431-4456 or Beth at 433-9092.

All proceeds from the Christmas Fair support the historic Church in the center of town.

Each wreath is individually made and will be similar to the styles pictured

Item	Quantity	Total
Traditional Wreath	\$35	
Shell Wreath	\$45	
Williamsburg Wreath	\$50	
Boxwood Tree	\$30	

Grand Total: