

Madbury Musings

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Madbury, NH 03823

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www.townofmadbury.com

SELECT NOTES

Time to get in shape!

The Recreation Commission is proud to announce the installation of fitness equipment along the Tibbetts Field fitness trail. Several stations along the trail offer equipment for fitness conditioning. Signs at each station describe how to use the equipment. Check it out!

The season is coming to an end soon but make this part of your 2017 New Year's resolution to stay in shape next year.

Wentworth Trust

The Town recently received the first disbursement from the Carleton and Dorothy Wentworth Trust. The trustee approved these allocations:

\$12,000 - total in scholarships to three Madbury students.

\$14,000 - to the Fire Department for the first phase of replacing breathing apparatus equipment

\$8,000 - to the Recreation Commission toward the Tibbetts Field walking trail fitness stations

\$500 - for a large format scanner for use by Town departments, boards and affiliated groups

\$500 - for the Madbury Historical Society for proper storage supplies

\$3,000 - toward the Powder Major Conservation Project.

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Bellamy Reservoir nears historic lows.

Photo K. Fiegenbaum

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

TAX BILLS - The tax rate has been set and the due date for tax bills is December 1, 2016. There is a requirement to assess late fees.

TRICK OR TREATING in Madbury will be held on Sunday, October 30th from 5:00-7:30 PM.

GENERAL ELECTION DAY is Nov. 8. Polls are open from 7am to 7pm.

MADBURY TRANSFER STATION will close for the season after the session on Saturday, November 19, 2016.

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 24; December 26; January 2; Martin Luther King Jr. Day ~ January 16; Presidents Day ~ February 20.

MADBURY POST - Sign up for the Town's email notification service at the Town's website homepage: www.TownOfMadbury.com

The Town will benefit from this trust annually for many years to come.

Timberrrrr!

Did you catch the video of the greenhouse chimney demolition on WMUR? The owner of the former Elliott greenhouse property had the old chimney demolished by a blasting company this summer. Considerable demolition of the remaining structures including the old heating plant was accomplished this year.

...also on the subject of demolition, a burned out house on Nute road was razed by the property's new owner, a big improvement for that neighborhood.

Bridge builder

Boy Scout Michael Donovan led a bridge building project as his Eagle Scout project. A sturdy new bridge has been built on the trail between the school and Tibbetts Fields. The Town is grateful for this very significant improvement to the trail. Woods walkers will enjoy its use for many years to come.

Now about that bridge on Nute Road that needs replacement...



Bridge by Michael Donovan and members of Scout Troop 154.

Photo:: M. Donovan

Huckins Road

With the development of a small new neighborhood at the end of Huckins Road, the increase in traffic there has prompted a change to a 25MPH speed limit in that area. Please pay attention!

Water, or not

We are aware of a few shallow well failures in town recently due to the ongoing drought. Emergency potable water is available from the spigot at the Town Hall. Residents with well problems are welcomed to contact the Town Office regarding wells but we can offer neither expert advice nor public funding for well repairs or replacement. Private water supplies are just that: private. By the way, owners of rental properties have a duty to provide safe and adequate water supply for tenants.

Spending your tax money

You have received this newsletter with your tax bill. Are you wondering what the Town does with all that money? You probably already know that the biggest bite goes to the School District. What's left is divided amongst Town, County and State. The

Town portion of the property tax increased by 2% this year.

The Selectmen started developing the Town's 2017 budget in September. It will be finalized between now and Town Meeting. We aim to limit budget increases to 2% this year in order to maintain current service levels and keep taxes under control. Note that the tax rate doesn't exactly track budget changes. Other factors affect tax rate too.

If you would like to know more about how the Town uses your tax money, attend the Town's budget hearing. Watch for date and time posting.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Sterndale, Selectman

Wentworth Family Trust ~ 2017

The "Select Notes" in the May 2016 issue of Madbury Musings described the two purposes for which the Wentworth gift may be used. The "Select Notes" in this issue includes how the funds allocated to the Town for the first purpose were utilized in 2016. Consideration will begin shortly regarding how the Town will utilize the gift to be disbursed from the Wentworth Family Trust in 2017. A form will be available on the Town website or may be picked up at Town Hall to complete for project/item consideration. Requests should be submitted prior to year end 2016. The amount to be disbursed in 2017 will be determined by Charter Trust (the Trustee) sometime in February, the expectation is that selected projects will be finalized by the Trustee by midyear.

Pancake Breakfast



Madbury Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Sunday, October 30, 2016, 7am-12pm, at the Madbury Public

Safety Complex. Come enjoy a delicious "all you can eat" breakfast of pancakes, real New Hampshire maple syrup, coffee, sausage, and juice.

\$5.00 donations appreciated!

Madbury Historical Society

Upcoming Programs

January 10, 2017 (snow date 1/11). NH's Wild History: 350 years of NH Wild. A 35 minute slide presentation by Ann Welsh, Speaking for Wildlife Volunteer through the UNH Co-operative Extension.

April 11, 2017. The NH Grange movement - presented by Steve Taylor, former Commissioner of Agriculture. Made possible through a grant from the NH Humanities Council.

New Library Project Update

Plans are progressing for our new library building. Steering Committee members continue to meet with our architects to design a facility which will preserve the charm of rural Madbury, a place for all residents to meet, socialize, learn and create. Through a public-private partnership, we can transform a vision into reality and provide a cornerstone to our beautiful community. Follow our progress, view our latest brochure and learn more about the capital campaign by visiting: www.madburylibrary.org and click on New Library Building. Contact us: mplsteeringcommittee@gmail.com.

Conservation Commission

We hope folks in town are aware of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests undertaking to preserve land likely used by Chief Moharimet and the Abenaki people as planting grounds, and later by the "Powder Major" John Demeritt. It is told that he secreted gunpowder that was used at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Along with support from Durham, Lee and Madbury, the project will preserve nearly 300 acres in the three towns. It protects a portion of the Oyster River, wildlife habitat, working forests and fields, and supports public recreation and educational resources.

More information can be found at the Society's website: forestsociety.org. While there has been great support from all corners, they still have a ways to go. Consider a donation, if you are able.

On a less positive note, over the last couple years several single track mountain bike trails have been constructed on the Hayes Farm Conservation Easement. The Farm is private property with a limited right for public access. The rogue trails were built without the permission of the landowner. The Commission will be joining with the landowner in moving to close these trails.

The building of trails without landowner permission is disrespectful of the generous access afforded by the easement, and jeopardizes future conservation efforts.

The trails to be closed are located between the long existing trails that parallel the Bellamy River. An authorized trail map can be downloaded at the town website.

We would appreciate the community's cooperation in this effort.

Water Resources Board

As winter approaches, there are continued extreme drought conditions on the Seacoast, causing low reservoir, groundwater and stream flow levels. September precipitation in the Seacoast region was 1.76 inches, half the historic average. This is the twelfth consecutive month with less than average precipitation - 65% of the normal amount over the last year. Because of this, in September the monthly mean stream flow in the Oyster River was 94% lower than the 30-year mean flow.

Even with autumn rainstorms, it is unlikely water sources will substantially refill until after the snowmelt during the spring of 2017. Some residents with shallow wells are experiencing water shortages. Widespread shortages may occur if rainfall does not replenish our lakes, streams and groundwater supplies before winter weather sets in.

Major indoor uses of water include showers, sinks, toilets, and washing machines. Besides limiting their use, water-saving fixtures and appliances can use 25-50% less water than older devices and appliances.

If you have a shallow well, you might try spreading out the timing of your water use so the well has time to replenish. It could be wise to address deficiencies before the winter months, and be prepared with safe alternate sources of supply.

More information on the drought can be found on the NH DES website. Search for "nh drought management."

Madbury Public Library

The Library will be OPEN on Election Day, Nov. 8, from 10-2pm. **Come to the Friends of the Library Election Day Book Sale** and warm up in the main library with cookies and a hot drink.

Thanksgiving Hours - Nov. 23, 10-2pm; Nov. 24, CLOSED; Nov. 26, 10-2pm. **Christmas and New Year's** Dec. 24 - 26, CLOSED; Dec. 31: 10-2pm; Jan. 2, 12-8pm.

Mark your Calendars! "That Reminds Me of a Story" with Rebecca Rule, Thursday, Nov. 17, 6:30pm. The Library has received an NH Humanities Council grant to host Rebecca Rule and her program, "That Reminds me of a Story," on Thursday, Nov. 17, 6:30 pm, at the Madbury Town Hall. This presentation coincides with the meeting of the Madbury Community Club, whose members will provide refreshments.

Rebecca Rule, New Hampshire's foremost storyteller and humorist, has been collecting tales about New Hampshire for nearly two decades. Her latest book (and first picture book for children) is *The Iciest, Diciest, Scariest Sled Ride Ever*, illustrated by Jennifer Thermes. Other books include: *Moved and Seconded: NH Town Meeting, the Present, the Past, and the Future*; *The Best Revenge* (named one of five essential New Hampshire books by New Hampshire Magazine); *Could Have Been Worse: True Stories, Embellishments, and Outright Lies*; *Live Free and Eat Pie: A Storyteller's Guide to NH*; and *Headin' for the Rhubarb: A New Hampshire Dictionary* (well, kinda). She writes regularly for UNH Magazine and hosts an interview show, the NH Authors Series, on NHPTV. She

recently received an honorary doctorate from New England College for storytelling and contributions to New Hampshire literature.

This presentation is free and open to the public.

Programs for Children

C.L.I.M.B. at the library!

C.L.I.M.B (Children Learning, Inventing, Making & Building) is a STEAM-based program for third and fourth grade students at Moharimet Elementary School. Activities will include Snap Circuits, Ozobots, building & problem solving, basket weaving, and making boats. The second session (Oct. 26 - Dec. 7) is full. We are currently registering Moharimet students for the third session, which begins January 11.

A Slight Change in our Story Time schedule!

Starting this month, Kayla will begin the Monday story time at 10:00 instead of 10:30; Thursday will remain at 10:30. Here's a peek at what she's planning in Nov.:

Nov. 7 & Nov. 10 ~ Let's celebrate Lois Ehlert's birthday! The author of *Color Zoo*, *Leaf Man*, *Fish Eyes*, and many other classics, deserves a great party so please join us.

Nov. 14 & Nov. 17 ~ It's the week before Thanksgiving so, of course, we're talking turkey. We'll read stories about them and make a special turkey craft.

No Story Time during Thanksgiving week. ~ But come see us, take a look our new Thanksgiving books, and make a special take-home craft.

Read with Grover on the first Monday of the month, **and with Digby**, third Monday of the month. Nov. 7 & Nov. 21, 3 to 5 p.m. Beginning and experienced readers are invited to spend time with Grover, an English Setter, or Digby, a Cavalier King Charles

Spaniel, either reading or being read to. Children can sign up for 20 minute sessions. Call, e-mail, or stop in to get the time slot you want.

Programs for Adults

Friends of the Madbury Library ~ meets the second Thursday of every month at 7pm. The Friends support the library through book sales, a basket raffle, and an annual appeal. In the past, they have donated funds that paid for summer reading programs, the Children's Room rug, and our wireless printer. They also provided the start-up funds for our new website. We couldn't do it without our Friends! The next two meetings are Thursday, Nov. 12, and Thursday, Dec. 10. Also, the Friends of the Library now have their own Facebook page!

Daytime Book Discussion Group ~ meets the fourth Monday of the month at 3pm. We will discuss *Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by Phaedra Patrick on Nov. 28.

Evening Book Discussion Group ~ meets the first Monday of the month at 7pm. Our next book, *The Sharper Your Knife, the Less You Cry* by Kathleen Flinn will be discussed on Nov. 7. On Dec. 5 the group will then read and discuss Barbara Kingsolver's *High Tide in Tucson*.

Writing Group ~ meets the second Monday of the month at 5:15 pm. Writers are invited to share their works and receive constructive input from other members. Upcoming meetings will take place on Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

Quilting Group ~ generally meets Mondays from 1:00-3:00. Come in and see examples of their beautiful work throughout the library.

Embroidery Group ~ generally meets every other Wednesday, 1-3pm. Upcoming gatherings will take place on Nov. 2, 16, & 30; Dec. 14 & 28.