



December 3, 2019 - *News for You*



TOWN OF FREEPORT

MUNICIPAL BULLETIN

Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

December 17, 2019
Regular Town Council Meeting
6:30 PM
Town Council Chambers

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

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

*A safety message from
Fire Chief Charlie Jordan*

As temperatures fall, the number of fires begin to rise. According to NFPA statistics, about half of the nation's home structure fires – and more than half of the home fire deaths – occur in the five-month span between November and March.

Cooking is the top cause of winter home fires. According to NFPA statistics, four of the five peak days each year associated with cooking fires coincide with winter-season holidays. Research says that the majority of these incidents are due to inattention while cooking. We all know how easy it can be to get distracted with guests and holiday preparations, which is why the dangers of unattended cooking should be on everyone's mind as the holidays approach.

Heating is another leading cause of winter fires. While dirty chimneys are the most common source of heating-related fires, *fixed or portable space heaters* have caused by far the most heating equipment-related deaths; they were involved in five of every six fatal incidents. These tragic deaths occur mainly when something combustible is set too close to the heater. Accordingly, we should all endeavor to clean our chimneys before the first use of the season and we must keep combustible materials at least three feet away from space heaters.

Christmas tree are the third leading cause of fires. Although most Christmas tree fires happen in December, about 30% occur in January when trees have been up too long and have dried out. Lighting or electrical factors are involved in half of these fires. It is essential to keep trees well-watered and to inspect lights and extension cords to make sure they are in good working order.

For more information, see the attached flyer, visit www.nfpa.org/winter or call the Chief at the fire station at 865-3421.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season!

Town Manager's Report December 3, 2019

Winter operations in full swing -As the snow plowing season ramps up, the Public Works and Public Safety Departments of the Town would like to remind all residents that a permanent winter parking restriction is in place on all public streets between 11PM and 7AM until April 15th. Additionally, Parking Bans are issued during major snow storms, and are listed on the Town's website and distributed to the major news outlets for publication. Please help the Public Works crews and first responders during snow removal operations by observing all posted parking bans.

New Enhanced Safety Features for Plow Trucks-This year, the Freeport Public Works Department has added safety features to our plow trucks that will help the general public to understand when & why a plow truck may be backing up and turning around in the roadway.

The Town of Freeport is separated into multiple plow routes. As plow trucks come to an intersection, it is often necessary for them to turn around, in order to plow the other side of the road. In some instances it can be difficult for motorists following behind a plow truck to be aware that the truck needs to back up.

To help following motorists determine when the trucks are backing up, (4) bright white flashing lights have been installed on the rear of our plow trucks. If a vehicle is following a plow truck and the truck reaches an intersection and comes to a stop, the motorist will notice these (4) bright white flashing lights indicating that the plow truck is starting to back up. Please give the truck as much room as possible. If you are approaching an intersection when a truck has these lights flashing, please bring your vehicle to a stop. For safety reasons, please do not try to pass the plow truck when this occurs, and please be patient and wait for the truck to finish backing up and finish making its turn around.

We would like to thank the public in advance for their patience as our plow trucks are trying to clear the roads to keep motorists safe during storms. We hope our new safety features will help motorists better understand when a plow needs to complete a backing operation, and to help prevent collisions.

New Police Officer - The Freeport Police Department is happy to announce that Officer Jason O'Toole graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's 'Basic Law Enforcement
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It's not too late to submit a nomination for the 2019 Citizen of the Year

Each year the Freeport Town Council presents a Citizen of the Year Award to honor those who have significantly contributed to the quality of the Town.

Nomination forms are available at the Town Office, the Freeport Community Library and can be found on the Town's website at www.freeportmaine.com. Deadline for nominations is December 12, 2019.

It's time to renew your Dog License for 2020

All dog licenses expire December 31st of each year. 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. Please bring proof of the rabies vaccination and spay/neutering.



And mark your calendar for the Clerk's annual **Rabies Clinic** which will be held on January 18th, 2020 from 9AM – 12 Noon at the Town Hall. As always, you will be able to register your dog on the day of the Rabies Clinic. For more information contact 865-4743 x122 or x 123.

Holiday Events

Annual Holiday Tea at the Freeport Community Library on Friday, Dec. 6, 1:00-2:00PM. There will be light refreshments, warm conversation, and pleasant company. If you would like to donate food to this event, give us a ring at 865-3307 and let us know! Community members of all ages are welcome to this free event.

Sparkle Parade Friday, December 6th. The parade starts at the Middle School and proceeds south toward Grove Street where it turns to go to Freeport Community Services. Santa will ride in a boat hauled by a truck that will stop for a brief presentation at Main and Bow Streets. *Please be aware that starting at 5:45 pm, Main Street will be closed to traffic from Mallet Drive to West Street while the parade happens.*

Make Your Own Gingerbread House at the Freeport Community Library on Monday, Dec. 9, 3:45-4:45PM. This craft event is limited to 40 and sign-up is required. Please call or stop by the library to sign up. For children ages 5 and up. Adult supervision required for children under 11.

The **New Year's Eve Fireworks** will take place on Tuesday, December 31st and will begin as close to 6:00 PM as possible.

Town Manager's Report, *continued*

'Training Program' in Vassalboro on Wednesday, November 27th. The program is an intensive 18 week course that prepares Maine officer candidates for a career in police work. Officer O'Toole will now continue his training under the supervision of Freeport PD field training officers, before being certified for independent patrol work within Freeport. If you see Jason around Town, please introduce yourself and welcome him to the community!

Below (R to L): Freeport Police Chief Susan Nourse, Officer Jason O'Toole, and Officer Malcom Marshall, in attendance at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Graduation Ceremony, 11/27/19.



Holiday Schedule -

Wednesday 12/18 - Town offices/departments will close from 12 noon to 1PM for a holiday luncheon.

Tuesday 12/24 – All Town offices/departments will close at 2PM.

Wednesday 12/25 – All Town offices/departments will be closed all day.

Wednesday 01/01 – All Town offices/departments will be closed all day.

Emergency Services (Police, Fire/Rescue, and Public Works in the case of inclement weather) remain on duty and on call 24/7 during the holiday season. Special thanks go out in advance to the employees of these departments who work holiday hours to keep our residents safe!

Sustainability tip from Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board (FSAB)

Keep unnecessary packaging materials out of the landfill! By making simple choices when you shop, you can reduce the amount of plastic wrap, cardboard and other packaging that comes with your purchase. Next time you shop, look for products made with recycled content. These products will usually mention their recycled content on their label.

Tip: the more post-consumer content, the better.

