

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

ISLAND ITEMS

NOVEMBER 2016

VOLUME 130

“LAST GREEN WASTE DAY”

The green waste dumpster will be available to island residents one **Saturday** each month during the 2016 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 19ST

GREEN WASTE

Just a reminder. Please remember that green waste is NOT picked up on Thursday with the normal household trash collection. There are monthly “Green Waste Days” from May to November. The waste collection is in the parking area next to the Recreation Building where it can be disposed.

Changes to Water & Sewer Bills Are Coming

“Zero-Based” billing will be implemented with the December water and sewer billing cycle. Details of how this system was developed will be provided to users no later than your bill. Provided below is a preview of its most significant elements.

What do we mean by “zero-based” in the context of billing? You have likely heard of zero-based budgeting, a method in which all expenses must be justified for each new period. In the case of zero-based billing (ZBB), we calculate the costs of running our utilities using their respective fiscal year (July - June) budgets, and from these, we apportion these costs equally across all user accounts.

Why are we implementing ZBB? For two reasons:

1. **Fairness.**

The “20-unit minimum” has become burdensome and unfair to sewer customers who use substantially less than 20 units. ZBB seeks to alleviate that burden by having all customers share equally in the cost (operation, maintenance and repair) of providing the service of each utility. This cost is effectively the “overhead” the

town incurs to run each utility, one for water and one for sewer. Under ZBB, as it applies to your account, on your bill, you will see a “water service charge,” estimated at \$62.09 for the current fiscal year (FY); and/or a “sewer service charge,” estimated at \$66.77 for the current FY. There will also be “usage charge(s)” which will reflect how much of the service (units of water consumed and/or units of sewage disposed of) used during the period with no minimum amount. With the December bill, a “unit” (one unit = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons) of water will be charged \$0.81, and a unit of sewer will be charged \$12.24. These rates are exactly what Portsmouth charges the town; we do not apply any local surcharge to these rates.

2. **Transparency.**

No later than the December bill, we will make available to all users the exact calculations on how we arrived at the amounts for the service charges. In developing ZBB we concluded that the water utility was not fully self-supporting even with a 20-unit minimum. What does this mean to you? It means that everyone will be paying more for water. (With the most recent August bill, 20 units of water was \$54.40; in December, the basic water service charge will be \$62.09 without even using a drop of water.) With regard to sewer, those users below 14 units should experience a reduction.

In related news, you might as well know sooner rather than later, the city of Portsmouth will begin charging the town \$3.35 per unit of water beginning January 1,

2017. Yes, that is a fourfold increase; we had not had an increase in the \$0.81 rate over several decades. Thankfully, the sewer rate of \$12.24 will NOT increase in January. However, for the foreseeable future, you should expect annual increases every fiscal year, both in our town overhead expenses and the charges levied by Portsmouth.

For the Water & Sewer Commission

Normand A. Houle

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE and TOWN OFFICES

The Town Clerk’s office will be closed on Wednesday, November 9th and reopen on Thursday, November 10th. The town offices will be closed the day after Thanksgiving, Friday November 25th.



WINTER IS COMING

A reminder that during the winter season when snow blowing your property please do not put snow into the streets. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

Please watch for signs regarding parking during snow storms. It is imperative that vehicles are not parked on the streets during a storm so that the plows can remove snow.

New Castle Public Library

“Words. A child needs a forest of words to wander through, a sea of words to splash in. A child needs to be read to, and a child needs to read.” ~ Frank Bruni, American journalist

NH 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

- The single most important thing you can do to prepare your children to read is to read to them every day. Research shows that children need to hear 1000 books before they begin to learn to read independently. Reading to children will increase their vocabulary and their listening and narrative skills. The NH 1000 Books Before Kindergarten project is an early literacy initiative supported by the NH State Library, the NH Academy of Family Physicians and NH Family Voices.

The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read a book to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (you can repeat books) before your child starts kindergarten. If you read just one book a night, you will have read 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. Most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, so you have more than enough time!

The New Castle Public Library will launch its 1000 Books initiative on Thursday, December 8th. Please come to the library any time between 9am and 3pm to sign up for the program and pick up a free tote bag and program materials. If you cannot join us that day, please stop in at your convenience. All children from infant to 5 years old are welcome!

New Castle Community Read - The library is excited to introduce our first community-wide read. The book will be A

Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman, which was originally published in Sweden. This *New York Times* bestseller has received several starred reviews. The library will purchase paperback copies of the book - we have a generous donation that will subsidize the purchase of the book, so the cost to participants will be \$5. I will order the books at the beginning of December and we will have our book discussion in February. Please let me know if you are interested and I will order a book for you. We're looking forward to bringing our community together through a shared reading experience - we hope you can join us!

Introduction to Bridge

Fundamentals - Session 2 of our bridge program started on October 12th with ten participants. Thanks to inspired instruction, everyone seems to be improving. Classes are low stress and lighthearted, let me know if you are interested in future sessions.

Library Bus Trips - On October 5th the library hosted its second bus trip to the **Peabody Essex Museum** to see the exhibit ***American Impressionist: Childe Hassam and the Isles of Shoals***. 46 community members enjoyed a docent tour and then had a few hours to go to lunch, stroll through town, and see the rest of the museum. Our third bus trip is on Sunday, December 4th to Boston Symphony Hall. Thanks to a tenacious Trustee, the library was able to get 40 tickets to the 3pm **Holiday Pops** concert. Please let me know if you would like to receive emails about future trips.

In case you didn't know ... resident Emilie Spaulding recently published a memoir titled ***Red Clay Girl***. The library has two copies, stop in and treat yourself to a delightful read. Emilie would love any comments and feedback from readers, you can email her directly at spauldeen1@yahoo.com.

New Materials at the Library – DVDs:

Hello My Name is Doris, Mother's Day, A Hologram for the King, Maggie's Plan, Me Before You, Money Monster, The Meddler, Love and Friendship, Now You See Me 2, Free State of Jones, Brooklyn, Person of Interest - season 5, The Americans - seasons 1-3, Chicago Fire – season 4, Chicago PD – season 3, Night Manager – season 1, Longmire – season 4, Castle – season 8 (final), Madam Secretary - season 2, Poldark – season 1, ...

New Books:

The Black Widow by Daniel Silva, *My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman, *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, *The Book That Matters Most* by Ann Hood, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* by J.K. Rowling, *Smooth Operator* by Stuart Woods, *Sweet Tomorrows* by Debbie Macomber, *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, *The Noise of Time* by Julian Barnes, *Nutshell* by Ian McEwan, *Pigeon Tunnel* by John le Carré, *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett, *Here I Am* by Jonathan Safran Foer, *Home* by Harlan Coben, *Razor Girl* by Carl Hiaasen, *Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware

New Audio Books on cd:

Truly Madly Guilty by Liane Moriarty, *The Black Widow* by Daniel Silva, *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather, *Under the Influence* by Joyce Maynard

Library Hours:

Tuesday 12–5
Thursday 9–3
Friday 12–5
Saturday 9–12

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

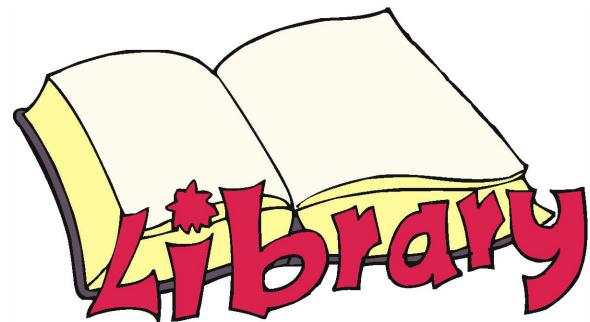
***Drop in for a Stitch* Knitting Group:**

Tuesdays at 3pm
Wednesday 12–5

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

Happy Reading!

Christine Collins, Library Director



RYE RECREATION

Please stop by the town office for the fall and winter Rye Recreation programs open to all New Castle residents. Programs may be viewed at <http://town.rye.nh.us/>. Once in the Rye website, go to departments then Recreation for all the programs available under Rye Recreation or call 603-964-6281.

HOLIDAY PICK FOR TRASH

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

Thanksgiving - Oceanside Rubbish will be picking up trash/recycling on Wednesday, November 23rd.

Christmas week trash collection will remain the same – Thursday, December 22nd.

New Year's week trash collection will remain the same for Thursday, Dec 29th.



2016 TAX RATE

The 2016 Tax rate has been set at \$5.85 per thousand. Tax bills will be sent on by Thursday, November 3 and due back at by December 9th.



VOTING-VOTING-VOTING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

A reminder that voting will be held on Tuesday, November 8th from 9am to 7pm at the Recreation Center, 401 Wentworth Road.



OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AS WINTER APPROACHES.....

As we do fall clean up, there is still time to plant bulbs for their appearance in the spring. Bulbs can be planted until the ground is frozen. Experts say that the bulbs

will do better if they have some time to get established before the ground freezes.



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETINGS
Jan 2017 – Apr 2017
BUDGET YEAR JULY 1, 2017 –
JUNE 30, 2018
FY 2018**

All meetings held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

Jan 17 TU 5:00pm Review School Budget

Jan 24 TU 5:00pm Review School Budget and tentative Town Budget

Jan 31 TU 5:00pm Review w/School Board & SAU 50
Finalize School Budget and prepare for Public Hearing

Feb 7 TU 7:00pm Public Hearing for School Budget at Town Hall – 7:00pm (Possibly at School)

Feb 14 TU 5:00pm Review Town Budget - Determine need to meet Dept Heads

Feb 21 TU 5:00pm No Meeting

Feb 28 TU 5:00pm Review Town Budget - Meet with Dept. Heads

Mar 7 TU 5:00pm Review Town Budget and Warrant Articles

Mar 14 TU 7:00pm School District Meeting at Macomber Room – 7:00pm

Mar 21 TU 5:00pm Review Town Budget - Complete Budget Comm recommendations

Mar 28 TU 5:00pm Meet only if necessary

Apr 4 TU 7:00pm Public Hearing Town Budget at Macomber Room – 7:00pm

May 9 TU 7:00pm Town Meeting at Recreation Building - 7:00pm New Castle Budget Committee

Although it's a couple of months away I'm writing in the November issue of Island Items to let you know the Budget Committee will begin our meetings mid-January, 2017, for the FY 2018 session. FY 2018 begins on July 1, 2017 and runs through June 30, 2018.

The first portion of our session will focus on the school budget while the latter will focus on the town budget. There will be a public hearing to present and discuss each budget prior to the actual meeting, one month later, where it will be voted upon by you for approval, or amendment.

The committee meets on Tuesday, 5:00pm at Town Hall. As always, residents are welcome to attend. In addition, there will be

an opportunity for public participation at each meeting.
The schedule is posted below.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom F. Smith, Chairman