



Connections

Town of North Yarmouth Maine

The Doors Are Open!

We are off to a great start at the Community Center! Since opening on November 2nd, we have welcomed back a host of recurring programs. Nonprofit groups, community meetings, and many residents are very excited to see the finished facility. It is great to see the pride, excitement, and anticipation about what this new facility means to the North Yarmouth community and the many generations that will benefit from its existence.

Big News...the Phone Is Working!

Some of you may have been trying to reach me by phone, but I am happy to say the phone is now connected and working! You can now contact the center by phone at 829-5555.

Where to Find Us...

To find out what's going on, what's coming up, weather cancelations, program or rental information, and much more, please "like" us on Facebook at "Wescustogo Hall & Community Center," or www.northyarmouth.org, which is updated daily. Our printable monthly calendar can be downloaded from the website. Look for this month's calendar on the sidebar options. There is also a daily calendar on the bottom right side of our page.

Help Us Help You...

Volunteers at the Community Center will be a primary influence on what makes the center's operations run well. I am looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Open Gym Supervision
- Special Events
- Program Assistance
- Food Item Donation
- Marketing And Promotion

Volunteers will need to fill out a volunteer application, pass a background check, and meet with the director to go over expectations and guidelines. High school students looking for community service hours are encouraged to apply! Join us, be a part of your community, and enjoy the fun!

What's Coming...

The new year looks very busy for the center. My days have been filled with meeting community members who have lots of ideas. The common thread is "family": Family events, family programs, family gatherings, parties, and celebrations. And to include enrichment programs and activities, learning opportunities, and fitness. Here is what we have starting up in January:

Senior Walking: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00 am-noon. The program is *free* for all seniors. Please bring sneakers to wear in the gym. Twenty laps around the outside lines equal about one mile. Gather a few friends and join us for a few laps.



November 2, 2019, a historic day for North Yarmouth!

COMING UP MARCH 3RD

Presidential Primary & Local Elections

Yoga: Offered by local instructor Joanne Sullivan on Tuesdays from 11 am-noon. A gentle form of yoga for those seeking a relaxing way to work on strengthening their bodies. This class is donation-based, so pay what you can.

Open Gym: We will be offering several open gym spots for all ages: from kiddie gym to 18+ for those college students who are home on school breaks. The schedule will change according to the season and school schedules, so please check our website and Facebook for updates.

Please bring sneakers to wear in the gym!

A parent or guardian must accompany all children in grades 5 and under. Children grades 6 and up, no parents, coaches, or trainers are allowed in the gym, nor any organized practices.

For December, open gym is free to the public. Starting January 2nd, open gym sessions will have the following rates: \$2.00 per person, \$5.00 per family (for 3 or more) for residents and \$3.00 per person, \$7.00 per family (for 3 or more) for non-residents. Open gym punch passes can be purchased starting in January. Punch passes have 10 visits on them and cost \$15 for residents and \$25 for non-residents, a savings of \$5.00!

Kiddie Gym: Beginning Friday, January 10th, from 9:00-10:15 am. This program is for children ages 4 and under and their parents and/or guardians. The program is not structured but a self-guided program where young families can gather, play, and connect. We will have some age-appropriate toys for the little ones. Bikes and scooters with clean wheels are welcome (don't forget helmets!). Cost for this program is \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family for 3 or more Cumberland/North Yarmouth residents and \$3.00 per person or \$7.00 per family for 3 or more non-NY residents.

I am looking to hear from you...this January, I will be putting out a community survey to assess the community members' needs and wants for the Community Center. Look for this in our town newsletter and on our website! Your input is important. I am happy to hear from you and the ideas you have for the Community Center. Please stop by, call (207) 829-5555 or email lthompson@northyarmouth.org.

Lisa Thompson, CPRP
Community Center Director



KIDDIE GYM

Begins Friday, January 10th!

Community Book Share



Donations of gently used books to create a small book share program at the Community Center are being accepted. Please bring unwanted books – both for adults and children – to the Community Center on Saturday mornings between 9 - 11am.

Donna Palmer,
Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee

Sue Clukey (below), the artist who created the beautiful murals on the Memorial School walls, is seen here with her murals. Before demolition of the building, photos were taken and then, digital imaging was done by Jenny & Dave Tuemmler. The extraordinary reproductions now hang in the Community Center. The murals were valued by so many children and parents – seeing them again brought back many great memories!



North Yarmouth Historical Society:

From Change Comes Opportunity

More change is coming to our village center. In 2020, North Yarmouth Historical Society will move the Old Town House to the old Wescustogo lot (the Village Green property), bringing a beautiful new/old presence to the center of town and contributing an important anchor to Walnut Hill.

Picking up and moving the Old Town House, a beautiful and venerable 1853 building, takes great care and planning. Our Old Town House Committee, a dedicated group of twelve members, has been meeting every other week to discuss everything from construction costs to siting the building correctly. Our Board, along with the Archives, Membership, and Gazette committees, are also involved.

We're passionate about this project! A changing town center gives us reason and opportunity to tell the story of North Yarmouth's founding and its 340-year history. As the keepers of that history, we'll be telling it through programs, events, celebrations, and activities within and around the Old Town House, the historic heart of our town. Have an idea for us? We'd like to hear it! Email nyhs1680@gmail.com.

And there's something else to think about: When the Old Town House is moved from its Route 9 location, a new vista will open up, looking out on North Yarmouth's 62-acre Old Town House Park. This is another an exciting opportunity for the town. We hope that the Parks & Recreation Committee and all residents will respond with ideas for taking advantage of this new visibility for a park that for some has been hidden from view. Contact the Parks & Recreation Committee with your comments!

Katie Murphy
North Yarmouth Historical Society

**All Non-Emergency
Municipal Offices**

Upcoming Holiday Closings

December 24th
Christmas Eve - Closing at Noon
December 25th
Christmas Day - Closed
January 1st
New Year's Day - Closed
January 20th
Martin L. King Day - Closed

A Word from the Chair

As 2019 draws to a close, we have much to be thankful for and high hopes for 2020.

First and foremost, thank you to our Town Manager, Rosemary, the staff, and all the wonderful volunteers who help make the Town of North Yarmouth continue to grow and develop. A thank you to our Select Board members, as well as former member Anne Graham, who has given a great deal to our community over the years. Also, a reminder that the March election will choose Anne's replacement on the Board.

We should all be proud of the opening of the new Wescustogo Hall & Community Center. Along with the initial event of a special press conference held by Governor Mills to announce that the state of Maine is the seventh state in the union established as an Age-Friendly state. It was stimulated by our very own Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee and Fire Rescue Chief Payson.

The next major event was the SIXTH Leadership Summit, held to discuss, with all the Town committees and boards, how we take the next steps for growth and development. The meeting had a great turnout, with ideas and concepts being reviewed. These ideas will lead to continued progress going into 2020.

Lisa Thompson, the new Director of WH&CC, has her calendar quite full already, with scouts, pickleball, open gym, meetings, etc., etc.. If you have or know of someone who needs a meeting location, get in touch with Lisa at the center.

Budget season has begun, with the Budget Committee meeting regularly (with limited meetings with the Select Board) to reach consensus leading to the presentation of the budget to the Annual Town Meeting on April 11, 2020. As Chair, my goal for 2020 is to lower the mil rate, while still progressing with new programs to improve our citizens' lives.

I wish all citizens of North Yarmouth the very best in the New Year. The Select Board looks forward to hearing from you.

In closing, some might not agree with some of the plans we have, but as the great hockey player Wayne Gretzky once said, "You miss 100% of the shots (opportunities) you never take."

Bill Whitten, Chair
North Yarmouth Select Board

The Long and Short of the Traffic Calming Forum

Recently, a forum was held at the Wescustogo Hall & Community Center regarding the one-month Traffic Calming demonstration that was conducted in the half-mile stretch of the Village Center this fall. Feedback from the 66 residents who attended the forum and the online survey results provided valuable input about the next steps to be taken.

Of the 139 residents who completed the online survey, 75% of them reported that the measures did slow traffic, 61% thought the experience was worse, 27% better, and 11% about the same. The residents who attended the forum voiced many of the same opinions. Many cyclists said that they found the bicycling experience was worse. Residents who live in the Village Center praised the project and said that they experienced a safer road. They encouraged the committees to continue working on measures to slow traffic. Improving the streetscape will lead to a more walkable and bikeable area for the community.

This demonstration was intended to gauge residents' opinions, encourage community dialogue, test ideas, stimulate other ideas, and identify solutions. Testing allows for observation of what works and what doesn't work before investing significant resources in the construction of permanent infrastructure. The ultimate goal is to create a walkable, vibrant Village Center where people of all ages can be social, live active and mobile lives, and enjoy daily life.

*Diane Morrison, Chair
Economic Development and Sustainability Committee*

Town of North Yarmouth

northyarmouth.org

HOURS OF OPERATION

Town Office

Monday 8am - 6pm
Tuesday - Thursday 8am - 5pm
(207) 829-3705

Code Enforcement Office

Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm
(207) 829-3705 ext. 204

Assessing Office

Wednesday 8am - 4:30pm
(207) 829-3705 ext. 209

Public Works Department

Monday - Thursday 6am - 4pm
(207) 829-3274

Fire Rescue Department

Monday - Friday 8am-5pm
(207) 829-3025

Community Center

Monday - Friday 8:30am-5pm
(207) 829-5555

*Reminders from Town Hall
Produced by the
Communications Advisory Committee
in conjunction with Living Well in North Yarmouth*

North Yarmouth ME 04097

Resident

Maine 04097

North Yarmouth

Permit #55

PAID

US Postage

PRSRT

Town of North Yarmouth
10 Village Square Road
North Yarmouth, ME 04097

