

Madbury Musings

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Madbury, NH 03823

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www.townofmadbury.com

SELECT NOTES

Madbury's community spirit thrives even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the doings, we celebrated Wally Dunham's 90th birthday with a long, cheerful parade of cars and neighbors who brightened his day and that of all Moharimet Drive. There are signs of encouragement and hope posted on people's lawns throughout town. A pair of boxes for local food donations stands outside the Madbury Church. And plenty of folks are enjoying our outdoor trails, which are well-maintained by our Recreation Committee. With the privilege of hiking trails comes responsibility. The town is doing its part with maintenance and repairs. We respectfully remind dog owners to clean up their dog's waste along the trails to provide a clean, safe environment for the enjoyment of others.

Community Club President Amy Avery reminds us that while there are no meetings at this time, the club is always ready to lend a helping hand with meals or messages of hope and goodwill to those experiencing difficult times. The Durham-Great Bay Rotary Club is in the process of replacing the historic Boodey Rock sign which has suffered destruction. Look for a more permanent sign in the coming months.

Meanwhile, phase 2 of Hayes Road repairs and repaving has begun. Freshet Road repairs are underway. And the replacement of the Nute Road Bridge is expected to start on schedule in a few weeks.

While current town activities have

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TOWN OFFICE NEWS

COVID-19: Madbury Town Offices are currently closed to the public.

Vehicle registration renewals, dog license renewals and property tax payments can be accomplished online, via regular mail, or by using the secure drop box slot to the right of the main front doors. Online transactions are fee-based and the exact fee (as low as \$0.95) will be shown prior to completing your transaction. Other necessary services are being accomplished on a case by case or appointment basis. We sometimes make use of our newly designated "walkup window" to maintain physical distancing. Please call the Town Clerk before visiting the office to make sure your needs can be accomplished efficiently and safely. Only cash and checks are accepted at the office.

The Clerk's Office is open M, W, Th, from 8am-1pm.

You can call (603) 742-5131 or email: tcmadbury@comcast.net

For Select Board issues, property information, forms and applications, or questions call the Town Hall number above or email: adminmadbury@comcast.net

For Building Inspector tasks, call the Town Hall for a referral or email the inspector at: bimadbury@comcast.net

We will provide updates via the Madbury Post (see page two), the town website, and kiosk at town hall. If you have questions, please call us.

Town Hall staff are grateful to Madbury residents as you adapt to our changes in procedures while we strive to maintain services that are efficient and safe for all parties.

MADBURY DAY: Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Madbury Day has been postponed to a date to be determined, hopefully this fall.

NUTE ROAD BRIDGE: We do not have a date yet, but expect to be closing Nute Road to local traffic only during the bridge replacement this summer.

DOVER RECYCLING CENTER is open year round and available to all Madbury residents. The Center is currently open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. They are currently limiting the number of cars in the facility to 10 at a time.

MADBURY TRANSFER STATION is open. We ask for your patience as we will need to queue folks to maintain physical distancing. Monthly hours are 9:00 to 4pm on 1st & 3rd Saturdays, as well as 4pm to dusk on 2nd Wednesdays.

DOG LICENSES: 2019 licenses expired on April 30. You are encouraged to license your dog prior to June 1 to avoid penalties. A male or female dog license is \$9.00 and spayed or neutered dogs are \$6.50. Owners over 65 years old may register one dog for \$2.00. A current rabies certificate is required. For licensed dogs whose rabies vaccination is current, you may renew the license via mail by sending in a check and a SASE.

TAX BILLS: It is anticipated that tax bills will be mailed on May 27 and be due by July 1.

slowed down, the library offers limited services and the Town Offices continue conducting business under new safety restrictions. You may call Town Clerk Lisa Amarosa or Administrative Assistant Eric Fiegenbaum at 742-5131 to learn how to transact necessary obligations.

For many weeks, the Selectmen and other different officials have been working determining the most appropriate procedures for dealing with the consequences of the economic slowdown. We have conducted all meetings using Zoom, practicing social distancing. Together with Town Treasurer Deb Ahlstrom, we are gathering up-to-the-minute information from the State of New Hampshire to formulate best practices for the use of incoming funding and money management within our departments, as we also recognize the short- and long-term impacts of the economy on our families' abilities to pay property taxes on time.

We are thoughtfully considering our town circumstances. And we are very concerned about our townspeople who have concerns about their health, their children's educations and outdoor activities, and their jobs. We are all truly in this together. We want to weather this crisis openly and fairly. We are keeping everyone in mind as we make decisions and plans. Feel free to help us, as we work to help you. We look forward to hearing from you and working together.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet G. Wall, Chairman



Madbury Post

The Madbury Post is an email notification service established in order to facilitate the timely distribution of important town information. You can sign up to receive the Madbury Post by visiting a webpage on the town website: www.townofmadbury.com

Madbury Public Library

A Pandemic Story

For most of the last decade, the Trustees, Friends, and staff of the library planned for a new library building. We emblazoned "Where Our Community Comes Together" on totes, balloons and magnets and became giddy talking about the community room, the small meeting room, the foyer and its comfy armchairs. Just think, we said over and over, of all we will be able to offer our patrons. On December 8, 2019, following years of planning and fundraising, the dream came true. We cut the big red bow, flung open our doors and, just as we'd hoped, the community poured in. By the end of January, our meeting rooms were fully scheduled with regular groups and special programs, our circulation was twice what it had been the year before, every aspect of our service was growing.

You've probably guessed where this is going. In March, just after our new beautiful furniture was delivered by Hubbington's (thank you!) we were forced by the Covid-19 epidemic to close the building indefinitely. We packed away the children's toys, put the chairs up on the community room tables, locked the front doors, and walked away.

In the stay-at-home weeks that followed, we shook off our collective disbelief and sadness and began grappling with the reality of 2020. I must admit this was a painful pivot. But, as with everything surrounding this pandemic, what else could we do but try to be patient, resourceful, and keep smiling.

The Good News!

Summer Reading will happen! This year's theme, "Imagine Your Story!" highlights fairy tales, folk tales, and myths. Pick up your Summer Reading packets starting Monday, June 22. There will be weekly take-home crafts and virtual story times each week. Every Thursday at 10:30 there will be a virtual presentation from some local favorites: Science Tellers will join us on June 25 for our kick-

off event, followed by the ever-popular Wildlife Encounters on July 9, then Seacoast Science Center, Playful Engineers, and more. And, less you think we want you to spend your beautiful summer days in front of a screen (we don't!), there will be a story walk in the trails behind Town Hall. We're working on that now and can't wait to show you!

More Good News!

READsquared. The NH State Library has purchased a reading program called READsquared and is offering it free to every public library in the state this year. It will have some of the features of in-person check-in but much more, including customized reader's advisory. We hope it will be ready to unveil by the middle of June.

Hoopla. Thanks to a generous grant from the Friends of Madbury Library, we'll soon be able to offer this digital media service so you can borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! All you need is a library card. Look for more information, including a link, soon on our website.

Adult Summer Reading. We are also finalizing details for Adult Summer Reading, including a July virtual book group. Look for more information in our upcoming e-newsletters and our website.

A Phased Reopening

Every business and organization seems to have a reopening plan and so do we. It is, of course, subject to change at any time. On May 4, after the building was closed for approximately six weeks, during which and staff worked remotely, we began the first phase of reopening. For several weeks, we are accepting requests for items in our catalog, checking them out, and placing them in our lobby for pick-up. The next phase, which will probably begin June 15, may allow for some number of patrons to enter the building at appointed times. Look for more details on our website and e-newsletters. Believe me, we can't wait to see you again!

Susan Sinnott
Library Director