

TOWN OF THOMASTON MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 299, Thomaston, ME 04861

(207) 354-6107

Web Address: <http://www.town.thomaston.me.us>

Volume 23, Issue 1

January 2018



Happy
Newyear



THE GENERAL HENRY KNOX MUSEUM

The Town has received notice of a potential closing of the General Henry Knox Museum. The opening sentence of the letter reads: "I write to you today to inform of a dire situation concerning General Henry Knox Museum. The museum will be forced to close unless \$150,000 can be raised by January 15, 2018." Furthermore, a review of the quit claim deed provided by The Friends of Montpelier, in October of 1999 reads:

NOTWITHSTANDING THE FORGOING, however the Grantor gives this deed and the Grantee accepts this deed with the express condition, which condition is an integral part of the consideration to Grantor, that if Grantee fails to comply with the terms, conditions, provisions and restrictions affecting the use and maintenance as set forth in schedule B; or in the event Grantee fails to maintain the premises in a manner consistent with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, then the Grantor may give written notice to the Grantee, and if the Grantee fails to comply within (30) days, then title to the Property shall revert to the State of Maine."

"GRANTOR AND GRANTEE INTEND, that such reversion, if it occurs, shall be automatic upon the recording of a notice of the reversion in the Knox County Registry of Deeds and shall require no further deeds or other documentation in order to be effective.

Therefore on short notice, the community's concern is that the mere act of the Friends of Montpelier voting affirmatively, to close the General Henry Knox Museum on Jan. 15th 2018, has the potential to revert the property, as it represents a permanent abandonment of the intended use of the facility and collection. The Grantor would only need to file the 30 day reversion notice.

Budgetary decisions need to be made, the Budget was approximately \$ 100,000 in 2004; a recent news article lists expenses at \$ 406,000. To lose such a historic treasure to the winds of time is a travesty of enormous proportions. General Henry Knox was not only instrumental in founding our country; he was instrumental in establishing the lime industry that made the area what it is today. Knox provided for the business and housing stock the area utilizes to this very day.

The community and the Friends of Montpelier need to take a breath of AIR, and consider the impact of such a decision. The Friends expended 20 years of effort to procure the title and once eradicated by such a vote, it could take an Act of the Legislature to retrieve the title. Hopefully a seasonal closing for the interim, may allow for adjustments to be made concerning financial matters.



Remember When! Thomaston Rt. 1 East of Toll Bridge Rd.

TIPS FOR BAD WEATHER DRIVING

- Check your vehicle owner's manual for braking instructions on slick surfaces.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Maintain your car: check battery, tire tread and air pressure, wiper fluid and antifreeze level.
- After checking your fluids, lights and tire pressure, address potential repairs sooner rather than later.
- If you decide not to put snow tires on your car, take a close look at the tread of your all-weather tires to ensure they're still in good condition.
- Have emergency equipment (jumper cables, shovel, ice scraper, blankets, sand) in the car.
- **A bag of sand** at the back of your vehicle not only adds weight to your car (improving traction) but can be spread to help you get traction if you get stuck in a bad position.
- Check your spare tire, jack and lug wrench before cold storms arrive.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- Drive with care on winter roads while watching for children
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt **every time** you get into your vehicle.
- If new to winter driving, practice driving on icy or snowy surfaces in an empty lot (slowly).
- For longer trips, take food and water, medication and a fully charged cell phone.
- **I'm stuck and there is no sign of help!** If it's safe, and you've got a shovel in your car (as you should), try to shovel yourself free, using sand stored in your vehicle for traction. No sense resigning yourself to being stuck until you at least attempt to get yourself free. Turn your hazards on, and do whatever else you can to make your vehicle noticeable. A visible car will keep people from crashing into you, and let rescue workers know where you are, however, not a good idea to blare your high beams.
- If the heater will run, clear the exhaust pipe; run the engine just enough to stay warm to conserve gas.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

The holidays are behind us and we are settling into the winter season. We wish you all a safe and Happy New Year and are offering a friendly reminder to check smoke detectors, wood-burning stoves and chimneys. Residents waiting for mail or packages who haven't shoveled out their mailboxes or sidewalks could be waiting for awhile, as postal carriers must have clear and safe access to make deliveries. If you are considering replacing your mailbox or post in the future, keep in mind that the best height for your mailbox is between 45 and 48 inches from the ground, and should be off the road enough that the carrier can access it and a plow will not hit it. Please make sure your child's outdoor toys and basketball hoops are removed from the roadways as well.

CHECK YOUR TANK ~ PREVENT A LEAK

Spilled heating oil can pollute your drinking water and the air in your home. Check your home heating oil tank to prevent leaks. I have a spill or leak! What should I do? First, call DEP's 24-hour spill reporting hotline: (800) 482-0777. Help is available to all owners of aboveground oil storage tanks with spills or leaks that affect the environment through the [Ground and Surface Waters Clean-Up and Response Fund](#).



HOME SAFETY TIPS

- Do not leave lit candles unattended in your home. Be prepared. Have a week's worth of food, drinking water, medicine and prescription drugs, pet food, and safety supplies on hand to feel prepared for an unexpected storm.
- Stay indoors during a storm, if possible.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow, taking mini breaks; it's a serious workout!
- Stay dry. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits the cold rapidly.
- Keep your sidewalks and driveway clear of snow each day. If you are unable to remove it, contact a willing neighbor or a snow removal business to do it for you.
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy walkways.
- For those going away this winter, snow left on the driveway and sidewalk for a period of time can be a dead giveaway that you aren't home, so arrange for it to be cleared every day.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Control and protection of animals is a shared responsibility among citizens, the town and state. The Animal Control Officer is responsible for enforcing municipal and State ordinances relating to the regulation and control of dogs and other domesticated animals and in some cases wildlife. Complaints regarding loose or stray domestic animals, animal neglect, or animal cruelty should be directed to the Animal Control Officer at dispatch 542-3057. To report a lost pet, or to find out if your pet has been found, contact the [Knox County Humane Society](#). To contact the Game Warden for problems with live game, telephone 207-624-7076.

Co-operative Transfer Station Hours of Operation



Location: The Owls Head, South Thomaston and Thomaston Solid Waste Cooperative operates a solid waste and recycling transfer station at 34 Buttermilk Drive which is the first road to East of the Dragon Cement Plant off Rt. 1 and near the Rockland Thomaston Town Line.

Hours of Operation: The facility is open from 8 AM till 4 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. In winter it may close during storms. Please call 594-0748 to find out if it is open. Please let the phone ring on regular open days as the crew may be outside helping users.

Cost of Stickers: A blue and Black transfer station sticker is needed in order to transfer your trash, and other items listed below. They are available at your town office for \$15. They have been available for a year now and will expire 12-31-2018. Please have your sticker visible when you enter the transfer station.

Thomaston Stump Dump ~ Located on Erin Street in Thomaston. Hours of operation: Wednesday and Saturday 7:30 to 3:30 PM. This Dump is for use by Thomaston Residents only who have a current dump sticker. Any use by contractors doing work for Thomaston Residents must get prior authorization before dumping. For a complete list of items allowed and fees, contact the Public Works Department at 354-2478 or stop in to the Town Office.

TOWN OFFICE LICENSING & REGISTRATION



- ✚ Hunting & fishing licenses
- ✚ Boat/ATV/snowmobile registrations
- ✚ Dog licenses \$6 spayed/neutered ~ \$11 intact dogs. The state of Maine requires a \$25 late fee per dog be applied if renewed after January 31st. Don't forget your pet's rabies vaccination certificate.
- ✚ Marriage, birth and death certificates.
- ✚ Voting registration.
- ✚ Vehicles, boat, trailer re-registrations and RV registrations (Excise tax Town Office - all **new** plates at BMV only).



TOWN OF THOMASTON
 PO BOX 299
 THOMASTON ME 04861-0299



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOURS 8-5	HOURS 8-5	HOURS 8-5	HOURS 8-5	HOURS 8-2
1	2	3	4	5
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR	Ambulance Dept. Meeting 7:00 PM Fire Sta			
8	9	10	11	12
Select Board 7:00 PM Watts Hall				
15	16	17	18	19
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Planning Board 6:00 PM Watts Hall		Solid Waste Committee 7:00 PM Owls Head	
22	23	24	25	26
Select Board 7:00 PM Watts Hall	Board of Assessors 5:00 PM Knox St Conference			
29	30	31	1-Feb	2-Feb

ALL MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY BE CANCELLED IF THERE IS NO BUSINESS
 For up to date notification of meeting schedules and agendas sign up to receive the newsletter by email