



Among the events happening this summer are the Harpswell Lobster Boat Races that will be back in Potts Harbor on July 25. (KRISTINA YORK PHOTO)

Welcome to the New Anchor

BY JANICE THOMPSON

It started off last fall with casual conversations among a few friends and colleagues. “Is the Harpswell Anchor closing its doors?” “What will we do without the Anchor?” “Someone should organize a group to get it restarted.”

I don’t think many of us were expecting to really get involved in running a newspaper. I certainly wasn’t when I hatched the idea. I tossed out my vision for the paper and was amazed at how many Harpswell residents got eagerly onboard. As we continued to talk and share ideas, exploring options from other newspapers, we learned some things. Many newspapers are shifting to a nonprofit model, with revenue based, in part, on tax-deductible gifts from individuals and sponsorships from businesses.

The more we investigated this idea, the more excited we became. A nonprofit paper would not only be more financially sustainable, but it would require getting out into the Harpswell community, learning about what our neighbors and fellow residents wanted for a news source and encouraging them to get involved. As a professional fundraiser, I was convinced the original Anchor was sorely missed and believed we could raise the necessary funds for a new, nonprofit Anchor. The new Anchor could be a virtual gathering place for us all.

So, we went to work. We divided ourselves into groups focusing on different aspects of the venture: the business end of it, communications and developing content and stories for the new paper and website. We decided that because the Anchor was so revered by so many people in Harpswell, we should continue the name and the monthly print version, free to all residents.

See ANCHOR p. 18

Here comes summer

The season looks to be very busy, but with some things missing

BY DOUG WARREN

After more than a year of widespread, pandemic-induced uncertainty, this much seems to be sure about summer 2021 in Harpswell: It’s going to be very busy – and a little different.

Pent-up demand for vacation travel, dining options and family fun is already evident all over town. Phones are ringing off the hook at inns and short-term rental agencies, restaurants report the busiest spring in memory and demand for slots in Harpswell Heritage Land Trust’s Nature Day Camps brought the organization’s website to its knees. (And forced the addition of extra camp sessions, all of which are full, with a waiting list.)

Some popular summer events are back, like the Harpswell Lobster Boat Races that will be held July 25 in Potts Harbor and the Casco Bay Tuna Club’s Bailey Island Fishing Tournament that will also take place in late July. Planning is under way for Cundy’s Harbor Days in early August.

But other seasonal staples are feeling the lingering effects of the pandemic: The traditional Memorial Day parade in Harpswell Center is canceled, the wildly popular Motor Booty Affair concert and July 4 fireworks at Cook’s Lobster and Ale House won’t be happening and the Orr’s and Bailey Island Fire Department’s Auction and Yard Sale will be virtual again this year. The July 4

Ice Cream Social at the Bailey Island Library Hall has been pushed back to 2022.

Fortunately, Harpswell’s iconic natural beauty and nearly 216 miles of coastline clearly remain a consistent draw for visitors from near and far.

“It’s insane,” said Billy Saxton, one of the general managers at the Dolphin Marina and Restaurant on Basin Point. “We’ve had 400 phone calls from folks seeking seasonal slips and moorings, and we’re totally booked.” He said the Dolphin’s restaurant has been equally busy since it opened in late April.

(One change visitors to the Dolphin will surely note is that the heavily potholed portion of the

See SUMMER p. 16

Working women bind local fishing families together

BY KELLI PARK

Scenes of rugged men in sou’westers aboard weathered boats on stormy seas have long defined the working waterfront. Behind the scenes, however, is an often-untold story about the women who have been infusing all the wildness of the North Atlantic with the feminine mystique.

The rough-hewn shores and the cold, dark depths that have shaped Maine’s working waterfront and its tight-knit communities over the course of generations are, in many ways, similar to the historic role of women: intricate and immersive. The connection to place and the draw of the water are undeniable



Kelly Merrill stands at the head of Lowells Cove on Orrs Island, where her family has lived for six generations. (KELLI PARK PHOTO)

for women who live and breathe the salt air of a fishing community.

“You are literally putting your blood, sweat, and tears into everything you do. . . You’re connected to this place. It’s like the actual place is family,” said Kelly Merrill, a mother of five, whose family has lived in Lowell’s Cove on Orr’s Island for six generations and has historically been involved in whaling, bait fishing and lobstering. “This place is magic. You can’t really put words to it. It’s a feeling.”

That feeling translates into a spirit of grit that comes to the fore in the ongoing fight to sustain this way of life for future generations. “We fought tooth and nail to res-

See WOMEN p. 10

Letters to the Editor

What it means to be a neighbor

Face, meet road! This was not my intention when I decided to take a brisk walk on a fine, spring afternoon on Orr's. I have no idea what happened: Perhaps I was admiring someone's beautiful bright yellow forsythia or purple rhododendron.

A misstep, and then I was down. As I sat stunned, blood dripping on my clothes and hands, a car pulled up. "All you all right?" asked the driver. "I'm not sure," I replied. "I couldn't just go by," he said.

Of course, he could have — but he didn't. He handed me a bunch of napkins and offered to drive me home, which I gratefully accepted. I introduced myself, and he gave me his first name, which begins with a "T" (I'll maintain his privacy) and told me he's lived here all his life. His act of kindness and compassion is the very epitome of what it means to be a good neighbor. Thank you again, "T." May I also be the kind of person who doesn't "just go by."

*Courtenay Meade Snellings
Orr's Island*

Thanks for the new Harpswell Anchor

So many things about Harpswell contribute to it being a warm, connected, and quite wonderful community. The Harpswell Anchor was one of those things and it's great to hear that a new publication is premiering.

I look forward to reading the local news, hearing the viewpoints of other residents of Harpswell and even reading the ads for local businesses.

*Linda Kreamer
Orr's Island*

Local news critical for rural Harpswell

Congratulations to the team behind the new nonprofit Anchor and thank you for all your hard work in making it possible. This is a great day for Harpswell.

Our town urgently needs a local newspaper to chronicle our goings-on and doings and to help us understand our local challenges and crises.

The rise of the internet and its news sources has been a good thing in many ways. But as we all know,

it badly squeezed the finances and business model of traditional print newspapers and contributed to the death of hundreds of them — especially the smaller ones.

Yet local news is critical to the functioning of democracy, particularly in rural areas. If we don't understand the pros and cons of our local issues — as discussed and debated in our local newspaper (as Americans have done for two centuries) — how can we make wise decisions at town meetings?

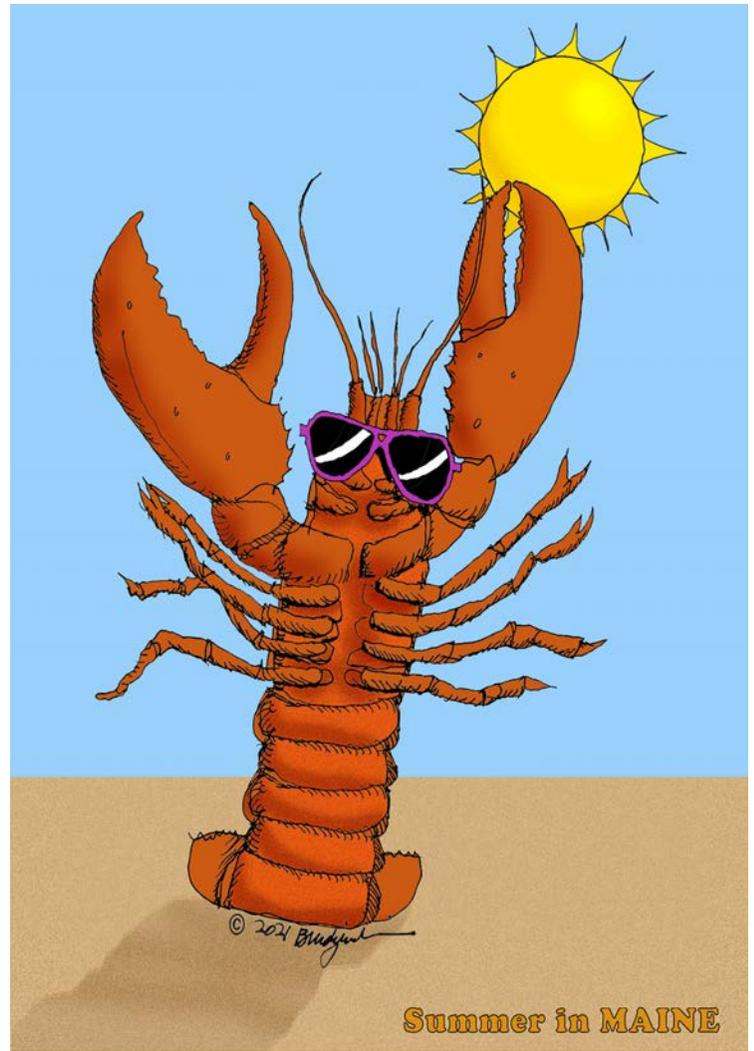
I celebrate the new Anchor and look forward to reading it for many years to come!

*George Simonson
Harpswell*

Anchor helps to hold community together

Many thanks for doing the hard work of getting the Anchor off the rocks and under way again. The Anchor helps tie our community, in all its variations, together. There are few so important tasks when disunion seems more prevalent in our country than union.

*Bob Eaton
Harpswell*



Summer in MAINE

Tom Brudzinski lives on Orr's Island and has been drawing lobsters and "other Maine things" for 50 years. Find his work on Instagram, @lobstartstudios.

Welcome Back Harpswell Anchor!



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Giving Tree group donates \$60,000

Maine Women's Giving Tree (MWGT), a Midcoast philanthropic giving circle, has donated a total of \$60,000 to 10 nonprofits in the MidCoast region to support organizations serving women, children and families.

"This is by far the largest amount we have awarded in our 10-year history of grant making," said Jane Cabot of Harpswell, president of the nonprofit. Since 2012, the group of 75 women has awarded more than \$350,000 in grants to 30 community organizations.

At a virtual awards ceremony on April 28, grants were awarded to: Harpswell Aging at Home, ArtVan, the Bath Area Backpack Program, Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, The Gathering Place, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program, MidCoast Youth Center, Oasis Free Clinic and Tedford Housing.

To join the organization or to apply for future grants, visit maine-womensgivingtree.org

Workshops planned on private road maintenance

The Harpswell Conservation Commission will hold the first in a series of informational sessions on private road maintenance in a Zoom meeting set for 5 to 6 p.m. on June 15.

The workshop will focus on "Water Management Techniques on Your Private Road." Heather Hunt of the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District will outline best practice techniques, including tidal culvert maintenance and road upgrades.

More than 63 percent of the roads in Harpswell are private. The Town of Harpswell and the Conservation Commission are concerned



Tree of Memory Tim Vail, owner of Vail's Tree Service, plants an Autumn Blaze Maple at the head of Mackerel Cove in remembrance of Pat Robinson, a long-time resident who gave swimming lessons on Bailey Island for many years. Looking on and lending a hand are Bruce Langford, left, and Hugh Hardcastle of the Islands Community Church. Pat passed away on New Year's Day, 2020, but left in her will generous gifts to the church, the Orr's and Bailey Islands Fire Department and other local organizations. The town accepted the church's gift of the tree, which will replace an ancient elm that had shaded many on a hot summer day and came down in a violent 2020 storm. OBIFD volunteers will be watering the tree on a regular basis through the summer, until it becomes established. (DOUG WARREN PHOTO)

about the impact of sea level rise and storm surge on private roads.

To register, please enroll online at: harpswell.maine.gov. From the main menu on the left, select "Environment," then "Climate Resilience," and "Webinar."

The series is sponsored by the Conservation Commission's Climate Resilience Preparedness Project, in partnership with the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP)

and the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. It is funded by a Coastal Grant from the CBEP to help private road owners plan for sea level rise and storm surge.

Future sessions will feature local road commissioners offering tips and lessons learned on private road maintenance and Matthew Craig of the CBEP discussing replacing coastal culverts on private roads.

For more information, contact

the Conservation Commission at: conservation@town.harpswell.me.us

Marine flare disposal coming in June

Harpswell residents are urged to properly and safely dispose of expired marine flares during the month of June. Unwanted flares can be dropped off at the Orr's Island Fire Station, 1600 Harpswell Islands Road, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact town Fire Administrator Art Howe at ahowe@town.harpswell.me.us, or by calling 833-5771, ext. 126.

More veterans eligible to join American Legion

With the LEGION Act of 2019, Congress has changed the declared period of war from Dec. 7, 1941, to the present, thus acknowledging the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in the previously undeclared periods of war. This new law allows veterans from these previously undeclared eras to receive all the American Legion benefits they have earned through their service.

There are many newly eligible veterans in Harpswell. If you are one of these, you may become a member immediately. You are eligible if you have served in the Armed Services at least one day. Check out our local post, John Leo Murray Jr. Post 171. The Post meets at the Grange every third Monday at 7 p.m., except December and January.

For more information, contact Cdr. Mike Doyle at 833-5524, Adjutant Bob Webber at 449-5337 or email Bob Webber at ul8@comcast.net or webberb@live.com. Come to the next meeting!

WELCOME ABOARD!

Harpswell Aging at Home wishes the Harpswell Anchor crew luck in their endeavors. Thank you for believing in our community — because Harpswell is home.



**Harpswell
Aging at Home**



1 June 2021 Community Calendar

May 31

The Harpswell Historical Society Museum, 929 Harpswell Neck Road (Route 123), will be open Memorial Day, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

June 1

Special Harpswell Town Meeting to authorize a one-time payment to the IAM National Pension Fund; to convey or grant utility easements for the new communications tower site at Mitchell Field. 6:30 p.m. Harpswell Community School, 308 Harpswell Islands Road. In person only.

June 8

Annual Harpswell Town Meeting by referendum only, including budget and ordinance amendments. Polls open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Harpswell Community School, 308 Harpswell Islands Road. For information, harpswell.maine.gov, email harpswell@town.harpswell.me.us or call Town Administrator Kristi Eiane, 833-5771.

June 9

Harpswell Aging at Home, Snacks with Friends 2 p.m. Open to all. Bring a lawn chair and mask. Mackerel Cove, Johnson Field Preserve, 25 Abner Point Road, Bailey Island

June 12

Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership, Curtis Farm Preserve invasive cleanups. 8:30 a.m. hhlmaine.org

June 15

The graduation parade for Harpswell Community school will take place at the school, 308 Harpswell Islands Road, from 12:30-12:45 p.m.

June 18

Harpswell Heritage Land Trust Summer Solstice Celebration, Mackerel Cove, Johnson Field Preserve, 25 Abner Point Road, Bailey Island, 6-7:30 p.m. Bring a picnic and chairs. Live music. Register in advance. hhlmaine.org

June 24

Harpswell Heritage Land Trust "Bailey Island to the Barrier Reef: Sea Stars as Sentinels of a Changing World." Dr. Jonathan Allen. Zoom. 6:30-7:30 p.m. hhlmaine.org for Zoom call information.

Throughout the summer

The Harpswell Historical Society Museum, 929 Harpswell Neck Road (Route 123), open 2-4 p.m. every Sunday until



Handy Work Chris Micucci, right, an employee of the Without a Trace shredding service of Scarborough, helps Alisa Coffin of Bailey Island unload some documents for destruction at the annual shredding day at the Orr's Island Library on Saturday, May 16. Dozens of people from throughout Harpswell took advantage of the free community service to safely dispose of unwanted paperwork. (ED LEVINE PHOTO)

Columbus Day. View the many Harpswell history. Free, donations accepted. 833-6322.

Mobile Food Station every Thursday, 10-11:30 p.m., for anyone who needs food. Harpswell Town Office, 263 Mountain Road.

John Leo Jr. American Legion Post 171 meets each third Monday at the Grange, 7 p.m., 529 Harpswell Island Road. 833-5583

Bath-Brunswick Respite Care hosts two caregiver support groups on the first and third Mondays of every month from 10:15-11:30 a.m. 9 Park St., Bath. More information 729-8571.

Have a calendar item to submit for future issues of the Anchor? Contact info@harpswellanchor.org or 207-504-4428

JUNE TIDE CHART

US HARBORS

South Harpswell, ME - Jun 2021

www.USHarbors.com

Date	High				Low				☀		☾	
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon	
1	Tue	4:30	9.8	5:21	8.9	10:57	-0.1	11:18	1.2	5:00	8:17	☾
2	Wed	5:33	9.3	6:20	8.9	11:56	0.3			4:59	8:18	☾
3	Thu	6:35	8.9	7:17	8.9	12:23	1.3	12:54	0.7	4:59	8:19	☾
4	Fri	7:36	8.6	8:11	9.0	1:27	1.3	1:50	0.9	4:59	8:19	☾
5	Sat	8:35	8.4	9:00	9.2	2:27	1.1	2:42	1.1	4:58	8:20	☾
6	Sun	9:27	8.4	9:44	9.3	3:20	0.9	3:28	1.2	4:58	8:21	☾
7	Mon	10:15	8.4	10:25	9.4	4:07	0.7	4:10	1.3	4:58	8:21	☾
8	Tue	10:59	8.4	11:03	9.5	4:49	0.5	4:49	1.4	4:57	8:22	☾
9	Wed	11:41	8.4	11:41	9.6	5:29	0.3	5:26	1.4	4:57	8:23	☾
10	Thu			12:21	8.4	6:06	0.3	6:03	1.5	4:57	8:23	☾
11	Fri	12:17	9.6	12:59	8.3	6:43	0.2	6:39	1.5	4:57	8:24	☾
12	Sat	12:53	9.6	1:37	8.3	7:19	0.2	7:17	1.5	4:57	8:24	☾
13	Sun	1:30	9.5	2:14	8.3	7:56	0.3	7:56	1.6	4:57	8:25	☾
14	Mon	2:08	9.5	2:54	8.3	8:35	0.3	8:38	1.5	4:57	8:25	☾
15	Tue	2:50	9.4	3:36	8.3	9:16	0.3	9:25	1.5	4:57	8:26	☾
16	Wed	3:36	9.4	4:22	8.5	10:02	0.3	10:16	1.4	4:57	8:26	☾
17	Thu	4:27	9.3	5:11	8.8	10:49	0.3	11:11	1.2	4:57	8:26	☾
18	Fri	5:21	9.2	6:02	9.2	11:39	0.3			4:57	8:27	☾
19	Sat	6:19	9.1	6:55	9.6	12:09	0.9	12:32	0.2	4:57	8:27	☾
20	Sun	7:21	9.1	7:51	10.1	1:10	0.5	1:29	0.2	4:57	8:27	☾
21	Mon	8:24	9.2	8:47	10.6	2:12	0.0	2:26	0.1	4:57	8:27	☾
22	Tue	9:26	9.3	9:42	11.0	3:12	-0.6	3:23	0.0	4:58	8:28	☾
23	Wed	10:24	9.5	10:36	11.3	4:09	-1.0	4:18	-0.1	4:58	8:28	☾
24	Thu	11:21	9.6	11:31	11.4	5:05	-1.4	5:13	-0.1	4:58	8:28	☾
25	Fri			12:18	9.7	6:00	-1.5	6:08	-0.1	4:59	8:28	☾
26	Sat	12:26	11.4	1:12	9.6	6:54	-1.5	7:02	0.0	4:59	8:28	☾
27	Sun	1:20	11.1	2:06	9.5	7:47	-1.2	7:57	0.2	4:59	8:28	☾
28	Mon	2:13	10.8	3:00	9.4	8:40	-0.9	8:52	0.5	5:00	8:28	☾
29	Tue	3:08	10.3	3:55	9.2	9:33	-0.5	9:50	0.8	5:00	8:28	☾
30	Wed	4:05	9.7	4:49	9.1	10:27	0.0	10:50	1.1	5:01	8:28	☾

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‘Uncle Pete’ follows family connections to new venture

BY ANCHOR STAFF

Peter Arnold wasn't looking for a new career when he came to Harpswell late last year, he was looking for a house. Of course, he already had close ties to the town: his parents met and fell in love here, his uncle is the local historian laureate and his sister, Patty, married Mike Cota (namesake of the former "Captain Mike's" restaurant in Brunswick) and lives down on Pott's Point. So, it was natural Arnold would look for a home here, away from the bustle of Brunswick.

Given the current land rush for Harpswell real estate, he couldn't find the house he was looking for. However, Arnold did find the vacant "Ship to Shore" store on Harpswell Neck and thereby started a quest to see if it could be turned into a viable investment.

After more than 40 years in the restaurant and food service industry, topped by an additional six at the Hannaford Brothers supermarket in Brunswick, Arnold was ready for something different.

"I'd started out as a dishwasher at Estes Seafood in 1974 and worked my way around that place doing just about everything but bartending," he recalled. "Then I worked for eight years at the Freeport Cafe and another 14 years at Captain Mike's in Brunswick."

Trying to change gears, he signed on at Hannaford's, multi-tasking for the chain's Brunswick store. "I did 12 different jobs over six years there and had pretty much maxed out both in money and career," Arnold said.

His trip to Harpswell was serendipitous: Here was a business for sale that played to his skill set, along with a family support system that would enable him to take on a new challenge. But delving further into the structure of the business would reveal that he would need all his skills and those of his close and extended family to make this new dream a reality.

"The place was close to falling apart. It needed everything," Arnold explained. "We put on a new roof, redesigned the inside, ripped



Peter Arnold opened Uncle Pete's Community Store on Harpswell Neck last March. (PETER HAVAS PHOTO)

up the old floors, rewired the place, installed a state-of-the-art water filtration system and generally brought the place into the 21st century.

"It took way more time than we thought but, in the end, "Uncle Pete's Community Market" opened. Not sure who was more relieved: us or the customers."

Ship to Shore, which Gail Johnson had owned since 2010,

had been closed since early 2020. Arnold had to renew all the food and beverage supply lines and make agreements with some new ones before he opened in March. His brother, Ed, who owns a service station in southern New Hampshire, was particularly helpful in getting him in touch with a fuel supplier who offered very advantageous prices. His contract is good enough that he can

sell fuel cheaper than stations in Brunswick and that provided an unexpected draw to his original business plan: cheap gas.

"I'm not making much on gas, but I'm determined to keep it cheaper than the cheapest in Topsham and Brunswick and, so far, it's been working," he said. While cheap gas might be a hook to get customers into Uncle Pete's Community Market, Arnold has also provided incentives to keep his customers coming back. His grocery line has expanded to include fresh vegetables, his wine selection has improved in quality and his ovens are producing pizzas with the same recipes and ingredients that were popular for years at Ship to Shore.

Thanks also to his family connections, "Captain Mike's" famous chowder has been added to the menu, made by Mike Cota himself, who also lent a hand in designing the to-go menu. Arnold has kept the popular breakfast menu in place, supplementing his morning sandwiches with biscuits in addition to toast and muffins.

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Project under way to boost Cliff Trail accessibility

BY ISOLDE THOMPSON

Harpswell is well known for its many popular hiking trails, but perhaps the most stunning – and a local favorite -- is the Cliff Trail. This 2.3-mile walk features beautiful views of Strawberry Creek and 150-foot cliffs overlooking Long Reach, along with designated fairy house-building sites that provide whimsical fun for hikers young and old.

Acquired 17 years ago by the Town of Harpswell, the Cliff Trail has become a popular destination for hikers, even more so during the pandemic, when people were itching to safely leave the confines of their homes and get back to nature.

But popularity has its price and anyone who has walked the trail recently knows just how worn down and potentially hazardous it has become. Such a wonderful natural resource ought to be accessible to all who want to visit, and that's what a group of Harpswell residents and volunteers is working to make possible by the fall.

Over the years, the trail has been maintained by an estimated 50 to 100 local volunteers, led by the town Recre-

ation Committee, who regularly clean up after storms, build bog bridges and make sure the trail blazes are easily read.

Despite all this effort, years of regular, heavy use have caused parts of the trail to erode significantly. Recreation Committee member Tony Barrett perhaps puts it best when he says: "There is nary a footfall where one's shoe doesn't step on a root or in soft mud." The trail can be difficult to traverse even for the average person, leaving some older hikers and those with mobility issues unable to enjoy the trail in its current state.

The improvement plan involves closing the first half-mile of trail running from the Town Office parking lot until October so the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) can work on it. The MCC is a state-run organization dedicated to the conservation of Maine's natural environment. Many on the team are young people and students who are passionate about conservation and will gain experience and leadership skills from their time with MCC. They will work all summer to make the Strawberry Creek portion of the trail accessible in compliance with the



Volunteers Tony Barrett, left, and David Brooks at work on the Cliff Trail improvements. (JERRY KLEPNER PHOTO)

1968 Architectural Barriers Act.

The cliff overlook will still be accessible to hikers during construction. They can park behind the Town Office and cross behind the neighboring Recycling Center for a 1.8-mile out-and-back walk, or a 3.3-mile walk by adding on the Henry's Creek/Old Town Road loop.

The project was delayed a year by the coronavirus pandemic, which led to significant cost increases in labor and materials. The town is looking to cover the gap in these costs. Barrett explains: "The Recreation Committee is still seeking donations for this COVID-delayed project to cover the initial gap in funding and labor and material cost

increases since 2019. Harpswell received a \$50,000 grant from Maine's Recreational Trails Program in 2019. The 2020 Town Meeting appropriated \$19,000 to partially match this grant. The Town is seeking in-kind donations and money contributions to fund the remainder of the \$117,500 estimated cost."

Barrett said the Town has received generous cash and in-kind donations from Crooker Construction, Central Maine Power and citizens who have volunteered time and equipment. However, the group still needs to raise \$7,000 to meet its \$30,000 fundraising goal. A group of citizens, Patrons of the Cliff Trail, have stepped up to match dollar-for-dollar all donations received this summer.

To support the Cliff Trail project, donations in cash or by check can be dropped off at the Town Office front desk. Please make out checks to "Town of Harpswell" and write "Cliff Trail" on the memo line. Checks can also be mailed to the Town of Harpswell, P.O. Box 39, Harpswell, ME 04079. Donations via credit card are also accepted at the Recreation Department's web page: harpswellme.myrec.com



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Harpswell Aging at Home launches ‘Snacks with Friends’

BY ROB MONTANA
Harpswell Aging at Home

When the coronavirus pandemic hit Maine and the rest of the country in March 2020, Harpswell Aging at Home (HAH) quickly decided to stop its popular Lunch with Friends events.

The lunch program had been a big success as volunteers cooked up a storm, and a revolving set of Harpswell locations played host to a bevy of hungry diners. These regular meals provided sustenance and – perhaps as importantly – an opportunity for community.

With a highly contagious virus spreading quickly and many Lunch with Friends participants in higher-risk populations, the organization’s Food Team swiftly made the transition to serving hundreds of to-go meals weekly.

While the months of serving weekly takeout meals – and eventual transition to the Meals in a Pinch delivery program – met the need for food, the ability to gather was still missing.

That changed last month, though, when HAH hosted its first in-person gathering in 15



Participants in the Snacks with Friends event enjoyed al fresco dining at Mitchell Field. (JERRY KLEPNER PHOTO)

months: Snacks with Friends. It took place at 4 p.m. on May 18 at Mitchell Field, in partnership with the Town of Harpswell.

Another Snacks with Friends is planned for 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 9, at the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust’s Johnson Field Preserve at Mackerel Cove. The rain date will be Friday, June 11.

“We have been waiting for our first opportunity to be able to bring people together,” said LeAnne Grillo, who runs the HAH cooks group, 43 Degrees North. “That is such a core part of Lunch with Friends – seeing friends and neighbors, and having that time to see people and

chat with people.”

Peg Orlando, a member of the Food Team, has handled planning for the Snacks events. Ahead of the May gathering, she said the idea for Snacks with Friends came from the Food Team, which wanted to have

some type of event this spring.

“Since lunches were probably not realistic, we decided maybe something lighter would work,” Orlando said. “Julie Moulton (HAH’s Food Team coordinator), LeAnne Grillo and Surrey (Hardcastle, HAH Food Committee chairperson) put their heads together and said let’s try something interactive outside.”

Grillo said the events feature a variety of finger foods – savory and sweet – and there are also gluten-free and low-carb options. “Just so we have something for every-

body.” She said the group thought it might be difficult to serve a full meal outdoors, so they looked for other ways they could provide food and camaraderie, while keeping health issues in mind. And so, Snacks with Friends was created.

“Our hope is that, and it is my own personal perspective, too, food

does bring people together,” Grillo said. “We’re using that as a little bit of a catalyst to help people come together. And just really sit and enjoy some snacks and each other’s company, and see people they may not have seen as much over the last year.”

Orlando said she was excited to be planning an event again.

“We’re talking about the fall already,” she added. “Some kind of combination of Snacks with Friends, with some kind of lunch.”

Snacks with Friends is open to all Harpswell residents. People who attend are asked to bring their own chair and wear a mask. Orlando said there will be extra masks and hand sanitizer provided for people who need them.

To contribute food, contact Moulton at (207) 330-5416 or juliemoulton28@gmail.com.



Save the Date!! HNP&A Celebrates 56 Years...



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Rain Date; Sunday; July 18, 2021 12-3pm

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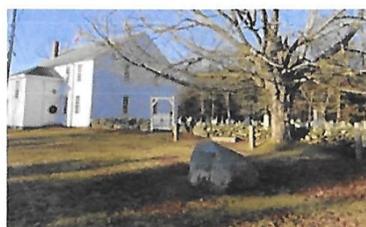
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Widgeon Cove Trail in Harpswell (2014)



Old Harpswell Town House and Cemetery (2014)

The *Encyclopedia*, based in Harpswell, includes articles about every city and town in Maine, most plantations and many unorganized townships, with 9,000 photos, 80 maps, and over 160 videos.

A series of articles trace historic events of Maine from before statehood. A calendar notes significant anniversaries since statehood to the current time.



Harpswell History | Dave Hackett

1922 diary details coastal life lived almost a century ago

The following comes from *A History of Harpswell Maine* written by Richard R. Wescott

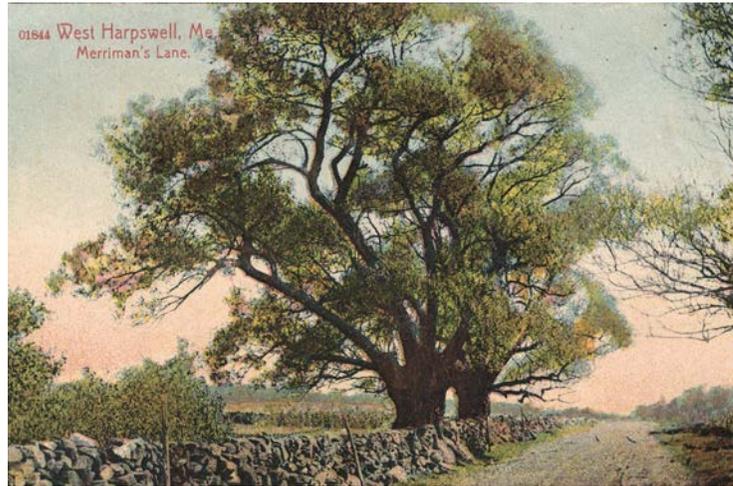
A diary kept by Charles I. Stover from January 15, 1922 to January 1, 1923 provides a glimpse into the diversity of everyday life of a small business man in Harpswell in the 1920's. In his late twenties, he ran a general store in west Harpswell. Stover lived an active life, often going to Portland on his boat or occasionally by way of Brunswick where he took the "electrics," as the trolley cars were then known. He went there to buy stock for his store and to have a good time eating in a restaurant and going to see a newly released movie at the Keith Theater.

When he remained home in Harpswell, Stover found plenty of things to do. He had to work on his store "orders" which customers mailed or telephoned to him nearly every day. He also spent many hours doing "chores" such as cutting and hauling firewood, cutting brush, and picking off feathers off chickens after killing them. He went clamming, painted his wharf

float, repaired his horse's harness, and drove the town owned hearse for funerals. Several times in April and May, he noted that he had "played ball" in the evenings with other young men, and he attended revival meetings at the West Harpswell Baptist Church.

The diversity of his life is evident in his diary. With the coming of spring in 1922, he launched his "motorboat, ... carried two calves to the lower pasture, ... heard Bob-O-Links for the first time," and went to Portland in his motorboat for grain and groceries on the same day that he recorded that the omnipresent Elijah K. Hodgkins "dropped dead" at age 75 on May 15, 1922.

The last week in June, he and Lubee built a fishing pound, and soon they were catching sardines, mackerel, and herring, and they continued to do so into August. He had good success with the pound, selling a load of sardines to a South Portland processor for \$17.80 in early July, and selling two more loads of mackerel and herring to a Portland processor before the month of July was out, earning an additional



Merriman's Lane, West Harpswell at the time of Charles Stover's recollections.

\$73.35. In August he sold 550 pounds of mackerel. Even as his pound fishery was doing well, Stover started into haying, mowing his fields when the weather was dry enough for it to be done from mid-July to mid-August.

At the end of July, a new Ford automobile which Stover had ordered was delivered to his home. That evening he wrote in his diary, with perhaps a note

of pride, "Mother and I have been to ride." He had purchased the automobile, simply for, their convenience, and pleasure.

The fact that he had a new automobile may have heightened his interest in the town meeting he attended on Bailey's Island in mid-September, in 1922 when the most recent proposal to build a bridge from Orr's Island

to Bailey's Island was voted down 261 to 264. He did not note how he voted, but at another, but at another town meeting on the same issue two weeks later, also on Orr's Island, he noted, "We have been to Orr's Island to vote on the Bailey's Island bridge and lost 369 to 348." Apparently he favored the construction of the bridge.

In November, Stover shifted his attention from smelts to minks which he hunted with some success on uninhabited islands such as Irony, Little and Great Whaleboat, Shelter and Birch.

In early December, he sawed firewood one morning at the church and hauled dirt for the hearse house in the afternoon. As Christmas approached, he rehearsed several times for the Christmas Pantomime at Centennial Hall. On Christmas day he and his family went to a "tree" at the hall.

As the year drew to a close he wrote a one word entry on December 29, 1922, "Blizzard."

Dave Hackett is the president of the Harpswell Historical Society.



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Butch Lawson | Thinking in public

More than a decade ago, I returned to the islands after a 43-year absence. We settled into a house that was said to have “great bones,” which is real estate speak for, “You won’t recognize this place after you sink another couple hundred thousand into it.”

There was a lot of truth about the bones, but it was also a warning flag to which I should have paid more attention. Then there was, “You and the dogs can probably live in the basement during renovations, it’ll be fun!” Also, “Renovations help strengthen relationships.” I must admit that the dogs and I are now closer than ever, and the house is nearly perfect for us -- but for one thing.

The house now has the insulation it always lacked. It has new, efficient, high-quality awning windows and new doors. It is as tight as a fire-rated gun safe and holds heat like a crockpot.

But last year’s summer was uncomfortable and I remember writing in the relative cool of the basement. We now realize that we should have included a decent air-conditioning system in the plans for the house renovation. At the time, the expense seemed out of proportion to the benefit, given the few very uncomfortable summer days and nights around here. And anyway, we’ve lived in South Texas, so how bad can it get? Previous generations survived nicely on the island without A/C; we will, too. That kind of thinking is why I was “down celloh.”

I’m of an age and place in life where my tolerance of personal

discomfort is in very short supply, but don’t take that to mean I had some tolerance to begin with. Last summer brought the most uncomfortably hot and humid weather I have experienced in Maine. I think it seemed that miserable because I had nowhere to go to escape. No air-conditioned office or workshop -- I’m retired. Luckily there are hundreds of excuses to get in the air-conditioned truck and enjoy the roundtrip to town. Need some bread? Take the truck. Out of aspirin? Take the truck. Don’t feel like cooking tonight? Too bad, but at least I can eat in the truck and throw the bones to the gulls, who, as far as I can tell, don’t mind the weather at all.

We have every conceivable type of insurance, just in case. There are three independent heat sources for the house, just in case. We have a stand-by generator, fire extinguishers, studded snows for the vehicles, 250 casserole dishes and bags full of bags, just in case. We could supply Goodwill with 10 years’ worth of throw pillows in every conceivable color and pattern because you just never know when you might need an extra throw pillow in chintz or corduroy or poly-razzmatuzz. For cryin’ out loud we still have oil lamps and candles ... just in case. But we don’t have A/C. Yet.

It’s coming. The permit is in the window. You can bet I won’t spend this summer “down celloh.”

Butch Lawson is a resident of Bailey Island and an observer of life.

HHLT: Opportunities to explore

Harpowell Heritage Land Trust’s Forest Playground and Exploration Kits are back this summer, providing abundant opportunities for outdoor play and discovery.

Take a step into the Forest Playground and you will quickly discover that it is not a typical play space. It is much more. This is a place where all your senses can come alive. Children experience imaginative play, artistic and musical creation, scientific discovery and observation of the natural world.

The Forest Playground is designed to be open-ended, nature-based and engaging for young people of many interests and all ages. There are few rules for how to use the space. It is free and open to the public.

Designed as a portable pop-up, the Forest Playground will rotate to different sites throughout its lifespan. Sometimes you’ll find it at a Harpswell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT) preserve, while at other times you’ll find it at a school.

In 2021 it will be installed at Skolfield Shores Preserve from early June to late September. In 2019 the Forest Playground spent time at Harpswell Community School, Bowdoin Central School and Curtis Farm Preserve. Kids, teachers and families loved it! These quotes came from the sign-in book:

“This is one of the coolest playgrounds we’ve ever seen!”

“Thank you for this hidden treasure!”

“Enticing and interactive for all ages! Thanks”

HHLT is also offering Explora-



Looking for something to do with your kids or grandkids this summer? Harpswell Heritage Land Trust’s Forest Playground is not your typical playground. (JULIA MCLEOD PHOTO)

ration Kits to give families and individuals the tools, ideas and inspiration to create lasting outdoor memories this summer.

HHLT is deeply committed to making these kits accessible and is offering them for a suggested donation. Explorers pay as little or as much as works for their budget, no questions asked.

The kits include high-quality exploration tools made to last, as well as activity ideas and supplies. Though they were designed with children in mind, they are great for adults, too. They’ve gotten rave reviews from grandparents who have grandkids visiting.

The following kits will be available from the HHLT office starting June 1: Exploration Essentials, Tidepool Explorers, Butterfly Lovers and All About Forest Animals. Suggested donations vary based on the cost of materials in the kit. Visit <https://hhlt-maine.org/exploration-kits/> for

more information and to reserve yours.

HHLT works to preserve and protect Harpswell’s natural resources, cultural heritage, and access to the outdoors now and forever through conservation, stewardship, and education. For more information, visit hhlt-maine.org.

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Women

From page 1

cue the Cundy's Harbor wharf after it was turned into a marina," said Jennie Bichrest, who started out hand-hauling lobster traps and spent more than 30 years in the industry. She retired in 2019 after owning and operating Purse Line Bait, which sold more than 10 million pounds of bait annually. "It comes down to finding the common ground and fighting for that."

Women on the working waterfront are constantly navigating that common ground at different levels within their own lives to find and sustain the balance that allows them to move forward, as individuals, as wives, and as mothers.

Women in fishing families have historically been responsible for taking care of the house and children, as well as the accounting and day-to-day operations of the business that can't be done from the boat. In the past, these women had a presence that was keenly felt within an era shaped by a slower pace and, in some ways, a seemingly idyllic lifestyle. "I miss that generation where my



Mandi Hawkes, 21, has become the first woman to manage Hawkes Wharf in Cundy's Harbor. (KELLI PARK PHOTO)

grandmother sat at the table and there were five other women sitting around playing cards and smoking butts. As a kid, you're like, 'Why do all these women tell me what to do all the time?'" said Merrill. "But now I think, where are all of those women?"

While traditions have changed with the passage of time, the nature of the work itself has remained steadfast in its ability to cast a spell over the individuals who call the sea home. "I never thought I'd be fishing. I couldn't have dreamed of anything better. It's kind of

mind-blowing when you sit back and think about it," said Erin Perry, a mother of three who lobsters full-time with her boyfriend in South Harpswell. "I'm working on the back of a boat, sticking my head in a barrel full of skates and I want to do nothing else!"

Work on the water also comes easily to Mandi Hawkes, who, at age 21, has become the first woman to manage Hawkes Wharf in Cundy's Harbor since it was founded by her family 25 years ago. "It just comes so naturally to me that I don't think about it as being a woman in a male-dominated industry," said Hawkes. In the past six months, she has grown comfortable in her role as the center of communication for daily operations, while moving traps, barrels of bait, and 90-pound lobster crates. "I've discovered what I want out of life [while working here]. I want my family. I want to be part of that. I want to be part of this industry."

While some roles on the working waterfront are clearly defined, others require careful navigation. Relationships and marriages develop their own dynamic on, and off, the boat. "There's no separation between being the wife and the mother and the helper," said Merrill, who lobstered and fished with her former husband out of Mackerel Cove. "It was always kind of a joke that he was the captain of the boat, and I was the captain of the house, and that's the way this is going to have to be."

"You gotta have tough skin. It's a different world out on the water. People talk to you differently," said Amanda Griffin, who can trace her lineage back to the sardine canneries of Lubec, and who lobstered with her grandfather in Portland as a child. Griffin, a mother of three on Harpswell Neck, lobstered full-time with her husband for two years and still helps out on the boat occasionally. "When you're being yelled at by a captain, he's not doing it to be [a jerk]," she added. "He's doing it because he's literally looking out for your life. My husband didn't

continued on next page

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Find the list of prizes and buy raffle tickets online at <https://hhltmaine.org/raffle/>.

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JOE PALMA PHOTO



Jennie Bichrest retired in 2019 after owning and operating Purse Line Bait, which sold more than 10 million pounds of bait annually. (KELLI PARK PHOTO)

continued from previous page
sugarcoat anything for me because I'm a woman.

"We had to learn really quickly that what happens on the boat, stays on boat, and what happens at home, stays at home," said Griffin. "That's how we lived our lives for those few years."

After the necessary boundaries have been established, the re-

lationship can take on a life of its own. "It's 24/7. You get a day off, you're together. You're working, you're together. I love it. There's nothing better. Working with your significant other in a setting like fishing is one of the most incredible things you can do," said Perry. "It's an incredible dynamic that I'm so lucky to have."

The dynamic that develops be-

tween a couple has the potential to evolve into a nuanced family ecosystem which, in some cases, redefines what it means to be creative. "I don't remember ever really feeling like it was a huge struggle between being a wife and mother and work. It all fell into place," said Bichrest, whose husband, at the time, was also a fisherman. Bichrest brought a crib aboard her lobster boat for her daughter when she was a baby and set up a signaling system with nearby lobstermen to indicate that, when her boat was drifting, she was nursing and not broken down. Bichrest's daughter often accompanied her in their commercial truck -- equipped with a bunk, toys, and coloring books -- to deliver bait in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and to sell shrimp in Augusta daily during the season.

Whether it's adjusting boat schedules to accommodate school bus times and doctor appointments or enlisting the help of older siblings and neighbors in the care of younger children, spending entire days patching traps and painting buoys, or camping on islands, fishing families find their balance, with women as the driving force.

"When everybody is working toward the same goal together,



Erin Perry, left, and Amanda Griffin, both of Harpswell Neck, have lobstered full-time with their husbands. (KELLI PARK PHOTO)

it instills more in the kids. They see everything, from going to the store to pick something up, to getting the gear on the boat, to going for a late-night trip to watch the fireworks," said Perry. "Everything's about family all the time -- the good, the bad, and the ugly. It's incredible."

Merrill said that last summer, she showed her children where she fished during her childhood and was approached on the water by a lifelong family friend, who offered his help, should anything come up. "My daughter is fishing my

grandfather's buoy colors in my grandfather's fishing spots and, there I am, with her and the boys," said Merrill. "It's so spiritual. This is really a gift."

Like the strength of the tides shaping the rugged shoreline, the North Atlantic has carved new meaning into the feminine mystique in a way that defies its depths and embraces the essence of its cold waters. "Maybe you can be tough and strong and sensitive and wild ... And weathered. Maybe that's where the balance is," said Merrill.

We welcome the Anchor back



Harpswell is all about community. We applaud and support our first responders for the work they do to keep our community safe. The Anchor keeps us connected.

Harpswell Garden Club celebrates 90 years

The Harpswell Garden Club first convened on May 25, 1931, and during its annual meeting on May 20, 2021, the club celebrated its 90th anniversary. When first organized, Mr. and Mrs. James Bodge were the group's leaders. Through the first 40 years of its existence, the garden club served as Harpswell's civic committee, environmental organization and preservation society. The Harpswell Historical Society was begun as an offshoot of the garden club in 1979, and from the Historical Society, the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT) was founded.

Through the decades, the Harpswell Garden Club has restored an historic building (the Union Church at 553 Harpswell Neck Rd.), partnered with the US Navy to establish the Memorial and Friendship Gardens on the grounds of the formal naval base in Brunswick and created gardens around Centennial Hall in Harpswell



Guest speaker Charlie Nardozzi talks to Harpswell Garden Club members on the lawn at Centennial Hall. (SUZANNE BUSHNELL PHOTO)

Center and in front of the Harpswell Town Office on Mountain Road.

The property once known as the Stover Point Wildlife Sanctuary was owned by the garden club and donated

to HHLT in 1999 and is now the Stover's Point Preserve. The garden club's members still tend the Memorial and Friendship Gardens at what is now the Brunswick Naval Aviation

Museum at Brunswick Landing, as well as the more recently established garden around the Gold Star Families Memorial Marker that the club sponsored in 2018.

While Harpswell may be small in population, its garden club has the largest membership in the Garden Club Federation of Maine. Its members are active at the district, state and regional level. Among the club's current members are a former state federation president, Suzanne Bushnell, and the federation's current recording secretary, Sue Luce. Bushnell is completing her term as New England Garden Clubs Inc. regional director.

The gardens at Centennial Hall hosted several dozen club members during the May 20th annual meeting. President Becky Gallery presided over the event, during which new officers were elected and installed. Following a picnic lunch, guest speaker Charlie Nardozzi demonstrated creative ways to make container gardens. The afternoon's festivities concluded with a brief ceremony marking the club's 90 years of active community service.

HIPP seeking to cut invasives

While people have been staying socially distanced and safe from Covid, volunteers with Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) have been busy. The group's goal is to identify and reduce the numbers of invasive plants on public lands in Harpswell.

Formed in 2014 to address the declining diversity of native plants around us, HIPP not only identifies invasive plants, but also tries to educate the residents of Harpswell about invasives.

Throughout 2020, HIPP's volunteers worked outdoors singly, or in small groups, at a distance from one another. Volunteers spent more than 500 hours on public lands throughout Harpswell working to identify invasive plants and to reduce the area infested by those plants.

Their work included 17 locations in Harpswell, from Harpswell Neck to Orr's and Bailey Islands, and onto Great Island and into Cundy's Harbor. The scope of work planned for this coming season is just as widespread. Nearly three dozen work days are on tap at 16 different locations.

Among the invasive plants HIPP hopes to control are Japanese barberry, Asiatic bittersweet and shrub honeysuckle.

HIPP is always looking for more volunteers and training is scheduled. While work days focus on identifying and removing invasive plants, the group's steering committee devises plans, budgets expenditures and assesses sources of funding.

Send an email to hipp.maine@gmail.com to be included on the volunteer roster.

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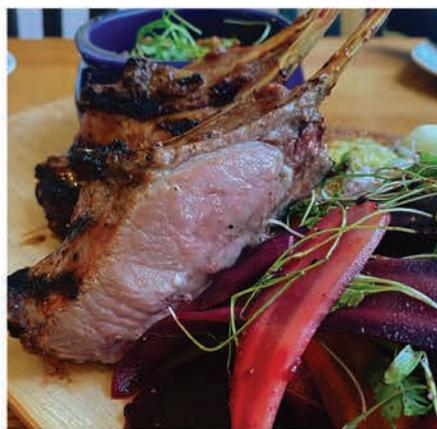
We at Harpswell News are happy to publish the Harpswell Anchor and provide a vital connection to our coastal community. We will be working to develop other ways to inform and entertain those who live in and visit the beautiful place we call home.

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Vote on town warrant set for June 8 at HCS

BY TOM ALLEN

Instead of the traditional open annual town meeting, on June 8 voters will go to the polls to approve Harpswell's municipal budget. This is the second year in a row that voting will be by secret ballot because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Polls will be open as soon after 8 a.m. as it takes to elect a moderator and will remain open until 8 p.m. at Harpswell Community School, 308 Harpswell Islands Rd. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office until June 3.

On May 17, officials held an open hearing via Zoom to allow item-by-item discussion of the town administrative budget. For the vote on June 8, however, the town's budget is included in what Town Administrator Kristi Eiane referred to as an "omnibus" item on the ballot.

Rather than breaking out salaries, town operations, public works, cultural and recreational expenses, protection and safety and other items usually addressed line by line at town meeting, Article 2 of the ballot combines them all. Eiane said in the hearing that the town administration

assumed that voters would prefer that.

The entire proposed budget increases last year's spending by 6.4 percent. However, the tax rate would only rise by .9 percent because costs will be offset by existing fund balances, other non-tax revenue — registrations and building permits, for example — and a decrease in Harpswell's contribution to MSAD75 for the fiscal year. With the town's assessed value expected to increase by what Eiane called a "conservative" estimate of \$14 million, property taxes would increase by \$15 per \$250,000 of assessed value under the proposed budget.

Of the 18 items on the ballot besides the omnibus, 11 are primarily "housekeeping" measures, to fix out-of-date ordinances, including giving selectmen permission to use already appropriated funds and to allow them to apply for and accept grants, among others.

The remaining ballot items include approval of bond payments, appropriations for firefighting equipment and additions to capital reserve accounts.

The single largest increase to the budget is a \$260,000 appropriation for emergency services vehicles. The

Orr's and Bailey Islands Fire Department is requesting the town purchase a new fire engine, which the department would then lease from the town.

According to OBIFD Fire Chief Benjamin Wallace Jr., the existing fire engine has been scheduled for replacement for a number of years. It is a 1992 standard transmission pumper, which last year twice lost its drive shaft. Replacing it has been postponed, Wallace said, to address other priorities at the town's three fire departments. The replacement truck will have an automatic transmission, which Wallace says will "overcome a limitation some of our responders had, being unable to drive a heavy truck with a standard transmission." It also will have more storage space for rescue equipment.

The 29-year-old pumper has become more difficult to repair, Wallace said. "We typically try to replace our fire engines every 18 to 20 years as parts become difficult to source, maintenance gets more expensive and the vehicles end up out of service longer."

Town officials are also asking for \$100,000 to purchase LED lighting for the town's streetlights. The savings

in efficiency will pay back the cost in three years.

Article 8 grants permission to the selectmen to accept a capital contribution of \$35,000 as specified by a lease agreed to last year for construction of a wireless communications tower at Mitchell Field. Blue Sky Towers will lease space on the tower to wireless providers, such as AT&T, which the town anticipates will be the first occupant. The lease agreement also permits the town to install emergency communications equipment on the tower at no cost, allowing for improved communications among the emergency service providers.

The town also is asking for a final appropriation of \$50,000 to the Mitchell Field capital account for construction of a boat launch. The item also allows selectmen to spend \$309,923 of the total funds in the account for a matching Small Harbors Improvement Program (SHIP) Grant from the Maine Department of Transportation, which is expected to be approved this fall. The town plans to move forward with the design and permitting before soliciting bids in the spring of 2022.

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We want to send out a big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to our new non-profit organization, Harpswell News, so that we can publish this inaugural issue. We are also appreciative of our Founding Sponsors: those local non-profits and businesses whose messages you see in these pages. They say that "early money is like yeast;" these donations have helped us get started, and will encourage others to follow your lead. THANK YOU!

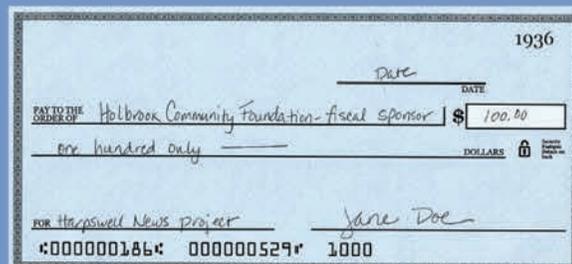
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*** Make sure you make out your check to the Harpswell Community Foundation with "for Harpswell News" on the memo section.**

Summer

From page 1

entry road has been paved, as has the parking area for Erica's Seafood next door. Stand by for a possible speed bump.)

That hectic pace is echoed by Heather Allen of Your Island Connection, which offers short-term vacation homes to rent throughout Harpswell. "We have 66 rentals that are all booked for July and August," Allen said. "We do have a waiting list, and any cancellations are filled right up."

She added: "Seems like folks like what Harpswell has to offer. They're happy just to go for a hike and be outside and on the water."

Allen said it's been tough to find cleaners to help prep her properties in between visitors. The challenge is also real for local restaurants in need of servers and kitchen staff to handle the crush of summer crowds.

"We have a great core group we've been able to keep through all of this," said Christopher Gardner, general manager of the School

House 1913 restaurant on Route 123. "We're very excited, but a little concerned about burnout." As a result, Gardner said the School House 1913 will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, while adding lunch five days a week sometime in June.

Cook's Lobster and Ale House will be taking a similar approach, closing on Mondays and Tuesdays, according to Jennifer Charboneau, who owns the restaurant with her husband, Nick. "For us, this year is about making the best decisions for keeping our staff healthy and sane," she explained. "We'll still be fine."

To that end, Charboneau said, Cook's isn't booking tour bus stops and the Casco Bay Lines ferry won't be docking for its lunch and island cruise. "Capacity limits can be tricky," she said, adding that Denny Breau and other popular local acts will still be performing on Cook's large outdoor deck.

While Billy Saxton said the Dolphin plans to be open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, Sheldon Morse of Morse's Cribstone Grill on Bailey Island is planning to be open Thursday through Sunday starting June 3, if not before.

"Seems like everyone has the



Nick and Jennifer Charboneau are the owners of Cook's Lobster and Ale House on Bailey Island. (DOUG WARREN PHOTO)

same problem finding help," Morse said. "It's such a small window for us in the summer. But the phone has been ringing quite a lot and we'll be happy to see our customers again when we're up and running."

Alison Hawkes said Holbrook's Lobster Grill in Cundy's Harbor is open Thursday-Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. and that she's looking for additional staff to expand the restaurant's hours. Hawkes' Lob-

ster and Gifts is also open Thursday through Sunday for now, while Holbrook's General Store is open from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Events that have traditionally drawn large crowds remain challenging for organizers, despite the apparent downward trend of the COVID-19 pandemic, widespread vaccinations, and the easing of state and federal restrictions. Comfort levels for individuals in large groups, vaccinated or not, are still a work in progress.

"The Lobster Boat Races are best watched from the water," said race committee member Kristina York, "and we expect a lot of people to take advantage of that." She added that the event this year will feature numerous race classes with first, second and third place honors in each class.

The decision to hold the OBIFD

benefit auction online again this year was a difficult one, according to Margaret Broughall, the head of the department's Fundraising Committee. "We know how much it means to the community," she said, "but we don't see any way to do crowd control, and we can't ask volunteers to enforce any masking or social distancing policies that might be in place." Look for more details about the virtual auction in the July Anchor and on OBIFD's Facebook page and website: obifd.org.

Dave Hackett, head of the Harpswell Historical Society, said it was a "no-brainer" to cancel the Memorial Day Parade. However, the Historical Society Museum in Harpswell Center, which had been closed during the pandemic, will be open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Memorial Day and from 2-4 p.m. on Sundays after that. Hackett added that the traditional reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place at 11 a.m. on the Fourth of July at the Meetinghouse. Social distancing and masks are requested.

The Harpswell Bandstand by the Sea Concert Series at Mitchell Field will resume in July with limited free tickets available in advance and distancing protocols in place. For more information, go to: harpswell.maine.gov

Julia McLeod, outreach coordinator at Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, said her organization is very excited to offer the expanded Nature Day Camp program and will have a local pediatrician acting as a health-care advisor. "We are working with her on a COVID-19

continued on next page



Islands Community Church
Welcomes the new Harpswell Anchor
Sunday Services at 9:30 outside at Mackerel Cove,
Bailey Island
June 13th service led by Rev. Mair Honan
June 27 service led by Rev. Jeff Logan
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* To convey or grant utility easements on Town-owned property at Mitchell Field for the purpose of providing utilities to the new communications tower site at Mitchell Field



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Blindfolded dingy races will be part of the fun during Cundy's Harbor Days in August. (HOLBROOK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PHOTO)

continued from previous page
policy to keep everyone safe," she said. McLeod added that HHLT has canceled its popular Sunset Cruise in August, but will repeat its Summer Solstice Celebration and hopes to have an in-person annual meeting in July.

Cundy's Harbor Days will run Aug. 6-8 and will feature a Fisherman's 5K, a craft fair and a lobster roll lunch, along with blindfold dingy and lobster crate races at Holbrook's Wharf, according to Meriel Longley, president of the Cundy's Harbor Volunteer Fire

Auxiliary, which organizes the annual event. A traditional blessing of the fleet is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Aug. 8.

The Orr's Island Library will be expanding its hours beginning June 2. The library will be open 1-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday. As a courtesy to staff and other patrons, visitors are asked to continue to mask while inside and use the hand sanitizer provided. A limit of six people will be allowed in at any given time. The Cundy's

Harbor Library is undergoing extensive renovations this summer and curbside book pickups will continue to be available there.

Some lessons learned from coping with the pandemic could actually improve the Harpswell dining experience for summer visitors and local residents. "I think we're going to add a few more tables outside," said Christopher Gardner of the School House 1913. "But we won't be adding any inside."

Billy Saxton of the Dolphin said: "Spreading people out is actually a great idea. I doubt we'll ever go back to having folks wait for their tables in a crowded bar area."

But for any and all improvements to indoor environments, Harpswell itself seems to be the biggest draw. "People who couldn't make it last year rolled over to this year, and they're thrilled to be back," said Matt York, co-owner with his wife, Amy, of the Log Cabin Island Inn on Bailey Island. "We're fortunate that people come for the quiet."

Added Saxton: "Folks just want to get here and get out on the water. What a great way to spend a summer in Maine."



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The Harpswell Garden Club welcomes the new Harpswell Anchor back to town. We proudly support this community publication and look forward to sharing the garden club's various activities and public announcements. Our website has information regarding our club's most recent news, calendar, and resources, at: <https://harpswellgardenclub.org>



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(JERRY KLEPNER PHOTO)

Anchor

From page 1

At the same time, we approached Bob Anderson, who had founded the original Anchor and had run it for 22 years, to ask if he would help us. He was pleased with

the idea, and we started developing a plan to purchase the paper's intellectual property.

Our group pooled its resources to pay for start-up costs, including buying the Anchor's name, website and archives from Bob, and legal and other fees. We chose not to purchase the Anchor building,

"I'm very pleased that commu-

nity members have decided to continue the Harpswell Anchor," Bob said. "There are a lot of talented people involved, and I'm sure the new paper will be a great success."

We realized that it could take up to a year to apply for nonprofit status from the federal government, but we didn't want to wait that long to get started. Still, we needed to be a nonprofit organization to raise tax-deductible gifts. The Holbrook Community Foundation, located in Cundy's Harbor, agreed to serve as our fiscal sponsor in the meantime, accepting charitable gifts on our behalf and sending them back to the paper. Our new umbrella organization is called Harpswell News, which publishes the new Anchor.

"Holbrook Community Foundation is very pleased to see that the Harpswell Anchor will continue to be published and is happy to be Harpswell News' fiscal sponsor of the new ownership until they have received their own 501(c)(3) approval," said Greg Barmore, retired president of the foundation.

"We couldn't be doing this without the help of this wonderful local organization," said Doug Warren, acting vice president of Harpswell

News. Warren, who grew up in Brunswick and spent his career working in newspapers, is serving as interim editor of the Anchor.

Probably the most enjoyable part of the planning was creating a survey for both residents and local businesses, which we mailed in mid-April. We wanted this to be a truly community effort, so we actively sought everyone's ideas for what the new Anchor might look like. Within a single week we received close to 600 responses, and the message was clear: Harpswell wanted its Anchor back.

In the end, our vision was a monthly print paper along with a companion website, focused not only on feature stories, but also news from Town Hall and other issues that are important to our community. For now, we will be posting a digital copy of the newspaper on the website that will be free and accessible to all. In the future, we will be expanding the website to include frequently updated news. We are partnering with the Institute for Nonprofit News, a national organization that supports initiatives like ours. We learned that as a nonprofit we need to ensure that we are nonpartisan and

balanced, that we cannot take sides or have a certain opinion about any of our stories.

"This provides a great opportunity to really facilitate true dialogue among people with different opinions and to remain a fair arbiter of our stories," said Connie Sage Conner, a member of the group and a veteran journalist. "We look forward to covering a wide variety of news in our town."

The Harpswell News group is composed of residents from all over Harpswell who bring a variety of skills to the table: legal, business, journalism, fundraising, technology and communications. We all serve in other volunteer positions in the town.

We are very pleased to offer this first issue of the new Harpswell Anchor, as we wanted to publish at the outset of the summer. We have all missed the paper and know that many other people do as well. We decided to go ahead with the publication even before we have our entire team in place. This paper was written, edited and produced largely by volunteers in our group. This is definitely a work in progress, and we hope that future issues -- as well as our website stories -- will only improve over time.

For more information about the new organization, please visit harpswellanchor.org or our social media sites.

Many thanks to the Harpswell residents who comprised our founding group:

Greg Bestick, John Boomer, Dave Brown, Robin Casey, Connie Sage Conner, Philip Conner, Jeremy Jones, Tom Lunde, Dick Moseley, Mary Ann Nahf, Helen Norton, Ellen Shillinglaw, Deidre Strachan, Janice Thompson, Christine Tomasino, Doug Warren.



Islands Community Church, Bailey Island, is seeking applications for a Music Director and accompanist. The job description includes planning and playing hymns for services, and selecting music /directing the choir.

Applications may be emailed to yfh3@comcast.net or ghays1949@gmail.com and/or mailed to:

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New book to showcase stories of Harpswell



Capt. Henry Sinnett carried visitors to Bailey Island from the steamboat landing to their accommodations and shared local lore along the way.

More than 40 Harpswell residents and collaborators are sharing the result of a year-long effort with the release of "Glimpses of Harpswell Past and Present: Stories Celebrating Maine's Bicentennial."

The 17-chapter book with black and white and color images throughout is a celebration of Harpswell's history and its resilient people as told by local families and friends. Proceeds from the book, which is expected to be released this summer, will support the Harpswell Historical Society and the Merriconeag Grange.

In 2019, a group of Harpswell residents assembled a committee under the auspices of both organizations to plan for a celebration of Maine's bicentennial of statehood in 2020. Helped by a grant from the Maine Bicentennial Commission, the group recorded 20 interviews with Harpswell citizens before the pandemic put the project on hold. Because in-person celebrations and exhibits could not take place, the group then decided to produce a book that captured the many facets of Harpswell.

"Glimpses of Harpswell Past and Present: Stories Celebrating Maine's Bicentennial" is an anthology of reflections and studies about life in Harpswell. The chapters are written by volunteers from throughout Harpswell and talk about the past but follow the topics into the present.

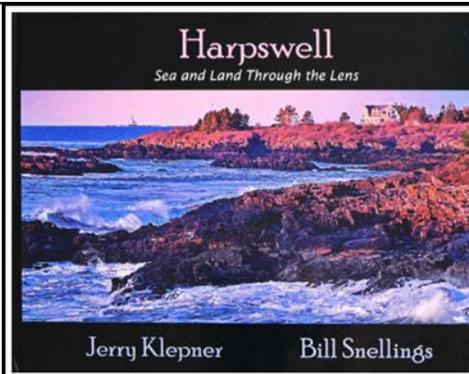
Fraternal and volunteer organizations are highlighted, and the chapters on demographics, food, transportation and education depict how we have changed as a people and as a town during the past two centuries. The architecture and nature chapters highlight Harpswell's distinctive buildings and fascinating natural phenomena. There are essays about an artist, a soldier, a minister and a special place, and the chapters conclude with poems from 20 Harpswell poets and a Harpswell bibliography.

Expected to be available by mid-summer, the book will be in both electronic and print formats. A launch party at the Merriconeag Grange is planned for July. For more information, or to preorder books, email: glimpsesofharpswell@gmail.com.

The new **Harpswell Anchor** team would like to thank the Holbrook Community Foundation for serving as our fiscal sponsor while we get our non-profit status. This partnership allows us to accept tax-deductible gifts through the foundation.

We appreciate this wonderful service to the Harpswell community!

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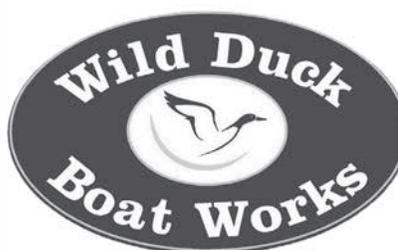
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PLOW / SAND: (207) 751-0724

FOLLOW YOUR DREAM, HOME.



199 Blackpoint Road, Rockwood, ME Here is your chance to own a slice of heaven on Moosehead Lake! This A-frame system home is tucked in the quiet and peaceful Baker Brook Cove. Enjoy scenic views of Farm Island as resident loons and mallard ducks pass by. +/-150' of pristine, owned water frontage provides endless enjoyment year round. Launch your boat right on your own property or enjoy snowmobiling across the lake to Mt. Kineo. Swim all day in your backyard and enjoy your very own private sandbar. End your days on the large back deck with the crackling of a campfire and sounds of loon calls echoing across the lake. The small screen porch provides a sheltered oasis on rainy days allowing you to stay in outdoor Maine bliss every sweet moment. With direct access to snowmobile and cross country ski trails, prime hunting and fishing spots, there will never be a shortage of activities year round. The first floor offers an open concept kitchen and living area, with full views of the lake, one bedroom and full bath. The loft area serves as sleeping quarters and encourages the open, easy lake living style. The detached garage is the perfect bonus for all of your storage needs. Plenty of space to store snowmobiles, a boat, firewood etc. This property is the definition of a hidden gem, first time ever on the market, this opportunity may never cross your path again! **\$435,000**



138 Hildreth Road, Harpswell, ME 04066 Seaside on Ewing Narrows. Situation in one of Harpswell's most coveted coastal neighborhoods and meticulously maintained. This property offers vast south and east views over the Narrows, very intimate with the water. From the shore enjoy swimming, boating and kayaking. On the land you'll love the over a mile of dead end roads, a neighborhood pebbled beach, and a little wine and cheese shop as destinations to explore on afternoon or evening walks. Inside find southern pine floors, 3 bedrooms, cathedral ceilings, a LP fired wood stove, a private great room downstairs, and an open concept living area opening to a waterside deck. **\$599,000**



0 Leeman Road, Orr's Island, ME 04066 Exceptional waterfront lot in the heart of the village area of Orr's & Bailey Island. This property has forever views south and east over Casco Bay and its islands. Elevated building site to look out over your private dock with boathouse. The boathouse offers a great opportunity for group functions and events, right on the dock. The pebbled shoreline boasts manageable waterfront for swimming and fishing. Walkable to area venues like the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust trail systems, pubs, restaurants, ice cream and candy store, coffee shop, boat launches and beaches. Slip space and mooring sites for numerous boats. **\$989,000**



11 Phippany Way, Brunswick, ME The Red House" sits prominently on Mere Point's western shore, with distant views of Maquoit Bay. The site features almost 14 acres of lush woodland, rolling terrain and boasts approximately 300' of sheltered shoreline, perfect for a dock and float. Near the home mature landscaping surround an oversized classic cape with large wrap around porch, a generous 3 season room, and an attached 2 car garage. Inside you'll appreciate an updated kitchen, downstairs bath, large formal dining area leading to the westerly facing open air deck to take in Maquoit's glorious sunsets. The expansive front-to-back living room offers a huge stone fireplace, knotty pine paneling, and hardwood floor that has aged to rich tobacco hues. Upstairs include 3 sizable bedrooms and 2 full baths. The master offers a sitting area and large second floor balcony overlooking the bay. Upgrades include the furnace, on-demand hot water, and a propane fired generator. All of this just 5 miles from Brunswick shops and restaurants of Maine Street. Buyer to honor summer rentals that are in place for certain weeks through the summer. **\$889,000**

Engel & Völkers Casco Bay
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