



The Rockport Resource

Volume 2, Issue 3

Summer 2022

www.rockportmaine.gov

Harbor

By: Abbie Leonard, Harbormaster

Summer is starting off with a bang and we have a lot going on at the Harbor this summer. Some things to keep in mind as we get into the busy season:

The parking on the Marine Park side of the Harbor is limited to two hours. If you plan on being longer than that please park across the foot bridge on the Boat Club side or up in Cramer Park.

Dockage is first come first serve and limited to an hour on the dock for picking up passengers, loading and unloading. If you need longer on the dock, please communicate with a member of the Harbor staff and they will advise you. If you would like to be on the dock overnight please make a reservation in advance by calling/texting me on my cell phone (207)939-1507 or by stopping into the office.

Goodies Beach (the beach behind the Harbormaster's Office) will be once again part of the Maine Healthy Beaches water monitoring program. We will be testing the water on Tuesday's and any bacteria exceedances will be posted on the sign at the entrance to the beach and can also be found online at mainehealthybeaches.org

We are looking forward to the food truck "Brother Shucker" at the Harbor this Summer. They will be offering fresh oysters, and other lunch items. Come on down and check them out Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

We are working to have a variety of food and drink vendors for these family friendly Sunday afternoon/evenings at Harbor Park.

For your convenience, we have implemented a new payment software, Square, which will allow us to accept payments in a more mobile manner. Please see the Harbormaster or one of our Deputy Harbormasters for more details.

Please feel free to reach out with any feedback or questions/concerns.



New Dingy Docks built by our Public Works Department.

Happenings on the Harbor Two New Hires and Summer Event Schedule



Robert Parent
Deputy Harbormaster

Rob spent over 24 years in the Coast Guard with stops on Nantucket and Chatham as station chief and lived in Rockport for several years when he was stationed in Rockland.



Drew McMullan
Deputy Harbormaster

Drew is no stranger to the Midcoast, working for years at Alford Lake Camp in Hope, while spending his winters at Marinas in Georgia and Florida.

Happenings on the Harbor and Concerts in the Park Summer Series

By: Kari Luehman

It's happening! "Happenings on the Harbor 2022" will be on select Sundays throughout the summer. These FREE music events will begin at 4 p.m. and are put on by a collaboration between the Rockport Opera House and the Rockport Harbor. Each event will be a festive fusion of Music, Food and Community.

Bring family, meet friends, feast on yummy food from local vendors, enjoy the music and relax together by the water Rain or Shine.

Any inclement weather events will move to the Rockport Opera House.

Please check out our Facebook page for updates.,
[@Facebook.com/rockportoperahouse](https://www.facebook.com/rockportoperahouse)

On alternate Sunday's at 3 p.m. head on over to the Mary Lea Park for a more low-key performance series

If you or someone you know loves to perform, please reach out to Kari at kluehman@rockportmaine.gov to sign up for our "Music in the Park" Series.



Rockport Harbor has a new Webcam link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9NWddwu8rw>, you can use this link to check out the weather, dock space, and other activities.

SUMMER 2022

HAPPENINGS

On the Harbor

ROCKPORT, MAINE

Food
MUSIC
Fun



BRING FAMILY, FRIENDS, BLANKETS AND CHAIRS

SUNDAYS
4-8PM

Dave Mallett	June 12
The Right Track	July 31
Jazz on the Water	August 14
Mallett Brothers	September 25



FREE admission; donations accepted
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 207.236.0676
rockportoperahouse.org/events and FB for weather updates



2022 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT DEDICATION

ALEXANDRA “SANI” FOGEL



If anyone should have been destined for a musical career, it is Sani Fogel. When she was born in 1936, her grandmother, the legendary violinist Lea Luboshutz, had been spending summers in Rockport for almost a decade, as had her great aunt and uncle, the duo-piano team of Luboshutz & Nemenoff. But Sani’s career as a music student was brief and unfulfilling. Instead, she followed in the footsteps of her father, Billy Wolf, becoming an avid boater as a child and purchasing her first sailboat at the age of sixteen.

Her five brothers and sisters and her parents all contributed to the purchase price of \$500, hence the boat’s name—the “Chip-in.” She has had a boat on a mooring in Rockport Harbor and has sailed the Maine coast ever since.

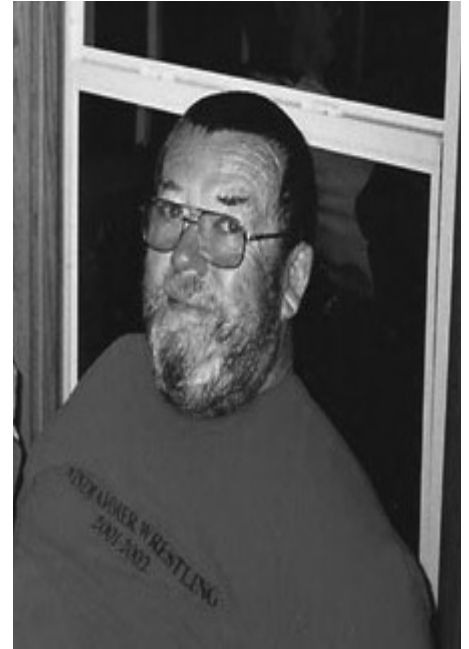
Sani’s devotion to the town of Rockport has been life-long. Starting her career as the Executive Director of Young Audiences Inc. in Philadelphia, she shifted to the world of philanthropy when she became Director of Delaware Valley Grantmakers. But Sani eventually realized that she wanted to live in Rockport as a full-time resident. After moving here, her activities on behalf of the community she loves were extensive. She served two terms as a Rockport Selectman from 2006 to 2012 and chaired the board of Bay Chamber Concerts (playing a major role in the creation of its community music school). She has served on the Opera House Committee, the Harbor Committee, on the board of United Mid-Coast Charities as well as the Camden Conference. Her board assignments also took her further afield, including Jackson Labs and Bigelow Labs. During all that time, she somehow managed to establish the Maine Philanthropy Center as its founder and first director, commuting to Portland on a regular basis. When she retired, the Center named its Library in her honor.

But Sani is not someone who simply wants to add organizations to an already distinguished resumé. As one admirer put it, “Sani is a doer. She has strong opinions (which are usually right). But at the same time, she is open to what others think and she is always willing to change her mind when someone has a better idea. She has no patience with people sitting around and waiting for others to volunteer. She likes to make things happen.”

It seems that Sani’s energy, talent, and love of Rockport have been passed on to the next generation. Her daughter, Alexa, winner of several television Emmys is the founder of Beech Hill Films. Daughter Marya Flanagan is a writer and producer. Like her mother, Irene Goldovsky Wolf, Sani is beloved by the community for her selfless devotion to Rockport.

**2022 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT
MEMORIAM**

SCOTT ROLLINS



Longtime Rockport resident Scott Rollins passed away on July 31, 2021.

In 1960 Scott purchased his first home in West Rockport with his wife Sandra and raised their children Teri and Greg. During this time, he opened Rollins Auto Body.

Scott's passion was working on cars and that is evident based on the successful business that he built. Scott believed in high quality workmanship, providing great customer service, had a good sense of humor, was outgoing, and made friends wherever he went.

Rollins Auto Body remains a thriving business today, having recently celebrated 56 years in business and is currently under the leadership of his son Greg and grandson Levi.

Scott also was passionate about community service. Scott served the Town of Rockport as volunteer firefighter and Lieutenant of Engine #23 for many years and was a 46-year member of the Rockport Federal Masonic Lodge.

The Town of Rockport appreciates Scott's dedication and the legacy he left with his son and grandson as they continue to volunteer with the Rockport Fire Department today.

Dedication & Memoriam Ceremonies



Honoring Sani Fogel at the Rockport Town Office May 31: Rockport Select Board member Mark Kelley, Sani Fogel (seated), her daughter Marya Flanagan, and Select Board Chair Michelle Hannan. (Photo by Lynda Clancy)



Honoring Scott Rollins at Rollins and Sons Autobody in West Rockport, June 2: Rockport Town Manager Jon Duke, Select Board members Denise Munger, Mark Kelley and Michelle Hannan, Sandra Rollins, with Greg, Trina and Levi Rollins. (Photo by Lynda Clancy)

Annual Town Meeting and Town Warrant

By: Megan Brackett, Finance Director and Orion Thomas, Planning and Community Development Director

Town meeting is a fact of New England life! But, for many residents it can be a bit confusing and intimidating, to say the least. What follows is a very brief explanation about how the meeting works and each of the articles on the warrant.

Technically, Town Meeting is divided into two parts. The first part being the referendum or ballot part of the meeting, where we elect officers to serve the Town and the School, as well as vote (by secret ballot) on all issues that require a secret ballot (referendum) vote. In most cases these are ordinance revisions and land use questions that are required to be voted on by referendum. You walk in get a ballot(s) and cast your vote(s) and leave. This is always the second Tuesday in June, in this case June 14th at the Town Office. The polls are open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., articles one (1) through ten (10) will be voted on in this format. The second meeting is called the “Open Town Meeting.” This is where people gather at the Rockport Opera House on the day following the referendum vote, which is June 15th at 7 p.m. and discuss each of the articles on the rest of the warrant and vote on them. This is the meeting where people hold up their voting cards to vote. These articles are considered the budget articles, but also include several housekeeping and other articles for voters to decide on. Depending on questions this meeting can take as little as an hour or as long as several hours. Articles eleven (11) through thirty-three (33) will be voted on in this format.

What follows is a very brief explanation of each of the articles on the warrant. For many of them, there is much more detailed information available in other places like the budget, but hopefully this will answer most of your questions. These descriptions are not meant to sway the voter in any direction, and we are simply trying to provide factual information to inform the voters. If you have additional questions that are not answered in these explanations below, please reach out to Orion Thomas at planning@rockportmaine.gov for articles three (3) through ten (10) and Megan Brackett at mbrackett@rockportmaine.gov for articles eleven (11) through thirty-three (33). For the full warrant, please visit the Town website at rockportmaine.gov under public notices or pick up a copy of the 2022 Annual Town Report.

The following articles will be decided at the referendum election on June 14th.

Article 1. To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Explanation: This is a standard article that appears every year, so that a moderator can be elected for the elections and Open Town Meeting held on June 15th at the Opera House. The moderator is elected by the people in the room when the meeting is called to order when the polls open.

Article 2. To elect:

- a. One 3-year terms for Select Board and overseer;
- b. Three 3-year terms for the Budget Committee;
- c. Two 3-year terms for the Library Committee;
- d. One 3-year terms for Director of SAD #28 and to also serve concurrently on the Five Town CSD School Board.

Explanation: This is the open elected position to be filled in the upcoming fiscal year, this article is the same every year however the positions may change. This year you will be asked to elect one person to the Select Board for a three-year terms, three Budget Committee members all for three-year terms, two Library Committee members for three-year terms and one person to the Director of SAD #28 and Five Town CSD School Board for a three-year term served concurrently.

Article 3. Shall the following amendments to the Town of Rockport Land Use Ordinance, Section 809.4 be enacted: (Full text available on the warrant)

Explanation: This ordinance amendment to Land Use Ordinance Section 809.4 is to address a concern about zoning restrictions on Wireless Telecommunication facilities, which are not allowed and opens the Town up for lawsuits. This amendment allows a wireless telecommunications facility to exist in a certain zone and to have no adverse effect on the health and safety of the public.

Article 4. Shall the following amendments to the Town of Rockport Land Use Ordinance, Section 301 be enacted: (Full text available on the warrant)

Explanation: This ordinance amendment addresses two definitions by providing further clarity to what a structure could be, and by adding Truck to the Food Cart definition name for they can be viewed similarly with the current definition.

Article 5. Shall the following clean up amendments to the Town of Rockport Land Use Ordinance be enacted: (Full text available on the warrant)

Explanation: These ordinance amendments are general clean up because they currently do not reference the correct sections. The referenced sections currently either do not exist or have been moved to different sections in the Land Use Ordinance. These amendments resolve this for the respective sections in the article.

Article 6. Shall the following clean up amendment to the Town of Rockport Land Use Ordinance, Section 907.3 be enacted: (Full text available on the warrant)

Explanation: The ordinance amendments related to Land Use Ordinance section 907.3 address an exception currently allowable, with further guidance for consideration. This amendment addresses the resulting gray area and provides structure to assist with interpretation of this section.

Article 7. Shall the following amendments to the Town of Rockport Land Use Ordinance, Section 1302 be enacted: (Full text available on the warrant)

Explanation: The ordinance amendment related to Land Use Ordinance section 1302 relieves a cost burden to applicants and provides a more efficient review of applications. The Planning Office does not need thirteen paper copies of an application, two paper copies and one digital copy suffices for our needs. Further, there is currently no requirement to notify abutters of a site plan application. The second part of this amendment addresses this concern and adds this requirement to be fulfilled by the Planning Office.

Article 8. Shall the following amendments to the Town of Rockport Zoning Board of Appeals Ordinance be enacted: (Full text available on the warrant)

Explanation: The amendment to the Town of Rockport Zoning Board of Appeals Ordinance is to correct terminology, such as “Municipal Officers” to be replaced by “Select Board” for the term Municipal Officers is not currently used in other ordinances and Select Board is the proper term according to the Town’s charter. In addition to this clean up, currently it is stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals would have a monthly meeting.

This Zoning Board of Appeals does not meet that frequently, and thus the amendment allows the Zoning Board of Appeals to meet as needed.

Article 9. Shall the Town enact the amendments to the Town of Rockport Land Use Ordinance as proposed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for Sections 1400 Shoreland Zoning and 300 Definitions.

Explanation: The amendments related to this article pertain to items required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The current ordinance was submitted to Maine Department of Environmental Protection for review, and they submitted proposed amendments for the Municipality to adopt for Land Use Ordinance Section 1400 (shoreland zoning) and the respective definitions which would be in Land Use Ordinance Section 300 (definitions).

Article 10. Shall the following amendment to the Town of Rockport Sewer Ordinance be enacted: (Full text available on the warrant)

Explanation: This amendment to the Town of Rockport Sewer Ordinance provides more clarity as to which new developments must tie into the existing sewer line.

The following articles will be decided at the “open town meeting” on June 15th at 7 p.m. at the Opera House.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to: Approve certain road and sidewalk repair, reconstruction, and improvement projects, including all engineering, construction, and site work as well as other related costs thereto (the “Projects”), as a result of October 31st, 2021, storm as determined by the Treasurer and Chair of the Select Board; (Full text available on the warrant)

Explanation: On October 31, 2021, there was a large rainstorm that caused us to suffer massive damage to Town roadways, and other infrastructure, the cost of permanent repair for this damage exceeds 1.5 million dollars. The State of Maine has been able to get the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to declare that storm an official event, which provides for the Town the opportunity for reimbursement from them for some of the damages we suffered. The Town will not know if such FEMA reimbursement will materialize and to what extent until after the projects are undertaken. We have a lengthy permitting process that we will have to go through with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (among other state and federal agencies), and then we will have a significant process that we will have to enter with FEMA for reimbursement, this short-term borrowing is meant so that we can complete the work and hopefully have time to get reimbursement from FEMA.

Articles twelve (12) through twenty (20) fund the Town budget for the next year, article twenty-one (21) is all revenue we expect to collect outside of taxes. The percentages below symbolize either the increase in expenses year over year, or the increase in revenue year over year, they do not represent the increase or decrease in the net budget for any given department. Some of the expenditures that have been added also have either fully or partial offsetting revenue. The budget is available for review on the Town website should you wish to get more information, or you can reach out directly to Megan Brackett at mbrackett@rockportmaine.gov.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for General Government for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

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Explanation: This article contains the budgets for the basic administrative functions of the Town including Town Office operations such as Administration, Planning and Community Development, and Finance. This article is seeing an increase of 14.5%, places to note of substantial changes are the following:

In the Administration budget, there is a decrease of just over \$18,000, which is attributed to the initial investment that was needed in the current operating budget for the Midcoast Internet Development Corporation.

The Town Manager budget is seeing an overall decrease in expenses of 2.2%, or \$7,580, this is due to some operational changes and needs.

The Town Clerk budget is seeing an increase of 11.4% or \$29,593 this is attributed to changes in wages and benefits for the employees that work in this department.

Planning and Community Development has the largest number of changes in this article, with an increase of 78.1% or \$168,044. There are many changes made in this department that are needed for the Town to aggressively move forward with the development that we are seeing, and to help attract new development as well. For many years we have contracted out our Planning services, and while that has had its benefits, it is not providing enough services to the Town, and we need to have a full-time dedicated Planner and Community Development Director, some of the expense of this position is offset by the amount that we were paying under our contract agreement. We are also recommending that we increase the Code Enforcement Officer from 32 hours a week to 40 hours a week, simply due to the number of permits we are issuing and the number of inspections that go along with those permits, 32 hours a week is not enough time. We have also allocated a 40 hour a week Administrative Assistant to this department, while it impacts this budget, this position has always been full-time, but was split out in other departments as well, such as Assessing and the Police Department.

The Finance Department is seeing an increase of 2.8%, or \$4,689, which is mostly related to wage and benefit adjustments for employees in this department.

The Assessing Department is seeing an increase of 7.3% or \$15,997, the Assessor for the Town of Rockport has taken a full-time position in the Town of Camden, which resulted in some needed changes to the budget, while we might not have a clean path forward as of the writing of this article, the Select Board and Town Manager will be working on the plan they feel is best for the Town of Rockport.

Insurance is estimating an increase of 4% or \$3,065.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for Public Assistance for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

Explanation: This article contains that budget for General Assistance services, this department is seeing an increase of 0.6% or \$150, which is due to operational costs.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for Public Safety for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

Explanation: This article contains the budgets for Public Safety services for the Town of Rockport. This article is seeing an increase of 4.9%.

The Police Department has an increase of 8.6% or \$56,788, which includes wage and benefit adjustments for employees and increases in changeover parts for a new cruiser because we were extremely limited in what we could purchase, so we will not be able to reuse as much of the old equipment as we typically would.

The Fire Department has an increase of 8.6% or \$48,676 which is the result of capital needs. We have budgeted the purchase of the UTV which will aide us and other local municipalities in off-road rescues (we have also been collecting private donations for this purchase), with the mass amount of walking trails that we have in Rockport, it is important that we are able to get to the people that might need help. There is also an increase in the equipment reserve for the department as the replacement cost of our current equipment continues to increase, and we need to be prepared for those large purchases.

Other Public Safety Services, which includes streetlights, traffic lights, and ambulance services, has an increase of 1.6% or \$5,280, due to increase costs with our ambulance service provider.

Animal Control has a decrease of 21.2% or \$1,800, which is due to reduced need for veterinarian fees.

The Harbor has a decrease of 7.4% or \$19,025. The bulk of this reduction stems from the completion of the new roof on the harbormasters building. In addition, to move away from contracted cleaning services reduces the budget by \$4,000. All Town Building cleaning services would be funded in the buildings and grounds department through a new employee who will handle building maintenance and cleaning.

Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has an increase of 4% or \$133, due to stipends for the EMA and Deputy EMA Director.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for Public Works for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

Explanation: This article covers the Public Works and Sanitation departments. This articles an increase of 22%. The largest source of increase is the money that has been allocated to annual paving. Based on the number of road miles we have in town, and what the estimated cost to pave those miles is, we should invest at a minimum \$788,450 annually into our Town roads. We have grossly underfunded this budget for more years than we have data for, and it is past time for us to start taking this seriously. The Select Board committed to this, and they have increased the paving budget to \$788,450, this was an increase of \$363,450 over the current year's budget of \$425,000, the Public Works Department has an overall increase of 24% or \$453,318. The remaining increase to the Public Works budget of \$89,868 is due to operational expenses. We are projecting an increase in the cost of the diesel and heating fuel, an increase in vehicle lease-purchase payments to replace old equipment and the purchase of vehicle location devices that will be places in all Town owned vehicles and equipment for any department that has vehicles or equipment.

The Sanitation budget has a decrease of 0.2% or \$377, which is a result of a decreased assessment from Midcoast Solid Waste.

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for Culture and Recreation for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

The Rockport Resource

Explanation: This article contains the budgets for Culture and Recreation, which has an overall increase of 7.4%.

The Library has an increase of 20.9% or \$86,372, about \$32,000 will be reimbursed to the Town by the Library Committee, the remaining increase is due to changes in personnel, and mowing and landscaping contracts.

The Conservation Commission has a decrease of 32.7% or \$4,175, due to changes in services and priorities.

The Parks budget has an increase of 3% or \$2,255. There were many changes made to this budget to account for an increase in mowing cost of more than \$28,000.

The Opera House has a decrease of 19.7% or \$39,089, which is due to a decrease in capital outlay.

The Recreation budget has an increase of 19.6% or \$10,289 with more than \$7,000 of this increase is related to mowing costs, the remaining increase is due to contracts that we have to help maintain the fields and equipment we have at the Marge Jones Recreation Fields.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for Buildings and Grounds for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

Explanation: This is a new section for the annual town meeting warrant to cover the maintenance and upkeep of buildings and grounds under the Town's care. The employee within the Public Works department tasked with building maintenance responsibilities would be transferred to oversee this department as well as the new employee who will assume cleaning and maintenance duties in the absence of contracted services. In addition, due to retirement we will merge the Opera House event attendant position into this new job description. Buildings and Grounds Administration covers only the wages and benefits for these positions, the Town Office Building, Public Safety Building and West Rockport Fire Station have their own budgets in this article. Expenses for the Public Works Building, Harbormaster Building, Opera House, and Library are included in their own budgets.

The Town Office Building is seeing an increase of 43.8% or \$63,558, \$45,000 of this increase is related to renovations needed to create more office space for the staff located in this building. You will see across the board we are anticipating higher heating fuel costs and operational costs as the cost of consumables continues to rise.

The Public Safety Building has an increase of 14.1% or \$4,860, which is the result of anticipated increased heating fuel costs.

The West Rockport Fire Station has an increase of 89.6% or \$28,348, which is the additional funding needed to complete the building design and engineering for the proposed new fire station.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for Long Term Debt (Debt Payments) for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

Explanation: This article contains the budget for long-term debt, which has a decrease of 0.69% or \$2,794, which this is due to lower interest and principal payments due on outstanding long-term debt.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for County Fees for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their respective budgets are listed on the warrant)

Explanation: This article contains the budget for County fees, which includes E-911 and dispatch services. This increase of 4.2% or \$4,551. These fees are set by the county and we have no control over what these fees are.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following for Cemeteries and Special Assessments for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

Explanation: This article contains the budget for Cemeteries and Special Assessments. Cemeteries has an increase of 100.5% or \$68,117, of this increase \$31,927 is attributed to mowing expenses, and then there is a \$30,000 capital expenditure for a Columbarium for the Sea View Cemetery, which will be offset by use of the Cemetery Reserve.

Special Assessment is seeing neither an increase nor decrease, and is proposed to remain the same as last year.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following as Revenue from the following sources to be used in reducing the property tax assessment for the 2022/2023 fiscal year: (the departments and their budgets are listed on the warrant)

Explanation: This article covers all Revenue we are anticipating collecting outside of property taxes, we are looking at an increase of 8.3% or \$221,138.

Notable changes by the government section are General Government an increase of 2.3% or \$27,644, with the majority being attributed to increase in permit fees, and some adjustments to excise tax.

There is no change to General Assistance revenue.

Public Safety is anticipating an increase of 4.8% or \$15,820, due to increase revenue generation at the Harbor.

Public Works has an increase of 1.3% or \$897, which is due to reimbursement from the Wastewater Department for a portion of the Public Works Director's wages and benefits.

Culture and Recreation is showing a decrease in revenues of 13.8% or \$27,923, which is due to a reduction in the use of the Opera House Reserve, as we do not have capital expenditures that we need to use it for.

Building and Grounds is showing an increase of 60% or \$7,600, and this is based on the use of the Computer Replacement Reserve for the Town Office Building, this increased revenue offsets the increase expense for this purpose.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of all unexpended balances to fund balance and to authorize the overdrafts that may occur in the Town operations in the 2022/2023 budget to be taken from fund balance?

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article and is voted on every year. It moves unexpended balances

to the Unassigned Fund Balance and authorizes the Select Board to use funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance to pay for deficits in the upcoming fiscal year, if needed.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of tax abatements and applicable interest from the property tax overlay account?

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article and is voted on every year. It authorizes the Select Board to fund property tax abatements from the tax overlay account established as part of the tax commitment process. The tax overlay account is an amount of money set aside for property tax abatements, granted during the year to residents for any error or changes in their assessment.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable, and to execute quit claim deeds for the property. The sale or disposal shall be made only after consultation with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, except for the purpose of clearing title or of reconveyance of real estate to the original owner or in the case of time-share units, reconveyance back to the original owner or the time-share estates association of unit owners; property to be disposed of by written policy and on terms the Select Board deem advisable.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that allows the Select Board to sell any property that becomes owned by the town because of non-payment of taxes.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non payment of wastewater thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable, and to execute quit claim deeds for the property. The sale or disposal shall be made only after consultation with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, except for the purpose of clearing title or of reconveyance of real estate to the original owner. Property to be disposed of by written policy and on terms the Select Board deem advisable.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that allows the Select Board to sell any property that becomes owned by the town because of non-payment of wastewater fees.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to set October 17, 2022, and April 17, 2023, as the tax installment due dates.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that sets the dates in which property taxes are due.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to set October 18, 2022, and April 18, 2023, as the tax delinquency dates and to fix the rate of interest on delinquent taxes at 4.00% interest per year.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that sets the dates in which interest will start to accrue on unpaid property taxes.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to fix the rate of interest on delinquent wastewater charges at 4.00% interest per year.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that sets the dates in which interest will start to accrue on unpaid wastewater fees.

Article 29. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to accept gifts, real estate, and certain funds including trust funds, which may be given or left to the Town.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that allows the Select Board to accept donations that are given or left to the Town.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept those Conservation Easements which the Select Board deem appropriate in the name of the Town of Rockport, provided however, said Conservation Easements are first considered by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that allows the Select Board to accept conservation easements that are given or left to the Town.

Article 31. To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Sec. 944 upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property subject to the lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that allows the Select Board and Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of properties acquired due to unpaid taxes if it is deemed to not be in the best interest of the Town.

Article 32. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to enter into boundary line agreements with abutting property owners to establish the boundary line of any property of the Town, including the boundary lines of the rights-of-way of roads.

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that allows the Town to adjust boundary lines between town owned properties and private property when it is in the Town's interest to do so.

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a "tax club" payment plan for commercial and/or residential real estate property taxes, whereby (the full text of the article is available on the warrant)

Explanation: This is an annual housekeeping article that allows the Tax Collector to enter into standard payment agreements for taxes which establish the Town's "Tax Club."

The Rockport Resource

Planning

By: Orion Thomas, Planning and Development Director

The Planning and Development office has a busy Summer scheduled with incoming development and the continuation of the Comprehensive Plan update. If you have not yet participated in this process, there's still time, as we have a number of public engagement events scheduled. Visit the Planning and Community Development webpage for more information.

I would also like to introduce our new assistant, Shenley Neely, who is from the Planning and Development world and who has been an instrumental help thus far. If you have not met her, be sure to say hi and welcome her the next time you are in the office.



For all things Codes: this office has upgraded to a more efficient tool for permits and inspections.

We are using GovPilot, which will make the process more streamlined and easier to track. If you need assistance with this new process, please reach out to my office for assistance. This new technology will help free up the time of our Code Enforcement Officer, and all who interact with the permits and Planning Board and Zoning Board applications, to be able to keep the pipeline of applications flowing in an efficient manner.

It appears that COVID-19 has created an increase in staff workload. In addition to increased building code requirements with the review of building plans, which have resulted in a slow-down of the processing of permits, staff has experienced an increase in site inspections, phone call inquiries and walk-in appointments for all things pertaining to development. People are checking out the Town of Rockport as a place to stop.

The sewer expansion along Route 90 is still being explored. The Town is waiting to hear back on a number of grants to offset the expense of this project. Look at our website for updates on this process.

The Town is putting together an email list to blast out useful information and we are asking residents to sign up to receive the information they want.

For example, if you want to be updated on all things happening in the Planning and Development office then that is the box you will

select. This ensures that the only emails you will receive from the blast is from my office sending out updates about what is going on in the Planning and Development office.

I highly encourage everyone to sign up so Town Officials and staff can reach you with important information. I hope you all enjoy your summer.

Town Clerk

By: Linda Greenlaw, Town Clerk

We are sorry to report that Wyatt Summers, Deputy Town Clerk resigned to go work in the construction business with his father and brother. We wish him all the best working for the family business.

We have formed a Cemetery Working Group, consisting of Brenda Richardson, Julia Clement, Ben Pratt (Assistant Sexton), Helen Shaw, Jon Duke (Town Manager) and Linda M. Greenlaw (Town Clerk). We will be discussing a new fee schedule, revised rules, and regulations (hopefully more streamlined) and having a columbarium at the Sea View Cemetery. Our goal is to pre-sell them and to open up a few of them to nonresidents of Rockport.

We hope to see you on Election Day, June 14th and again at Town Meeting the evening of June 15th.

Absentee ballots are available until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 9th.

Police Department

By: Randy Gagne, Police Chief

At long last Summer is upon us once again. After a chilly Spring we look forward to the warm days and long nights that are coming our way. As with each Summer things will start to get busy for the Police Department. Summer is also a busy time for everyone else as well. Traffic increases, road construction projects are underway, lakes, beaches, and parks are usually at capacity. With all these things in mind we would like to remind everyone of a few things. When traffic increases, please use extra caution while driving.

While most of us know our roads well, there are those visiting that do not. This can lead to frustration for drivers when someone is lost or looking for a specific place. Traffic backups can also be frustrating as well. Increased traffic delays are common so give yourself some extra time. Our side roads act as unofficial bypasses during the busy Summer months. We ask that you please pay close attention to your speed in these areas because most are residential street with a 25-mph speed limit.

We will see an increase in bicycle and pedestrian use as well. With construction season underway we ask that you proceed with caution in these construction zones. There is a lot of activity in a construction site with moving vehicles, equipment, and workers in the roadway. Speeding fines are double in these areas.

Remember when passing a bicyclist, you must give 3 feet of safe passing. When visiting our parks, lakes, and beaches we ask that you remove valuables from your vehicles and lock your doors since we occasionally have thefts in these areas. Nothing spoils a day of fun than returning to find your valuables have been stolen.

Residents looking for help in person may stop at the Police Station for assistance, please ring the doorbell twice. If no answers the door, please pick up the red phone located on the wall to the left of the door. This will connect you with a dispatcher and they will be able to assist you or have an officer meet you. You can also email Chief Randy Gagne a rgagne@rockportmaine.gov

PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL ME FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE NEEDS.

If you have an urgent matter, please call 236-2027 or 911 for emergencies.

Rockport Police will be out patrolling our roads helping to make them safer for everyone. We will be looking for alcohol and impaired drivers, speeding motorist, construction zone violations, and any other violations of State law.

We appreciate any and all help you can give us for a safe summer for all.

Fire Department

By: Jason Peasley, Fire Chief

Rockport Fire would like to take the time to remind you that campfire season is upon us, and we want to ensure everyone remains safe throughout the year. Even if still using a fire pit or fire ring, we are requiring you to follow the State of Maine Forestry Departments Fire Danger Class. (<https://mainefireweather.org>)

To ensure everyone's safety you should always check the State of Maine link to ensure conditions outside are within the Fire Danger Classification for that day. Wind and dry conditions are the two biggest factors why one shouldn't have any fires going during these times.

Please always have a garden hose or a bucket of water near any outside fires.

Public Works

By: Michael Young, Public Works Director

Public Works is gearing up for this year's paving. We are preparing roads by ditching and brush cutting and inspecting culverts.

Due to increasingly deteriorating conditions, a complete grinding and rebuild of Park Street is being planned and will go out to bid in the coming months.

This year's planned paving schedule includes the following roads:

- Main Street
- Upper portion of Camden St
- Hope Street
- Ledgewood Drive
- Rockville loop
- Alexander Drive
- Bonny Street
- Homestead Lane
- Kathy's Lane

The Town applied for and was awarded two grants to replace two of the largest culverts in Town.

Repairs to Robinson Drive have been designed and are awaiting permitting by State Agencies, however the earliest we could complete culvert replacement is this fall if the weather cooperates.

Until a new, permanent culvert is installed the Town has established a temporary fix to allow for residents to be able to continue to use the roadway. With West St. Ext the project is undergoing engineering and we hope to have it out to bid and completed this year or Spring of 2023.

The Town has been working with MDOT on plans for the Goose River Bridge on Pascal Avenue.

Designs and plans are being drawn and we will continue to work with them in anticipation of the project (expected to be a full bridge replacement), currently planned for 2025.

We are also working on inspecting culverts throughout Town. We are keeping a list of culverts in need of replacement or maintenance and will be prioritizing them based on needs.

In the meantime, if you have a culvert on a Town road, which you believe needs attention, please don't hesitate to contact Public Works at (207)236-6245.

HELP KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAR

We would like to remind everyone that it is a violation of State Law to purposefully place leaves or other debris into the right-of-way.

These impediments can be a safety hazard and actively work against our crew's attempt to keep our roads safe.

Also, grass and leaves blown into the road can plug catch basins and cause unnecessary flooding.

We need your help so we can clear our roads and allow all of us to travel safely.



Property Inspections

By: Kerry Leichtman, Assessor

One of the most time consuming, but interesting, activities Assessors do are property inspections. We inspect new buildings, additions to existing buildings, accessory buildings, and renovations. In a typical year we will inspect 300-350 properties.

We value a property for its ownership and condition as of April 1 of each year. The standard advice I give is if you're demolishing a building, do it before April 1. If you're starting a building project start it after April 1.

If you build a garage, for example, during the month of April 2022 it will not be on the tax bill you receive in September 2022. The first time it will be taxed is September 2023. That is because the garage did not exist on April 1, 2022, but it did exist on April 1, 2023. But if you built it in March 2022, it will have existed on April 1, 2022 and will be taxed in September.

A house that was started in January will most likely be only partially completed by April 1.

We use a checklist to determine its completion percentage. If the house is 43% complete on April 1 and 100% complete in July, the tax bill will reflect the house as being 43% complete, even though the building was finished when the tax bill arrived. Everything assessing revolves around April 1.

We typically begin our annual inspections in late February and conclude them in early August. Depending on the projects, Caitlin and I will go out individually or together. This year is a little different. We added Molli Bennett to our staff. Molli works for the Finance Department and now also Assessing. She recently earned her Assessor Certification. She and Caitlin have been conducting the inspections, leaving me behind to recuperate from knee surgery.

We do inspections by cold call. Making appointments would require more staff to make the calls and coordinate a schedule – and we'd run the risk of wasting time if appointments went long or short. If we come by and no one is home, we leave a door hanger card requesting a call back.

Sometimes we can conduct the inspection when the homeowner isn't home. A garage usually only requires that we measure it and note if it has a second floor or not. If we can do that without intruding on a property, we will. The same is true of sheds and decks. All we do is measure them.

We will never peek through a window, and if someone is about to tell me where they hide a spare key, I stop them. While I appreciate the trust, I don't want to know.

As a sidenote to inspections: Just because an improvement cost \$40,000 doesn't mean it will add \$40,000 of value to a property.

The cost tables in our software are

market driven. That 20 x 15 inground pool might have cost \$60,000 to buy and install but in our system it will only add \$19,500 to the property's value. The market has told us that the house with the pool will sell, on average, for \$19,500 more than an identical property with no pool.

While sheds, decks, inground swimming pools, central air conditioning all add value, solar panels are a good example of an improvement that doesn't (yet).

A residential installation typically costs \$15,000 - \$40,000. We have not yet seen that buyers favor a house with solar panels over a house without them. As a result, we don't increase a property's value when solar panels are installed. This may change but as of today the panels are not adding value in our local market.



Recreation Committee

By: Jason Peasley, Fire Chief

The Rockport Recreation Committee has worked very hard over the last 8 months to ensure a full membership has been established, new workplan created, updated by-laws, committee policy created and started meeting month at Marge Jones Facility.

Yearly contractual services have been scheduled for each year for field maintenance, irrigation, fence repairs, portable outhouses, and mowing be completed each Spring and Fall season.

Sports Field of Maine has completed the Little League Baseball and Softball fields and completing the Babe Ruth field. Tom Fence worked on all the chain-link fences throughout the property, repairing gates and posts, Farley Inc., has upgrade the irrigation system and added auto mowers to the field, three new sheds were built by Shed Solutions for baseball, softball, and Pen Bay Soccer.

We have received many generous monetary donations to build the sheds, add a new 30' flagpole, to include Ames Excavations for donating his time and equipment to build the new 9'x9' pads for the sheds, American Legion for the flags for the new pole and Fitzzy LLC for the equipment and manpower to paint the sheds and dug-outs. Not to include peoples time and efforts.

The Recreation Committee is starting a new Campaign to resurface the 25-year-old tennis courts, replace the post, backstop, wind net, new tennis lines as well as adding 4 new Pickle Ball courts to the courts.

Any and all help would be gratefully appreciated. Donations can be made to: Town Of Rockport Attn: Tennis/Pickle Ball Court Remodel

Finance Update

By: Megan Brackett, Finance Director

We have had a few crazy months in the Finance Office, budget preparation and meetings take up a significant amount of time, but it is a labor of love, and we are proud of the document and work that is produced from the process. I am sure you will see in many sections of this newsletter some reference to the budget process, or what impact the proposed budget will have on your taxes, or even what projects we plan to complete with the proposed budget. I believe that proposed budget moves us in a positive direction forward, and we are facing many items that have been put off for several years. The final proposed budget is on the Town of Rockport website, by going to www.rockportmaine.gov, select “Departments”, “Finance”, “Budget”, then “Current Proposed Budget”, click on Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Materials, and the Select Board’s budget document is titled “Select Board Final Budget Fiscal Year 2022-2023”.

As always if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, my email address is mbrackett@rockportmaine.gov or by phone at 207-230-0180 x6.

With the budget work complete, we must start looking at closing out the current fiscal year. In May the Town Manager and I will met with Department Heads to review their budgets, and where they are relative to year end. We also reviewed projects that need to be

completed, or large purchases that need to be paid. All non-property tax revenue to ensure that we have collected and are projecting to collect what we anticipated when the budget was created. One of the largest overall impacts that I see as of now to the budget, is the amount of money that we have spent on the Rockport Harbor Hotel appeals, as of April 20th, 2022, the Town has collectively spent \$149,157.99, which is up from \$87,547.53 as of June 30th, 2021.

The current operating year, we have spent \$61,610.46 in legal fees for this project that were not budgeted for. Another appeal has been filed in opposition to the Planning Board Findings and another with the Building permit, and possibly more anticipated in the future, is likely this number will only increase. Once the year has ended, I will post financial reports that will show where we ended the year, and explanations on deviations from what was anticipated.

Once the fiscal year has ended, our next big task will be to revisit the Capital Improvement Plan and get a new document created for the upcoming years, taking into consideration what projects we were able to complete in the current fiscal year, and what projects are expected to be completed in the budget which will be put before voters June 15th, 2022.

We will also review to see if there are new projects that should be added to the list.

The goal is to get to a point where

our total capital investment stays level and we can avoid having large swings in our net budgets.

We plan to have this document completed in advance of budget preparations for the fiscal year ending 2024 budget process.

If you have any projects that you would like to see accomplished or have ideas about what you would like to see in Town, please reach out and let us know.

Wastewater Update

By: Megan Brackett, Finance Director

If you have driven Route One lately you have probably noticed that the Route One Sewer Extension project has started back up after the Winter shut down. The plan is to have the project completed in June of 2022, this is a tentative date as of now as construction will be dependent on the weather and the availability of needed supplies. If you have questions or concerns about the project, please reach out to me at mbrackett@rockportmaine.gov or 207-230-0180 x6.

As of the writing of this article we have not started to prepare a Wastewater budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which will start July 1st, 2022. We have a lot up in the air right now concerning the agreement and contracts that we have with the wastewater system, and we are dedicated to finding the best options for the rate payers of Rockport. We want all rate payers to know that we are actively working in this direction, and we understand this has been a

time-consuming process, but we are fighting for you.

We have applied for several Federal and State grants to hopefully help with some alternative options to what we currently have, we are not yet able to outline in detail what these options might look like, and what those costs would be but in the next few months we will be issuing more information about what these options are, and what they would mean for you as the rate payers. Again, I can not stress enough that we are looking at all options to help alleviate the higher rates that you have felt over the past couple of years, and we are looking to creative options to get these rates down.

If you have any questions or concerns about your sewer bills, please contact me and I am happy to work through those concerns with you.

Where do my tax dollars go?

By: Megan Brackett, Finance Director

We get this question frequently, where do my tax dollars go? With Open Town Meeting around the corner, we thought now was a good time to address this, it is also a very good question and one that all taxpayers should be asking. Your tax bill is essentially made up of three parts, the first is funding our portion of the school expenses. On the one-hundred-dollar bill, you see on this page, you can see that 65% of your tax payment goes directly to the school, this also represents the highest single portion of your tax

bill. To relate this to actual dollars, for every \$100 dollars you pay to the Town, we automatically send \$65 dollars to the school district.

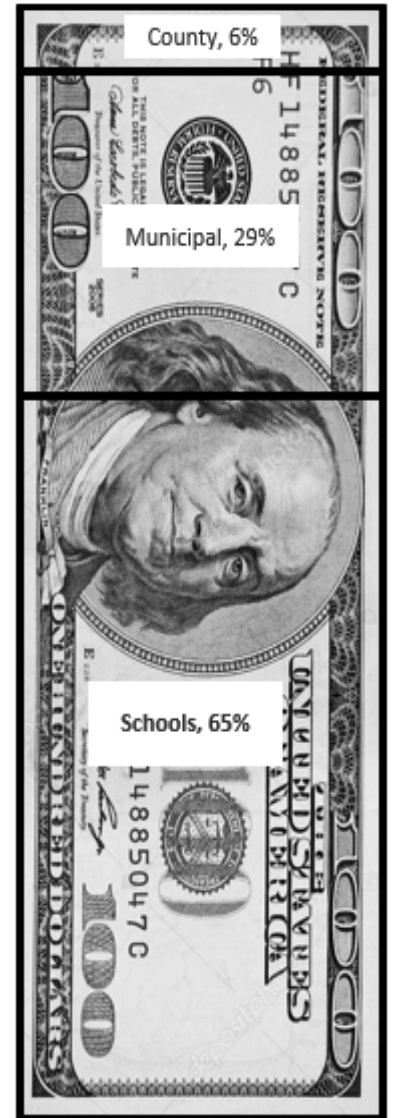
The second largest funding portion of your tax bill is the municipal portion, this represents what it costs to run to the Town, for items like paving and plowing roads, Police, Fire and EMS services, operating expenses at the Harbor, to name a few. Of every \$100 dollars you pay, \$29 dollars of that goes to fund these services.

The final piece of your tax bill is the Knox County Assessment, this represents 6% of your entire tax bill, or \$6 dollars of every \$100 dollars.

We work very hard throughout the year to be mindful of the taxpayer's ability to pay for these services. We have spent several years stripping away from annual budget, to try to make up for the increases that we have seen elsewhere, this has made it hard for us to keep up on regular maintenance, complete projects that are needed, or adequately invest in our roads so that we don't have to continue to bond for road work.

We are hopeful with the changes that were made this year and the growth in value that we have seen, the mil rate will be reduced in the upcoming year, we do not anticipate an increase at this point.

Should you have any questions about your tax bill, please feel free to reach out to the Town Office.



Opera House

By: Nancy Albertson

Exciting times at the Rockport Opera House, we now have a beautiful, state of the art, LED light system that was installed in April. After delays with materials and labor, it is certainly worth the two-year wait to upgrade the lighting system using current technology which will enhance the audience

The Rockport Resource

and presenter experience. We hope you can attend an upcoming event to experience it firsthand.

We are slowly crawling out from underneath the COVID-19 restrictions and have been filling in the calendar with performances from past presenters such as the Rockport Dance Conservancy, DownEast Singers, Bay Chamber Concerts and returning this year, the Glenn Jenks Ragtime Review. Keep up to date with current happenings by signing up for our newsletter on rockportoperahouse.org or sending your email to nalbertson@rockportmaine.gov.

You can also check the events page on the website with links to purchase tickets..

We still have room for your special event this year, please send inquiries to the same email address. For all Town sponsored events, masks are optional, but presenters can opt for their own policy.

We appreciate everyone's efforts to remain mindful of the ongoing situation and respect the wishes of fellow guests so that everyone can enjoy live performances and events.

Are you wishing to rehome some beloved leather furniture? The Opera House is looking for a brown leather couch and chair to update our downstairs Green Room set. We would love your donation. Contact Kari for more information 207.691.7388.

Rockport Bench Program

by: Marilyn McWilliams, Rockport Parks and Beautification Committee

A donor bench program, approved by the Select Board, has been established by the Town of Rockport. The program offers donors the opportunity to honor an individual or family member or to provide a bench for community use. The benches will be located in various Rockport parks and include three styles with varying price points. The dedication duration is 10 years, and is renewable. The placement of the benches will be determined by the Committee to achieve eventual consistency of bench types within each park.

Brochures will be available soon at various places throughout the town including the Town Office and Library.

To access the brochure or download it through the Governance - Honorary/Memorial Bench Program tabs at the Town website: Rockportmaine.gov.



DuMor World's Fair Bench
Goodridge Park & Harbor Park



DuMor Powdered Steel bench
Walker Park

Donating a bench to remember a loved one, celebrate a friend, or commemorate the town of Rockport gives our community members and visitors an opportunity to sit and relax in our beautiful town.

You can also scan the QR code with your phone below.



Weatherend Jackson Park Setee
Memorial Park

Town of Rockport, Maine



SIGN UP NOW TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Be informed, make a plan, build a kit, and get involved – anytime, anywhere.

Why should I be ready?

Emergencies happen all the time and knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency improves your odds of a positive outcome. Our emergency notifications send updated alerts directly to you keeping you informed on rapidly changing situations.



How do I sign up?

It's easy! Simply go to <https://rockportmaine.gov/civicallyready> and enter your contact information. Then we'll send updated alerts through email, voice, or text. Modifications to the alerts can be made at any time after sign-up.

Warnings and Information On:

- Emergency Alerts
- Community Notifications
- Extreme Heat
- Floods
- Hazardous Materials
- Pandemic
- Thunderstorms & Lightning
- Town wide events
- Elections
- Winter Storms

CIVICREADY



www.facebook.com/rockportmaine

Rockport Town Office
101 Main Street
Rockport, Maine 04856
Phone (207) 236-9648

Children's & Young Adult Events at the Rockport Public Library

Youth Summer Reading Program 6/24-8/19

Summer Reading Kickoff Party, Friday 6/24

Celebrate the start of the Library's Kids and Teen Summer Reading Programs with an outdoor treasure hunt, sea creature crafts, and more!

End of Summer Reading Party, Friday 8/19

Celebrate the end of the Library's Kids and Teen Summer Reading Programs with a scavenger hunt and a musical performance from Midcoast Music Academy!

Summer Storytimes

Lunchtime Storytime, Tuesdays 12:30-1pm

Drop in for a snack-friendly Storytime focused on shapes, colors, numbers, and ABCs. Weather permitting, we'll picnic in the park! Ideal for ages 2-5.

Pajama Storytime, biweekly Wednesdays 6-6:30pm (6/29, 7/13, 7/27, 8/10)

Join us in the Children's room for lullabies, sleepy books, and gentle stretches. Charlie will wear PJs and you should too! Ideal for ages 2-8. Siblings and stuffed animals are welcome!

Bouncing Babies, Saturdays 10-10:30am

Drop in for a Storytime with songs, Baby ASL, and lap bounces in the Children's Room. Ideal for babies ages 0-2.

Farmers Market Storytime, Saturdays 11-11:30am (6/25, 7/30, 8/20)

Join us at the Guini Ridge Farmers Market for an outdoor Storytime with picture books and songs. Ideal for ages 2-10.

Oceans of Possibilities S.T.E.M. Programs

Lego Club, Tuesdays 4-5pm

Drop in for free play with legos or try out one of our builders challenges based on your reading interests! Ideal for ages 4-12.

S.T.E.M. by the Sea, Thursdays 3-4pm (7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 8/4)

Join us at the Rockport Public Library for a Summer of S.T.E.M. experiments and seaside adventures in partnership with John Van Dis, Education and Teacher Professional Development Director of Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership. Over five weeks, we'll explore our local ocean and eco system through data art, cooking and crafting with seaweed and sea vegetables, and marine debris and cleanup at the Rockport Harbor. All program supplies will be provided. This program ideal for ages 11-17.

A Seals Journey, Wednesday, 7/6 2-3pm

Join Marine Mammals of Maine(MMoME) as they take you through a seal's journey from stranding to release, and all of the obstacles in between. Starting with seal basics such as whether it's normal for them to be out of the water, and why you might see a baby on its own, and then dive into when and why seals need our help. You will learn what MMoME is, what they do, the animals they care for, and how you can help. This is an all-ages program.

S.E.A. Marine Tank: See the S.E.A., Saturday, 7/16 12-2pm

The Rockport Public Library is pleased to announce a collaboration with the Stewardship Education

Alliance for a Storytime, ocean-themed crafts, and a presentation of S.E.A.'s marine tank. We'll discuss our local ocean ecosystem and participants will view and interact with the marine tank's sea creatures. This is an all-ages program.

Mad Science Maine - No Limits Show, Wednesday, 7/27 1-2pm

Join Mad Science Maine on an exploratory mission of some of the coolest - and hottest - innovations of the world's Roboticists, Rocket Scientists, and more! We'll use Biochemistry to make our gooey, green sodium alginate "WORMS" and learn how similar polymers are used to clean up oil spills. We'll launch a rocket with the power of combustion and...wait for it...have a dance party with ALPHA - our Robot pal! This is an all-ages program.

World of Whales, Wednesday, 8/3 2-3pm

Join Marine Mammals of Maine (MMoME) as we dive deep into the world of whales. What challenges do these animals face, and what challenges does MMoME encounter when a report of a stranded cetacean comes through their hotline? This is an all-ages program.

Annual Egg Drop, Thursday, 8/11 3-4pm

Join us at the Rockport Public Library for our annual egg drop competition. Participants will use Library supplies to build a case for their egg that can prevent the egg from breaking as it falls from the deck of the Library to the patio beneath! This is an all-ages program.

Oceans of Possibilities Arts Programs

Storywalks at the Rockport Harbor, Wednesday-Friday 11-11:45am (6/29-7/1, 7/13-7/15, 8/10-8/12)

Stop by the Rockport Harbor and Marine Park for a Storywalk, songs, and take-and-make craft featuring ocean-themed picture books. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This is an all-ages program.

Messy Art Studio, Fridays 4-5pm (7/1, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12)

Drop by the Children's Room for a weekly process art workshop. This summer we'll focus on using recycled materials in our artwork and experiment with plein air painting. Ideal for ages 4-12.

The Tween Writer's Circle, 2 4-week programs on Wednesdays 3-5pm (6/29-7/20 and 7/27-8/17)

Each week, students will learn how to get their ideas on paper and make their stories really work; from the first spark of creativity, through constructive group discussion of ideas, to a final product. We will explore different genres of writing including memoir, poetry, fiction, non-fiction and graphic novels. This workshop is designed to empower students to find their voices through writing. This writing program will be led by Robin Patton, a former high school, middle school and college English teacher who has also led student workshops and attended multiple creative writing workshops at the Iowa Summer Writing Festival. Ideal for ages 9-12.

Mobile Art Workshop with Antje Roitzsch, Friday 7/8 4-5pm

Drop in for a recycled mobile art workshop with local Lincolnville artist, Antje Roitzsch! We'll learn about the art of mobile-making and then use recycled materials to create our own hanging mobile sculptures. Antje Roitzsch's mobile sculptures will be on display in the Children's Room this July! This program is ideal for ages 4-12.

Author Talk and Q&A with Leslie Connor, Wednesday 8/3 4-5pm

Rockport Public Library is pleased to present an author talk and Q&A with National Book Award Finalist and middle grade author, Leslie Connor on her writing, inspiration, and new novel *Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?* This is an all-ages program.

Adult Programming at the Rockport Public Library

Medicare Talk with Renata Lahner

You are invited to come and learn about your Medicare options with Renata Lahner of J Edward Knight Senior Advantage. This event will be held on Wednesday, June 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Rockport Public Library. It is free and open to all.

Rockport Public Library 5k

Join us on Saturday, June 25th at 9:00 a.m. for the Rockport Public Library 5k. It starts in beautiful Rockport village and travels along the coast offering fantastic ocean views. The race starts and ends at the Rockport Public Library and takes you around Beauchamp Point.

This event is open to runners and walkers of all ages and skills. Strollers are allowed, but be mindful of traffic as most of the race does not have a sidewalk. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. at the Rockport Public Library and the race starts at 9:00 a.m. If you have registered in advance, please allow yourself enough time to sign in and to get your bib number.

The 5K race is open to all, and registration costs \$25 on race day or \$20 in advance. Kids 18 and under can register for \$10. To register please go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/ME/Rockport/RockportPublicLibraryRunWalk5k>. If you have any questions, or to sign up, please contact the Library at 236-3642 or rpl@rockport.lib.me.us.



SAVE THE DATE

June 17th, 6:30 p.m. at the Rockport Opera House

An Evening with New York Times bestselling author Chris Bohjalian, sponsored by the Rockport Library Foundation.

The new Rockport Public Library were present at the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Gala to receive the 2022 Public Improvement Award.

Many thanks to the Rockport Library Foundation, the Friends of Rockport Public Library, the Library Committee, all of those who supported these efforts financially, and of course the residents of the Town of Rockport. Without all of these groups, this project would not have been possible. Congratulations one and all!



Rockport Conservation Commission Spring Update

The RCC welcomes spring with new and continuing projects to meet the priorities identified by last year's Rockport citizen survey.

As water quality and climate change were identified as the most urgent topical areas, RCC will continue to focus on monitoring Rockport's water quality, both marine and freshwater, and will also start looking at the local impacts of climate change while building community resilience, outreach and mitigation efforts.

As the Spring water quality monitoring season ramps up, the Conservation Commission is proud to announce a recently published a summary report titled "Lily Pond Water Quality (1979-2021)," which describes management efforts and details observed changes in water quality.

Best Management Practices at Aldermere Farm have reduced phosphorus inputs to the pond and structural and operational changes were designed to reduce inputs of nutrient-rich landfill leachate from the former Jacob's Quarry to the pond. Data for the period 1979-2021 suggest that these management activities markedly improved Lily Pond water quality. Water clarity, total phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations now meet or surpass levels recommended by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

The full report, written by Bob Kennedy, is available on the Conservation Commission page of the Town of Rockport website.

The RCC has begun to work on joining the Maine Community Resilience Partnership, a program to connect municipalities with the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation and Future which provides Towns with resources to reduce emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change.

The partnership will allow the RCC to apply for funds to assist Rockport in developing a plan for extreme weather events, flooding, rising sea levels, public health and infrastructure impacts. The partnership will be advanced with public participation and the first community engagement event will be on June 7th at 6 p.m. at the Rockport Opera House.

The citizen survey also determined that the community wants RCC outreach to take the form of in-person events films, workshops and lectures. RCC worked with State Representative, Vicki Doudera to co-sponsor Earth Day movie screening of

The Story of Plastics at the Rockport Opera House and also work with Rep. Doudera to co-sponsor showing of The River at the Shotwell Drive-In Theater (at the old Rockport Elementary school site) on Thursday, June 16th. The film is a documentary, narrated by Willem Dafoe, that explores the relationship between humans and rivers and draws attention to the importance of freshwater resources.

Last, the majority of people who answered the survey thought one of the roles of the RCC should be to amplify the work of other environmental groups in the area.

Along these lines, RCC is collaborating with the Rockport Garden Club and Parks and Beautification Committees to plant native gardens at Walker Park along with signage that informs the public about how to minimize the use of chemicals and run off as well as support species diversity.

If you would like to join any of these efforts or receive more information, please email conservation@rockportmaine.gov



On Teacher Appreciation Day, Harbor Builders volunteered their team to transplant trees, funded by a Rockport Canopy Grant and grown out by the staff at Aldermere Farm, at CRES where they can be enjoyed by students and teachers alike.

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 takes just a few minutes to fill out the 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, a Police Officer will go to their residence to ensure everything is okay.

Feel free to contact Jeff Sukeforth at the Camden Police Department for more information at 236-7953 or jsukeforth@camdenmaine.gov.

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. Picture and/or Business Logo are welcomed as well.

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.

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

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