

NEW SALEM NEWS - April Newsletter

April 1	Reading Aloud for Grown-ups - Mira Bartok and Mike Ross
April 1	Tweens and Teens at the Library
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April 14	Last Day to Register to Vote for Town Elections
April 15	Tweens and Teens at the Library
April 15	Historical Commission Meeting – New Salem Villages
April 22	Tweens and Teens at the Library
April 22	Community Garden Spring Meeting
April 22	Book Discussion Group at the Library
April 29	Tweens and Teens at the Library

New Salem Annual Egg Hunt and Spring Party Details

The Annual Egg Hunt will be held at 10 am sharp on Saturday, April 4th at the Town Common for children who are elementary age and younger. Remember to bring your own basket. This year the New Salem Recreation Committee is also planning a Spring Party in the fire station following the Egg Hunt and lasting until noon. There will be refreshments and activities befitting the season.

The New Salem Recreation Committee would like to thank Diemand Farm for generously donating their candy to New Salem after they had to cancel their egg hunt. In return, we are inviting all area children, elementary school age and younger to our Egg Hunt and Spring Party.

We are looking for people to help with activities and monitoring the egg hunt. If you can help or if you have questions, please contact Deb Rolski at 978-544-3327 (h) or 1-978-413-3563 or at drolski@gmail.com or Jane Clukay at 978-544-2660 or janeclukay@hotmail.com

Broadband Committee Update

As of March 31st we are 69% of the way to our WiredWest Fiber Campaign sign up goal! Below is some additional information about the project. An important mailing with more details will be sent out next week.

A Few Questions and Answers for the New Salem/WiredWest Broadband Project

Why do I need to sign up now?

We need a minimum of 40% of households to sign up to be part of the network. Towns with the most subscribers are more likely to be built first (with completion as

early as 2017) so it is critical to get as many people as possible to sign up now. Our goal is 60% of households.

How will this project be financed?

Towns that are part of the WiredWest network and a \$40 million State of Massachusetts grant will fund this project.

How much will my taxes increase?

The tax increase could gradually rise to a maximum of \$17 per month (about \$204 per year) for an average single family home (\$205,439). However, the tax increase could be zero because WiredWest expects to be able to return revenue to the town from monthly subscriptions that could cover all or part of the town’s debt.

Many households will save on telephone, Internet and television bills offsetting any tax increase.

EXAMPLE MONTHLY COST FOR AVERAGE HOME (\$205,439):

Average current expenses Average potential future expenses

Average current expenses		Average potential future expenses	
Phone	\$60	Phone	\$25
Satellite or Mobile Internet (1-12 Mbps)	\$65	High-speed Fiber Optic Internet (25 Mbps–NO data cap)	\$49
		Max. Added Real Estate Tax	\$17
TOTAL	\$125	TOTAL	\$91

For the average household in this example, we expect:
SAVINGS OF ABOUT \$35 PER MONTH OR OVER \$400 PER YEAR.

Visit our town website at www.newsalem-massachusetts.org or visit www.wiredwest.net for more information.

See the calculator tool to determine how this project affects your household costs.

Why are we using taxpayer dollars for this? Shouldn't a private company cover the costs?

New Salem has relatively few households and low population density. Rural wiring costs are high and for a for-profit commercial Internet provider the expense has been too high. Over the last 20 years, various companies have declined requests to deliver broadband Internet to us. New Salem joined WiredWest because our town has been unable to get reliable and fast Internet access.

I don't use computers or the Internet. Why should I care about broadband?

Even if you don't use the Internet yourself, there are compelling reasons to support the plan:

1. Home value. Many of our residents have already encountered extreme difficulty selling or renting their homes because there are few people who are willing to move to an area that lacks adequate Internet service. When it's time to sell your home, you will get upwards of 20% less for your home if high-speed Internet is not available¹.
2. Infrastructure for all, now and in the future. The fiber-optic cable and network adds value to the town just as a fine library, school, and municipal services police, fire, and highway add value. Taxpayer support of infrastructure is essential.
3. Sustaining community. If high speed Internet is not available to residents of the town, the complexion of the town will change. Young people will move away. Workers who want to telecommute will not live here. New Salem will not grow in vitality. This has happened to other towns when broadband is unavailable.

¹Source: The Guardian [New York] 1 Mar. 2014: "Fast broadband now considered vital by increasing numbers of homebuyers." Online. Estimate confirmed by professional local realtors at Jones Realty, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Town-Wide Tag Sale Sign-up Time

Okay, Everyone! The Time Has Come!! Fill out the Town-Wide Tag Sale Registration Form attached, send it in and start (or keep on) collecting all those things you don't ever use or just don't want! Bring them to sell at the Town Wide Tag Sale on the Common from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 2nd and walk away with money in your pockets, or someone else's things that you couldn't resist! It is a great time to spend with friends and neighbors and make new friends, too! If you know Wendell citizens who would like to participate, they are very welcome. We had several join us last year. Feel free to copy and give the registration form to people. The more the merrier and the more sales, generally! Your \$15 gets publicity in the papers, signage on 202 and anything left over goes to the playground or other projects the Recreation Committee is working on. For further info, contact Lynn Layton at 978-544-7892 or email her at lynnlayton@hughes.net.

New Salem Old Home Day Committee Looking for Volunteers

The theme of this year's Old Home Day on Saturday, July 18th is *Old-Fashioned Fun*. We planning on having, old-fashioned music, old-fashioned floats, old-fashioned food, old-fashioned games and contests! We are looking for volunteers who will help out for about 30 minutes on Old Home Day with events or games. If you would like to help make Old Home Day a success, email nsoldhomeday@gmail.com or call 978-544-3410 or 978-544-2660. We will match you up with an activity of event of your choice. Save the date: **Saturday, July 18th**.

Millington, Quimby, Morse Village, Puppyville, Cooleyville, North New Salem, New Salem Center, Macedonia, Eagleville, Hagerville

The New Salem Historical Commission invites residents, young and older, to come to the next Historical Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 pm in the Stowell Building. Come participate in a review of the New Salem village historical surveys so far completed. Which village should be surveyed next? Stop in to learn about your village and to get involved! Email jean@historicnewsalem.com for more information. The New Salem Historical Commission Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, May 13 at 7 pm.

New Salem Agricultural Commission

Workshop on Self-Sustaining Gardens: On Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 pm, the New Salem Agricultural Commission will be sponsoring a **free** workshop on *How We Can Create Self-Sustaining Gardens* by Rick Baruc of *Seeds of Solidarity* at the New Salem Library. He will be discussing no-till gardening using recyclables to eliminate machinery and fossil fuel use, reduce the labor of weeding, conserve water, and minimize the need to additional fertilizers. In addition, he will discuss how to create an Insta-Garden and how to sow seedlings and regrow the next year. This event is sponsored by the New Salem Cultural Council. RSVP not required. Please call Sandy for questions at 1-413-219-4458. For more information about the *Seeds of Solidarity*, visit seedsofsolidarity.org.

New Salem Community Garden Members Spring Meeting: The Community Garden members will hold their spring meeting on April 22, 6-7 pm at the Stowell Building. Please join our expanding garden group for \$10 per 10 x 10 plot. 10 x 20 plots also available. Our new shed will be the project of the spring! We are looking to expand the number of plots this year as well. Returning gardeners please email your interest for this year. We would love more gardeners to help enhance their own produce production. Children are encouraged to come plant too! Contact Sandy Spiewak with questions@sspiewak20@yahoo.com.

Perennials sought: If anyone has perennials they want divided or want to donate to our plant sale, please give Sandy a call at 413-219-4458. Last year we had a great turnout of plants, and so this year we hope to match it!

New Salem Library News

Reading Aloud for Grownups: On Wednesday, April 1st, at 7:30 pm Mira Bartok and Mike Ross will be reading at the library. Mira is the author of *The Memory Palace* and Mike has been seen in the New Salem community plays. Free coffee and tea are available along with delicious home-bake goodies sold to benefit the Friends of the Library.

Computer Workshop: Google Essentials: Adam Suzor will explain how to update Google applications on Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 am at the library.

Museum Passes: The Library has acquired two more museum passes which patrons can borrow: The Brattleboro Museum and Art Center and The Clark Art Institute. Come by and check them out.

Teachers Wanted: The New Salem Public Library wishes to hire a teacher of basic sewing and a videographer to teach the teens about movie making. If you are

interested in either position please call 978-544-6334.

Tweens and Teens Special Events: The Library is open every Wednesday from 1:30 to 5:30 **only** for 11 to 18 year olds from any town! Every Wednesday, teens are invited to come to the library and join in activities, study, do research for school and more.

April 1st April Fool's Day!: Come to our TAB meeting. Help decide what programs we do this summer and enjoy a special snack.

April 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th: It's Art with Amy! Come learn and improve upon your drawing skills. Please call the library in advance so we have enough materials for everyone. We're open from 1:30 – 5:30 every Wednesday for 11-18 year olds. Most of our programs start at 3:30. Mahar students can take the bus to our Library! Call and we'll make the arrangements. 978-544-6334. (*The Tweens and Teens program is being funded through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funds from LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act), a Federal source of library funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences.*)

Pizza and Pages: On Tuesday, April 7th, this teen book group will be discussing *The False Prince* by Jennifer A. Neilsen. Pizza available thanks to the New Salem General Store.

Lego Club: On Thursday, April 9th from 3:30-5:00 pm, the Lego Club will meet. Kindergarten and up welcome. Recent additions to the Lego Collection are "little bits," to motorize Legos. The Lego Club, a New Salem Academy grant-funded club, meets every second Thursday of every month.

Book Discussion Group: On Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00 pm, the Book Discussion Group will talk about *The Ten Thousand Things* by Maria Dermout.

Computer Help: Sue Dunbar is available for one-on-one computer help anytime, but especially on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. Please ask Sue if you are having a computer problem or would like to learn a computer program, such as Excel.

Beverages Available: The Friends of the New Salem Public Library remind you that we have coffee, tea, cocoa, and cider available to patrons. Check out the Keurig machine and offerings on the table next to Diana's window. Donations are gratefully accepted for these beverages.

Council on Aging News

Ice Cream Sundae Social: On April 10th we will meet at the Stowell Building for an *Ice Cream Sundae Social*. Bring your own bag lunch and drink. Coffee will be provided. We will gather at 10 am for Bingo with lunch to follow at noon. After lunch we will serve ice cream sundaes with a choice of toppings. Please call Hendra Reidy to sign up. (978-544-2178)

Speaker on Veterans Benefits: At our meeting on April 10th we will have a speaker. Tim Nieadlek will speak about benefits for retired and active military people, including benefits for widows of same. He should be able to answer any questions you may have concerning veteran's benefits.

Busy B's: We continue to meet on Wednesdays at the Stowell Building from 1:00-3:00 pm, weather permitting. Bring your project and join us this winter. Some of us knit, crochet, embroider, or quilt. If the weather is iffy, please feel free to call Judy Jewett at 978-544-2216 to see if we are meeting.

New Salem Central Congregational Church News

Community Freezer: We also have a Community Freezer with home-made meals ready to go for any members of the community who are in need of a break from whatever they are facing. If you are or if you know anyone who wants to raid our freezer, please call Lisa DeWitt at 978-544-1912 or Janet Henderson at 978-544-3410.

TOWN NOTICES

FY2015 Real Estate and Personal Property 4th Quarter Tax Bills Due

This is to remind you that FY2015 4th Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are now due and payable. The due date for these bills is May 1, 2015. Payments received after that date will be charged interest and fees.

NEW It is now possible to look up your bill information online at www.unitaxonline.com *whether or not you plan to pay online.*

- Enter www.unitaxonline.com in your web browser.
- Select Town of New Salem from the drop down menu on the home screen and click Submit.
- Select bill type under transactions (Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate).
- Then click on “Need help locating your bill?” on the transaction screen.
- Fill in the requested information and your bill information will be provided

Alternatively, if you have trouble locating your bill(s)/information and wish to find out the amount due you may call (978) 544-5775 and leave a message stating your name, phone number and the address of your property. The Tax Collector will call you with the amount of your bill(s). You may also email your request for this information to newsalemtax@aol.com.

Non-cash payments may be deposited in the black tax payment drop box located in front of the town hall at 15 S. Main Street or mailed to the Tax Collector’s office at 24 S. Main St., New Salem, MA 01355. Bills may also be paid online at www.unitaxonline.com **through the due date**. Cash payments may be made during the Tax Collector’s office hours at 24 S. Main Street on Tuesdays 5-7pm and Thursdays 10am-Noon.

Town Election Notice

The following town offices are up for election at this year’s annual town election in 2015:

Selectboard	3 year term
Board of Health	3 year term
Assessor	3 year term
Planning Board	5 year term
School Committee	3 year term

School Committee 3 year term
School Committee 1 year term (to fill vacancy)
Library Trustee 3 year term
Library Trustee 1 year term (to fill vacancy)

Last day to register to vote Tuesday, April 14
Annual Town Election Monday, May 4

The town clerk's office hours are Mondays 6:00-9:00 pm and by appointment if necessary. Please don't hesitate to call or email, if you have any questions.

New Salem Transfer Station News

New Wood Pellet Bag Recycling Program: This is a pilot program and can only accept pellet bags – no other plastic bag or plastic film product. Bags must be dry and empty. They must be bundled together. There will be twine at the New Salem Transfer Station if needed. It's very important for participants to follow the guidelines so that all material can be recycled and not rejected by the end market. Residents in New Salem may deliver pellet bags to the Transfer Station during normal operating hours. There is no fee. New Salem residents can bring their bags clean and bundled to the Wendell Transfer Station also. There is no fee there either.

Suggestion Box at Transfer Station: There will be a suggestion box at the New Salem Transfer Station. If you have any suggestions for ways to improve the Transfer Station just leave it in the box.

Selectboard News

Selectboard Meetings: The Selectboard normally meets at 7:00 pm. on every other Monday at the Stowell Building. If the Monday is a holiday, the Selectboard meet on the Tuesday of that week. To verify a meeting date, contact the Town Coordinator at 544-6437.

COUNTY EVENTS

Petersham Art Show Seeking Entrants

If you want to receive exposure and the chance to sell your artwork, but are equally interested in helping others and meeting artists who are addressing similar issues through their work, then this is your chance. Submit your work to, "*Transcendent: visions of mental illness & mental health.*"

Designed to promote awareness of mental health issues, this show will exclusively feature visual art, writing, and performance that depicts or addresses a mental health issue. Proceeds will go to Abby's House, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in Worcester, MA that shelters homeless women and children, many suffering from mental health issues. The show will be held September 19th, 2015 in the Petersham Town Hall. See attached flyer for more details.

Franklin County Solid Waste District News

"Clean Sweep" – Bulky Waste Day: Save the date: May 16th from 9 am to 12 noon. . . Bring tires, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, construction debris, computers and equipment, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. You can also bring clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books for reuse or recycling. New in 2015: Bring bulky rigid plastics for recycling. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. See attached press release. Disposal fees listed at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html

UP & COMING

May 2	Town-Wide Tag Sale
May 4	New Salem Town Election
May 13	Historical Commission Annual Meeting
May 16	Clean Sweep – Bulky Waste Collection Day – correct date
May 27	Council on Aging Trip to Vermont Fresian Horse Farm
July 18	New Salem Old Home Day

New Salem Newsletter Policy

This monthly newsletter is a volunteer service sponsored by the New Salem Recreation Committee of the Town of New Salem. It promotes community events and town notices. It does not run ads for products or services.

Visit the town's www.newsalem-massachusetts.org for more information about our town.