

# Madbury Musings

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

## SELECT NOTES

Aging Boomer<sup>1</sup> here. A question for you youngsters<sup>2</sup>:

### Where's my relief?

Did you see the Annie E Casey 2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book rankings for overall child well-being in the 50 states? (Google it). If you are a child in the US, you will be lucky to grow up in New Hampshire.

If you are a child in New Hampshire you will be lucky to grow up in Madbury: feel safe, know your neighbors, attend a good school, you might even come to a Town Meeting and hear civil discourse among people with different views (a too-rare opportunity lately).

The Town of Madbury succeeds as a great place to live and raise a family.

Q. How do we keep it that way?

A. We work at it. It actually.. doesn't take care of itself.

I have read that for most people government is a distant, nearly irrelevant part of their lives. Folks may be lulled into thinking that government functions don't require their attention or involvement:

"THEY" will fix the roads,  
"THEY" will plow the snow,  
"THEY" will take care of everything.

*(Continued on page 2)*



Got leaves! A new tractor (replaces a 1993) and bagger will reduce the number of hours required to pick up leaves on town properties. It does snow blowing, too!

## TOWN OFFICE NEWS

**TAX BILLS:** At the time of printing the tax rate has not been set, but an early December due date is expected. There is a requirement to assess late fees.

**TRICK OR TREATING** in Madbury will be held on Monday, October 30 from 5:00-7:30pm.

**MADBURY TRANSFER STATION** will close for the season after the session on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

**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 23; Christmas Day ~ December 25; New Year's Day ~ January 1, Martin Luther King Jr. Day ~ January 15; Presidents Day ~ February 19. The Town Clerk's Office follows the Oyster River School District's closing policy for weather related events.

**BOAT AGENT:** Madbury has become a New Hampshire Registered Boat Agent. Boats may now be registered at the Town Hall.

In a small town like ours, there is no remote, mysterious “THEY”. “THEY”, dear reader, is you and I.

My Boomer age mates and I have been working at this for a few decades now but we are starting to fade off into the sunset.

Who is next?

Gen-Xers: Over to you!  
Millennials: Take note. Your turn will come.

The Madbury Board of Selectmen is a gerontocracy of experienced public office holders, all over 70. Other boards and commissions are heavily populated with older folks. Retired people are a tremendous resource: they bring a lifetime of experience and are generally more available than working folks. But we need more younger contributors to be learning the ropes and filling the succession pipeline.

We anticipate the need for two new selectmen in the next two elections. The Planning Board has an empty seat. The Zoning Board could use an infusion of youth. Our several other boards and commissions are disproportionately populated by retired people.

We have something here worth preserving and, of course, improving. Take ownership. Become a real part of it. Public service in this small town is rewarding. What investment will you make right now to preserve and improve your community?

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Sterndale

<sup>1</sup>70+

<sup>2</sup>Anyone under 60!

## Wentworth Family Trust

In 2017 Charter Trust (the Trustee) approved recommendations from Daniel Klein, Madbury Representative to ORCSD School Board awarding a total of \$12,000 in scholarship funds to Madbury residents graduating from high school and looking to continue their education. Recipients included Lydia Ahlstrom, Betsy Larson, Mitchell Rogers, Sydnee Aubin and Thatcher Ervin.

In October of 2017 the Town received the second disbursement from the Trust with approval of:

**\$14,000** - replacing fire department personal breathing apparatus,

**\$4,000** - printing an update of town history by the Historical Society,

**\$1,500** - replacement of folding tables at Town Hall,

**\$170** - to transfer historical film to a modern digital format,

**\$600** - assistance in the purchase of plants to be used in the Community Club’s Restoration Project of the War Memorial Garden on the Town Common,

**\$2,000** - purchase a new book display system for the Children’s Room at the Madbury Public Library,

**\$500** - assist with celebration plans for the 250th Anniversary of the Town in 2018,

**\$3,230** - toward the Marion Custom Pumper to replace Engine 3 purchased in 1989.

Consideration will begin shortly regarding how the Town will utilize the gift to be disbursed from the Wentworth Family Trust in 2018. More information and a form to complete for project/item consideration are available to be

picked up at Town Hall as well as on the Town website at the following link:

[townofmadbury.com/WFT.html](http://townofmadbury.com/WFT.html)  
Requests should be submitted by December 15, 2017.

## Conservation Commission

In 2016 the US Fish and Wildlife Service approved a new refuge dedicated to managing shrubland habitat for wildlife in the Northeast. It is called the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge. Shrublands and young forest habitats in the Northeast have declined dramatically over the past century, primarily as a result of the decline of agricultural land use, forest maturation, development pressures, and wetland loss. As a result, many shrubland-dependent wildlife species have declined and have therefore been identified as high priorities for conservation. The refuge aims to protect young forest habitat for wildlife, including the New England cottontail, American woodcock, and monarch butterfly. The new refuge will contribute to conservation efforts for declining migratory bird populations and threatened and endangered species.

Madbury lies within a focus area of the proposed refuge which covers several NE states. A number of landowners in Madbury are already participating in the protection or establishment of young forest habitats. The refuge will be accomplished through land or conservation easement purchases, and we wanted to bring the opportunity of the Great Thicket to your attention.

For more information, contact the Conservation Commission at: [mcc@townofmadbury.com](mailto:mcc@townofmadbury.com) or call Eric at the Town Hall: 742-5131

## *New Library Building Update*

Thank you to those who have supported the effort to build a new Library for all our residents to enjoy. Friends of Madbury Library, Library Trustees and dedicated volunteers have begun the Capital Campaign and \$157,000 has already been raised in private donations and pledges.

Recently, we received news that the McIninch Foundation and the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation have each awarded \$25,000 to the Campaign in matching challenge grants! Matching these grant pledges along with the proposed town contribution of \$750,000 will bring us closer to our goal of breaking ground for our new vibrant library in 2018, the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of Madbury.

We welcome all residents to join the Campaign, your ideas, energy and enthusiasm are needed to make this long overdue new Library a reality! Visit the Library to see the building plans, check out the MPL website: [www.madburylibrary.org](http://www.madburylibrary.org) or contact the [mplsteeringcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mplsteeringcommittee@gmail.com) for more information on ways to contribute.

## *Madbury Historical Society*

**November 14, 2017**, Attic Treasures! Bring in an item or items of interest to share. This is our Annual Meeting and Potluck.  
**January 9, 2018** (snow date 1/10), "Harnessing History: On the Trail of New Hampshire's State Dog, the Chinook"  
**April 10**, "Madbury is named for Modbury!"

## *Happy Birthday To Madbury*

In 1768 the Madbury Parish was granted town privileges by Governor John Wentworth. A time of celebration and remembrance will be marked in 2018 as the Town celebrates 250 years. A planning committee welcomes all interested parties to their next meeting, Tuesday, November 7, at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

To date, the committee has worked with the Selectmen and received approval from the DMV for a commemorative front license plate to be made available for sale at the Town Hall in December. Also in December, a custom ornament made by Hampshire Pewter marking this special occasion will be available for purchase. Other plans in the works include a Revolutionary Reenactment, sprucing up of gardens and points of interest in town, and special historical lectures and presentations, plus cake!

## *Position Announcement*

The Town of Madbury is seeking an Assistant Bookkeeper to provide stand-in support to the Fiscal Clerk. The successful candidate will enter invoices and process accounts payable, process payroll and enter general ledger journal entries, assist with reconciliations and reporting. Candidates should be detailed oriented and comfortable working with computers. The position is for 5 to 10 hours of scheduled work per quarter, including training. Interested parties should contact Deb Ahlstrom, Fiscal Clerk, at: [TreasMadbury@comcast.net](mailto:TreasMadbury@comcast.net) or call the Town Hall at 742-5131.

## *Literary Trust Fund Scholarship*



The Madbury Trustees of the Trust Funds awarded their first annual Literary Trust Fund Scholarship to Lydia Ahlstrom, daughter of Garret and Deb Ahlstrom. Lydia is attending Keene State College and is double majoring in Mathematics and Secondary Education with a minor in Studio Art.

The Literary Fund Scholarship of \$300.00 will be awarded each year to a Madbury High School senior for the purpose of advancing their education. Trustee Judy Engalichev made the first presentation to Lydia at Madbury Day in June noting her 4.16 GPA at Oyster River High School. Lydia's community contributions include her many years of fiddle playing for Madbury Day and for the Community Club. She has volunteered her time to the Town assisting the Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Election Officials. Her art work has been featured in the Town's Display Case. For more information on the fund: [townofmadbury.com/LTF.html](http://townofmadbury.com/LTF.html)

## Madbury Public Library

Library Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10-8; Thursday, 10-4; Saturday, 10-2. **NEW!** Winter hours will be in effect Nov. 1-March 31: Monday & Wednesday, 10-7; Thurs., 10-5; Sat., 10-2.

**Mark your Calendars!** “Our National Thanksgiving: With Thanks to President Lincoln and Mrs. Hale” with Sharon and Steve Wood, Town Hall, Thursday, November 16, 7:00pm.

The Library has received an NH Humanities grant to host the Woods as they present their living history program about Sarah Josepha Hale and her 30-year effort to have Thanksgiving declared a national holiday. Her efforts were rewarded in 1863 when President Lincoln delivered his Thanksgiving proclamation. This presentation will coincide with the monthly meeting of the Community Club, whose members will provide refreshments. This presentation is free and open to the public.

**November is a great time to... enjoy the Poetry of Robert Frost!**

The Road Not Taken: Artistic Inspirations of the Poetry of Robert Frost.” This exhibit, which features three Derry-area artists--Ingeborg Seaboyer, Judy Krasowski, and Corinne Dodge-- contains personal interpretations of Frost's poems, including “Stopping by a Wood on a Snowy Evening,” “The Sound of Trees,” and “The Road Not Taken.” Images in pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics, and oils accompany selected verses that were the source of inspiration.

**Looking ahead to 2018:** Oyster River Community Read!

Beginning in January, join your community neighbors in reading

Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving. This memoir invites readers to explore race, culture, and diversity through the personal story of one New Englander. First, borrow the book from MPL, then join a local book discussion, attend one of the many events scheduled in Madbury, Lee, and Durham, and then come hear the author speak at the April 16 finale at Oyster River High School. Look for much more information soon!

### Programs for Children

**Story Times:** Mondays at 10:00; Thursdays at 10:30

Here are some of the fun things we'll be doing in upcoming weeks: November 6 & 9 ~ Hedgehogs! Hear stories, sing songs, and make a craft featuring these adorable little animals, beloved by such British children's authors as Beatrix Potter.

November 13 & 16 ~ All for Pie and Pie for All! is just one of the stories we'll be reading as we think about all kinds of pies. It must be close to Thanksgiving

November 20 ~ Thanksgiving means turkeys, of course. We'll read Run, Turkey, Run, among other stories and go on a hunt for felt turkey feathers in the Children's Room. No story time on Thursday, November 23, when the library will be closed for Thanksgiving.

### Read with Grover

Monday, November 6 & Monday, December 4, 3 to 5 p.m.

### Read with Digby

Monday, November 20 & Monday, December 18, 3 to 5 p.m.

Beginning and experienced readers are invited to spend time with our special canine friends: Grover, an English setter, and Digby, a cavalier King Charles spaniel. They both who love to hear children read aloud. Call, e-mail, or stop in to sign up for a 20-minute session.

### Programs for Adults

#### Friends of the Madbury Library

~ This important group meets the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The Friends support the library through book sales, a basket raffle, and an annual appeal. In the past, they have donated funds that supported summer reading programs, museum passes, and also purchased the Children's Room rug, wireless printer, and start-up funds for our website. Our next two meetings are Thursday, November 9, and Thursday, December 14. Also, the Friends of the Library now have their own Facebook page! Visit us at [www.facebook.com/friendsofthemadburylibrary](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofthemadburylibrary).

#### Daytime Book Discussion Group

Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 3 p.m. During the next few months we will read: On November 27, This Is How You Lose Her by Junot Diaz; December 18, The Shell Collector by Anthony Doerr; January 22, 2018, The Good Braider by Terry Farish.

#### Evening Book Discussion Group

Meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00. Upcoming discussions: On November 6, Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann; December 4, Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan; January 8: Last Days of Night by Graham Moore

#### Writing Group

~ Meets the second Monday of the month at 5:15 p.m. Writers are invited to share their works and receive constructive input from other members. Upcoming meetings will take place November 13, December 11, and January 8

#### Quilting Group

~ Generally meets each Monday from 1:00-3:00. Come in and see examples of their beautiful work throughout the library. New members are always welcome.