

---

# Madbury Musings

---

Volume 15, Issue 3

Madbury, NH 03823

October 2013

---

[www.townofmadbury.com](http://www.townofmadbury.com)

---

## SELECT NOTES

Please pardon the tardy arrival of Madbury Musings this fall. Distribution has been held up to accommodate the late publication of that other document you await almost as eagerly: your property tax bill. The Town had to wait for the State to set the official tax rate. This process was delayed somewhat by changes in the State's rate setting process. Hopefully this will go more smoothly next year and tax bills will be in your hands by Nov.1 as usual. Please note that your payment is due within 30 days from date the bill is sent. The late billing means later payment receipts for the Town which will in turn necessitate extra careful scrutiny of our cash flow at the end of the year. Prompt tax payment is always appreciated at Town Hall!

Since the last issue of Musings we have enjoyed (except June) a pleasant summer. The Town's recreational facilities have been well used. The new soccer fields at Tibbetts Field were put in service for the first time this year. If you haven't visited Tibbetts Field, stop by to take a look. As you view the facility, envision the parking lot full and the fields covered with excited children and their families: this is the Saturday morning scene, one repeated at Demerritt Park as well.

The Recreation Commission has been busy with plans for a fitness trail to be added to Tibbetts Field. Work will begin presently and continue in the spring. The ½ mile track will run around the perimeter of the fields with various fitness equipment at stations spread along the course.

Town roads have, as usual, received a good deal of attention during this maintenance season. Routine work included some shoulder grading and the fall

mowing. Long Hill Road has been repaved. PSNH completed extensive tree trimming in parts of Town. That activity prompted attention to some problem trees in Town rights of way. PSNH only deals with trees affecting their lines. The Town can deal with problem trees in the public rights of way. (Trees on private property are the land owner's responsibility.)

This year's major project has

*(Continued on page 2)*

## TOWN OFFICE NEWS

**TAX BILLS** - As of this printing, the tax rate has not been set. PLEASE CHECK THE DUE DATE ON THE TAX BILL AS LATE FEES ARE ASSESSED.

**DOVER RECYCLING CENTER**, located at 265 Mast Road, is available to Madbury residents. Be prepared to show documentation that you are a town resident. As hours of operation are periodically adjusted, call 516-6450 or visit their website at [dover.nh.gov](http://dover.nh.gov) for updated changes.

**MADBURY TRANSFER STATION** will close for the season on Saturday, November 16.

**WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE** will be in effect on November 1 and will remain in place until April 1. It prohibits parking on streets and roads during snow plowing and removal operations. Any vehicle parked will be towed at the owner's expense. Placing of snow in the town road right of way during personal snow removal is prohibited as well. Your cooperation will help keep the roadways open and safe for all travelers.

**OFFICE CLOSINGS:** Thanksgiving Day ~ November 28  
Christmas Day ~ December 25  
New Year's Day ~ January 1  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day ~ January 20  
Washington's Birthday ~ February 17

(Continued from page 1)

been the rebuilding of Freshet Road from Route 108 south to Portsmouth's water treatment facility. Building projects at that Portsmouth facility have generated a good deal of heavy truck traffic lately. That project is winding down with little more heavy traffic expected. With that road-pounding finished, we could rebuild the road without risk of having it promptly wrecked again. The road has been reconstructed with a new roadbed and extensive improvements to shoulders and drainage.

Madbury enjoys the collaborative support of the City of Portsmouth in the Freshet Road project. Recognizing their very significant impact on this road, Portsmouth will contribute \$50,000 to the project. (Did you know that more than 50% of the Portsmouth Water District's water comes from Madbury?)

Speaking of water, an ad hoc committee made up of members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Water Resources Board and Selectmen has recently worked with Madbury's planning consultant to review and improve our Aquifer Protection Ordinance. This important part of our Zoning Ordinances is designed to protect the water resources so critical to our neighbors in Portsmouth, Dover and Durham, all of whom draw water from Madbury aquifers. Watch for public notice for hearing(s) on the proposed ordinance changes to be on the town warrant in March.

Speaking of aquifers, Schnitzer Steel Company is proposing a significant reconfiguration of their operations involving addi-

tional construction at their site on Route 155 (above an aquifer). They are completing an extensive application process with the State. As part of that process they have scheduled a public hearing on Wednesday, November 13, 7pm at the Town Hall. Once they have satisfied the State, we anticipate an application for Site Plan Review by the Madbury Planning Board. That application process will also include public hearings.

One more water topic: The Water Resources Board conducted water tests at the Town's 5 wells to check for arsenic (and other contaminants). The EPA drinking water MAXIMUM recommended concentration for arsenic was reduced to 0.010 mg/L in recent years. Arsenic, like radon, is a common naturally-occurring problem in drilled wells in NH. The cemetery irrigation well is substantially above this drinking water threshold but skin contact and irrigation use are not concerns at the levels found. The Safety Complex well has arsenic above the drinking water limit too. Bottled water is already used there. The Library well was measured at 0.011, just above the limit. It will be retested before treatment is decided. Other town wells tested near or lower than this long term consumption threshold. Some additional testing is planned. These test results are consistent with regional experience with arsenic in well water and do not suggest a local source.

Briefly:

Colette Clickman retired this summer after several years of much appreciated service to the Town as the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant. She has been succeeded by Eric Fiegenbaum

who is already well known to many in Town for his extensive volunteer service to the Town.

The ORCSD School Board would like to appoint a Madbury representative for the Budget Advisory Committee. If you are interested contact the Superintendent's office.

Extensive mosquito testing this year didn't turn up any evidence of EEE or West Nile Virus in Town.

Need a ride? Can you give someone a lift? The Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT) is working to expand affordable and efficient community transportation service in the region. 603-743-5777  
[www.communityrides.org](http://www.communityrides.org)

The Selectmen are pondering what to do about Japanese knotweed, a bamboo-like invasive species that is appearing around Town.

Thanks to Scott Heaton and his crew for their volunteer work mowing the neighborhood field on Moharimet Drive this summer. The field was used and enjoyed by their neighbors.

## The Madbury Post

You can find a link on the homepage of the town website ([townofmadbury.com](http://townofmadbury.com)) to sign up for the Madbury Post. As a subscriber you will receive monthly summaries of Town events and meetings and occasional bulletins on Town government affairs.

It is important that after you provide your email address for the Madbury Post, you must watch for and respond to a confirming email to complete the signup process.

## Recreation Commission

We are very excited to announce that work on the Tibbetts Facility Fitness Trail has begun!!! LandCare was awarded the contract for the actual trail work and broke ground in November. The trail will be approximately one half mile in length with plans to add an additional loop towards the cemetery in the future. The trail surface will be short cut grass and will make its way around the perimeter of the soccer fields. Our plans are to start the installation of the fitness equipment as soon as possible in 2014.

An upgrade to the lower baseball field at Demeritt took place this fall and was funded by ORYA. Madbury Recreation contributed by increasing the capabilities of the irrigation system. The soccer field at Demeritt was offline this season to give the grass a chance to recover. Play will resume in the spring.

ORYA held a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony called "Soccer Fest" at Tibbetts Fields this fall. It included food, games, prizes, and of course plenty of soccer. It was attended by many and was a huge success. If you missed it this year, I am pretty sure they will be holding the event again next year. I have to say, "Our Fields Look Great!"



A heron walks on water, or rather on baffle curtain.

L. Heath

A resident heron makes use of the baffle curtain which hangs near the dam in the Bellamy Reservoir. The curtain's purpose is to assist in the mixing of water before a portion heads off to Portsmouth's drinking water treatment plant. Recently, Portsmouth discovered that someone made a cut in the curtain. Portsmouth will be adding addition signage to identify and explain restrictions. Please be reminded that the Bellamy Reservoir is a public drinking water supply, and while the region benefits from the recreational activities it provides, there are local, state and federal regulations that exist to protect it as a drinking water source.

## Volunteer Opportunity

A volunteer driver program is being launched to help elderly and disabled residents of Madbury, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket get to medical appointments when they cannot drive themselves. As the New Hampshire population continues to age, the need for transportation services in rural areas will continue to grow. Help your neighbors stay in their homes as they age by improving their consistent access to medical care.

A group of volunteers has formed a Steering Committee

and is looking for new members to work with them. The committee is also putting together a list of people interested in volunteering as drivers. The Steering Committee is receiving technical assistance from COAST and the Alliance for Community Transportation ([www.communityrides.org](http://www.communityrides.org)), and is also in touch with similar programs in the region. The Steering Committee typically meets once a month at alternating locations. If you are interested in attending the next meeting, serving on the steering committee to help launch the program, or in signing up as a driver or a rider, please contact Kitty Cornwell at [mnhc1950@hotmail.com](mailto:mnhc1950@hotmail.com).

# Madbury Public Library

## We've Migrated to a New Computer System!

Visit the library's website and check out the look of our new OPAC web catalog. You can renew books from home (as long as they are not overdue) and update your account to receive a reminder *before* your books are due. You can place a reserve (hold) on items that are checked in, and the library will receive an email alerting us to pull the book for you. Book covers are displayed to assist you in choosing a great book to read! There are also links to downloadable eBooks – look for the “Overdrive” tab. Please call the library if you need help at 743-1400, or stop by and we'll be happy to assist you.

## Important Dates

**November 2, 9 – 2 p.m. – Book Sale.** Friends of Madbury Library invite you to browse their extensive selection of used adult, teen and children's books. Fill a bag or box and make a donation to the Friends. The books are sorted into categories for easy browsing. Don't miss this great sale!

**Thanksgiving Holiday Closings.** Wednesday November 27, library open 10 – 2 p.m.; Thursday November 28, closed.

## For Children

**Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – Story Time.** Preschoolers and parents are invited to join us

for Story Time. Children's Librarian Miss Crystal reads books with a special fun flair and children can complete a simple craft. Both sessions are open to all preschoolers, no registration is necessary.

Themes for November include pigs, music, Miss Crystal's favorites, and Thanksgiving.

**November 4, 3 – 5 p.m. - Read to Grover the Dog** – Rosa's pup Grover is here at the library for the first time! Grover is a sweet dog who loves to have children read to him. It's a fun way to spend time with a dog and improve reading skills. Please call or stop by the library to register for a 20 minute session with Grover.

Grover or Rosa will visit the library every first Monday of the month.



Grover

## For Parents

**November 12, 7 p.m. – Evening Book Discussion Group.** Discussion of *End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. New members are always welcome.

**November 18, 5:30 p.m. – Writing Group.** Interested in writing? Join the Madbury Library Writing Group! Whether you write memoir, poetry or fiction, this is a wonderful opportunity to share your work and receive input from other group members. Newcomers are always welcome to join the group for a fun, low-key and rewarding experience.

**November 14, 7 p.m. – Friends of Madbury Library meeting.** Join us to discuss future plans and fund raising ideas. New members are always encouraged to attend.

**November 25, 3 p.m. – Daytime Book Discussion Group.** Discussion of *Joy for Beginners* by Erica Bauermeister. We invite you to join this friendly group.

**Drop In Chess** – Play Chess at the Library every Wednesday night from 5 to 7 p.m. Beginners and players of all ages and abilities are welcome. Registration is encouraged if you would like assistance from our volunteer. If you just want to play, feel free to drop by anytime from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Museum Passes

We have museum passes that offer free or discounted admission to museums in the area. Call us to reserve a pass on the day you wish to visit. Our newest pass is for the Farm Museum in Milton – free admission with the pass. Or visit the Children's Museum in Dover for half price.

## Stop by the Library soon!

For the latest information about library happenings, check out the website at:  
[www.madburylibrary.org](http://www.madburylibrary.org).

Library Hours: Monday 10 to 8 p.m.; Wednesday 10 to 8 p.m.; Thursday 10 to 4 p.m.; Saturday 10 to 2 p.m.

Library cards are free for Madbury residents and children who live in the Oyster River School District.