



Reminders from Town Hall

News & Information for the Residents of North Yarmouth

Produced by the North Yarmouth Communications Advisory Committee

Living Well in North Yarmouth – Summer News

When the *Living Well in North Yarmouth* committee was organized in late 2016, members immediately set to work designing a survey that would allow them insight into how residents of all ages viewed their lives in their town. A report of the survey results, which was completed by 513 residents, is available at the Living Well in North Yarmouth section on the town website. Paper copies of the report are available at the town office.

After analysis of the results, the committee chose to focus on three initial goals.

- Compile and publicize the North Yarmouth Guide to Resources
- Research transportation needs
- Create social opportunities

Since then, the group has compiled an inventory of assets and resources available to the town. This inventory is slanted toward the needs of the senior population. It is available online and in printed form. Although the survey did not show a significant need for transportation, the committee is doing more research, because anecdotal reports have indicated that, if a ride were available, there are people who would use it. This research is in progress.

And a Cool Time Was Had by All!

On a cool night in early April, townspeople came together to share the first annual Spring Ice Cream Social. It was sponsored by Toots Ice Cream of North Yarmouth, the Events Committee, and the newly formed Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee. The social was organized by the LWNY group, following its analysis of a town-wide survey conducted last winter. The survey, completed by 513 residents, spoke clearly to the fact that people in town wanted more social gatherings in town – for persons of all ages.

The Social certainly accomplished that! When it ended at 8 pm, people were still visiting, kids were still playing (did we mention the juggler who gives lessons?), and all were enjoying themselves. Other social events are in the planning stages and the group has linked up with the Events Committee. Did you hear the rumor about a Festival of Kites???



The LWN Y committee has reached out to other programs in nearby towns, as well as faith-based communities. As a result of one such outreach, winter storm packs will be available to local residents next fall. Emma and Curtis Call of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, working with Assistant Town Manager Debbie Grover, have led this initiative. The Cumberland Aging in Place group offers rides to North Yarmouth residents, as well as shoveling and raking services. After meeting with town officials, the Committee remained convinced that, while many programs and services are available, not all who need to know do know.

Publicity strategies include:

- Town website (electronic)
- Reminders from Town Hall (electronic)
- Forecaster and the Shopping Notes (print)
- Posters and flyers (print)
- Guide to Resources (print and electronic)
- Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (electronic)
- Community meetings

These are ongoing needs that require ongoing attention, which the committee will provide in collaboration with the Communications Advisory Committee and Assistant Town Manager Debbie Grover.

For more information, please contact Steve Palmer at 829-6230 or shpalmer@maine.rr.com



Cumberland/North Yarmouth Lions Club Names Ames Farm Center Its 2017 Business of the Year

On May 8 Ames Farm Center was recognized by the Cumberland/North Yarmouth Lions Club as its 2017 Business of the Year. Businesses are selected based on their service to the community.

Formed in 1971 by John Ames, Jr. as a feed store located on Walnut Hill Road in what is currently Stones Café, the business moved to its current location on The Lane in the mid 1980s.

The feed business grew and led to the demand for animal supplies, lawn and garden supplies, pet foods, and hardware. Over the years, most of the dairy farms in the area were replaced with residential development. The pet supply and equine business has grown steadily. Ames Farm Center now sells nearly 25 tons of animal feed and pet food every week.

The Ames family has been involved with many organizations within the town, including having three members of the family as charter members of the Historical Society. Ames Farm Center is also a charter member of the North Yarmouth Business Association. Both Johns have been members of the Fire Department. Involvement in Wescustogo Grange, Cumberland Farmers Club, Cumberland County 4-H, Skyline Farm, and several veterans' organizations have brought family members closer to the community.

Currently, Jennifer Ames Kimball is running the store, and her daughter Diana may be generation number four to be involved in the family business.

About the Lions Club

Since 1961 the Cumberland/North Yarmouth Lions Club has served the two communities by providing eyeglass service, sponsoring Greely scholarships, supporting and sponsoring local scout troops, delivering poinsettias to elderly at Christmas time, sponsoring Greely delegates to Boys and Girls State, supporting the local Food Pantry, and spearheading the annual Christmas Tree lighting/Santa visit event in Cumberland Center. Lions volunteer their time and energy to help those in our community and around the world.

Congratulations to the Ames family for this distinguished award.

What Lies Beneath: Wisdom from Clark Baston

Our town's Road Commissioner answers questions and sheds light on our town's most important infrastructure: our ROADS.

Clark Baston has worked for the town of North Yarmouth since 1992. A lifelong resident, Clark has seen our highways and byways improve steadily as our town's almost 24 miles of roads have changed from dirt and gravel to asphalt. He's seen his share of storms and floods, some of which have brought our town to a standstill—and he's been an integral part of the crew that has cleared the roads and gotten the town back in operation. He's watched traffic—cars, trucks, motorcycles, and bicycles—grow steadily. Using new sustainable materials to keep our roads clear and safe and keeping cost down is a constant goal.

Beyond his town work, Clark and his wife Marlee and sons Harold (Hal) and Mark operate C&M Baston and Sons, the family farm, where they graze organic replacement milk cows and sell hay.

Can you give us a public works overview?

We have a busy department. We take care of the town's roadways, sidewalks, storm drain systems, five parks, and three cemeteries. Let's not forget maintaining our town parking areas, traffic signs (350), road lights, keeping hydrants clear, and more.

Focusing on roads, we have a mix of town roads and private roads in North Yarmouth. A road sign that is green with white letters marks a town road. A white sign with green letters means that road is private, and the road's association has the responsibility for maintaining it.

And then there are our town's "state aid" roads: Route 231/New Gloucester Road, Route 115/Walnut Hill Road/Gray Road, Route 9/Hallowell Road, and the southeast portion of North Road—from Route 9 to Yarmouth. The state maintains these roads and the town plows, salts, and sands them in the winter.

What do you put on the roads for winter maintenance?

We follow Maine Environmental Best Management Practices (BMP) for dealing with ice and snow. Maine

BMP balances (or tries too) cost, safety, service, and the environment.

We start in the fall, when our Public Works crew takes refresher training. The sand/salt trucks are calibrated; our instruments tell us just how much material is applied as we travel the roads. We use a mix of sand and salt on the roads. Sand is stored in our shed and is treated with around 100 lbs. of salt per yard to keep it from freezing.

Sand is not environmentally friendly and has many hidden costs. It clogs roadside ditches, streams, and brooks, and spring cleanup of sand is costly. Therefore, a goal this year was to reduce the amount of sand, and in this we were successful. In the past, we've used 3,000+ yards each winter; this year, we've used less than 1500 yards.



As for salt, some of it is treated and stored with "Magic Minus Zero," a non-toxic, biodegradable blend of magnesium chloride and molasses. This product helps keep down the "bounce and scatter" effect of spreading salt—therefore, more salt stays on the traveling surface of the road, not on the shoulder. It also

lets the salt work at a colder temperature and for a longer amount of time, reducing overall salt use.

I hear you have to replace those plow blades all the time.

I think you're hearing old information. The plow is the most heavily used tool we have in the winter. It is the cheapest way to move snow and ice over into the ditch. We plow, plow, plow, and then when it's over, we plow again for good measure.

Our plows are fixed with carbide cutting edges. The overall cost is more but these plow blades can often last up to a season and a half before they need to be changed—as compared to the early 1990s, when we had to change our edges every *storm and a half!* And we continue to look at improvements. This season, we tried a cutting edge that is mounted in rubber and is designed to better follow the contour of the road—and give a quieter ride. How did it go? The jury is still out; we'll be evaluating the blade's performance in the next couple of months.

How do you prepare for a storm?

We start months in advance. Our best scenario is to have everything in place by mid-October—plows and trucks at the ready; salt, sand, and chemicals stored.

It's hard to predict the effect of storms here in North Yarmouth. Sometimes we experience a coastal effect and sometimes we get "interior" weather—or we could get both. It could rain along our Yarmouth border and be snowing hard on the Gray town line. Snow is relatively easy to deal with, but storms of sleet and freezing rain are the hardest to handle ... and the most expensive for the town. We watch carefully and stay in close communication with the Falmouth Public Safety Communications Center (providing dispatch service to our town since 2010). The dispatcher will let me know if Yarmouth and/or Falmouth's public works departments have been called out, or if the Cumberland County Sheriff or State Police alerts them of storm and road conditions. But I don't wait for them to call me with updates; when I know it's going to snow I'm up checking constantly because I can't sleep anyway!

Once a storm starts, a decision is made to call out our crew, based on the road conditions, time of day, temperature of the air and road surface, and predictions of temperature drop or rise in the upcoming hours. Will school be called in the morning, or will the buses be sent out? We also have to keep budget factors in mind: The cost of our salt-sand mix ... paying overtime ... how many crew to call out to plow? And what do we have available for equipment?

And then Mother Nature will change the rules.

Sometimes our plan works ... sometimes it doesn't, and the comments we receive are: "Why are the roads so bad? North Yarmouth has the worst roads around!" But then the very next comment we hear is "Why are you wasting so much salt and paying out overtime? I try to hit it someplace in the middle. I hope residents understand the challenge that a winter storm brings, and we work very hard to keep ahead of snow buildup, and prepare for the next storm to arrive.

What about road paving?

You really can't call it "paving" anymore. Yes, we will still pave, but mostly we are performing "pavement preservation"—using the right treatment at the right place at the right time. Our long-term strategy is to extend the pavement life of our roads. Preservation ...

- significantly lowers cost over the lifetime of the road.

- consistently improves road conditions as we apply more frequent treatments.
- is quick and decreases delays.

Here are the road treatments we use in North Yarmouth:

Fog seal: A light application of diluted asphalt emulsion and fine grit. This is used to delay oxidation and moisture-related damage.

Single and double chip seals: Asphalt emulsion covered with aggregate chips to make a new wearing surface. This process has worked well in town; it has been used on Town Farm, Milliken, and West Pownal Roads, to name a few.

Asphalt rubber SAM chip seal: Hot-applied, high performance asphalt rubber wearing surface. This process was used on Sligo Road.

Cold-mixed asphalt: We make this product ourselves in our town-owned Cassidy Pit. We use our own sand and locally supplied stone. A pug mill is brought in for the job and the needed quantity is made and stored. This material was used on many small projects last year and was used on Sligo Road Extension and on the Lawrence Road as a shim. It was placed with a paver, then chip-sealed over. It made it through the winter well, with not too much reflective cracking.

Hot-mixed asphalt: This is traditional paving material, and the most expensive. Last year, we applied this mix in a ¾-inch shim coat on Walnut Hill Heights Road, Prince Well Road, Sweetser Road, Smithwood Drive, and Pea Lane. And we applied it in a 1¼ finish in the Meadow Creek area.

What's up for this summer?

The state will be working on **Route 9**, paving over the maintenance shim applied in the fall that filled in the wheel ruts. It will look and feel much better after it's done. The state will also be working on the railroad overpass just north of Toddy Brook. And I have been told they'll be ditching along **North Road**.

We'll be applying an asphalt rubber chip seal at **Doughty Road**. I get the question, "Why do that? The road's fine as it is." Exactly. Doughty is in good shape and doesn't need any shim work. Now is the time to pave as it's just starting to show some distresses.

Parsonage Road will receive a hot mix shim from the Public Works driveway to Route 115, followed by an asphalt rubber chip seal from Route 9 to 115.

Haskell Road will get some shoulder paving because of constant washouts at the pavement's edge. This widening will provide safety for cyclists—and for vehicles, too. The plan is to use cold mix produced by our crew and shim the whole road with ¾-inch shim over the widened shoulders. This will fill in the wheel ruts and make a better ride. We will finish with an asphalt rubber chip seal. Additionally, Haskell Road's culverts are in the process of being rehabilitated by slip lining (inserting a new pipe inside the existing, failing structure; the ring-shaped space between the old and new pipe is then pumped with grout).

Another annual project is hot rubber sealing of the reflexive cracking some roads have experienced over the winter. Sealing helps to keep water out of the base of the road. Think of the road surface like the roof of your house: It should be dry underneath. Good, clean side drainage ditches in combination with a slightly crowned road surface keep water off the road, and crack filling prevents infiltration.

We'll be getting a jump on crack sealing before we start in on our larger projects. So look for us on **Mill, North, Sligo, Mountfort, West Pownal, Town Farm, Miliken, and Long Hill Roads**, among others.

And thank you for your support. We aim to serve our town with pride and respect and keep North Yarmouth at its best—from the ground up!

Changes from Town Meeting

Property Tax Assistance for Seniors

The Annual Town Meeting passed a Property Tax Assistance Ordinance that will reduce the cost of living in North Yarmouth for some residents. To qualify for a \$1,000 credit, a resident must

1. Be 70 years of age or older
2. Have a household income of \$40,000 or less, and
3. Have been a resident for the preceding 10 years

Applications for this property tax credit must be submitted to the Town Manager by June 30th. Residents are encouraged to inform neighbors who might be eligible to access this benefit.

Amendments to Park and Recreation Ordinance

Some “domestic animals” will be restricted in our town parks. The Annual Town Meeting revised the “Use of Parks and Recreation Areas Ordinance” to address an increase of canine activities in our parks.

Dogs (or other domestic animals) must be on a leash if requested by another park user. Additionally Commercial businesses, groups, or organized groups

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Committee continues to make strides in revitalizing North Yarmouth's Comprehensive Plan. Meeting monthly, the group is working with survey information gathered last fall to capture and articulate the citizens' visions for the future of North Yarmouth. Plans are under way to have a public forum in September to update townspeople the progress thus far, to gather any additional thoughts or ideas, and to in-

New Vision Statement

The Town of North Yarmouth recognizes and seeks to maintain its unique character as a still largely rural town that is still in close proximity to urban centers and related services. The town seeks to guide residential growth while attracting appropriate commercial growth and maintaining the appeal of its country character by preserving natural, historical, agricultural, and cultural resources. The town desires to encourage the development of a Village Center, to protect natural resources, preserve the quality of the town's public water supply, and encourage recreational use of the town's extraordinary network of public parks, forests and trails.



Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Polls will be open 7am to 8pm in the gym at the former North Yarmouth Memorial School. Request your absentee ballots online, at the Town Office, during office hours or by telephone at 829-3705. Last day to request an absentee ballot is Thursday, June 8, 2017. Ballots are for the following:

Municipal Officers Ballot

School Budget Referendum Ballot

State Referendum Ballot

Meet Your Town Official

Ryan Keith: Interpreting the Code

Each day, the Town of North Yarmouth's Code Enforcement Officer receives numerous phone calls. It may be surprising to note that more than half of callers are from realtors—according to Ryan Keith, who has been in that role for over two years. Realtors have questions about zoning, building permits, and other issues on behalf of their clients.

The rest of the callers include contractors and homeowners with inquiries on topics such as remodeling, pools, fences, farm animals, driveways, and property lines. North Yarmouth is a growing community with more than 20 new houses and 200 building permits each year.

Calls are just one aspect of the business, as Keith mostly works out in the field to perform inspections or to answer or investigate questions.

“There is an intent behind the rules. I explain that to people and let them know why they can or can't do something,” Keith said. “I explain the history, share my research, and shed light on the reason for it. Everything has a reason.” He cited as examples protecting aquifers or the Royal River for future generations.

Keith has a background tailor-made for this job. He grew up in North Yarmouth, obtained a degree in construction management at SMCC, worked for many years as a building contractor and also as the Town of Gray's code enforcement officer, so his knowledge is vast. And, of course, being a native son of North Yarmouth is a big advantage to knowing his way around the area. Today Keith lives in Durham with his girlfriend and their two children, in an energy-efficient home that he designed and built.

Keith encourages calls, emails, and questions at the planning stage of a project. He noted that the local, state, and national codes are what he works with, but there are circumstances when rules may be amended.



“Any rule changes start at my desk, then go on to a committee,” Keith noted while adding that zoning is constantly changing.

Keith is an impassioned advocate for energy-efficient construction and appliances and new technologies for heating and cooling. Heat pumps, heat pump dryers, and induction ovens are examples.

When people are looking to build a new home, they have many questions and concerns about state or local energy-efficient zoning rules. Keith explains his role with the town this way: “We want people to know that we have someone behind the scenes to look out for your best interests.” He noted there are many Efficiency Maine rebates in place to help with the purchase of energy efficient appliances.

He is particularly enthusiastic about the net-zero energy efficient design elements that are being incorporated into the Wescustago Hall Project, such as solar panels.

Ryan Keith is always available to speak to residents, realtors, and even local civic groups about his work. Send an email to codeoffice@northyarmouth.org, or give him a call at 207-829-3705, ext. 206. When he is not at work, you may find him snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, camping, or at his family's camp on Moosehead Lake in Greenville.

North Yarmouth Flag Committee

Ten years ago this past January the North Yarmouth Flag Program was born. Although it is now operated as a Town Committee, it has continued to be funded and supported by private donations and volunteers.

The mission is to purchase and maintain American flags flying over North Yarmouth's village area. The program started with the raising of 48 American flags along Routes 9 and 115. Today, as we mark the 10-year anniversary, there are 85 families represented on the honor roll sponsoring nearly 110 flags. The number of sponsors continues to increase annually. In addition to flying American flags, the Committee also funded the purchase of the service flags flying at the North Yarmouth Veterans Memorial Park.

In spite of its success, it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to raise and lower the flags. The terrain in North Yarmouth is different in that our flags are not arranged in a nice neat row. Troop leaders and parents of our local Boy Scouts are hesitant to involve them in the actual raising and lowering of the flags. Under the guidance of Ken Filliter, we are currently seeking other volunteers to help. If you know of a group or individual who would be willing to give a half day of time, please have them write Ken for more information. His email address is kenfil@maine.rr.com. Our goal is to have the flags flying on Memorial Day.

Our sponsors received their renewal invoices in May, but new sponsors are welcome to join at any time. May and June are the best months to ensure that your name and that of your honoree are included on the 2017 Honor Roll. The fee to join the program is \$50 with an annual renewal fee of \$20. Application forms are available online at <https://goo.gl/zU7Szl>. The honor roll is posted at the Town Office, in the display case at NY Memorial School, and at the Fire Barn. You can also view the honor roll on our web pages at <https://goo.gl/KeCCK7>.

The program is dedicated to beautifying North Yarmouth while honoring the American flag that symbolizes our country's principals of liberty, justice and humanity.

Members of the committee are:

Darla Hamlin (darla@maine.rr.com)

Alex Currie (macroline@hotmail.com)

Ken Filliter (kenfil@maine.rr.com)

Stephen Friedrich (horsecrazy215@yahoo.com)

Stacy Holden (sholden1@maine.rr.com)



Veterans Memorial Park Corporation

The North Yarmouth Veterans Memorial Park (NYVMP) is a nonprofit corporation that was established in 1949. The NYVMP is operated completely by volunteers and members, and we are dedicated to honoring the original Mission Statement established in 1949. We hold regular meetings and plan events located at the Park.

In the past several years we have completed many changes and improvements: added temporary flag poles and military service flags, installed a permanent parking lot, built a new trail that connects from the Memorial Stone to the existing North Yarmouth Memorial Park trail, and added trail signs at the trail heads and parking area.

In the coming year we are planning to install permanent flag poles, hold small ceremonies and events on Memorial Day and Veterans day, and continue ongoing efforts to improve sight throughout the park by cleaning up and removing small brush.

As a part of our ongoing plans for improvement, we invite others to consider becoming members of the NYVMP and help us with planning and completing these tasks.

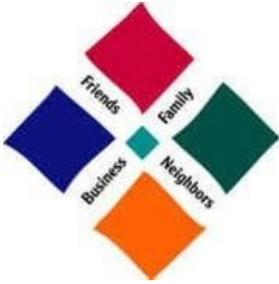
Membership to the NYVMP is open to anyone who is a United States citizen and resident or landowner in the Town of North Yarmouth and to any veteran who is a current or former resident or with family by lawful adoption, blood, or marriage living in the Town of North Yarmouth. All individual members must pay annual dues, submit an application for membership, and agree to adhere to the purpose of the corporation. No member may be a convicted felon.

Spirit of America Foundation *Honoring Volunteerism*

The Spirit of America Foundation is a public charity established in 1987 to encourage volunteerism. Many towns and cities in the state of Maine present this distinguished award to a volunteer or group of volunteers for their outstanding community support.

The first Spirit of America Foundation award for the Town of North Yarmouth was presented at the Annual Town Meeting on April 8, 2017, to the *Wescustogo Building & Design Committee* for its role in the research and design of the new Wescustogo Hall and North Yarmouth Community Center. Members are Brian Sites, Chair; Darla Hamlin, Vice Chair; Jennifer Smith, Secretary; Steve Barr; Clark Baston; Steve Friedrich; Paul Hodgetts; and Rod Duckworth, Alt. Congratulations to all!

From the Events Committee



The 2017 Events Committee is very busy planning this year's North Yarmouth Fun Day, to be held on **Saturday, September 16th**. Our theme this year is "Living Well North Yarmouth!", which was inspired by the new town committee of the same name. Here are some of the ways that you can help make Fun Day 2017 successful:

- Nominate someone to be our Distinguished Citizen of the Year!
- Enter the 2017 Fun Day T-shirt Design Contest!
- Be an Events Committee sponsor!
- Buy an ad in the Fun Day book!
- Join the Events Committee!
- Volunteer to help out at Fun Day!
- Rent a table/booth to sell your wares or promote a cause!
- Sign up to run the Skyline 5k on Fun Day morning!
- Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 16 and meet us at the Village Green!

FMI on all of these things, visit NorthYarmouthEvents.org. Please also give our Facebook page (facebook.com/northyarmouthevents) a Like to stay informed about what's going on in our wonderful town!

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



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