



The Rockport Resource

Volume 2, Issue 2

March & April 2022

www.rockportmaine.gov

Rockport Town Officials are victorious over Camden Town Officials

The US National Toboggan Races were held on February 12, 2022. This is an annual event held at the Camden Snowbowl.

The Rockport Town Officials claimed victory over the Camden Town Officials for the first time in 4 years.

Rockport Town Officials zoomed past the Camden Town Officials with a time of 9.5 seconds. The Camden Town Officials had a time of 14.3 seconds.

We are looking forward to the 2023 Toboggan races!



The Rockport team members consisted of Town Manager Jonathan Duke, Select Board Chair Michelle Hannan, Select Board Member Denise Munger, and Finance Director Megan Brackett.



[RES Site Survey](#)

QR Code to complete survey for the RES Site., or go the website at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RESsite>



We are looking for a great place to showcase this trophy as we intend to hold our title for many more years to come!

State of Maine Property Tax Deferral Program Information

On January 5th, 2022 Governor Janet Mills announced that her Administration was launching a Tax Deferral Program through the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan that can cover the annual property tax of eligible Mainers who are 65 and older, or permanently disabled, and who cannot afford to pay them on their own.

The front side of the program will pay property tax bills to Maine municipalities for any owner-occupied, primary residence, so long as the owner is aged 65 years or older and/or permanently disabled, earns less than \$40,000 per year, and has liquid assets below \$50,000 (or below \$75,000 if applying jointly). The back side of the program requires repayment of the loan once the property is sold or becomes part of an estate. The Deferral Program is modeled after a similar program from the 1990s.

Applications are due by April 1, you should only have to apply once unless your circumstances change. We will work directly with Maine Revenue to process the applications and related payments.

Applications and full details of the program can be found online at https://www.maine.gov/revenue/sites/maine.gov.revenue/files/in-line-files/deferral_app.pdf or in the Rockport Town office.

Assessing

By Kerry Leichtman, Assessor

We are nearing the end of the process of updating values and expect valuation letters to be mailed the first week of March for anyone whose property value has changed.

Those who receive letters will have an opportunity to speak with a representative from KRT Appraisal to discuss the value adjustment. Normally we would hold these hearings in person, but the abnormalities wrought by covid has us conducting the hearings via telephone.

The valuation letter will include a number to call to select a date and time for a phone appointment. Please do not call the town office, the scheduling is being done by KRT. I will attend as many of the hearings as possible.

A value increase doesn't necessarily mean a tax increase. The mill rate will be lowered and for some, so will taxes. Even so, the most difficult situation is when taxes rise on elderly or disabled residents living on a fixed income. Knowing that adjusting values to market is a Constitutional requirement we must do doesn't make a tax increase any less difficult.

To that end the State has created the Property Tax Deferral Program. For those enrolled the state will pay the property taxes and be repaid when the property transfers to another owner.

To be eligible the resident must be at least 65 years old or unable to be employed due to a disability. Annual income cannot exceed \$40,000. Liquid assets must not exceed \$50,000, or \$75,000 if two or more residents are filing jointly. Applications are available at the town office, via a link to Maine Revenue Services from the Assessing Department section of the Town's website, or from Maine Revenue Services at <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/tax-return-forms/property-tax>.

Your application must be received at my office no later than April 1 of the year for which deferral is desired. Do not send your application directly to the state, it must be filed locally.

Although the program is new this year, we're familiar with its parameters and will do our best to help you as you evaluate whether or not it's a good fit for you.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Announcement

GFOA is pleased to announce that the Town of Rockport, Maine, has received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated as being primarily responsible for having achieved the award.

This has been presented to Megan Brackett, Finance Director. Megan has received this award for the last 5 years.

Congratulations Megan!



Candidate Nomination Papers

Available March 7, 2022, deadline to get them back is April 15th.

The second half of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on April 15, 2022.

Important Budget Review Dates:

(these dates are tentative and subject to change)

Tuesday, March 3, 2022 – Budget review meetings at 6:00 p.m. in the Opera House Auditorium with the Select Board and the Budget Committee.

Monday, March 7, 2022 – Select Board Workshop and consensus votes at 6:00 p.m., in this workshop the Select Board will be developing their proposed budget to submit to the Budget Committee.

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – Select Board Workshop at 6:00 p.m., in this workshop the Select Board will be developing their proposed budget to submit to the Budget Committee. (If needed)

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m., in this meeting the Budget Committee will review the Select Board's proposed budget and make formal recommendations on any changes they feel should happen.

Monday, March 21, 2022 – Select Board Workshop at 6:00 p.m., in this workshop the Select Board will review any formal recommendations that were submitted by the Budget Committee, at this workshop they will decide to make any changes or not to their final budget.

Thursday, March 24, 2022 – Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m., the Budget Committee will have their final recommendation votes on the municipal budget.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m., the Budget Committee will have their final recommendation votes on the municipal budget.

Wednesday, June 15, 2022 – Annual Open Town Meeting at 7 p.m., this meeting is generally held at the Opera House, but may change depending on the pandemic. We will make sure that all voters have ample notice as to how they will be able to vote on the proposed budget.

The 2022-2023 Budget is available online at www.rockportmaine.gov

Rockport Police

By Randy Gagne, Police Chief

Is it too early to say winter is almost behind us yet? Probably not at this point just to be safe. With Spring on the horizon, we all look forward to longer days and warmer temperatures. With that in mind many of us will resume outdoor activities such as running, walking, biking, and sharing our roads with motorist.

We urge everyone to use caution by obeying all traffic laws and wearing bright/reflective clothing if sharing our road at night. We also ask that you use our many sidewalks if one is available as it is the law. It's been a long Winter so let's enjoy some outside time safely.

It seems to happen every year. The dreaded late winter snowstorm occurring in late March or early April. These are the storms where we usually see many accidents with significant injury and damage. Usually by this time of year the frost is leaving our roads and causing the yearly frost heaves and potholes. It's also the start of everyone's favorite season... "Mud Season". Some local roads are also posted and restrict truck weights during this time to avoid road damage. If you're planning to have that load of gravel delivered to fix the driveway from Winters damage, please check to make sure your road has not been posted.

A reminder, if you have forgotten to register your dog, you can still do so at the Rockport Town Office. Please make sure you have your dog vaccinated as required by law.

We hope by this time everyone has registered their dogs as summonses for unlicensed dogs may be issued. We would rather just have you take care of this before that happens.

In late April we will be offering another unwanted medication collection day. The date has not been set at this time, but more information will be coming out in the next few weeks. The location site will be the Camden Public Safety Building 31 Washington St. in Camden. You don't have to wait until a collection day to dispose of unwanted medication.

Do you know someone who doesn't have daily contact with anyone? Someone who could benefit from a daily Good Morning call. If so, please have that them call and speak with Jeff Sukeforth and sign up for our "Good Morning Camden & Rockport" call program. Jeff can be reached at 236-7953. If you would feel there is someone who might benefit but you're not sure call Jeff and give us a name. We'd be happy to contact them and see if they're interested in the program. This is a great program and has saved two lives. Officers responded when a member could not be reached and found the participant in medical distress. I urge everyone who could use the program to sign up.

As mentioned in the prior months newsletter the department is without an Administrative Assistant. To better serve you we thought we would send the message out again in this issue. This vacancy is causing a slight disruption in services

for the time being. A few things that might help you during this period if you need Police Administrative assistance. Voice mails for the Chief and Officers can be left at 236-2026. Listen to the menu for Officer mailbox options.

In person messages can be left at the Rockport Town Office for all PD staff.

1. Traffic Accident reports can be obtained online at: <https://www1.maine.gov/online/mcrs/> there is a \$10.00 fee.
2. Concealed weapons permit please contact Chief Gagne at 236-2026 and leave a voice mail or email at rgagne@camdenmaine.gov
3. All other report inquires- Please leave a Voice mail message for Chief Gagne or email at rgagne@camdenmaine.gov

We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to have someone back in that position soon.

Reminder!!
Daylight Savings Time
Sunday March 13th

It is always a good idea to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and make sure they are free of dust and debris when you change you clocks forward!

Planning

By Orion Thomas, Planning Director
planning@rockportmaine.gov

The Planning and Codes office has a lot in store for the 2022 year. This office has decided on a new software program to help with the organization of permits and Board applications. The role out of this new software will be starting soon. More information will be published on the Town website's Planning Office page with details and a tutorial video on how to use the program. This new software will allow our office to be more transparent, make information more available, with a few clicks of a button and will free up our time to focus on more inspections, and allow more availability for interaction with the residents and business owners.

The Planning and Codes office is also collecting email addresses, so we can keep the community updated on the new items happening and surveys that will be rolling out. The goal is to keep you informed about new projects happening. Please email me to request being placed on this email list. Only items relating to this office will be emailed.

For your knowledge and understanding, the Planning and Code's office is taking people by appointment only. Of course walk-ins will still be helped, however our process will be easier to manage with our office being short staffed. For the Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector please call Scott's direct line at 207-706-4071.

For the Planning Director, please email planning@rockportmaine.gov or call 207-706-4070.

We are still working on updating the Comprehensive Plan. All information relating to this process can be found on the Comprehensive Planning Committee page on the Town's website. There will be additional surveys created and disbursed throughout the Town. These surveys will be located at the link provided on the postcard. And can be found here: <https://rockportmaine.gov/index.asp?SEC=4503235A-86DB-4964-B2F0-72C9F1EF2C97>

The Ideas Page and Map are live and can still be interacted with. I do encourage you to participate in every option available, to ensure your voice is heard. More public engagement events are in the future. If you are interested in being placed on an email list pertaining to only Comprehensive Plan items, please email me asking to do so and I will ensure it happens.

Rockport Forward is a committee appointed by the town to gather data and insights from our citizens for the development of a 10 year Rockport Comprehensive Plan. This plan will help guide town government and committees when making decisions around future growth and policies for Rockport's future. It is very important that we collect opinions and ideas from the widest array of community members possible. To that end, we have built an interactive webpage with various tools to collect your thoughts on Rockport's Future. **Please use the link below to discover all the ways you can participate both in person and virtually.**

<https://planmyrockport.mysocialpinpoint.com/>

Or, scan the QR Code:

Please reach out to Orion Thomas, the Planning and Development Director, with any questions.
planning@rockportmaine.gov
207-236-0989

This is the logo created by the Comprehensive Planning Committee. If you see this logo, please read the document.

Also, keep an eye out for posters or mail with this logo



Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors in the community about the Comprehensive Plan update and where they can participate.

The more people we get involved, the better our community will be for the future.

Thank you, and as always please reach out if you have any questions



The Rockport Resource

Have you secured your wedding venue for 2022 or 2023 yet?

The Rockport Opera House is right in Rockport Village overlooking picturesque harbor is the perfect backdrop for your wedding or event. The quiet village is off of busy Route 1 yet close to a wide variety of accommodations, with elegant dining and outdoor activities.

Contact Nancy Albertson, Booking Agent at nalbertson@rockportmaine.gov



The Rockport Marine Park is also available to rent for your wedding venue. The rental application is available on our website at www.Rockportmaine.gov under Departments, Harbor, Harbor Rentals.

Contact Molli Bennett at mbennett@rockportmaine.gov for more information.



Scavenger Hunts at the Library

Every month there is a new scavenger hunt at the library! These are for patrons of all ages. In March there will be a plethora hidden fairies and April will be all about finding bunnies. Finding all the hidden rascals at the library takes skill and a keen eye, do you have what it takes to find them all.



Sponsor the Interlibrary Loan Program

Our community is wonderful, and your taste in reading, viewing and listening materials is vast and varied. We could never accommodate all of the imaginations in Rockport in one building, even one as amazing as our new library. Thankfully, we have the Interlibrary Loan Program to help. If we don't have the book you are looking for, we can almost always get it for you, free of charge.

ILL is a program where over a hundred public libraries, colleges and universities in Maine share their collections with each other. We send and receive interlibrary loan items five days a week. On average, we check out about 450 interlibrary loan items every month. When you place an order, it normally arrives in 3 to 4 days. Effectively, ILL makes our library

into every library in Maine. The value this service adds in terms of meeting the needs of our patrons is priceless, but it does come at a cost. Sponsoring the Interlibrary Loan Program is one of the best ways to help our library.

- \$15 covers the sorting and delivery costs for one day.
- \$55 covers one week.
- \$230 covers one month.

Sponsors will be recognized on posters and bookmarks hung and given away at the library during the period they sponsor -- and get the great feeling of knowing they are a vital part of expanding the collection beyond our four walls.

If you would like to sponsor the ILL Program and help put books into the hands of your fellow Rockport patrons, please contact the library at 207-236-3642 or email us at rpl@rockport.lib.me.us. We would love to have your partnership in this amazing program.

Circulation and interlibrary loan is at an all-time high. This service has become essential to library users throughout Maine.

If you are interested in adopting a day, week, or month of this service, contact us at:

Rockport Public Library
1 Limerock Street
P.O.Box 8
Rockport, Maine 04856

207-236-3642
rpl@rockport.lib.me.us

Business Spotlight

Would you like to be in our Business Spotlight section of our newsletter? Please email dhamilton@rockportmaine.gov or mbennett@rockportmaine.gov. Tell us a little about your business and yourself; what your business has to offer; hours open and where you are located in Rockport.

Committee Openings:

If you are looking to make a difference in the community we are always looking for volunteers. A list of vacancies is listed on our website.

Winter Parking Ban

The Winter Parking Ban is in effect through April 15. No on-street parking from midnight to 6 a.m. Illegally parked cars may be towed in the event of a snow-storm or if the Police determine the vehicles are posing a threat to public safety.

Rockport Community Gardens Plot Selection is now open for 2022!!

By Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee

The seed catalogs have been arriving in the mail daily now so that must mean it's time to reserve your space at The Rockport Community Garden. This will be the second year that the gardens have been in operation under the direction of the Rockport Parks

and Beautification Committee. The gardens are located at the Marge Jones Community Recreation Fields on route 90 in Rockport. The plots are 10 feet by 15 feet and each gardener may sign up for a maximum of 2 plots. The area gets full sun during the day and there is ample parking immediately adjacent to the gardens which is handy for people with limited mobility. There is also an excellent water supply in the garden.

Plots are \$25 each and preference is given to Rockport residents, but in this early phase we will welcome all Knox County residents until space gets tight. Gardeners who had plots last year will have preference to keep those same plots this year.

For more information go to the town website at rockportmaine-maine.gov, then go to the main menu and select "Governance". When you scroll down you will see "Community Garden" and that will provide you with further information and the registration form information.

There is usually much activity going on at the Marge Jones facility during the summer so why not plant a garden and then, when you have tended to it, stop by one of the fields and watch a little league game or play some tennis or basketball? It's a great opportunity to spend some time outside with your friends, family, and neighbors at a wonderful facility.

We hope to see you out there this Spring!

Do you worry about a loved one who wanders? Join the Wanderer's Program!

The Wanderer's program provides a critical network of real time information including a photograph to Law Enforcement, which assists in locating individuals prone to wander due to Autism, Alzheimer's or other mental/medical conditions. Registration is simple and takes just a few minutes. Come to the Town Office, Police Department or our website to fill out a Client Intake Form.

Animal Control

If you require assistance from the Town's Animal Control Officer, you must call Knox County Dispatch at 236-2027.

Good Morning Camden and Rockport Program

Do you live away and worry about a loved one living alone? Join the Good Morning Camden and Rockport program and have a peace of mind.

The coordinator will call between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and check on your loved one for you and assist anyway they can. If your loved one does not answer the phone for any reason, an Police Officer will go to their residence to ensure everything is okay.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Sukeforth at the Camden Police Department for more information.

General Assistance

*By Diane Hamilton,
General Assistance Administrator*

Please call for an appointment if you need General Assistance. The application is on the Town's website at www.rockportmaine.gov

Camden Area Christian Food Pantry

128 Mt. Battie Street Camden, Maine, Tuesday 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. and Thursday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

AIO Food Pantry

70 Thomaston Street, Rockland, Maine, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Wednesday 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. One visit per month. Email@aiofoodpantry.org 207-596-1043

For a complete listing of events, please visit the Town's Calendar at www.rockportmaine.gov

Town of Rockport
101 Main Street
Rockport, Maine 04856
Tel: 207-236-9648
Fax: 207-230-0112

Permit #

POSTAL CUSTOMER