



Reminders from Town Hall

News & Information for the Residents of North Yarmouth

A Conversation With Debbie.....

Since 1987, Debbie Allen Grover has been working non-stop for the Town of North Yarmouth and currently serves as the Assistant Town Manager, which includes the duties of Town Clerk. Her contributions have been key to our community. That's 32 years of service that gives her great perspectives. In this spotlight interview, we ask questions to learn about her experiences and her thoughts about the near future.

Tell me how you first got involved with North Yarmouth: I started at the Cumberland Town Office as a part-time front counter clerk in August of 1985 at the age of 19 and only 2 months out of high school. Then I took a full-time position with the Town of Freeport. When the position in North Yarmouth became available, I applied for it and I have been here since August 1987.

What was your first impression of the town's offices? When I started, North Yarmouth's town offices were in the Fire Rescue station in the area where the live-in students bunk now.

What has surprised you most about working for the Town? How important curbside trash and recycling pickup is to our residents. If anything varies from the norm on pickup day, our office lines are flashing like lights on a Christmas tree.

What do you find most challenging about the work activities? Everything is always changing; laws, ordinances, policies, regulations and as your local government employees we must "stay on top of it all." At state and county levels, there are separate departments for most every subject (i.e., Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Elections & Corporations, Animal Welfare, E911, Health & Human Services, Environmental Protection, etc.). At the local level, there are only a few staff employees to handle all those issues and subjects. Often, people don't understand that because they are focused on an issue.



Photo Credit

Alex Lear

If you could change one thing about our town, or how we do things, what would it be? I think it is time we might investigate becoming a Town Council form of government. The population of North Yarmouth is more than 4,000; we currently have 3,425 registered voters in town. However, over the past 10 years (on average), only 100 or so participate in our Annual Town Meeting. Even fewer typically attend the important, annual School Budget hearings.

What do you wish other people knew about North Yarmouth, maybe that they don't realize yet? That North Yarmouth was here *first*. Incorporated in the year 1680, we were named "North Yarmouth" because the territory was North of Yarmouth, Massachusetts. Maine was not yet a State. Surrounding towns were established from parts of our town, for example; Cumberland (1821), Freeport (1789), Harpswell (1750), Pownal (1808), and Yarmouth (1849). All were once part of North Yarmouth.

When your friends or strangers find out that you work for the town, what do they say or ask? "Really, so hey, can you answer this question for me?" or "So, North Yarmouth is part of Yarmouth, right?" [It's not.]

What might folks be surprised to know about you? I was raised in the family businesses Allen's Farm & Garden Center and Allen's Country Store and have lived my entire life in Cumberland before moving to North Yarmouth 2 years ago.

The interest in North Yarmouth seems to be growing. Why do you think that is? The school district that we share with Cumberland, MSAD 51, is a powerful magnet attracting new residents. For our area, taxes are reasonable, and we're conveniently close to Portland and Lewiston/Auburn. Lately, people focus on our village center, which remains rural – yet business and age friendly.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about working for or volunteering with the town? I encourage residents to volunteer for our boards and committees. Most meet only once a month. Participation is a rewarding experience; on occasion it may be a bit challenging but, in the end, always rewarding.

What do you think will change about North Yarmouth over the next five years? To keep up with the growth in town, all departments may see an increase count of employees over time. There will be more services for seniors. Likely, our Wescustogo Hall and Community Center will host more events.

What's it like to be an employee of the town? plus/minus? We are a good team, all of us; Administration, Code Enforcement, Public Works, and Fire Rescue. If one of us needs assistance, regardless of the task, others step up and help. We also support each other when life events happen (i.e., loss of a family member, illness, or just need a hug). Conversely, in a small town, you are truly on call 24/7, unless you leave the state, ...LOL and that is questionable.

What do you do when you aren't working? Family first, I love catching up with my two sons, ages 28 and 23. I enjoy working on projects with my husband and caring for my aging father. We check in on elderly friends. We have 3 Corgis and camp on Moosehead Lake. I volunteer with the Maine Cemetery Association, and currently serve as President of the MCA. One important event I'm coordinating is the Annual Benefit Breakfast for NET Cancer Awareness and Patient Care, coming up this year on Saturday, October 5th.

What else can you tell me about North Yarmouth that readers should know? We have a great community! When we work together, we can do great things. We are unique and need not be like our neighboring towns. I have watched this town evolve over the past 30 plus years and have been lucky enough to make many lasting friendships over the years with our residents. I hope to make many more friends as new families move into town and watch the Town progress even further.

Did You Know...



Musical culture is alive and well in North Yarmouth, where our town enrolled 49 students during the most recent spring registration period at **317 Main**, the vibrant local music school in Yarmouth? Our students can learn all kinds of instruments in private lessons, semi-private lessons, groups, ensembles, and jams. Now is the time to register for Summer Camp activities coming up in July.

CABLE CHANNEL 1301

The Town's cable access channel is **Spectrum Channel 1301.**



You may also live stream Select Board & Planning Board meetings by using our online video broadcast service Town Hall Streams available at www.northyarmouth.org

SENIOR PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE

Application Deadline is June 30, 2019

- If you are age 70 or older, with an annual income of \$40,000 or less and lived in North Yarmouth for 10 years or more you may qualify for the Senior Tax Credit.
- Applications are available at the Town Office or download a copy at www.northyarmouth.org
- Questions call (207) 829-3705 or email Cheryl@northyarmouth.org



TRAFFIC SURVEY

YOU'RE MOVIN' TOO FAST

The data from the radar speed trailer positioned at Fat Andy's to record traffic entering the village district on Route 115 from Yarmouth tells us:

* Traffic count M-F averages 1,900. Saturday and Sunday the average is 1,250.

* Traffic is mostly concentrated from the hours of 7 AM to 6 PM. Vehicle count drops by an average of 280 outside of the 7 AM to 6 PM timeframe.

* Average percentage of speed violations is 80%. Speed violations are recorded at 35 and up.

* The difference between drivers respecting the speed limit versus those not is about 1 to 3, but varies widely according to the time of day. The largest ratio difference is during the 6 PM recording hour, when the ratio jumps to 1 non-violation to 8 violations.

* *The maximum speed recorded per each 24-hour recording period varies from 35 to 76. On average the maximum speeds were consistently in the upper 40 range. Data for the daytime hours noted a number of vehicles at 52, 63, 67, 50, 57, and 55 MPH. This is happening in a clearly marked 30 MPH zone. Of note: those driving after 11 PM and before 6 AM showed an average speed in the low 40 MPH range. Those driving during the day hours were the worst offenders by far of speeding in excess of 45 MPH.*

* The collection of data covered 7 days, beginning April 11 at midnight to April 17, midnight and to repeat, is only from the Yarmouth direction of Route 115.



SUMMIT

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

On May 30, 2019, Town leaders gathered to further Village Center strategies towards enhancing economic development and creating safe streets.

REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES NOW DUE QUARTERLY

Due Dates:

- ◆ September 15, 2019
- ◆ December 15, 2019
- ◆ March 15, 2020
- ◆ June 15, 2020

Interest Begins the day following the Due Date



Social Lights

FUN DAY ANNOUCEMENT

The North Yarmouth Events Committee is sorry to announce that there will not be a North Yarmouth Fun Day this year. However, we are anticipating a bigger and better Fun Day in 2020 at the new Wescustogo Hall & Community Center!



BAND STAND CONCERTS

- **Sunday, August 4th: 7:30pm - Greely Jazz Combo**
- **Sunday, August 18th: 7:30pm - Flight 317**
- **Saturday, September 14th:
5:00pm - Bean Supper** hosted by the North Yarmouth Fire Company followed at
6:30pm - Cumberland Community Band

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS at the new Wescustogo Hall & Community Center!

- **Sunday, December 8th**
5:00pm - Community Potluck Supper
6:00pm - Caroling and Christmas Tree Lighting
6:30pm - Santa and cookies, courtesy of the Walnut Hill Garden Club

Stay tuned to for event updates
facebook.com/northyarmouthevents



Reminders from Town Hall
Produced by the
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in Conjunction with Living Well in North Yarmouth

North Yarmouth ME 04097

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