

Christmas Trees ... and Pizza Pies!

Happy Holidays! This year, under the big tent, the New Salem General Store is offering a great selection of fresh-cut local Christmas trees from Helen and Bob Haddad's farm in Wendell. You can't get any more local and fresh than this! And just when you thought the pizza mania couldn't get any crazier, our staff now includes Jen, who will be making 'za's for us Thursdays, Fridays and now on Saturday, from 2 p.m. until closing. Try our specialty pizzas or make up your own unique mix of toppings – our updated menu is at www.newsalemgeneralstore.com.

I was pleased to join with Patty Scutari of the Wendell Country Store as we presented checks to Wendell Fire Chief Everett Ricketts (left) and New Salem Fire Chief Joe Cuneo (right).

Thanks to a great turnout at this year's Hilltown Brewfest, nearly \$3000 was raised for the two fire departments. Kudos to all who helped make this fundraiser a success!



Rick

Rick Oliver, Proprietor

Local Vendor Spotlight:

Writer and Quabbin Historian J.R. Greene

'A fascination for what was – and can't be brought back'

By John W. DeWitt

This month we interview writer and Quabbin area historian J.R. Greene, a lifelong Athol resident who has written 15 books, "a dozen of which relate to the Quabbin or the towns taken by it." The General Store carries many of his titles, including *Historic Quabbin Hikes* and his 25th anniversary Quabbin calendar – a great gift!

Q: *What makes the Quabbin and its history so fascinating? What's its legacy?*

A: Being someone who is somewhat suspicious of the excessive powers of government, this is an outstanding example of intra-state colonialism – taking four towns. My sympathies lie with the people who were displaced and not well-compensated. It's an accidental wilderness built as a water supply reservoir that took away a lot of business from the Athol-Orange areas. It's an enduring legacy from the 1930s that we still feel with the economy now. And the subject is fascinating – we have very few people who are old enough to remember this area from before and there's always this romantic notion of what was it like – a fascination for what was and can't be brought back or easily envisioned. It's also an open scar in this area of the state. Fortunately, hikers, bicyclers, and fishermen are very tenacious in maintaining their local rights to use the watershed. Things like the recent ban on boat fishing remind people of the original event – so it's not just the past, but concern for the present and future.

NEW SALEM GENERAL STORE

News & Events

Pizza on Saturday!

You can still order a pizza on Thursdays and Fridays, but now you can satisfy your pizza cravings on Saturdays, from 2 p.m. 'til closing.

Hilltown Business Club Holiday Fair

Visit Hamilton Orchards for great holiday gifts and shop with your local businesses and artisans this holiday. Sat. 12/5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Taste St. Francis Wine Fri. 12/11

Drop by 4:30-6:30 p.m. to sample this Sonoma treat. www.stfranciswinery.com

A Birthday Tasting of Opa Opa Beer

Dan from Opa Opa is having a birthday, and we're having a beer tasting to celebrate! Fri. 12/18, 4:30-6:30 pm

North Quabbin Nature Calendars – \$10.00

All photos were taken in the North Quabbin area by Athol Bird and Nature Club members. And 2010 Franklin County Railroad calendar include New Salem Station.

Winter Hours

Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sunday 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.