



Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

Regular Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 19th, 2016
6:30 p.m.
Town Council Chambers

A full listing of upcoming Town meetings and agendas is available on the Town's website at: www.freeportmaine.com

Town Manager's Report
January 5, 2016

Homestead Exemption Changes From 2015

Legislative Session: Current law provides for a homestead exemption for primary residences in the amount of \$10,000 worth of valuation. Currently, the State reimburses municipalities at a rate of 50% of the lost revenue. Beginning in 2016, the homestead exemption will increase to \$15,000 with the State reimbursement continuing at 50%. In 2017, the homestead exemption will increase further to \$20,000 with the State reimbursement rate of 50% on the first \$10,000 and 75% on the second \$10,000. This will of course have the effect statewide of shifting a small amount of the property tax burden from homesteads to all other forms of property (commercial, industrial, rentals, second homes, investment property, etc.). Residents who are interested in learning more should contact the Assessing Department at 865-4743 x0.

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L.L. Bean/Downeast Energy Donation completed:

The final numbers are in, and the Downeast Energy/L.L. Bean oil donation has resulted in the delivery of a total of 11,052 gallons to families in Freeport and Yarmouth. The oil came from surplus generated when L.L.Bean switched one of its facilities to natural gas. The deliveries were coordinated by General Assistance Administrator Johanna Hanselman. Oil was delivered to 67 different homes, with ten of them receiving a second delivery in late December. Thank you everyone at Downeast Energy and L.L. Bean who made this wonderful gift happen. You have all helped to make a lot of lives a bit warmer and easier this year.

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Browntail Moth Update: The Maine Forest Service has surveyed for Browntail Moth (BTM) for decades. Maine has been fortunate in that the numbers have been relatively low in most areas for the past decade, providing relief for people and trees. Last year saw an increase in BTM population in Freeport and other

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Looking for new ways to save on energy and heating costs?

After hearing interest from Town residents, Town Planner Donna Larson is currently investigating the feasibility of a second bulk purchasing program, modeled on last year's highly successful "Solarize Freeport" program, for purchases of insulation and alternative heating systems such as heat pumps and pellet boilers. Interest from the community is currently being gauged, to see whether such a program would be feasible. Please contact Donna at dlarson@freeportmaine.com or 865-4743 x103 if you are interested in learning more.



And, if you missed the first round of bulk purchase rates for the installation of a solar system, it's not too late! For information on *Round Two*, go to www.solarizefreeport.com and register to get a quote.

Search & Rescue Dogs
Wednesday, January 13th
at 6:00 p.m.

Freeport Community Library



If you were lost in the woods, these amazing dogs just might be the ones that find you. How do they do it? Come meet one of these dogs in person on this special night at the Library and find out! Ages five and up.

FMI: www.freeportlibrary.com



TOWN OF FREEPORT - MUNICIPAL BULLETIN



Winter Reminders

- Freeport residents are allowed **two (2) 5-gallon buckets of sand per storm**. Sand is located adjacent to the silver recycling bullet
- No parking is allowed on public streets nor in turnarounds during winter storm events – please keep streets and turnarounds clear of vehicles (including trailers, campers, etc.) during a storm. The **winter parking ban is in effect** from 11:00pm-7:00am, and will continue until April 15.
- For residents who park vehicles in driveways, **please keep sidewalks clear** so sidewalk machines are not restricted in doing their job.
- **Please do not push snow into sidewalks or public streets** as this is not only against Maine state law, it is also costly and time-consuming for the Public Works Department to send vehicles and manpower out to go back to clean up a street or sidewalk.
- The holidays are a time where the **“Silver Bullet” recycling containers** see a high amount of use. Extra pickups are scheduled throughout the holidays to attempt to keep overflow situations to a minimum. Even with the extra pickups, sometimes container capacity cannot keep up with demand. We ask that if you encounter a full container, that you please not leave recyclables on the ground around the container. Recyclables left outside are considered illegal dumping, and are frequently blown onto neighboring property, contributing to roadside litter. Please help us keep the silver bullet sites and neighboring properties clean by not leaving recyclables outside the containers!



For any residents who have questions or concerns, please contact the Public Works Department at 865-4461 or the Recycling Facility at 865-3740. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Reminder to Dog Owners!

2016 Dog Licenses Due

Dogs six months and older are required to be licensed by law. You may register at the Freeport Town Hall or online at: www.doglicensing.com. Avoid a \$25 late fee by registering by January 31st.

Rabies Clinic: Saturday, January 23, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Freeport Town Hall. **Dogs and Cats** are invited! Rabies Vaccine \$15.00 per animal. Freeport Residents may also license their dogs during the clinic.

Questions? Please call the Town Clerk’s Office at 865-4743, ext. 122 or 123.

Town Manager’s Report

January 5, 2016

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Coastal areas, and a dramatic increase in the BTM population is predicted by the Maine Forest Service for 2016 as well. Due to this projected increase, property owners, especially in coastal areas, should survey their land this winter to help determine if they need to take action against Browntail Moth infestation. Residents will be receiving a flyer in the mail later this month which will provide information on the Browntail Moth caterpillar, precautions residents should take to protect themselves, and a link to the Maine Forest Service Browntail Moth website with more information, including a list of Licensed Pesticide Applicators for landowners.



*Overwintering BTM webs
Maine Forest Service Photo*

Winslow Memorial Park

Please remember that pets are allowed in Winslow Park but must be under control at all times and cannot be left unattended. If you cannot control your dog to ensure that it does not jump on or in any way bother other people or dogs using the Park, then you must keep your dog leashed. There shall be no pets on the beach or in the vicinity of the playground at any time.

Also, as a reminder to walkers, please be aware that the main road in the Park is utilized by residents, their visitors and service providers for vehicle use and should be considered as any other road where there is light vehicle traffic.

AARP - Free Tax Preparation Assistance Wednesday Mornings Beginning in February Freeport Community Center

Assistance is for low-moderate income households, with special attention to those 60 years and older.

- For an appointment call 865-4743 x100 and leave a message. **Beginning January 21st**, calls will be returned by FCS volunteers once a week on Thursday mornings.