

TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

Selectboard

Jan Gaudio

Walter Reitz, Chairman

Cheryl Waterman

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Town of South Thomaston

125 Spruce Head Road

P.O. Box 147

South Thomaston, ME 04858

FUTURE OF THE GILFORD B. BUTLER SCHOOL BUILDING

Please join us for a public meeting at the town office on Wednesday, September 26, at 7:00 pm. We want to hear your input concerning the school building. Gilford Butler School will be offered back to our town by RSU #13. At this point, we do not have a lot of answers, only questions. Our number one question is "What do you want/expect/hope for?" We want to know what you think!

Butler School Futures Committee

Pennie Alley, Bryan Calderwood, Ervin Curtis, Jeff Northgraves, Eileen Skarka, Sandra Retzlaff, John Spear, Sandy Weisman.

NEW EMERGENCY WARMING SHELTER

Several years ago the Town of South Thomaston designated the Library as our Disaster Emergency Warming Shelter to be used in the event of severe winter storms, prolonged power outages or other emergencies. Two years ago the Army Corp of Engineers, all of Knox County EMA Directors Knox County EMA and the Knox County Geospatial Database Manager, updated our County Floodplain Maps, created Hurricane Inundation Maps and Hurricane Evacuation Maps for all Hurricane Categories. This project was a huge undertaking on many levels and provided our local communities with new and valuable information for planning disaster management.

One of the important pieces of information gained by creating these maps was the fact that the location of our "Warming Shelter" was situated in a Hurricane Category 1 area and may be susceptible to flooding in severe storms. However, the Library Warming Shelter can and will be used in the event of prolonged power shortages or severe winter storms. With this new information gained from these maps, EMA began a process of trying to locate a building in South Thomaston that was large enough, on a higher elevation and could be used as an emergency disaster warming shelter. Not an easy task as the Town has few building resources.

Over one year later, the Town of South Thomaston and the Spruce Head Community Church located in the Village of Spruce Head have signed an agreement whereas the Town may use the Spruce Head Community Church building as a "Warming Shelter." In addition, the Congregation donated over \$15,000 in order to purchase and install the necessary emergency generators required for all Emergency Warming Shelters. The location of the Church is outside of the Hurricane Inundation areas and is a large enough facility to adequately provide shelter for many people.

We are extremely grateful to Pastor Chris Emery and the members of the Spruce Head Community Church for their generosity and community service in providing the Town of South Thomaston with this facility. In addition, seventeen volunteers have already come forward to assist at the shelter. We will have our first Warming Shelter Volunteer meeting in late August or early September. If anyone would like to volunteer or attend the meeting please contact me at the following address.

Betty N. Thomas

EMA Director

South Thomaston

emadir.so.thomaston@gmail.com

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SCHOLARSHIPS

This is the first year for these scholarships to be available. Randall Hopkins set up these trusts to provide scholarships for furthering the education of deserving students residing in South Thomaston.

The Randall R. & Arlene M. Hopkins Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Marina Godin and Jason Tyler in the amount of \$1000. Gabrielle Simmons received a scholarship of \$2000.

The Ralph E. & Ella K. Rackliff Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Lauren Darge and Gabrielle Simmons in the amount of \$2000. Marina Godin and Jason Tyler each received a \$1000 scholarship.

Gabrielle Simmons, daughter of Jill Pierce and Craig Simmons, is the valedictorian of the class of 2018 at Oceanside High School. She will be attending Bentley University in Waltham, Mass majoring in Business Management.

Lauren Darge is the daughter of William and Tiffany Darge. She graduated cum laude and will be attending the University of Southern Maine. Lauren has not declared a major yet.

Marina Godin is the daughter of Meredith Perry and Kyle Godin. She will be attending Southern Maine Community College. Her plan is to transfer to a four year school for Dental Hygiene.

Jason Tyler is the son of Adam and Lisa Tyler. He will be attending the University of Southern Maine majoring in Computer Science. Congratulations to all our local scholars!!

What is Community Paramedicine?

Community Paramedicine is now available to all South Thomaston residents. This service is when EMS coordinates with Primary Care Physicians (PCP) or Emergency Room (ER) doctors to come into the home for aftercare and follow up.

Community Paramedics can, in consultation with PCPS, Hospital Discharge Planners and ER Staff, address specific needs identified such as: Post-Surgical/Post Discharge, medication compliance & reconciliation, wound care, episodic care, blood draws, assistance in the management of chronic illnesses, such as Hypertension, diabetes, COPD, etc. and other services as directed by primary care physician.

Community Paramedicine does not replace existing healthcare services. It augments current healthcare resources in an effort to support the unique healthcare needs identified within the community.

The aim of this program is to utilize the skills of our well-trained EMS staff for prevention rather than response.

Questions or a need for this program contact:

Amy Dyer EMTP, CP, IC
South Thomaston EMS Director
adyer@sqvffaa.org

OPERATIONAL HOURS

Town Office

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Friday Closed
Phone 596-6584

Library

Monday 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Story Hour, Monday 10:00 AM
Phone 596-0022

Demolition Debris Facility

Wed & Sat 9:00 AM - 4:00 Tuesday
A sticker is required for residents.
Contractors are required to have vouchers.
Stickers and vouchers are available at the
Town Office.

Transfer Station

Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sat
8:00 AM—4:00 PM
Phone 594-0748

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HELP OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

For home or property owners that live on narrow secluded roads we are asking for you to trim your tree limbs up to 15 feet high and 15 feet back. Not doing this may (will) delay ALL emergency vehicles from gaining access to your property in an emergency. If you have any questions please contact Chief Calderwood at 596-6674.

The Fire Department is in the process of assessing the 20 Fire Ponds in Town and seeing which need better access and a dry hydrant for access to the Fire Ponds year round. If you are a property owner with a Fire Pond please contact the Fire Chief (596-6674).

If your fire detectors are 10 years old or older it is recommended they be replaced. Also change the batteries every October.

If your CO Detector goes off call the Fire Department. Do not call your heating company first and wait for them to arrive which could be hours after they are called and they don't have the equipment to detect if there is any CO in your residence. CO is an odorless gas that can and will harm you. Play it safe and dial 9-1-1.

If you have a fire alarm system at your house or business and it is activated please DO NOT reset it before we arrive. Doing this affects our investigation and finding the reason why the alarm was tripped. Play it safe and dial 9-1-1.

Remember, it is State Law to have a burn permit while burning any and all brush. If you get a fire permit online from the State of Maine web site please make sure to follow the times on the online permit. If you are burning prior or after those times fines can be issued.

If you want a fire permit from the Fire Warden or one of the Deputy Wardens please try & call ahead of time (if possible) and be considerate on when you call one of us as we have families as well. A good time to call us is after 9am. Normally we don't get the daily fire report from the Maine Forest Service until then. Please call to make arrangements for a permit.

EMS CELEBRATION

On May 24, 2018, during EMS week the Ambulance Service recognized Pat Dougherty and Rich Norman at a celebration for their many years of dedication to EMS.

ECOMAINE RECYCLING

Ecomaine recyclopeddia. Your one stop shop for recycling and waste handling answers.

Visit ecomaine.org/RECYCLOPEDIA. Learn more about ecomaine at ecomaine.org

Election Day is November 6th. The polls will be open at the Municipal Building from 8 am to 8 pm.

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.

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WESSAWESKEAG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Wessaweskeag Historical Society was founded three decades ago and continues as a nonprofit, charitable organization anchored in South Thomaston. It maintains archives and a museum that is attached to the town's public library. The historical society hosts monthly potluck suppers and heritage programming that is available to the public. The Society also hosts the annual Heritage Day, sponsors local historic preservation and co-operates the kindred community organizations. Higher education for local youth is supported through the Society's scholarship program. This past graduation season saw several local youths being given that first step to college. The Society meets each month on the second Thursday of the month. Business meeting at 5:30, potluck supper at 6:00, and scheduled program at 7:00.

August is a busy month for the Society this year and all are invited to join us! The "Heritage Day" is a special, "once-a-year" day that opens the museum and its archives to the public. The event will take place on August 12th from noon to 4pm. The Mid Coast Community Band will play at 1:30 in the Keag park across the street from the library. The Society museum has a special focus for Heritage Day this year - the history of Gilford Butler School. Our local school was built in 1955 and after 63 years of serving this community is now closing its doors. The Society has acquired several collections recently from community members Debra Sawyer, the late Joanne (Baum) Smith, and the family of Kenneth Drinkwater - notebooks, photos, newspaper articles, and memories of the town and the area. The historical collection continues to grow and many artifacts, diaries, publications, journals, and items recently collected during the archeological dig in the Keag have been added to the inventory. Refreshments will be served and members available to answer questions.

The public is also invited to join us on Thursday, August 9th, when the Society will hold its monthly meeting, potluck supper, and guest speaker program. Our topic this month is the new bridge construction that took place in late 2017 and the archeological evidence that was uncovered during that work. Chuck Hartman and Chuck Jacobs will be presenting the program. We encourage all attendees to bring their own dishes and utensils so that other members are not left in the kitchen to do the clean up!

Looking ahead, the September program will be held on September 13th with Rob Verbsky, the new Curator at Owls Head Transportation Museum as our guest speaker. He will be speaking about the history of OHTM and their collection of archival materials in the library. The title is "Behind the Scenes at the Owls Head Transportation Museum."

October 11th finds South Thomaston's Mike Dumont at the podium. He will speak about the history of photography and how he has developed his own work as a photographer.

If you have questions or historical information or artifacts to share, please contact either Chuck Hartman at : papakite@adelphia.net or Kathleen Florance at: florka50@yahoo.com

PLEASE NOTIFY THE TOWN OFFICE IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES.

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SOUTH THOMASTON REMEMBERS CHAPLAIN BAKER

Samuel Baker was certainly one extraordinary fellow. The son of Millenarian zealot (his father spent his last years confined to a wooden cage). A silver-tongued circuit rider who ranged over a better part of New England. A divinity scholar, a regular contributor to a national church journal. The architect of a planned community-- a utopian society-- right here on the South Thomaston-Owls Head peninsula. A War of 1812 chaplain.

A graveside observance for Chaplain Baker was held at the Village Cemetery during this past Memorial Day weekend on Sunday, May 27, and Pastor Michelle Wiley, Wessaweskeag Historical Society President Chuck Hartman, Library Director-Cemetery Board President Pennie Alley, VFW Post 3108 representatives, and local Boy Scouts all officiated. The weather cooperated and a crowd was treated to a moving and memorable tribute.

An *Elder Samuel Baker Circle* has been organized to perpetuate the memory of our remarkable reverend, to keep alive his utopian ideals and aspirations. This loose-knit group has published a newsletter as well as initiated a series of workshops on antiquarian subjects (old books provided the theme for the first "Wicked Good Wednesday" program at the library).

For additional information about the Circle, the public is invited to contact its coordinator Chuck Jacobs at 207-594-2637 or his email zeppozulu@aol.com.

DUMP STICKERS

New Transfer Station and Demo Debris Stickers will be available at the Town Office in the fall. Both stickers will be valid until December 31, 2020.

ASSESSOR'S AGENT

The Assessor's Agent meets with residents by appointment during his weekly office hours. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the Town Office at 596-6584.

2018 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE OCTOBER 1ST

Please note that 2018 property taxes are due October 1st. Interest, at a rate of 7%, begins accruing on any unpaid balance as of October 2nd. The names of property owners owing taxes on December 31st will be published in the Town Report.

SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS

The Selectboard meets at the municipal building at 6:00 pm usually on the second Tuesday of each month.



TACOS LEÓN!

The Salty Owl Café and the Lions Club of South Thomaston have teamed up for "Taco Tuesdays" at the Lion's Shack!

Join them every Tuesday 4 PM- 8PM at the Town Landing (Rain or Shine) to enjoy authentic Mexican street tacos and

support your local Lions.

When registering your vehicle you must have proof of insurance and current mileage.

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LIBRARY NEWS

The library book & bake sale was a great success. With many generous donations and hardworking volunteers, we raised over \$650 to spend on new books, supplies, and computer necessities. We have purchased a new wireless router to make full use of the even speedier connection provided to all libraries through Network Maine.

WiFi is available 24/7 both inside and out in the parking lot. Look for Sotholib in your list of available wifi networks. No password required. Thanks to Catherine Bendheim, we have a lovely new library website. Check it out at sotholib.org!

The free book giveaway was also a big success. Many books that had seen more than one sale and lots of paperbacks and magazines found new homes. Thanks to all our generous donors. We depend on your kindness.

Pennie Alley, Library Director

TOWN OF SOUTH THOMASTON DIRECTORY

Selectboard

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

RSU # 13 Board of Directors Representative

Jason Mclean

RSU # 13 Superintendent

John MacDonald 596-6620

Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Registrar & General Assistance Admin.

Terri-Lynn Baines 596-6584

Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Registrar

Phil Verrill 596-6584

Deputy Assistant

Michelle Ames 596-6584

Animal Control Officer (ACO)

William Demmons 593-9132

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

Amy Dyer, Director 594-9305

David Elwell, Assistant Director 594-9305

Emergency Management Director

Betty Thomas Home: 594-7873

Library Director

Pennie Alley 596-0022

E-911 Coordinator

Arthur Grierson Home: 594-8873

Cemetery Overseer

Pennie Alley

Road Commissioner

Gerald Grierson Home:594-5493

Budget Committee

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

Planning Board

Eileen Skarka, Ervin Curtis, Dianne Darling, Sonja Sleeper, Sandy Retzler

Board of Appeals

John Hansen, Barbara Noyes, Rolf Winters, Richard Rackliff and Jeff Northgraves

Knox County Budget Committee

Vacancy Home: 594-7873

Code Enforcement Officer

John Snow Cell: 390-0054

Plumbing Inspector

Terry Brackett Cell : 701-9910

Assessor's Agent

RJD — Kevin McCormick 596-6584

Solid Waste Committee

Walter Reitz Home: 594-0025

Gordon "Skip" Connell Home: 594-1801

Georges River Shellfish Warden

Deputy Ian Clark

Knox County Sheriff (non-emergency) 593-9132

Maine State Police (non-emergency) 1-800-452-4664