



Moultonborough Town News

Fall 2009

MOULTONBOROUGH ON THE WEB - HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED?

Have you wondered how to best follow Town government? Do you have a specific project you are interested in? Are you looking for work? Have you wondered if there is an easier way to do this than constantly checking the site for new posted information?

As we approach the one year anniversary of our new web site, we wanted to share some exciting statistics and how you can have much of what you are interested in delivered right into your email box.

At www.moultonboroughnh.gov you will find a greatly expanded web presence launched in January of 2009. In its first nine months we have had 36,310 total sessions by 14,319 Users. These users have browsed through 152,628 pages (hits) in total for an average of 16,958 per month or almost 560 hits per day.

While we do not have statistics on our old web site to compare this with; we have received a large number of positive comments about the vast amount of information people can access on-line. Not sure where to look, type

in a word in our search feature. Not sure when a subject may have been on the SelectBoard agenda, again, type the word into our search feature.

Our new provider, Virtual Town Hall of Maynard, MA was chosen for its ease of use by the staff and, in particular, a feature called "Subscribe to Updates." This feature is found in the menu boxes at the lower left of the home page. Clicking on this brings you to a page where you can subscribe to receive much of our regularly updated information such as SelectBoard and Planning agendas and minutes. You can also subscribe to information updates on Major Projects such as our efforts to improve safety along the Route 25 Corridor. After you subscribe you will receive an email that you must respond to. Please be sure to do this as your subscription does not take effect until you do so.

As always, we welcome suggestions on items of interest to add, photographs for our community album, and alerts that a page is not working or linked properly. Please send those notes along to akepple@moultonboroughnh.gov.



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PROPERTY VALUES? By Brownie J. Jones, Town Assessor

At the time of this writing, the informal meetings between Vision representatives and concerned property owners to discuss their 2009 updated values are complete, and the necessary changes have been made. We are busy making the final checks and updates before turning the records over to the Tax Collector. Moultonborough's property values continue to defy trends and hold up well. We don't have the final tally yet, but it appears the total assessed value will be less than 1% lower than last year.

If you think your property assessment is incorrect in any way, it is important for you to know that the informal meetings are not a part of the appeal process. The normal abatement and appeal process is still available to all property owners. This involves filing an abatement application, after receiving the fall tax bill, but before March 1, 2010, requesting that the Selectmen reconsider the assessment. The abatement forms are available on our website (www.moultonboroughnh.gov) or from the Administration office at Town Hall. If it is found that the application has merit, an abatement of taxes will be issued. If a property owner is not satisfied with the decision of the Selectmen, he/she may appeal to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals or the Superior Court prior to September 1, 2010. You may find the form to suppress your on-line property data on our webpage.

The Assessing Department is here to help you any way we can. Our goal is to serve you well. We are ready to answer questions, address your concerns and consider your recommendations. Just give us a call or stop by the office with any questions or concerns.

This is my last report to you as I recently retired. It has been a real pleasure serving you, and I leave you with this old Irish blessing:



May you always have work for your hands to do.

May your pockets hold always a coin or two.

May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.

May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.



MOULTONBOROUGH VISITING NURSE SERVICES

As we approach the winter months these are some basic reminders to help prevent the spread of disease and illness:

- Use a tissue when coughing or sneezing or sneeze into your elbow.
- Wash hands often, especially when handling food, and after coughing, sneezing or using the bathroom.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Need to Contact Us: Phone: (603) 476-2347 Fax: (603) 476-5835

www.moultonboroughnh.gov



NEW TOWN PLANNER

Moultonborough's new Town Planner, Dan Merhalski, began work on July 15th, 2009. Here is an introduction to who he is, in his own words: "I was born in Iron Mountain, Michigan but grew up in the High Country of Colorado. Living in small, resort communities like Steamboat Springs and Fort Collins, I enjoyed the benefits of an area rich in recreational opportunities and natural beauty. Hiking through the Rocky Mountains, cross country skiing and fly-fishing with my dad gave me a love of the great outdoors that I have taken with me.

Graduating from Rocky Mountain High School, I went to school in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, double-majoring in Political Science and History from Northern Michigan University. I continued into their graduate program and received my Masters in Public Administration prior to interning with the City of Marquette. After graduation, I worked as the Town Planner in Negaunee, MI, a small mining town near Lake Superior.

After high school my family moved to their different locations across the country for school and to begin new careers. After the birth of my nephew though, we realized that being 1,000 miles apart wasn't the way we wanted our extended family to be, and we began relocating to New Hampshire where my brother and his wife had lived for many years. I joined them here in 2004 and began working for the City of Salem, Massachusetts as their Staff Planner. I also began my second graduate program at Salem State College in History, my other great passion, which I recently completed.

While living in the "Witch City" was a treat around Halloween, it was a bit too urban for my taste, and I was still two hours away from family. Looking for a place to work closer to them, I took the position of Director of Planning and Community Development for the Town of Farmington, NH. After moving to Moultonborough earlier this year, I heard about the Town's creation of its first Town Planner position. Having fallen in love with Lake Winnepesaukee and being closer to the White Mountains, I jumped at the chance to work in this incredible community.

I look forward to the challenges that this newly created position offers, and to seeing the effects of the work of the Land Use boards and committees in my newly-adopted home." Mr. Merhalski can be reached at 603-476-2347, via e-mail at dmerhalski@moultonboroughnh.gov or by stopping by the Planning offices in Town Hall.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS JOIN FORCES

As you visit the Transfer Station or the Highway Shed you will see a new "Town" department insignia on their uniforms or vehicles, "Town of Moultonborough Public Works." The Highway Department, Buildings and Grounds Department and the Transfer Station/ Waste Management Department have joined forces under the same name of Public Works. This collaborative working team has begun by sharing of equipment, manpower and resources. This team approach between the departments has gained greater efficiency of staff and equipment. This relation had begun under the leadership of retired Road Agent Wayne Richardson, and is being capitalized on now by newly elected Highway/Road Agent Scott Kinmond.

The first fruits of this effort were shown when Agent Kinmond unveiled this summer a plan whereas the Town Public Works Department had collaborated with the school district to share maintenance equipment, and make purchases which would enhance equipment owned by both the school district and Public Works Departments and used to maintain our communities facilities, parks and cemeteries. The Town also avoided the need to replace a \$125,000 loader. All this is made possible by both a 1974 (Article 23) and 2009 (Article 11) Town Meeting vote to place these functions under the direction of the Highway Agent. We will report to you again as this exciting venture unfolds.



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN

As we prepare for winter, the Public Works-Highway Division is preparing to begin a wider spread use of "magic Salt" versus straight salt application to our paved roadways. We will establish application routes within the community in the effort to reduce straight salt applications by 30-40% and also reduce sand/salt applications to paved surfaces, which will reduce aggregate being introduced into the water sheds and spring clean up costs. We will also be conducting some pre-storm treatments of roadways, to allow for clearer surfaces with hopes of reducing employee's plow trips and ultimately reducing operating costs. We hope with these changes we can help reduce chlorides and silt impacts to our environment and water shed.



"SUMMERTIME AND THE READING IS EASY" By Judi Knowles, Children's Librarian

"Summertime and the Reading is Easy" was the theme for the annual statewide 2009 reading program. Local artist, Karel Hayes, who painted the mural in our children's room, was this year's official artist for all the publications used by over one hundred participating libraries throughout the state.

Some 225 children took part in the library program this past summer. Not only did they read hundreds of books and win cool prizes, but they got to ride on the 4th of July Library float, pet exotic animals from Wildlife Encounters Zoo, laugh at Andre Pinard's magic and sing along with Steve Blunt. They painted rocks, learned fishing techniques from Will Powers of N.H. Fish & Game, decorated seashells, picked blueberries, constructed Fairy Houses at the Loon Center, and played Quid ditch and ate cauldron cakes at the Harry Potter Birthday Party. We are grateful to the 25 Junior Volunteers who gave 170 hours of their time and to all the generous businesses who donated ice cream, passes and other prizes. Many thanks go to the Friends of the Library who sponsor this worthwhile program every year.



CHIEF OF POLICE

Moultonborough has a new Chief of Police, Tom Dawson, who assumed his position on September 17, 2009. Here is an introduction to who he is, in his own words: "I was born in Los Angeles, California and moved to NH when I was 2 years old. Growing up in New Hampshire, I have enjoyed skiing, swimming, biking, hiking, and a variety of other recreational pursuits indigenous to our beautiful state. I played sports throughout high school and graduated from Inter-Lakes High School, in Meredith.

After high school, I went on to earn an Associates of Applied Science degree in Accounting from the New Hampshire Technical College. While there, I captained the baseball team to a Northern New England Small College Conference championship. I moved to Seattle, Washington after college and began working on skyscrapers in downtown Seattle in the field of concrete construction, which was the family business back home. After 2 years in the emerald city, I was summoned to Arizona by an uncle who was swamped with work in a booming concrete construction company in Prescott Valley, Arizona. I spent 3 wonderful years in Arizona and enjoyed my time building up a successful company with my uncle and family. As nephews and nieces began entering the world back east, we decided to take the 3,000 mile journey back home to New Hampshire to be closer to family. Once home, I decided to go after my dream of becoming a police officer and earned a spot on the roster of the Moultonborough Police Department as a part-time officer in 1996.

In 1998, I earned my full-time certification by completing the basic police training academy at New Hampshire Police Standards & Training, in Concord. In 2000, I departed Moultonborough PD for another department in neighboring Meredith, NH. Nearly 3 years later, I returned to Moultonborough PD and worked my way up through the ranks to the position of Lieutenant. As the Lieutenant, I was the department's Executive Officer, directly supervising the Investigative Bureau, the School Resource Officer and the first-line Supervisors.

I reside in Moultonborough with my wife and two children. My hobbies include competing in triathlons where I have been a four-time Ironman finisher. I have some big shoes to fill as I succeed departing Chief and mentor Scott Kinmond, but I am certainly up for the challenge. I look forward to providing the community with a full array of excellent law enforcement services and to leading a fine group of men and women. As an ardent proponent of community policing, I am also looking forward to working with the town's elected officials, its citizenry, its department heads and its school officials." Chief Dawson can be reached at 603-476-2400 or via email at tdawson@moultonboroughnh.gov.

LIBRARY NEWS by Nancy McCue, Library Director

The library had another very busy summer. In just three months (June, July and August) over 30,000 items were circulated. On a rainy Monday in June we set a new one-day circulation record when 1,042 materials were checked out. We had 399 new patrons register to use the library, bringing our total number of patrons up to 4769. Our public computers were in use constantly, with 4022 recorded uses.

Thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club of Meredith we added 2 new computers to our Children's area in June. Rotary Club Member Ted Fodero (with able assistance from fellow member Rick Ippolito) custom built a lovely wooden desk for all four of our children's computers. We now have a total of fourteen high-speed internet access computers available for the public to use while the library is open. Our wireless network is available 24/7.

The library again offered several free computer classes this summer with local college student Kyle Libby of Libby Studios. Dozens of patrons signed up for the different series of classes. All his students raved about what an excellent teacher he is, so we hope to have Kyle return next summer. Other programs proved to be very popular too, including a historical magician impersonator; lectures on American quilts, our current financial crisis, and WWII music; a show with live owls, and a presentation on local historical landmarks by our own Cristina Ashjian.

We are planning all kinds of programs in the next few months, from film series to book discussions to lectures to story times. Check out all the library has to offer at our website www.moultonboroughlibrary.org.



SCHOLARSHIPS TO CAMP TECUMSEH

Did you know that there are opportunities for full scholarships for Moultonborough youths? Camp Tecumseh offers need-based scholarships each summer to deserving youngsters from the Moultonborough area. Several boys in recent years have taken advantage of all the wonderful activities Tecumseh has to offer a young man between the ages of 8-16.

Camp Tecumseh was founded in 1903 by three Olympians from the University of Pennsylvania: Alexander Grant, George W. Orton and Josiah McCracken. They believed that working on a farm, learning the skills of various sports, singing on stage and climbing mountains were a healthy experience that would "Make good boys better." 106 years later we are still here on 300 acres of woods, cabins and athletic fields on Moultonborough Neck Road and Lake Winnepesaukee on what was the Poor Farm and the Zachary T. Hollingsworth Farm in the early 1920's. The Moultonborough Library has a history of Camp Tecumseh in its collection. The 2010 season will begin in late June and end in early August. There are half-summer and full summer sessions available. The dates are on the Camp website.

For more information on the Camp, how to apply and financial assistance, go to the website at www.camp Tecumseh.net or call Jim Talbot, Director at 610-275-6634.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE All Town Facilities are closed on:

- Veteran's Day - November 11, 2009
- Thanksgiving Day - November 26, 2009
- Day After Thanksgiving - November 27, 2009 *
- Christmas Day - December 25, 2009

* Except for the Transfer Station





RECREATION NEWS

The Moultonborough Recreation Department continues to work hard to accomplish our mission: To provide high quality programs and facilities that offer a range of healthy recreational and leisure activities to community members of all ages.

As of this writing we are firming up and scheduling our late fall and winter activities so our dates are not definite yet, but will be by the time this is received. All information can be accessed through our website at www.moultonboroughrec.com

The deadline for youth basketball for children in grades K-6 is Thursday, November 19th. "Nutty November" will be scheduled during that week, which is a youth basketball kick-off night for players and their families. The youth basketball program will begin with clinics in November and December with games beginning in early January.

The Senior Social meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Community Center, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and, in conjunction with the Community Services Team, guest speakers and special presentations are offered on a monthly basis. On the other weeks, we have time to enjoy pastries and coffee, good conversation, meet new friends or even try Wii bowling. Gentle Yoga is offered Wednesday mornings at 10:00a.m. and Tuesday afternoons. Jazzercise meets two evenings a week

Monday and Wednesdays from 5:15-6:45p.m. The Recreation Dept. has also been offering Senior Sit and Stretch on Wednesday mornings in conjunction with the Meals Program.

The Community Center is open for after school "drop in" program for students in grades 5 and up. This program meets Monday – Thursday from after school until 5:30p.m.

Our annual trip to the Boston Pops is scheduled for Sunday December 13th. We are also hoping to offer the Yankee Candle trip again in November.

The Family Winter Solstice Celebration is in the works again and is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 21st at the ice rink – bring in winter with a bonfire and skating if conditions permit.

Kidzercise meets on Thursday mornings from 10:30-11:30a.m.



Other upcoming events, activities and programs include "Winter Days" held in conjunction with the Moultonborough Central School, beginning in early January. We have scheduled a teen overnight ski trip to Stowe, VT for March.

This is a sample of, but not all that is happening in the Moultonborough Recreation Dept. this fall and winter. You may see the website for continually updated information.

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The easiest fire for your Fire Department to handle is the fire that never happens. Here are some helpful fall and winter Fire Safety Tips.



The Yard

- Clear leaves and brush away from house, 30 feet minimum of defensible space is recommended.
- Remove leaves and pine needles from roofs.
- Check for dead trees or limbs over hanging power lines to house and have them removed.
- Burning of brush and leaves requires a permit; permits can be obtained at the Public Safety Building, for more information see the following link: <http://www.moultonboroughfirerescue.com/homefiles/FAQ.htm>

The Home

- Service oil and propane heating systems.
- Fireplaces and Woodstoves: Burn only seasoned wood, have chimney cleaned and inspected each year prior to use, open flue before starting fire, use spark screens, keep combustible materials (wood, newspapers, clothing etc.) away from unit.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, change batteries if you already have detectors. Never use gas grills or generators inside the house or garage, generator should be at least 10 feet from the building.
- Keep access and egress paths to house shoveled and sanded.
- Never run your car in the garage to warm it up, pull vehicle outside and close garage door.
- Make sure your home or business is properly numbered, we can't help you if we can't find you. For more info please see <http://www.moultonboroughnh.gov/Pages/MoultonboroughNHAdmin/ordinances/buildnumbering.pdf>
- Portable space heaters use only UL or ETL list appliances, leave 3 feet of clearance around heater, use only when in the room, never leave unattended or with children in the room, never use to dry clothing or blankets.
- Be prepared if the power goes out, stock up on batteries, flashlights, portable radios, canned foods, manual can openers, bottled water and blankets. Be prepared to leave if you need to, keep a "go bag" ready with essential items you will need if you have to leave your home.
- Use flashlights instead of candles to avoid fire hazards.
- If you have no heat and the temperature is below freezing and your home has no heat, run water at a trickle to help prevent pipes from freezing and breaking.

