

---

## Town of Rockport, Maine

---



### Town Manager's Office

Town Office  
101 Main Street  
Rockport, Maine 04856  
Telephone: 207-236-0806 x3  
Fax: 207-230-0112

### Jonathan Duke, Town Manager

Email: [jduke@rockportmaine.gov](mailto:jduke@rockportmaine.gov)

### Diane Hamilton, Executive Assistant and General Assistance Administrator

Email: [dhamilton@rockportmaine.gov](mailto:dhamilton@rockportmaine.gov)

---

## Town Manager's Report & Update February 9, 2026

### Town Clerk:

#### Dog Licenses:

Dog licenses have expired for 2025. If you have yet to license your dog for the coming year, you will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.

#### Nomination Papers:

Will be available on March 2<sup>nd</sup> for the June Elections. Among the positions available for election in June, all of which are three-year terms:

- 2 - Select Board (Kim Graffam and Michael Thompson)
- 1 - Library Committee (C. Lee Goss)
- 3 - Budget Committee (Clay Tolman, Bill Bow, Geoffrey Parker)
- 1 - School Board (Cricket Fuller)

### Police Department:

#### Chief Gagne's Retirement:

Chief Randy Gagne submitted his letter of retirement a few weeks ago with his expected last day of work on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Randy has been a valued and trusted member of our town's leadership for over a decade, and his departure will leave a significant hole which will not be easy to fill. Randy's tenure as a long-standing member of the Camden Police Department and his experiences as a native of Rockport placed him in a unique position to represent the needs of both communities. Managing two departments with two distinct unions as well as two Select Boards and two town managers is a challenge that few could pull off, but Randy's background allowed that possibility to be a reality. While the ending of the contract with the Town of Camden to provide Rockport with a police chief may signal an end to collaboration, but rather it is merely the end of one chapter. Our police, fire, and EMS departments continue to work with their colleagues in neighboring communities, including Camden, daily and will continue to do so to ensure the residents of our region are supported and safe. Randy Gagne gave his all to protect the people of Camden and Rockport for decades and we are grateful to him and his family for all of his efforts on Rockport's behalf through the years.

#### Interim Leadership:

With the departure of Chief Gagne on the 19<sup>th</sup>, I will be appointing Chris Young as interim police chief. Chris Young, currently Rockport PD's lieutenant, started his career in law enforcement in Rockport in the mid 1990's under Chief Forrest Doucette. Then Young moved to a long career with Rockland Police Department, rising through the ranks to chief of that department until retiring in 2021. Missing the day-to-day passion for policing, Young returned to Rockport as our department's lieutenant in

November 2024. Chris and newly promoted Sargeant James Greeley have helped oversee the hiring of multiple vacant positions over recent months and are excited to engage in more proactive policing throughout Rockport. While no one wished for Rockport's current circumstance, our new police department are well suited to take the ball from Chief Gagne and keep running with it to benefit our residents.

New Hire:

We would like to welcome a new Patrol Officer Mark Tibbetts, who started today, Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Officer Tibbetts used for work for Rockport Police dept in the late 1990's and after a career working with the Knox County Sherriff's' Office and Thomaston Police Department, he is excited to return to where it all started. If you have a chance to see Officer Tibbetts out and about, feel free to say hello!

Winter Parking Ban:

The Winter Parking Ban extends through April 15th which means street parking is not allowed midnight to 6 a.m. Illegally parked cars may be towed, at the owner's risk and expense, in the event of a snowstorm or if the police determine the vehicles are posing a threat to public safety.

**Planning and Community Development:**

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Task Force:

The Comp Plan Implementation Task Force has been meeting with committees on integrating the outlined strategies in the Comprehensive Plan into their yearly work plans. These meetings have been received well by all other committees. The Task Force will be circulating a letter to the other Departments with outlined responsibilities of implementing portions of the Comprehensive Plan to ask how/if they will be integrating these strategies into their yearly workflow.

Goose River Bridge:

The Goose River Bridge is soon to come with dates of construction from MaineDOT. Right now, we are waiting on the Preliminary Design Report to be finished, then a meeting will be set up with the VPI Task Force and MaineDOT to discuss the project in more detail.

Complete Streets Policy Draft:

Policy has been applied to the Warrenton St. Project through the Pathways Committee and recommendations have been submitted to Public Works for consideration to increase visibility for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Permitting Software:

GovPilot's reporting is being updated to allow this office to provide more information about the development's incoming. With a new state mandate to report on bedroom counts, this software update will come in handy for ease of reporting.

Septic System Project:

A new project where we are compiling all Septic Systems into a GIS file is almost complete. This project will give us a visual of which area has the oldest septic systems, which would indicate possibilities of failed systems. This will help our efforts in notifying residents to inspect their aged systems.

Housing Update: My office is working with a couple of potential developers to bring in more housing.

### The Harbor Working Waterfront Project:

Posted an RFP, which was due on February 6<sup>th</sup>. This will help us understand a more accurate cost of the project and keep us in line with other grant funding opportunities, so we do not lose momentum on this project. A few more grants were discovered for this project that could help us. Researching in more detail before applications are drafted.

### **Assessing:**

#### Grants:

Assessing Clerk Rebecca Ewen applied for and was awarded two scholarships, totaling \$1,750, to attend the 2026 IAAO conference. She received the \$500 David P Ledew scholarship from the Maine Chapter of the IAAO and a \$1,250 award from the IAAO (International Association of Assessing Officers).

### MMA - Strategic & Finance Committee (SFC)

MMA's Executive Committee, which largely steers the organization, wanted to widen the SPC's perspective and, this year, recruited two municipal employees to serve on the committee. Kerry Leichtman has been asked to serve in this capacity and aid in the future direction of MMA. Thank you, Kerry!

### MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC):

There will be few taxation bills to deal with this legislative session. The Taxation Committee plans on waiting for the Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force to complete its work. The report's actual release was supposed to be January 15. I expect its release any day now.

### **Library:**

#### Programs:

For information on our events, check out the library website <https://www.rockport.lib.me.us/>

On January 17<sup>th</sup> at noon, the library hosted a Camden Conference event about the Rivers of the Middle East - The Middle East is a generally arid region with few rivers. But as a result, the rivers that do flow there have an outsized importance, both physically and historically. In fact, some of these resources are listed among the great rivers of the world. This talk will focus on a few of these rivers and emphasize their geographical, historical, and current importance, including the struggle for water rights today.

On Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 1 p.m., herbalist Mo Katz-Christy taught a class entitled, "Demystifying Tea Blending." Part science, part sensory exploration, Katz-Christy promises that the class will be as playful as it is educational. This free program is part of the library's ongoing "foodie series," and is **sponsored by the [Friends of the Rockport Public Library](#)**.

### **Opera House:**

#### Events:

For information on our events, please check out the Opera House website:

<https://rockportoperahouse.org/rockportoperahouse>

We also have Yoga or Dance classes several days a week, click here for more information:

<https://rockportoperahouse.org/rockport-village-yoga-and-dance-1>

#### Sponsorships:

If you wish to participate in helping make these shows part of our calendar in 2026, please visit [RockportOperaHouse.org/Sponsorship](https://RockportOperaHouse.org/Sponsorship) to learn more. Your sponsorship *will* make a difference and *will* bring even more vibrancy to our ongoing programming!

Take a moment right now to give to the **Rockport ACE Annual Fund – Arts, Culture and Entertainment** for all. Make a potentially tax-deductible donation of any amount to support the work we are doing to revitalize the arts in Rockport and bring the community together.

Individuals or businesses can choose to make a one-time donation or recurrent monthly contribution of any amount using the custom feature on our giving page. Businesses may also choose from already crafted levels which each include visibility for your business as a gesture of gratitude for giving.

**Harbor:**

Abbie will be unavailable for the next several and potentially longer due to an accident at the Snow Bowl. She will be delayed in responding to correspondence, but if there is anything immediately concerning, please call the Town Office.

Mooring Bills On The Way. By the end of February, bills will be available for mooring renewal, but as a reminder that the bills will not be mailed, only sent by email. You may pay in person at the town office, but we are trying to encourage online payments and boat registrations to cut down on staff time at the counter.

**Fire Department:**

Want to join the Fire Department?

Rockport Fire and EMS are always looking for individuals who want to join our crew! We are always looking for Per Diem Paramedics and Per Diem Firefighters EMT/AEMT and volunteers of all types! For those interested in learning more about joining the fire department, please contact Chief Jason Peasley at [jpeasley@rockportmaine.gov](mailto:jpeasley@rockportmaine.gov).

**Civic Ready:**

We encourage all residents to sign up for this, if you are interested in knowing what is happening in the Town of Rockport. What is great about this system is that you decide which types of information you will receive whether it is a reminder when property taxes are due to information on an upcoming event at the library, opera house or when a public works project is happening in your neighborhood; Civic Alert can keep you informed. Those interested can also sign up for alerts on our website at <https://rockportmaine.gov/civicready>

**Maine Water Assistance Program:**

This is a federally funded program to help support eligible households in having access to drinking water and wastewater utility services. Households will be required to have water liability to be eligible for the drinking water/wastewater program. To receive an application, you can call 888-623-6762 or email [water@mainehousing.org](mailto:water@mainehousing.org).

**Rockport Resource Newsletter:**

If you would like to receive the Rockport Resource Newsletter via email you can sign up through our website.

**Marge Jones Fields:**

The fields remain close till spring, but if you would like to plan ahead and reserve the use of a field for this year, email [rockportrec@rockportmaine.gov](mailto:rockportrec@rockportmaine.gov).

Reservation Policy:

- Reservations can be made for a single month/month or entire season.
- Anytime when the court is not reserved it is "first come first serve play."
- The usage fee will be \$250 per month, up to \$1000 for the entire season.
- No reservations on Sundays. This day will remain first come, first serve all day.
- Groups that pay the monthly or annual fee may reserve the full court area or half (one tennis court) up to three hours of court time per day each week Monday - Saturday, not to exceed 15 hours total per week. No more than three total hours in a day, and you cannot reserve the same time block for more than 3 days in one week. This allows others to utilize these time slots for first come first serve play.