

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

PRSR STD
ECRWSS US POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

ISLAND ITEMS

NOVEMBER 2015

VOLUME 126

TOWN CLERK

Presidential Primary: 2016

The primary has yet to be scheduled (at the time I am writing this) though some very smart people are predicting it will be held on February 9. A notice will be posted at the Town Hall and on the town's website after we hear from SOS.

New Hampshire primaries are based on party affiliation. If you are an "undeclared" voter you will be asked to select a party when you check in at the polls. You may return to "undeclared" status after you vote by filling out a form which the Supervisors of the Checklist will provide. If you are affiliated with a party and want to switch parties before you vote and switch back there is a similar process, however you must declare your party affiliation change with the Supervisors of the Checklist about the time nominations for office are closed, at the end of October.

Voter Registration

You may register to vote with the Town Clerk (usual hours) or with the Supervisors of the Check list on dates that will be posted by the supervisors.

New twist to Voter ID Law: Smile for the Camera

The voter ID laws have changed since our last election. When you check in to vote you will be asked for a photo ID. If you do not have one but one of the election officials can vouch for you, you do not have to fill out the Voter

Challenge form. If election officials cannot vouch for your identity, then you will have to fill out the form and your photograph will be taken by the Moderator.

If you come to vote without a photo ID it's a good idea to put aside some extra time for having your picture taken.

Absentee Ballots

Fill out and return an absentee ballot request form to the Town Clerk. Please print clearly when filling in the address for receiving the ballot. Request forms will be available on line at the town's web site.

One nice change: immediate family members may now pick up and drop off absentee ballot request forms and ballots, provided the voter has filled out and signed an official form (available on-line) and the person delivering the ballot has an approved photo ID. Here's the *official jargon*:

- *The city or town clerk shall not accept an absentee ballot from a voter's spouse, parent, sibling or child unless the family member completes a form provided by the secretary of state and the voter's spouse, parent, sibling or child presents a government-issued photo identification or has his or her identity verified by the city or town clerk.*

If you are not an immediate family member as described above, you may pick up a request form for another voter but you may not receive a ballot nor bring one in.

Last day to accept absentee ballots in person is the day before the election between 3 and 5 pm. Absentee ballots sent by mail must be received at the post office before it closes on the day of the election

Voters may drop off an absentee ballot request form and receive the ballots in person, once they are available, and they may receive and send them via mail or bring them to the office in person.

Domicile and Non-resident Vehicles

Voter laws were recently changed to strengthen the requirements for identification and determination of domicile. Legal domicile in New Castle is a requirement for registering to vote here. Many New Castle home owners spend part of the year in other states. While they may spend roughly half the year here and half in, say, Florida, they must decide which state is their official domicile; there can only be one. Your domicile is where you put your head down to sleep for over 50% of the year and is the same place where you intend to reside. See definition and law below. *

Vehicle Status: If you are not domiciled in New Castle, N.H. the status of your vehicle registration should be *non-resident*. Vehicles with *non-resident* status may not be out of state overnight.

Examples:

- a.) You are registered to vote in another state, then the automobiles registered in your name in New Castle must have a status of *non-resident*.
- b.) You declared a homestead in Florida, which establishes your domicile in Florida and you are, therefore, not a resident (domiciled in) New Hampshire. You would vote in Florida and cars registered in New Hampshire must have a *non-residence* status.

Please note: I do not make up these laws.

***DOMICILE:** A person must have a domicile in the town or ward in which he or she seeks to register. Supervisors may require proof of domicile in the form of an affidavit declaring that the applicant has a domicile in the town or ward in which he or she desires to vote.

The determination of a person's domicile is a question of fact. Based on the available

evidence, is it more likely than not that the person has established a physical presence at the place claimed as domicile? If yes, it is more likely than not that the person has manifested an intent to maintain at that one place, more than any other place, a continuous presence for domestic, social, and civil purposes relevant to participating in democratic self-government. If yes, the person has satisfactorily proven his or her domicile for voting purposes. A voter's intention to reside and his or her actual physical presence must coincide. The mere fact that someone intends to make a town his domicile is insufficient. The person must actually have a physical presence there. A person can have only one domicile for voting purposes. A person's claim of domicile for voting purposes is not conclusive of the person's residence for any other legal purpose. RSA 654:1. (From New Hampshire Election Procedure Manual.)

Overseas Voters

UOCAVA (The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act)

Any person who is temporarily residing outside the United States has the right to vote in the town or city in which he or she was domiciled immediately prior to his or her departure. Temporarily absent voters are eligible to vote for all offices. Voters residing overseas must register every year as their eligibility expires each December 31. As the Presidential Primary will take place very early in 2016 your 2015 registration will be accepted for this election. If you haven't yet registered in 2015, please do so very soon.

UOCAVA voters should use the Federal Post Card Application Form

<https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca2013.pdf> to apply for an absentee ballot. The UOCAVA voter may choose to have his or her absentee ballot delivered either by mail or electronic transmission (email). Absentee ballots for UOCAVA voters are available 45 days prior to a state election.

Please visit

http://sos.nh.gov/nhsos_content.aspx?id=26190 for more details, FAQs, and forms.

Priscilla Hodgkins, Town Clerk

PROPERTY TAXES

We expect property taxes will be due in mid to late December. As of the day I am writing this we do not have the rate nor the due date as we have not heard from NH Department of Revenue Administration. You may pay your taxes ahead of time. We are very happy to receive your payments as soon as you'd like to send them to us. We expect the tax rate to be very close to last year's (\$6.60), therefore send in the amount you paid last year. You will receive a bill for the amount due should there be any difference. I wish we could pass out toasters or waffle irons to those who pay early, but we have nothing to offer but our gratitude.

Priscilla Hodgkins
Tax Collector

NEW CASTLE POLICE-PROFILES

Patrolman Ted Hartmann has been employed by the town since August of 2014 in a part time capacity. In 2006 Ted attended the 247th part-time police academy in Concord NH as a member of the Town of Greenland Police Department and has served there ever since. Before entering the law enforcement field he served in the career fire service and as an EMT.

Ted brings experience to the town as an elder abuse investigator, certified motorcycle officer, court officer, emergency medical technician, and hopes to pass his experiences on to newer officers.

Look for Ted around town and the seacoast. As an Eagle Scout and active supporter of many current community service projects he won't be shy to say hello or lend a hand.



WINTER COMING – SNOW REMOVAL

A reminder regarding the approaching winter season and snow removal. **Please do not shovel or snow blow snow/ice into the town streets or roads.** The Public Works Department asks that if you are near a water hydrant to help with snow removal. We thank you in advance for making the winter season safer for all.

NEW CASTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel... is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become. ~ *Ursula K. Le Guin*

The library's collection and programs are greatly enhanced each year due to the generous donations of community members. In September our children's collection received a big boost. Thank you to **Dick and Emilie Spaulding for purchasing and donating 26 new children's books** at a Scholastic event. They are already big hits at the library. A second thank you to **Seacoast Rotary for donating \$150** to the library for children's books. This year I purchased 13 beautiful picture books that are sure to delight our young readers.

Our programs continue to thrive at the library. Our **adult book group** meets the first Wednesday of each month with a regular attendance of 10-12 people. On Tuesdays at noon the **Great Island Writing Workshop** meets with leader Priscilla Hodgkins to write short stories, essays, memoirs, poetry, and more. The group recently published a chapbook with selections from five of our writers. It is amazing! We have the book for sale at the library for \$5. Also on Tuesdays, from 3pm to 5pm, our community of knitters **Drop in for a Stitch** to create, share ideas, and enjoy lively conversation. I am happy to tell you more about these programs if you are interested.

Please join us to celebrate the holidays in December. The library will host a **Family Open House on Wednesday, December 9th at 1pm** with holiday crafts and cookies (this is an early release day). On **Wednesday, December 16th** we will host a **Holiday Tea at 3pm**. We look forward to sharing holiday cheer with you.

New Materials at the Library –

DVDs: Woman in Gold, Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, DamNation, Olive Kitteridge, I'll See You In My Dreams, Black or White, Ida, House of Cards season 3, Castle season 7, How To Get Away With Murder season 1, Person of Interest season 4, The Good Wife season 6, Longmire season 3, Elementary season 3, Chicago Fire season 3, Chicago P.D. season 2, Blue Bloods season 5, Madam Secretary season 1, ...

New Books: *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George, *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee, *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain, *The Republic of Imagination* by Azar Nafisi, *Silver Linings* by Debbie Macomber, *Food52 Genius Recipes*, *Rising Strong* by Brené Brown, *The Story of the Lost Child* by Elena Ferrante, *Girl in the Spider's Web* by David Lagercrantz, *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman, *Purity* by Jonathan Franzen, *Fates and Furies* by Lauren Groff, *Make Me* by Lee Child, *Paris Match* by Stuart Woods, *Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear* by Elizabeth Gilbert, *Come Rain or Come Shine* by Jan Karon, *Did You Ever Have a Family* by Bill Clegg, *NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity* by Steve Silberman, *Sisters In Law* by Linda Hirshman, *X* by Sue Grafton, ...

New Audio Books on cd: Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, Mindfulness Meditation by Jon Kabat-Zinn

Library Hours: Tuesday 12 -5pm, Wednesday 12-5pm, Thursday 9-3pm, Friday 12-5pm, 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

NEW CASTLE CONGREGATION CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Don't miss the best Christmas Fair on the Seacoast: The New Castle Village Christmas Fair on Saturday Dec. 5 at the Recreation Building from 8 am to 2 pm, sponsored by the New Castle Congregational Church Guild.

Get into the holiday spirit as you check out the great selection of wreaths, greens, boxwood trees, and rings. Exquisite handcrafted gifts and ornaments, all made by the ladies of the Guild, will be available, as long as they last. Many of these items are made with local driftwood, shells and sea glass.

Get your copy of the brand new 50th anniversary edition of the famous New Castle Cookbook, hot off the presses. It makes a great gift for all the cooks on your holiday shopping list.

Other highlights of the fair include: the Candy Store, Jewelry, Scarfs and Red Elephants, Hospitality Baskets, and the Silent Auction. And of course, Santa Claus will be visiting to listen to the wishes of the children.

Start the day off right with steaming coffee and delicious homemade baked goods.

For lunch, enjoy fish chowder or lobster rolls, followed by some incredible desserts. The folks in New Castle really know how to cook!

See you there!

For Information Call: 603-431-4456.



Photo taken from the 2014 Christmas Fair by our Famous Photographer Jim Cerny

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION UPDATE

You may have observed some employees of the Portsmouth Public Works (Water/Sewer Division) trucks in town. They have been assessing the status of our infrastructure as part of Portsmouth's "due diligence" ahead of any transfer. Further, the town has invested considerable Enterprise Funds for an engineering study/review of that infrastructure which is viewed by Portsmouth as an essential prerequisite to the transfer and a valuable assessment for the town of New Castle even if the transfer does not take place.

TOWN HALL ABESTOS REMOVAL



DEC-TAM's equipment setup for removal of vermiculate and asbestos from the third floor of Town Hall.
Jim Cerny photo.

NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

Below is a link to the recent newsletter for New Castle's Around the World:

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/newcastles-news-aug-sept-2015.pdf>



RIBBON CUTTING at MAUDE TREFETHEN.

Photo curtesy of Jim Cerny.