



TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER



Selectboard

Jan Gaudio, Chairman

Walter Reitz

Cheryl Waterman

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Town of South Thomaston

125 Spruce Head Road

P.O. Box 147

South Thomaston, ME 04858

Judge Rules on case regarding Fireman's Association Funds

Justice William Stokes sided with the town of South Thomaston in his Feb. 14 ruling on nearly every point of its lawsuit against former Fire Chief Wayne Brown and former firefighter Colin Grierson.

The South Thomaston Fireman's Association had over \$10,000 when the organization disbanded in 2007. When the association voted to dissolve, the members stipulated the money be given to the Town and placed in a reserve account for the purchase of a Class A pumper truck. Town officials made several attempts to get the money and eventually bought a firetruck in 2014 without those funds. The town then filed the lawsuit in February of 2015 to obtain the money.

Wayne Brown acknowledged in Knox County Unified Court that he closed the association's account at Camden National Bank in 2010 and opened a new account for the association at T.D. Bank. He also acknowledged that he closed the account at T.D. Bank in 2014 and transferred the money to a new account at the same bank under the name of Weskeag Retired Firefighters Benefit Fund. With interest, the account is now valued at nearly \$15,000. Brown spent about \$1,900 of the money seeking legal advice.

The Maine Attorney General's Office intervened in the case, arguing that one of its responsibilities is to ensure that money given to charities is properly used and that the firemen's association was a charitable organization.

Justice Stokes pointed out in his ruling the animosity that Brown and Grierson have for the town. "It is obvious to the court, based on the evidence presented at the trial, that the defendants have strong and bitter feelings toward the town of South Thomaston and its municipal officers, and it was that bitter resentment that motivated both defendants to evade and avoid turning over the Association's funds to the town, and even misrepresent their knowledge as to the whereabouts of the funds," the judge concluded.

Brown and Grierson have thirty days from the date of the ruling to turn over all funds to the Town.

RECYCLING – It just make "cents"

One of the highest annual expenses that the Town has each year is for the disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW). Everything we throw away at the Transfer Station has to be transported and disposed of. Altogether, the residents of the three towns that share the Transfer Station - South Thomaston, Thomaston and Owls Head, dispose of over 4000 tons of solid waste each year. One way of reducing this cost and helping our environment, is to recycle as much solid waste as possible. When you first enter the Transfer Station you will notice that there is a separate dumpster for "single stream recycling". That means that "most" recyclable materials can go in that dumpster. Some of the major exceptions are corrugated cardboard, electronic waste, and metals. Those items have separate containers that reduce the single stream container and allows the Towns to get a better "price" for the recyclable materials.

The "single stream" dumpster is where you dispose of most household recyclables – non-returnable glass/plastics, clean paper and metal cans. The Transfer Station attendants can provide you with a complete list of what can and cannot be recycled. All other waste material goes into the trash dumpster. The "single stream" container is compressed to make sure that we transport a full load weight each trip. One way to help is to be sure you remove the caps from all milk jugs and other covered containers, so they can be crushed more effectively.

Remember, the more material we take out of the waste stream and recycle, the less the cost of disposing of the remaining MSW. We can and should do better, it just make "cents".

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ANNUAL ROAD SIDE CLEANUP

The annual town roadside cleanup is tentatively planned for Saturday, April 29th. Trash bags will be available at various locations including the town office and the library. Filled bags may be left on the roadside for volunteer pickup.

Cemetery cleanup day is planned for Saturday, May 13th, at all of the town cemeteries. For more information, please call Pennie Alley at 594-7416

We Now Accept Credit/Debit Cards

Customers who choose to use credit & debit cards will be charged a 2.5% processing fee *in addition to* the amount charged with a minimum fee of \$1. These fees are not retained by the Town of South Thomaston.

VOLUNTARY TAX CLUB

Voluntary Tax Club Booklets are available at the Town Office. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Town Office at 596-6584 for assistance. You can budget your property taxes on a monthly basis.

TOWN E-MAIL LIST

The Town has an email list to electronically mail newsletters, meeting agendas and other information. If you would like to be added to the electronic distribution list please send an email to:
sthomstn@midcoast.com.

BRIDGE SIDEWALK PROJECT

The Keag Bridge will be closed no longer than 35 consecutive calendar days. The bridge closure cannot start before October 2, 2017 and shall be completed before November 19, 2017. If the contractor goes over they will be hit with supplemental liquidated damages. If they open it early they can earn incentive money.

Most of the sidewalk will be done as part of the highway work.. It is the plan that the sidewalk work will be done by the first of September.

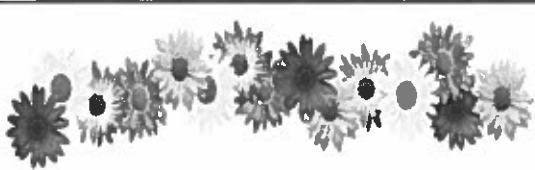
The bridge contract was awarded to Reed & Reed, Inc. of Woolwich. MDOT is accepting bid applications for the sidewalk project until March 15th.

TOWN OFFICE 2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

2016 Holidays	Date Observed
New Year's Day	January 2
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 16
President's Day	February 20
Patriots Day	April 17
Memorial Day	May 29
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 4
Columbus Day	October 9
Veterans Day	November 10
Thanksgiving Day	November 23
Christmas Day	December 25

OPERATIONAL HOURS

<u>Town Office</u>		<u>Demolition Debris Facility</u>
Mon, Wed, Thurs	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Wed & Sat 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Tuesday	8:30 AM - 6:00 PM	A sticker is required for residents. Vouchers are available at the Town Office.
Friday	Closed	
<u>Library</u>		
Monday.	11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	<u>Transfer Station (Buttermilk Lane)</u>
Wednesday	2:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Tues - Thurs & Sat
		8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Phone 594-0748
Story Hour, Monday	10:00 AM	
Phone	596-0022	



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 28, 2017 @ 7:00 PM, GILFORD BUTLER SCHOOL

TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU

On behalf of Emergency Management I would like to thank the residents of South Thomaston for heeding the "Blizzard Warnings" on February 12-13 by staying home and off the roads. As a result of your efforts we had no injuries, car accidents or other problems that we had to call out the Ambulance and Fire Department. This resulted in not endangering our First Responders in having to provide emergency services. We thank you all for your cooperation as that was one "BIG" storm.

For those of you who live in the Iron Tree Rd area, thank you for your patience for approximately six hours while your power was in the process of being restored. Your area was affected the longest without power. We interfaced with a few residences in your area on Facebook, trying to assure them their power would be restored as soon as CMP crews could get to them safely and provided them with contact information if they needed assistance and/or information regarding expected restoration times.

In the future, if any resident needs information on power outages or any other information please feel free to contact me by phone- 594-7873, if your power is out and you have a cell phone- 691-0142 – texts will usually be transmitted or email - emadir.so.thomaston@gmail.com. Whenever there is a storm event we are continually monitoring roads/closures, power outages, emergencies and evaluating the possible opening of the Warming Shelter. This is done throughout the Town and County continually until the Storm Event has ended. In this case, that was 11:00 pm February 16 after power was restored to the Keag, Westbrook and Waterman's Beach Rd areas.

THANKS AGAIN, WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION BY STAYING HOME AND SAFE.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Winter isn't quite over yet so please make sure to keep snow from building up around your heating vents.

Check your smoke detectors & CO2 detectors; if they are 10 years or older it is recommended they be replaced. You should at least change out your batteries in both.

Spring is coming, if you want your field burned please get in contact with one of the Fire Wardens. Bryan Calderwood 596-6674, Gerald Harjula 354-8026, David Elwell 542-4797

Remember you need a burn permit to burn any and all brush.

The Fire Department along with our Mutual Aid Departments will be conducting live fire training on Spruce Head Road between the Fire Station & Westbrook Street on May 6th 2017 and it will be an ALL DAY event. If you can avoid the area please do so as traffic flow will be slowed if not detoured.

If you are 16 years old or older and want to give back to your Town and join the Fire Department please fill out an application & submit it to the Fire Chief by dropping it off at the Town Office

EMERGENCY (E911) SIGNS

Blue or green emergency house number signs are available at the Town Office. They cost about \$8 to \$11, depending on size and the number of digits. These signs are critical for emergency responders to be able to locate you quickly, especially at night or in inclement weather.

DUMP STICKERS

New Transfer Station and Demo Debris Stickers are available at the Town Office. Transfer Station Stickers are \$15. Demo Debris Stickers are \$10. Both stickers are valid until December 31, 2018

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Haddock - Shrimp Bake

1-2 lbs fresh or frozen haddock
1 can condensed cream of shrimp soup
1/4 cup butter, melted
1/2 teaspoon grated onion
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
1 1/4 cups broken up ritz crackers (30)
1/2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
Slightly thaw and rinse fish (if using frozen)
Place in 9 x 13 pan. Spread with soup. Bake at 375 degrees 15 min.
Combine melted butter, seasonings and crackers. Sprinkle over fish.
Bake 10 to 15 minutes longer, until done.
Serve with lemon slices and parsley.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Often the Town Office is overlooked when it comes to address changes. Please notify us if your mailing address changes.

MOOSE PERMIT LOTTERY

Moose Hunting Permit Applications must be completed by 11:59 pm May 15, 2017. The Lottery will be held in June of 2017. To hunt moose in Maine, hunters must have one of these special Moose hunting Permits.

TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON DIRECTORY

Selectboard

Jan Gaudio, Chair	Home: 594-0025
Walter Reitz	Home :594-2275
Cheryl Waterman	Home: 594-7695

RSU # 13 Board of Directors Representative

Christine Curtis	Home: 596-0252
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RSU # 13 Superintendent

John MacDonald	596-6620
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Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Registrar & General Assistance Admin.

Terri-Lynn Baines	596-6584
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Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Registrar

Phil Verrill	596-6584
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Deputy Assistant

Michelle Ames	596-6584
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Animal Control Officer (ACO)

Vacancy	593-9132
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Call Knox Communications ACO issues

Fire Department: Emergency Dial 911

Bryan Calderwood, Fire Chief	596-6674
David Elwell, Deputy Chief	542-4797
Gerald Harjula, Assistant Chief	354-8026

All 3 are Fire Wardens and can issue burning permits

Ambulance Service: Emergency Dial 911

Pat Dougherty, Director	594-9305
Rich Norman, Asst. Director	594-5428

Emergency Management Director

Betty Thomas	Home: 594-7873
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Library Director

Pennie Alley	596-0022
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E-911 Coordinator

Arthur Grierson	Home: 594-8873
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Road Commissioner

Gerald Grierson	Home:594-5493
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Budget Committee

Moira Paddock, Chair, Gayle Gallant, Alvera Bosica, Sonja Sleeper, Jeff Northgraves, Alan Hall, Donna Withington

Planning Board

Eileen Skarka, Ruth Rinklin, Ervin Curtis, Jeff Northgraves, Cathy Lawrence Alt: Sonja Sleeper

Board of Appeals

John Hansen, Barbara Noyes, Rolf Winters, Richard Rackliff and Dianne Darling

Knox County Budget Committee

Dorothy Meriwether	Home: 594-7873
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Code Enforcement Officer

John Snow	Cell: 390-0054
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Plumbing Inspector

Lawrence Terrio	Home: 596-0545
Terry Brackett, Alternate LPI	

Assessor's Agent

RJD — Kevin McCormick	596-6584
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Solid Waste Committee

Jan Gaudio	Home: 594-0025
Gordon "Skip" Connell	Home: 594-1801

Georges River Shellfish Warden

Deputy John Hansen	Cell 390-1502 Cell: 691-8915
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Knox County Sheriff (non-emergency)	593-9132
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Maine State Police (non-emergency)	1-800-452-4664
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