



# Reminders from Town Hall

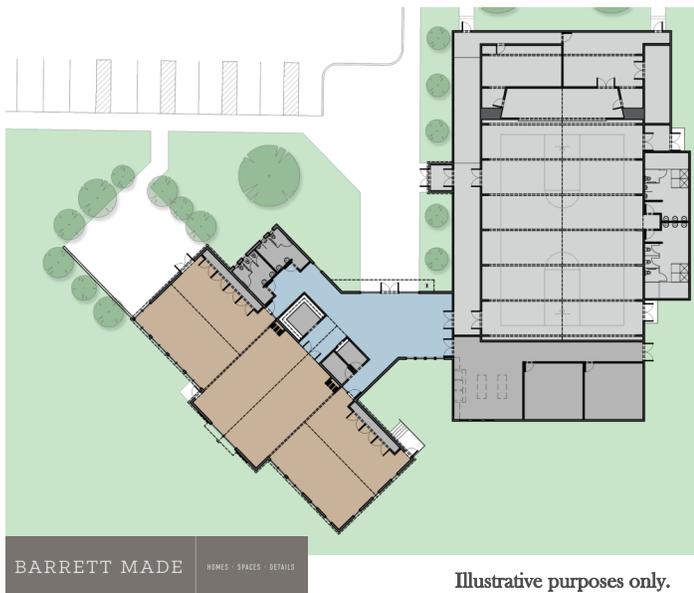
*News & Information for the Residents of North Yarmouth*

## *Wescustogo Hall & North Yarmouth Community Center*



Illustrative purposes only.

The Wescustogo Building and Design Committee has been diligently working since last February to meet its charge. We have a fantastic group representing a diverse range of the community, and while we came individually to this work with ideas of what we would want personally in a new Wescustogo Hall, this group has set aside any preconceptions from those first days. Our committee has gone about putting together what—collectively and objectively—we feel honors the special history of Wescustogo Hall, meets the town needs of today, and provides future generations with a sustainable and flexible asset.



Illustrative purposes only.

This undertaking has been very rewarding for those participating. Group members are engaged. They are informed. But most of all, they are committed to delivering the best product possible for the town and are ready to passionately work toward project completion.

This process has not always been easy or straightforward. There have been many site visits, conversations with people with direct insight into aspects of construction and design, and outreach into the community for feedback on its desires for a new Wescustogo Hall. All of these elements of the process—along with our regular meetings—have culminated in productive dis-

cussions and actions, which led to a crucial point in our process on December 20th: a presentation of conceptual designs for both the North Yarmouth Memorial School property and the original grange location to the Select Board with our recommendations for next steps.

On January 3rd, the Select Board voted to have the committee focus on developing designs for the North Yarmouth Memorial School site with a key focus on greatly reducing early cost estimates and with an eye toward a March 21st update. The committee was back at work with bi-weekly meetings starting on January 12th. All community members are welcome to attend and participate.

This new hall is your hall, and you have an incredibly important voice in stating your preferences around the design as well as the activities we are planning to engage the community in the process. Consider this your formal invitation to join us.

**WESCUSTOGO HALL &  
NORTH YARMOUTH  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**COMMUNITY FORUMS**

**Thursday, February 9th @ 7pm  
and  
Thursday, March 9th @ 7pm**

**North Yarmouth Memorial School**

**Hosted by the Wescustogo  
Building & Design Committee**



# *Living Well*

*in North Yarmouth:*

## *An Age-Friendly Community*

Last fall, at the request of Town Manager Rosemary Roy, a small committee of town residents began working on a project aimed at improving life for everyone in town — from kids to seniors. After meeting with representatives from the Southern Maine Area on Aging and the AARP, our committee prepared a survey directed to senior citizens, but affecting everyone, to assess the age-friendly aspects of life in our town. Well-lighted wide sidewalks, curb cuts, accessible recreational facilities, shops, and restaurants benefit everyone. Research tells us that people of all ages are looking for the same things to call a community home.

We gave the project this title because mothers with strollers and grandmothers with walkers benefit from the same curb cuts. Families caring for older relatives benefit from community age-friendly amenities such as wellness calls — another resource to spread responsibility for family care. Playgrounds benefit families and grandparents looking for a safe place for the grandkids to play. Home care services benefit older citizens needing hospital after-care or the young family needing help due to childbirth or illness.

The results of the survey will be available in February. We will analyze the results of the survey, as well. Our goal is to identify needed services — improved transportation or improved sidewalk safety, for example, and to work with town officials to accomplish that goal.

At this time, many committees in town are working to improve our town and the quality of life in it: Economic Development, the new Comprehensive Plan group, the groups working toward the Town Office renovation and Wescustogo Hall rebuild. Now, a new town planner is available.

We want to collaborate with all these people, as we all work toward the goal of a community that benefits all.

Interested in joining us? Please call Town Manager Rosemary Roy at 829-3705.

Dick & Priscilla Brobst, Rod Duckworth, Donna Palmer, and Steven Palmer

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**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017  
NORTH YARMOUTH MEMORIAL SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
BEGINS @ 9 AM**

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## *Cribbage Anyone?*

### *“Businesses with a caring heart”*

People rarely toot their own horns and that seems to be especially true of the members of the North Yarmouth Business Association (NYBA).

As one would expect, NYBA’s mission is to support and promote businesses in North Yarmouth and to help the community by providing easier access to business information. There are times, however, when our members rally together simply to do a kind act. That was the case last month when NYBA ran a campaign entitled Santa’s Helpers. The purpose of the campaign was to raise enough funds to fill Christmas stockings as a surprise for eight of our senior citizens. In addition, we solicited volunteers to help shop, fill and deliver the stockings.

I am thrilled to report that the campaign was a huge success. Between in-kind and cash donations, we raised nearly \$3,200 for the cause. In addition, the women of the Thursday Morning Breakfast Club pitched in with personal donations and helping hands.

Everyone who received the stockings (filled to the brim and beyond) was surprised and thrilled. Without a doubt we made them happy. One wrote, “Thank you for the fantastic Christmas stocking. It’s very much appreciated.” Another wrote, “...Many people put a lot of time into my present-stocking. Thank you so much! I hope everyone in town has a great and Happy New Year!”

### *Annual Community Trade Show*

Planning is underway for our annual community trade show, which will be held on April 1st at the North Yarmouth Memorial School. Watch for more information!

Darla P. Hamlin  
President, North Yarmouth Business Association.

The second annual winter cribbage tournament is scheduled for February 11. The event will run from 9 am -12 and be held at the school site, as it was last year. The proceeds for this year’s tournament will go to the Living Well in North Yarmouth: An Age Friendly Community fund. The event is sponsored by the Events Committee.

There will be two divisions of play: tournament and novice. Prize money will be awarded to the top four tournament division scores: \$80, \$60, \$40, \$20. A trophy will be awarded the winner of the novice division. The novice division will run from 9:00 am - 11:00 and games will be shortened to 61 points.

People wishing to participate can preregister online, complete a registration form at the Town Office or email [shpalmer@maine.rr.com](mailto:shpalmer@maine.rr.com). The deadline for pre-registration is February 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration is \$10 for the tournament division and \$5 for the novice division. People may register at the door for \$15. We were at capacity last year so we do recommend pre-registration.

Last year’s tournament was great fun. People enjoyed meeting other people, there was plenty of congenial conversation and laughter amidst the competition — an all around warm-hearted atmosphere. The fellowship and laughter will happen this year as well, and the food concession will offer wonderful choices, so come out and make it a family event. Will we see you on the 11<sup>th</sup>?



# *Garbage to Garden Comes to North Yarmouth With Centralized Dropoff Collection Program*



## *Parks and Recreation*

North Yarmouth Parks and Recreation Committee continues to plug away at the 100-Year Plan it developed when reconstituted as a committee in early 2015. Over the past year, new signage has gone up at Wescustogo Park, Old Town House Park, and Chandler Brook Preserve that displays the new town branding, a quick visual highlighting park and trail assets in town and community business sponsors that support our mission.

Over the next year, the community will see new bicycle racks going up at our parks and at key public locations across town, wayfinder signage at key intersections directing residents and visitors to assets within the town, and updates to kiosks at our parks that clearly highlight trail systems and acceptable uses.

Our theme for this year will be connectivity — focusing on how we can physical interlink our trails and parks then building an action plan to get us there. This strategy may take some time to unfold, but we are laying the foundation for a multiphase process over the coming years.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with trail maintenance and at special events like NY Tri, our annual family triathlon where participants paddle the Royal River, run the trails in Old Town House Park, and bike across the field trails. We meet the first Wednesday of each month and all are welcome to join and participate.

Garbage to Garden is committed to working with communities to create a sustainable organics collection program that fits the needs of their unique localities and communities. For communities in which curbside composting does not make sense due to low population density, Garbage to Garden works with municipalities to create an organics dropoff program at a centralized collection point in the community.

In the fall of 2016 Garbage to Garden partnered with the Town of North Yarmouth to provide residents with the option to bring their organic waste to a centralized dropoff location in the town. There is no fee to residents when dropping off your materials, and the Compost Kiosk will be located conveniently at the Fire Rescue Station across from the bottle redemption and is expected to be in place during the month of January.

### RECYCLING NEWS



Ecomaine has recently announced that it will **no longer accept #2 and #4 plastic shopping bags**. The recycling technology has not been able to separate these bags from the paper and cardboard waste stream. The consequences include downtime for recycling conveyor line, lost work time, and contamination of other recyclable materials.

Ecomaine recommends residents decrease use of these bags, return these bags to the point of purchase, or include them in their orange garbage bags.

For More Information Contact [ecomaine](http://ecomaine.org)  
Telephone Number: (207) 773-1738  
Email: [info@ecomaine.org](mailto:info@ecomaine.org)

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## *From North Yarmouth Fire Rescue*



### **WINTER SAFETY**

North Yarmouth Fire Rescue is asking for your partnership in our Adopt-A-Hydrant program. You can adopt a fire hydrant close to your home or business and keep it free of snow during the winter and free

of weeds and shrubbery in the summer.

In the event of a fire it is important that the Fire Department gain access to a water supply via a fire hydrant as quickly as possible. That way, the fire can be extinguished and loss of property and/or life can be prevented. We ask that you shovel the area around your adopted fire hydrant after each snowfall. Clear a path approximately three feet around the hydrant as well a clear path from the street or roadway up to the fire hydrant so that the hydrant is visible and accessible. During the summer months it is also important to make sure that the same three foot path around your adopted hydrant is free of weeds, shrubbery, and debris. Please consider clearing snow from a fire hydrant for your neighbors who may have medical conditions, disabilities, or are unable to do so themselves. This act of kindness will benefit the entire neighborhood.

Your participation in this program and maintenance of the area around your adopted hydrant saves time in the Fire Department's incident response, and time is very valuable. If you notice that a fire hydrant has been damaged, is missing caps, or leaking water, or if it is blocked, please notify North Yarmouth Fire Rescue by calling 207-829-3025.

### **CHIMNEY SAFETY**

#### **Why should I get my chimney cleaned?**

The job of the chimney sweep is to remove soot, blockages, and built-up creosote from your chimney liner, firebox, smoke chamber, and damper. This cleaning will help create a safer operation of your system during the heating season. It takes only a small accumulation of creosote glazing to create the potential for a chimney fire. Creosote is a highly flammable substance that builds up inside your chimney or liner as a result of burning wood. The rate of accumulation can be higher

if you practice poor burning practices or have a burning appliance or stove that is not working well. Different types of wood create different amounts of creosote when burned. Pine causes a rapid build-up of creosote and should be avoided as a regular source. Creosote can also reduce the draw of the fireplace and reduce efficiency.

#### **Chimney inspections should be scheduled once a year.**

To be sure that all of your systems are in working order and operating as they should, it is recommended that homeowners get an annual chimney inspection. Most opt to have a chimney cleaning every year as well, especially if they use their fireplaces on a regular basis. Other venting systems connected to furnaces and stoves should also be cleaned on a regular basis to maintain safer operation. Fireplace, stove, furnace, and heating appliance systems are important to your home and family's safety and not an area to neglect or cut corners. Don't risk the chance that an undiscovered defect could turn into an expensive repair or worse yet – a chimney fire.

If you only use your fireplace or stove minimally, an inspection is still advised annually to look at all heating venting systems, chimneys, stove systems, and furnace flues. During these inspections any defects or issues that may be found require action even if cleaning is not needed.

When you use a regular chimney sweep company, it will generally put you on an annual inspection schedule. During these inspections it will advise you if it is time to sweep.

#### **When do I need a chimney inspection?**

If you haven't had your chimney inspected in a year or more, if you are having any performance issues with your chimney, fireplace or heating system or if you have recently purchased the home you should schedule an inspection. Don't wait – waiting almost always results in additional repairs, and unfortunately sometimes in property loss. Every year in the US homeowners lose over 200 million dollars as a result of continuing to use unsafe systems.

Another important time to get your venting systems inspected is when you have upgraded or changed heating systems or added a stove or insert. An inspection will make sure that your chimney, lining, and venting systems are adequate and in working order to handle

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the new changes.

If you have not used your fireplace in a long time, pests may have built nests that could clog your flue or chimney chamber. Winter freeze cycles and moisture combine to take an annual toll on masonry and liner materials too. Over several years the deterioration will eventually require attention. Normal wear and tear that is left unchecked will affect the performance of your system. The longer the defects go without being addressed, the more expensive the repairs are likely to be. Bottom line is – staying on top of your systems is not only the smartest and safest choice, it ends up being the most cost effective too.

### **How often should I get my chimney cleaned?**

This depends a lot on how much you use your fireplace or stove. The National Fire Protection Association says, “Chimneys, fireplaces, and vents shall be inspected at least once a year for soundness, freedom from deposits, and correct clearances. Cleaning, maintenance, and repairs shall be done if necessary.” So, even if you don’t use your chimney a whole lot, birds, squirrels, raccoons, and other critters may have been using your chimney, making it unsafe to use without clearing out the accumulated debris from nesting activity.

The Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) recommends that fireplaces should be cleaned when 1/8” of sooty buildup is evident inside the chimney and flue system. If any glaze is appearing in the flue, cleaning should be done even if there is less than 1/8” of buildup. Any appreciable accumulation of soot and creosote can be enough to fuel a chimney fire that may damage the chimney and even spread to the roof and home. Furnace flue systems also require cleaning, so don’t neglect regular cleaning of those venting systems.

### **What is the best time to clean my chimney?**

Ideally, before the start of the burning season during the spring, summer, or early fall is a great time to get your chimney inspection and/or chimney cleaning. Before you think about building a fire or starting up your furnace because the weather has changed is the time to call your chimney sweep. Maybe you forgot the early cleaning before starting to use the fireplace, stove, or furnace?

## **Ice Safety**

### **Stay alive, stay ice smart**



The Lifesaving Society encourages you to be ice smart — know the basics and be sensible. Most winter drowning victims are male snowmobilers, but everybody needs to be careful around frozen lakes, rivers, and streams. Year after year we hear of owners drowning while trying to rescue their dogs (incidentally, the dogs usually survive).

The Society's drowning data shows that almost three-quarters of ice-related incidents occur on lakes (73%) and the rest occur on rivers. Most snowmobile incidents involve open water/ice holes (62% of all snowmobiling incidents) or thin ice (38%).

To be ice smart, first, understand the importance of determining the quality and thickness of ice before venturing onto it. No ice is without risk. Even thick ice may be weak so be sure to measure clear hard ice in several places. The quality and thickness of ice can change very quickly and its appearance can be misleading.

In addition, here are several steps you can take to stay ice smart:

1. Keep away from unfamiliar paths or unknown ice.
2. Avoid travelling on ice at night; clear hard ice is the only kind of ice recommended for travel.
3. If you must venture onto the ice, wear a thermal protection buoyant suit to increase your chances of survival if you fall through. If you do not have one, wear a lifejacket/PFD over an ordinary snowmobile suit or layered winter clothing,
4. Avoid slushy ice, thawed ice that has recently refrozen, layered or rotten ice caused by sudden temperature changes, and ice near moving water (i.e., rivers or currents).
5. Never go on the ice alone; a buddy may be able to rescue you or go for help if you get into difficulty.
6. Before you leave shore, inform someone of your destination and expected time of return, and, ideally, assemble a small personal safety kit no larger than the size of a man's wallet to carry with you. The kit should

include a lighter, waterproof matches, magnesium fire starter, pocketknife, compass, and whistle. You should also carry ice picks, an ice staff, a rope, and a charged cellular phone.

### Ice myths and cold realities

Be Water Smart® in summer and winter! Always check the ice before you go on it, measure clean hard ice in several places, and be wary of varying temperature conditions. Here are some myths and realities to remember:

**1. Myth:** Waterlogged clothing pulls you down in the water and makes you drown.

*Reality:* Actually, air trapped in your clothing will help keep you afloat temporarily. Once the clothes are soaked with water, they will be heavier, making moving and swimming more difficult.

**2. Myth:** The better you swim, the better your chances of rescuing yourself if you fall through the ice.

*Reality:* Swimming proficiency plays only a small part in ice-related rescues. After as little as five minutes, cold water begins to rob you of your ability to move your limbs. This makes it very difficult for you to get out of the water, no matter what your swimming ability.

**3. Myth:** Snow on a frozen lake or river makes the ice surface stronger.

*Reality:* Snow acts as an insulating blanket, actually hindering ice formation and growth.

**4. Myth:** If the weather has been cold, the ice must be solid and safe.

*Reality:* Other factors that are largely independent of air temperature (e.g., wind, a layer of snow on the ice, currents, and fluctuating water levels) can weaken ice and make it unable to bear weight. A sudden drop in air temperature, which is actually more dangerous than a sudden rise, can create cracks in the ice.

**5. Myth:** Thick ice is stronger than thin ice.

*Reality:* Even thick ice may be weak if it is "rotten" or contains layers of water. Rotten ice has frozen and thawed repeatedly, making it potentially fragile even when it appears solid.

### Check the ice before you go on it.

Thin ice is responsible for many fatalities each year.

Hypothermia, which is a decrease in body temperature, kills people in cold water by reducing their ability to swim or stay afloat. A person who has fallen through the ice can eventually die of cardiac arrest if he or she is not rescued or rewarmed. Although most victims who fall through the ice are men, it is important that safety tips are practiced by all.

### Safety Tips

1. Always check ice thickness before venturing out. Snowmobiles require at least five inches of clear solid ice and autos at least eight inches to a foot of clear solid ice.

2. Be suspicious. You cannot tell the strength of the ice by its appearance. Temperature, thickness, snow cover, water depth, size of water body, currents, and distribution of the load on top of the ice are all factors affecting ice safety.

3. Before you head onto any ice, check with a local bait shop operator or resort owner for known ice conditions, thin ice areas, or dangerous open water conditions.



### What do you do if you break through the ice?

1. Don't panic: The clothes you're wearing will trap air and keep you buoyant temporarily.

2. Turn toward the direction you came from and place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface.

3. Kick your feet and try to push yourself forward on top of the unbroken ice on your stomach like a seal.

4. Once you are lying on the ice, don't stand up. Roll away from the break until you're on solid ice.

*Are you looking for a way to help out in your community? The Town Manager is looking for volunteers for the following committees...*



*Living Well in North Yarmouth  
Budget Committee*

*Board of Assessment Review*

*Parks & Recreation Committee*

*Planning Board*

*Zoning Board of Appeals*

*Economic Development & Sustainability Committee*

*North Yarmouth School Fund Committee*

*Town Office Renovation Committee*

*If interested, please contact Town Manager, Rosemary Roy at 207-729-3705 or  
manager@northyarmouth.org*

# Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness

*(Rough Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only)*

2" or less  
**STAY  
OFF!!**



Department of Natural Resources



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

PRSRT  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #55  
North Yarmouth  
Maine 04097  
ECRWSS



Reminders from Town Hall

*News & Information for the Residents  
of North Yarmouth  
Prepared by the North Yarmouth  
Communications Advisory Committee*

Resident  
North Yarmouth, ME 04097