

HARPSWELL ANCHOR™

APRIL 2020, VOLUME 22, NO. 10

NO FOOLIN'

Harpswell Roadside Cleanup Beauty in Simplicity

BY KELLI PARK

There are traditions that come and go, and there are some that become ingrained in the fabric of the community over the course of decades. One Harpswell tradition shows what it means to find beauty in simplicity, in more ways than one.

The Harpswell community has come together every year for the past 36 years to celebrate Earth Day with the Harpswell Roadside Cleanup Day, also known as John Gilliam Day. "John came to me one day and said, 'What a mess on the side of the road. Everybody should get together and clean it up. What's so hard about that?'" said Selectman Dave Chipman.

That conversation acted as the catalyst for a tradition that has happened every April for more than three decades, rain or shine. Chipman initiated, and still coordinates, the facilitation of efforts among local community members, businesses, organizations, and the Town of Harpswell to ensure that the roadside cleanup goes smoothly. Community members are encouraged to



Unirecycler Harpswell resident Patty McGovern gathers trash along Route 123 in front of her home. (DAVE CHIPMAN PHOTO)

stop by Watson's General Store, Ship to Shore, or Bailey Island General Store to pick up free trash bags to clean up the roadsides in Harpswell. "Just go out and pick up in front of your house. Grab a friend and go pick up your favorite stretch of road. It doesn't need to be a huge effort.

See **CLEANUP** p. 16

Learning from Home

Students Weigh In

BY ELLIE DOUGLAS,
GRADE 5 AND NORA
DOUGLAS, GRADE 8

Covid19 has affected people in many ways. Not only does it have the power to kill people, there's no cure for it and it is impacting many kids' education. As of this writing, school has been cancelled until at least April 27. The last day of classes was March 13.

According to Mrs. Svenson, a fifth grade teacher at Harpswell Community School, "I would be disappointed if school were canceled for the rest of this year, but if it's what has to be done to slow the spread of this virus, we could make it work."

Teachers have made assignments available to students in many ways. Individual learning packets were assembled for every student at Harpswell Community School that parents picked up and brought home for students to work on. These learning packets covered material for the first two weeks without school. Middle and high school students mainly have access to their assignments and teachers online. Teachers have been



Outdoor Ed Sisters Zoe & Amelia Bolton collect fairy house supplies while hiking. Kids learning from home say they're spending more time outdoors. (JENNY BOLTON PHOTO)

calling homes to check on students and setting up online meetings and classroom chat groups.

Unlike middle and high school students, elementary school students are not issued individual laptops. "There are students who do not have internet access and/or technology to do work online, so we'd

See **HOME LEARNING** p. 19

Harpswell First Responders Navigate COVID-19 Protocol

BY KARA DOUGLAS

Amid the recalibration of our lives in this time of social distancing and slowing the spread of COVID-19, some among us are further refining their skills, poised on the edge of response. Harpswell's three fire and rescue departments have been closely communicating with one another and with state agencies about the best protocol for responding to emergency calls.

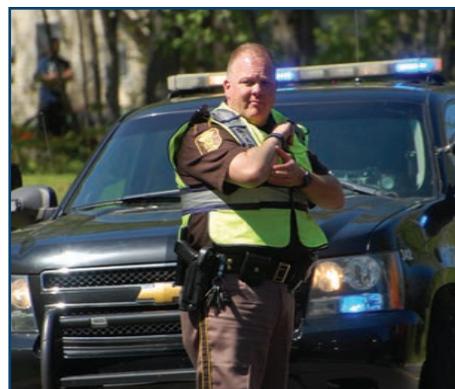
Harpswell Neck Rescue Chief Harvey Pough brings an image into sharp focus. "All of our departments are lightly staffed, and losing even one responder to a 14-day quarantine would be a serious problem. Keeping ourselves in business so that we are

able to respond is our first responsibility."

Pough points out that nearly all of Harpswell's rescue responders are in their 60s and 70s--ages at which COVID-19 is a real threat. "Despite that risk, we respond because we are committed to our community," he says.

Consider, hypothetically, what happens when someone calls 911. The Cumberland County dispatcher asks essential questions: "Do you have a fever? Cough? Difficulty breathing?" Responders receive the dispatch: a man in his eighties, fever, coughing, weakness and trembling.

"There is some fear out there that emergency services will not come if they show symptoms of COVID-19," says Cundy's



Connected Deputy George Bradbury of the Cumberland County Sheriffs Department is in direct communication with Harpswell Emergency Services. (ROBERT ANDERSON PHOTO)

Harbor first responder and per diem town firefighter Meriel Longley. "This is not true."

The responders gather at the station. Following Maine EMS protocol, they ask if the man can meet them on his front porch to prevent working in close quarters. He says he can't get out of bed.

A paramedic from Mid Coast Hospital assesses the patient while the Harpswell responders wait outside, limiting the number of people in contact.

From a distance, the paramedic notes that the patient is weak and breathing with effort. To provide care, she'll have to get closer. She tells the patient that she'll be

See **PROTOCOL** p. 18

Letters to the Editor

Roadside Cleanup

Now that the snow has gone you can see that the litter bugs have been busy. There are a few who don't care what Harpswell looks like and there are many who do.

John Gilliam day falls on April 25th this year and we need to do things differently. If you need trash bags there will be some on the steps of the Ship to Shore Store even though they plan to be closed. There will be trash bags on the steps of the Grange Hall and the Bailey Island General Store plans to stay open so they will have fee trash bags for you. After you pick up your favorite stretch of road, or just in front of your house, leave the bag(s) on the side of a main road or the intersection of a minor road and a main road and they will be picked up at the end of the day. Beach debris will be accepted as well.

Social distancing will prevent us from enjoying the pizza lunch at the grange but the Bailey Island General Store has agreed to provide a free slice of pizza to anyone participating in John Gilliam Day.

Nearly forty years ago John dreamed that everyone would get together and clean up the roadside. Let's help fulfill that dream. Fresh air and sunshine are important for your immune system and you can put your outdoor

time to good use while helping to get Harpswell ready for summer.

David I. Chipman

Thank you, Joyce

I am writing to publicly thank Rep. Joyce McCreight.

I have lived in District 51 pretty much my entire life. I have to say, I have not experienced in my voting life of 30 plus years, a more responsive, caring, competent representative than Rep. Joyce McCreight.

In 1997, my son was run over by his school bus on route 123. He was 7 years old and not even as tall as the tires. He suffered extensive, life threatening injuries. Yet, he survived.

After this horrendous accident, SAD 75 put crossing arms on their busses to prevent an accident like this from happening again. I noticed that the arms were disappearing, and not all busses had them.

I contacted Rep. McCreight. She responded immediately. She not only responded, she took action and researched this issue. She kept me updated and we worked together to create a bus safety bill. LD 19, "An Act to Require Public School Buses to be Equipped with School Bus Crossing Arms." This bill passed because she not only listened to my concerns, she acted and worked to create the change

needed. Maine school children are now safer because of Jay McCreight. This parent is grateful to have such competent, compassionate representation.

Cheryl Golick

Services Canceled

By now, by email or by letter, I expect you know of our decision to stop our Sunday morning services, at least for the next few weeks. All the while hoping to gather again

for Easter. Indeed, the last hymn that we sang together was (Sue's choice), "God Be with You... Till We Meet Again."

So much for COVID19, and for this time and season of our lives...

In the meantime, I hope this letter finds you well, and taking care to stay well. It won't be business as usual – for any of us. But we'll still be here for you, for others, and for God, as God sees fit to use us.

While we're apart, I pray God bless your health and strength, your body and your spirit. That God would watch between us. And that you know we're praying for you, wherever you are, as a church... even as we know you pray for us.

We love you. We miss you. God be with you...

And have a good week!
Reverend John Carson ☩

Donation to HCS

The Mission Board of the Elijah Kellogg Church visited the Harpswell Community School on March 2. They presented the principal of the school, Anita Hopkins, with a check for \$1000. The school will use these funds to update the classroom libraries at the school. According to Mrs. Hopkins this update is badly needed to keep pace with other schools in the district.

This money was made available through the estate of a former member of the church and Harpswell teacher, Jane Gott. The remainder of these funds are to be used for worthwhile projects in the town of Harpswell.

We were pleased to be able to present this check to the Harpswell Community School. The school children of Harpswell are worthy of our support. We all know that school budgets do not fill all the needs of any school. ☩



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HCTV Over-the-Air Antenna Repaired

BY DAVID I. CHIPMAN

Those of you who were around here twenty four years ago may remember the effort that was put forth by volunteers to construct the community television studio here in Harpswell using donated and at-cost materials. Two days a week for two years carpenters, plumbers, electricians, tile and carpet layers and roofers gave their time working side by side to build a community television station like no other in Maine.

While this was happening the Maine Air National Guard was erecting our tower and with a donation from Verizon to purchase fiber optic cable the cable company affixed it to the poles running up to the tower to get the signal to the transmitter.

Today we are the only over-the-air broadcast Public, Educational and Governmental (P.E.G.) television station in the United States making local programming available to everyone who owns a TV no matter how you get a signal.

If you get your television over the air you may have noticed that Harpswell Community Television has been having a few problems. Twenty three years ago, when we first went on the air with an analog transmitter, Shively Labs in Bridgeton here in Maine built an antenna for us. You've seen it every time you've driven over the Mountain Road. It's that large blue cylinder atop our little tower.



On Top of It A crew install the television antenna after recent repairs. (DAVE CHIPMAN PHOTO)

When we switched to high definition digital a few years ago the Shively antenna started giving us problems. The new transmitter didn't like it and balked; causing shut-downs and transmission problems. As the antenna was over twenty years old and no longer supported by Shively, who now deals only

with radio having discontinued television work some years ago, we ordered a new antenna from a different company. This new antenna didn't live up to our expectations.

Even though Shively no longer manufactures or repairs television antennas; they agreed to have a look at ours. We took our old trusty antenna to Bridgeton. Shively dismantled it, cleaned the components and tuned the elements.

The blue cylinder is now back on the tower. The crew from Aerial Tower Company has been very helpful in shifting antennas back and forth and working with us between climbing the large television towers to which they are more accustomed.

In the meantime the baulking transmitter had damaged one of its two 500 watt amplifiers. Now that the antenna problem has been dealt with we will send the amplifier to Comark in Massachusetts to get the needed repairs.

While this is happening we will be running on one amplifier which means half power. We at community television are anxious to get back to running on all cylinders so that our viewers can receive our broadcasts in reliable high definition.

In this unusual time your community television station is doing its best to provide information, direction and support for everyone here in Harpswell. Please be safe and stay healthy. ⚓

HARPSWELL ANCHOR

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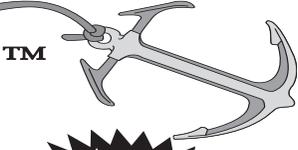
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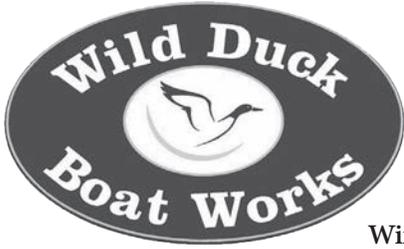
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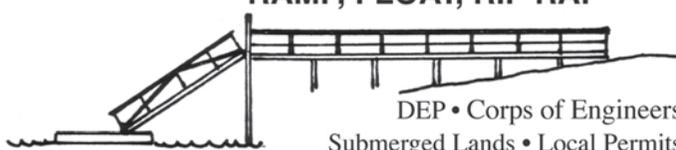
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 April Tides POTTS HARBOR, SOUTH HARPSWELL												
1	Wed	5:05	8.8	5:54	7.7	11:35	0.8	11:48	1.6	6:19	7:09	
2	Thu	6:05	8.8	6:57	7.9			12:36	0.7	6:17	7:10	
3	Fri	7:11	9.1	8:01	8.3	12:51	1.4	1:40	0.5	6:16	7:11	
4	Sat	8:17	9.5	9:00	8.9	1:58	1.0	2:42	0.0	6:14	7:13	
5	Sun	9:18	10.0	9:54	9.7	3:00	0.3	3:37	-0.6	6:12	7:14	
6	Mon	10:14	10.5	10:44	10.4	3:57	-0.4	4:28	-1.0	6:10	7:15	
7	Tue	11:08	10.8	11:33	10.9	4:51	-1.1	5:18	-1.3	6:09	7:16	
8	Wed			12:01	11.0	5:44	-1.6	6:06	-1.4	6:07	7:17	
9	Thu	12:22	11.3	12:53	10.9	6:35	-1.9	6:55	-1.3	6:05	7:19	
10	Fri	1:10	11.4	1:44	10.6	7:27	-1.9	7:44	-0.9	6:03	7:20	
11	Sat	1:59	11.2	2:38	10.1	8:19	-1.6	8:35	-0.4	6:02	7:21	
12	Sun	2:50	10.8	3:34	9.5	9:14	-1.1	9:29	0.3	6:00	7:22	
13	Mon	3:46	10.2	4:35	8.9	10:13	-0.5	10:29	0.9	5:58	7:23	
14	Tue	4:47	9.6	5:39	8.5	11:16	0.0	11:33	1.3	5:57	7:25	
15	Wed	5:51	9.1	6:44	8.2			12:21	0.5	5:55	7:26	
16	Thu	6:57	8.8	7:47	8.2	12:40	1.6	1:27	0.7	5:53	7:27	
17	Fri	8:02	8.7	8:45	8.4	1:48	1.6	2:28	0.8	5:52	7:28	
18	Sat	9:00	8.7	9:35	8.6	2:49	1.4	3:21	0.7	5:50	7:29	
19	Sun	9:51	8.8	10:18	8.9	3:41	1.1	4:05	0.7	5:48	7:31	
20	Mon	10:35	8.9	10:56	9.1	4:26	0.8	4:44	0.6	5:47	7:32	
21	Tue	11:16	9.0	11:32	9.3	5:06	0.5	5:19	0.6	5:45	7:33	
22	Wed	11:54	9.0			5:43	0.3	5:52	0.7	5:44	7:34	
23	Thu	12:05	9.5	12:31	8.9	6:17	0.2	6:24	0.8	5:42	7:35	
24	Fri	12:37	9.5	1:06	8.8	6:51	0.1	6:56	0.9	5:40	7:37	
25	Sat	1:08	9.5	1:41	8.7	7:25	0.1	7:30	1.0	5:39	7:38	
26	Sun	1:41	9.5	2:17	8.5	8:01	0.1	8:07	1.2	5:37	7:39	
27	Mon	2:17	9.4	2:57	8.3	8:41	0.2	8:48	1.3	5:36	7:40	
28	Tue	2:58	9.3	3:43	8.2	9:25	0.3	9:34	1.5	5:34	7:41	
29	Wed	3:45	9.2	4:35	8.1	10:15	0.4	10:27	1.5	5:33	7:42	
30	Thu	4:40	9.2	5:32	8.2	11:10	0.5	11:26	1.5	5:32	7:44	

Fishermen Gather for Dinner to Support Industry

BY SUSAN OLCOTT

Flounder are strange fish. They are born somewhat normal – with an eye on either side of their body. But, somewhere in their development, one eye moves to the other side, resulting in an odd cross-eyed look. Flounder may look odd, but they are super tasty. That's the message the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA), an industry-based non-profit, is trying to share with consumers who may not typically be drawn to choose this oddball creature from the offerings at the fish counter or restaurant.

Flounder are part of a family of fish known as flatfish, or officially as Pleuronectes (Greek for side swimmers) because of their unusual body design. Gulf of Maine flatfish include Atlantic halibut and several species of flounder. While the names halibut and flounder are likely familiar, most consumers aren't aware that there are several species of flounder living in the Gulf of Maine - winter flounder, witch flounder, and yellowtail flounder are all here. Names can be confusing as well when flounder are called fluke, plaice, dabs or sole. All of these flatfish live on or near the bottom in depths between 300 and 800 feet or so and eat worms, shellfish and other small invertebrates.

Flatfish are more broadly a part of a big group of fish called ground fish. They're caught by using a net that boats tow along just above the bottom and the fish are collected in the cod end of the net, so named for one of the more popular ground fish species - cod. Many fishermen fish for multiple species of ground fish

depending on restrictions and seasonal changes, but all are managed under one umbrella plan created by NOAA Fisheries and the New England Fishery Management Council. The Northeast Multi-species Fishery Management Plan covers thirteen species of ground fish including all of the Gulf of Maine flatfish except for halibut. The good news is that stocks of many of the flatfish species are doing well and are considered at sustainable levels and good choices for consumers.

While all of these species are caught in Maine waters, only a select few end up on your average dinner plate. This is a problem for fishermen who want to keep landing in Maine, but don't have a market for everything they catch. According to MCFA Executive Director Ben Martens, over 500,000 pounds of flounder were landed in Maine last year, but little of it stayed here. So, where did it go? Martens decided to trace the path of these fish after Port Clyde fishermen Randy Cushman said one day, "Hey, I want to know who's eating my fish." Boston and New York were not surprises, but there's apparently a big market in Chicago as well. Teri is one of the fishermen that have struggled to continue to land his fish in Maine because of lack of a market and also facilities for processing fish. Ben has said to him as well as other local fishermen, "We want you back in Maine – how do we do that?"

This was the beginning of MCFA's initiative to turn consumers on to species of fish that don't get enough attention locally. This spring, they have had a four-part series named "What's the Catch? A



Fillet-o-fish Craig Durant practices his skill at preparing flounder for frying. (SUSAN OLCOTT PHOTO)

Culinary Series Celebrating Maine Fish (the Good and the Ugly) and the Maine Fishermen". The first in the series was the truly ugly monkfish, followed by Acadian redfish (not as ugly, but its spikey fins and pouty lip are less than elegant), then the most recent cross-eyed flounder, and the last will be the somewhat snakelike silvery hake. MCFA formed a partnership with Luke's Lobster on the Portland pier to pair up with their chef with their fishermen's catch and offer

it to the public. Luke's chef Josh Dumage has embraced preparing unusual species in appealing ways, but also appreciates its challenges. "It's hard to start something from scratch, but now it has some legs under it and I really want to keep doing it."

Dumage prepared three courses of flounder dishes at the event including a fried whole flounder that showcased how to utilize as much of the whole fish as possible. Part of the program also included

a filleting demonstration by Harpswell fisherman Craig Durant. He deftly cut the delicate filet away from the body as the audience watched and learned about flounder biology from Durant and MCFA Board member and fellow fishermen Gerry Cushman fielded questions from the audience. Cory Hawkes from Harpswell was also in the audience.

The events in the series have been well attended by a cross-section of repeat customers and people new to the scene. "It's a way for people in the Portland community to interact with Portland fishermen and remind them that it's the people who are out there that are important. We're not trying to protect a dock, but to protect the people and their livelihood and heritage." MCFA sees these gatherings around food as a way to connect people across different parts of their community. "When we have good food, beer and conversation, we have breakthroughs in understanding each other," says Martens. They've had similar events in Tenant Harbor Maine, also with Luke's lobster, and also on Bailey Island in the summer with their Hook, Line and Dinner annual fundraiser.

It's hard to measure how successful these events have been in getting more people to buy the species after they've had a chance to sample them. But, Martens noted that, "We did hear that Harbor Fish sold out of monkfish the week after our first event." In the bigger picture, this event is a way to increase the appreciation for the diversity of fish out there that's sustainable to eat and thereby give consumers a better understanding of the value of the working waterfront and its fishermen. ☘



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- Pedestrians should dress in bright and reflective clothing. Do not assume motorists can see you.
- Pedestrians should walk facing traffic and make eye contact with drivers.
- Motorists must give the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Motorists should reduce distractions while driving. Do not text or use your cell phone while driving.

Share the Road and Save a Life.

1 April 2020 Community Calendar

Due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 and in accordance with CDC and State of Maine recommendations to limit group activities, the Anchor will not be offering a community calendar this month.

In addition to connecting via social media, Facetime and good old fashioned neighborly waving at one another from a distance, we hope the community will remember the fun group activities we've had, and will soon enjoy again.

Harpwell is rich in community spirit and natural beauty; it is the Anchor's sincere belief that by working together in this time of international calling that we will come out stronger and even more connected.

We would like to thank our readers for understanding and respecting the difficult decisions we all must make in these uncertain times.



911: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

BY JOHN PEARS

When you dial 911 you don't stop to think how help will arrive you just want help fast. To accomplish this there are teams of professionals and trained volunteers on call in Harpswell and nationwide, 24 hours 7 days per week and 365 (or this year 366) days per year.

In Harpswell there are 87 volunteers, all whom are your neighbors, who are on call every day and night ready to respond if you have an emergency and dial 911. Across the US there are over 680,000 + volunteers on call to respond in their own communities.

Teams of responders who remain on call include: EMS (Emergency Medical Services); Fire; law enforcement; Marine Patrol and the Cumberland County Dispatch Center. Volunteers from Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue, Orrs Bailey Fire and Rescue and Cundy's Harbor Fire and Rescue represent Harpswell. Professional para medics from Mid Coast Hospital and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department provide 24/7/365 coverage. The recent addition of per diem fire fighters from 6 AM to 6 PM weekdays strengthens fire coverage for the whole town of Harpswell and provides emergency backup for EMS. Marine Patrol and the Harpswell Harbor Master are also available depending on the nature of the emergency. Members from one or all of the above teams may respond depending on the nature of the call.

swell Harbor Master are also available depending on the nature of the emergency. Members from one or all of the above teams may respond depending on the nature of the call.

During 2019 Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue volunteers responded to 204 EMS and 92 fire and storm related incidents along with the professionals related to the call. When the power goes out because a tree has fallen on the electrical lines it is not just CMP that responds. Members of the volunteer fire departments respond if there is a live power line down or if a tree is in the road. Crew members are out cutting trees and clearing the roads to maintain access for emergency vehicles even in the height of the storm and the dark of night. When there is a car accident with possible personal injury it is the volunteers both from EMS (ambulance and EMT's) and fire who respond along with the para medics from Mid Coast and the Cumberland County Sheriff.

Every night there are neighbors who volunteer to keep a pager on to be ready to respond to a medical emergency or a fire call. These neighbors attend monthly trainings to be prepared to respond to the many types of possible emergency situations. It takes teamwork to be able to assist a hiker who falls and is injured on one of the many hiking trails in



Prepared Harpswell firefighters extinguish a fire. (ROBERT ANDERSON PHOTO)

Harpswell. If you have been on the Cliff Trail off the Mountain Road you might imagine what is required to get medical assistance to a hiker with a broken ankle on such a trail. Getting trained personnel and needed equipment to the scene requires training and coordination and many hands to get to and treat the injured hiker. Now imagine how they would be transported back along the trail, up and down the cliffs, to a waiting ambulance at either the transfer station or town hall and ultimately to the hospital! In extreme circumstances volunteers have training for Life Flight evacuation.

It takes 150 hours of training to qualify to be certified as an interior fire fighter (one who can enter a building that is on fire) and it requires two such qualified fire fighters on scene to enter a burning building. Volunteers drive the fire trucks. Volunteers run the pumping equipment to provide water for the fire hoses. They train for cutting victims from cars that are damaged using the "jaws of life" and various other tools.

In August 2018 a sail boat hit a ledge and one of the occupants fell from the cockpit into the cabin fracturing her neck in three places and

possibly causing additional spinal fractures. It was fire fighters along with EMS and Marine Patrol that secured the boat, stabilized the patient for transport, and maneuvered the patient out of the cabin, over the side of the boat to the dock, up a gangway finally to the ambulance. The patient survived and is walking today.

It is challenging and rewarding work for your neighbors who volunteer to be on call, quietly being available at a moment's notice, all hours for any emergency great or small.

Volunteers are needed to help in many ways from intensive EMT or interior firefighting to driving a vehicle or assisting with the administrative work required to maintain certification and reporting. Volunteers maintain a tradition that began in the 1600's in the colony of New York of neighbors helping neighbors through volunteers responding to fight fires for the safety of all.

If you would like more information about volunteer opportunities for fire and rescue in Harpswell you can call Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue at 833-6714 or call Fire Administrator Art Howe at 833-5771 ext. 126. ☎

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You'll find a variety of events from around the region

Amid COVID-19, Harpswell Aging at Home Still Supporting Seniors

Serving the needs of those who would be most affected by the spread of the coronavirus, Harpswell Aging at Home felt it necessary last month to temporarily postpone Lunch with Friends events and its Home Repairs program.

But the nonprofit has continued to support Harpswell's seniors, a need made more important as people follow the Center for Disease Control's recommendations – notably its social distancing protocols that can create more isolation than ever.

Its Seniors Connecting program is one way Harpswell Aging at Home is filling that need.

"We use existing resources and opportunities to decrease social isolation, provide safety tips and other education topics relevant to seniors, and make them aware of resources available to them," said Gayle Hays, chairperson of HAH's Health & Wellness Committee.

While the calls provide information, they serve a social



Buffet Volunteer cooks and servers and community people all enjoying Lunch with Friends. Upcoming lunches will be rescheduled at a future date.

purpose as well, something more challenging for seniors who don't get out as much – or in a climate when activities and events are being canceled due to the coronavirus spread.

"As a registered nurse, I had seen the evidence that proved seniors live longer lives with socialization," said Hays. "In supporting the volunteers who call the seniors on a regular basis, it became evident that the volunteers enjoyed the calls as much as the seniors."

The program can use more volunteers, people who, Hays said, "listen well and have the ability to engage in conversation" with seniors.

Any Harpswell senior, regardless of income level, may participate in the Seniors Connecting program. To sign up for the program, call Linda Strickland at the Harpswell Town Office at (207) 833-5771; to volunteer, email volunteer@hah.community.

In the same vein as Seniors Connecting, the Resources

Committee has trained volunteers to help identify needs in the areas of socialization, transportation, and health and wellness, and recommend available resources. For more information, contact HAH Resources Team Coordinator Judy Muller at (207) 798-0612 or the Town Office at (207) 833-5771.

The Meals in a Pinch program also supports seniors by providing occasional nutritious meals, as well as on an emergency basis. To request a meal, contact Julie Moulton at (207) 330-5416 or juliemoulton28@gmail.com.

In addition, HAH recruits volunteer drivers for the the Volunteer Transportation Network to give free rides to Harpswell adult residents who are unable to drive. Drivers, which are needed, and riders must first register with People Plus. For more information, visit peopleplusmaine.org/volunteer-transportation-network or call (207) 729-0757. ☞

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Why Do Birds Love Bugs?

BECKY GALLERY
Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership

Why, you ask, is Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership, asking about birds and bugs? The answer is: read and learn why!

According to Doug Tallamy, noted entomologist, it takes thousands of caterpillars to feed newly-hatched birds. The parent birds make hundreds of trips a day to the nest, mother and father both carrying caterpillars to the hungry babies. Why caterpillars? They make terrific food for baby birds: a soft outer covering for easy feeding, and each caterpillar is full of the proteins and carotenoids needed for healthy birds. (For more on this, see Nature's Best Hope, by Douglas Tallamy.)

Caterpillars are critical to the survival of newly-hatched birds. Beetles have hard exterior shells and legs that are difficult for the parents to shove down the baby's throat. Seeds are also hard, and do not have the proteins and carotenoids necessary for growth

and development. Also, caterpillars usually are found on the leaves of trees, shrubs and other plants, making them fairly easy targets for the adult birds to find. Beetles live under leaves, in tunnels in trees or in the ground, and seeds and berries are hard to find in the spring when birds are nesting.

If one nest of chickadees needs between 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to send the hatchlings off to adulthood, how many more thousands are needed for every nest of robins, wrens, warblers and woodpeckers to thrive? Will the landscape plants in your yard provide a home to these caterpillars? Will your landscape support the birds whose songs brighten our spring days?

Our home landscapes have been designed for our viewing pleasure, not for bird-feeding insects. Most homes are surrounded by lawn, with a few trees, shrubs and flowers scattered in clumps or garden beds. Grassy lawns do not provide shelter or food for the numbers and varieties

of caterpillars needed to feed all those baby birds. Ornamental landscaping may help, but which plants are most likely to feed the caterpillars? Burning bush (*Eunonymus alatus*) is home to no native caterpillars. One burning bush, taking up landscaped space in your yard provides no food for birds and caterpillars. The same can be said about Bradford Pear, ginkgo, Norway maple, and autumn olive. These non-native plants were introduced to our landscapes for their "pest-free" characteristics, as well as their attractive flowers and foliage. Our native insects do not eat these alien plants. So what is the hungry caterpillar to do? With luck, it will find an oak tree, a willow tree, or perhaps a cherry tree. Native trees host hundreds of varieties of insects each spring. Goldenrod plants host over 100 varieties of insects. Sunflowers, violets and wild geraniums host dozens as well.

Why do birds love bugs? Caterpillars provide the best source of nutrients for baby birds. Why

do we love native plants? Native trees, shrubs and flowers provide the best nutrients for insects. Without native plants, there are fewer insects. Without insects, there are fewer birds. It will be a silent spring if we continue to grow alien, non-native plants in our landscape. Replacing the non-native plants with those found naturally in our area is the first step to nurturing our bird population. The National Wildlife Federation developed a "Plant Finder" tool for their website (<https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder>). Plug in your zip code to learn which native plants grow in your area. Plant something from that list in your landscape.

When selecting native trees and shrubs to plant in your yard, start small. A small sapling, purchased with bare roots, will settle into its new home quickly. The tree will grow steadily in size because its roots are ready to thrive. The plant will not spend energy re-growing its root system. When a larger tree is planted, its roots must re-establish themselves,

as the roots have usually been trimmed by the nursery during the transplant process. Buying a large tree may make an immediate visual impact in your landscape, but will take years to establish enough roots to grow in size above the ground. A bare-root tree, while initially small, will grow well almost immediately. The shade from an oak or maple tree will cool your home during our warm summer days. The leaves provide food and shelter for those caterpillars that are feeding the newly-hatched birds, and later, fallen leaves will decompose, adding rich nutrients to your yard. Fallen leaves also provide places for many insects to spend the winter. Come spring, the caterpillars will appear, move up the tree to feast on its leaves, and the birds will find them.

Plant an acorn and watch it grow. Allow some leaves to remain on the ground during your fall clean-up. Soon, you will be feeding hundreds of insects, the birds will love you, and their songs will bring joy to many. ☺

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"Ron was fantastic in every respect! After 1 ½ years on the market, we switched to Ron and he sold our home in under 60 days. His experience in waterfront property and his honest assessment of what "sprucing up" our home needed to sell, made the difference. I can't say enough good things about Ron's trustworthiness, honesty and timely follow up. Never too busy to talk or give me an update. Absolutely the best!" - MCashman

Why should Harpswell waterfront home owners list with Harpswell Realty Group & Keller Williams, the largest real Estate company in the world? Less than 2% of the 169,317 Keller Williams Agents throughout the world qualify to be KW Luxury International Affiliates. Ron Hutchins qualified almost immediately after opening Harpswell Realty Group. This was due to Ron's high ethical standards, attention to detail, client satisfaction and prior sales history. Through October 2019 KW Luxury Agents worldwide sold 63,652 Luxury Homes totaling over 26 Billion in sales. Local homeowners will take advantage of the largest global network of agents and their connections to market your property to the largest audience possible worldwide. When you hire a member of KW Luxury International to sell your home, you are ensuring your listing will reach the most qualified buyers in 100+ countries, your listing will be syndicated to more than 80 international portals and search engines. Keller Williams Luxury Associates in over 41 countries around the world will have direct access to your listing, it's facts, features and community benefits, giving your home the exposure it deserves.



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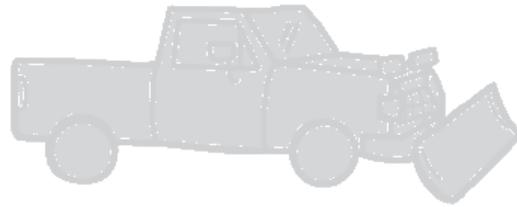
What Were We Thinking?

FROM THE EDITOR: Back in the days when fake news was almost unheard of, the Harpswell Anchor ran April Fools stories each year just for the fun of it. These stories frequently caught readers off guard, eliciting some humorous letters to the editor. The following stories are not true. Some names have been changed to protect the innocent, but some names remain accurate, although perhaps they were a bit misquoted. We also had fun with the ads. We hope you have a good laugh and look on the lighter side of life.

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Giant Shrimp Invade Harpswell Waters

BY EDDY ABLE

Another invasive species has been found in the waters of eastern Casco Bay. Giant Jumbo Shrimp have been located in Merriconeag Sound and the implications are grim for local lobstermen.

Giant Jumbo Shrimp (Gi-Ju's as they're known in Japan) have been absent from our waters in the past but are now showing up in record numbers. Hypothesis as to why they're here now, and even exactly what they really are, vary greatly depending on whom you ask.

According to the Maine Marine Patrol investigator assigned to the case, Sgt. Clem Worden, They were probably brought in on the hull of a tanker entering the port of Portland; inbound from a Gulf of Mexico refinery.

"We see this all the time. A few hitchhiking crustaceans

survive the trip and the next thing you know, you've got a full blown outbreak. These are just your standard jumbo gulf shrimp that have developed a huge layer of fat to survive the northern waters. They're maintaining their fat layers by eating lobsters."

A certain well known local marine biologist who prefers to remain anonymous and lives across from Vegetable Corner had a different take on the matter.

"These are not common gulf shrimp but are of the variety known as Humboldt Shrimp or Lobsterous ravenous. They are known to have attacked Mexican fishermen and inflicted grievous injuries. The 3-4 lb. ones caught so far are only immature offspring as the species can attain a weight of one hundred pounds or more when full grown. They are certainly new to this area and could pose a significant threat to local fisheries."



Donut Goodenuff Photo

Ecological threat?

Giant Humboldt shrimp shown next to a 2.5 lb. lobster have been found in local waters. Ask Julie at Gurnet Lunch and Lobster about cooking instructions.

Upon hearing of this a nuclear power activist from Wiscasset, Daisy Windson, claimed to have proof that the shrimp had migrated here from the Sheepscot River and were created from residual

radiation from the now defunct Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Since the "proof" turned out to be crayon drawings on a paper bag, it was quickly discounted.

Another point of view on the matter came from lifelong resident and lobsterman Orrington Leeman. Old "Orrey," when interviewed while having his morning coffee at the Bailey Island store, disregarded the thoughts of others.

"Bunch o' damned fools don't know nawthin bout them shrimp! We used ta catch 'em back in the forties after the oil spills from the tankers in Hussey Sound! A couple of 'em would feed a family real good too! Fry right up in a pan without addin' no oil nor nawthin! We called 'em "horse shrimp!"

As Orrey warmed up on the subject, his ranting became completely indecipherable, due no doubt to the geyser of Beech Nut juice gushing from his toothless mouth.

In an effort to neutralize the threat posed by the creatures, several live specimens have been placed in an aquarium to see if they can be convinced to stop eating lobsters and focus on yacht borne land speculators instead. &

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What Were We Thinking?

Invention May 'Revolutionize' Boat Launches

BY PAUL BARER

Harpswell inventor Mort Morgan has announced that he will make public his newest creation, one that he says will revolutionize the need for boat launches in Harpswell.

Morgan has been working on this innovation for the past year, and on April 1, the first test of what Morgan refers to as "the world's first portable boat launch" will take place in the parking lot of the Town Office.

The portable boat launch, which rides on and is transported on tandem wheel and is 120 feet in length, can be used anywhere that the launch is within sight of open water. The launch is capable of servicing boats 30 feet or less.

"I took the idea from the Navy," Morgan said of the portable launch. "It's along the same line as a catapult on an aircraft carrier."

The catapult that Morgan speaks of is powered by steam and is wood-fired to create the steam. Morgan plans to use scrap wood from the Town's Transfer Station for the boiler. A boat is connected to the catapult by its transom, and when ready for launch, the steam pressure is released, hurling the catapult and boat forward at 100 mph along the 120-foot elevated ramp, launching the boat somewhere toward the open water. The airborne launch is estimated to shoot the boat approximately 1,000 feet, or as far as the first solid object.

"We tried the launch the other day using an unmanned 16-foot wooden skiff," Morgan said. "But we haven't tried it yet with a human test subject onboard. We're



Robert Anderson Photo

To infinity and beyond
Inventor Mort Morgan points out the trajectory of his portable boat launch, which will be tested soon with a human subject onboard.

hoping," he added, "that Deputy (George Lee) Bradbury will volunteer to be the guinea pig."

While Bradbury is not unfamiliar with crashes and blunt force trauma to the skull, he was hesitant to agree to be the first human test subject for Morgan's invention.

"I always wanted to be a jet pilot," admitted Bradbury. "But before I commit to something I might regret, first I think I should ask my supervisor."

The launch would also benefit Town Harbormaster Jim Hays. Hays said the launch will allow him to check moorings in all parts of Town without having to trailer the new Town boat, launch it from one of the few Town landings and

then navigate the boat to the required mooring check.

"I like the idea," Hays said. "But I think we should try (the launch) out on a certain former selectman first."

Former Harpswell Selectman and Transfer Station employee Mark Wallace thinks Morgan's invention holds merit.

"I've known Mort for many years, and if he's lived through all the schemes he's come up with so far, then who's to say this contraption could be anything but safe? But," he added, "I think we should let our Town clam warden try it out first. After all, we do pay him to take risks."

Town selectmen are looking

closely at the proposal Morgan has brought before the Town. The budget for maintenance on Town landings could be reduced if the Town contracts with Morgan's boat launch. He has offered to service the entire Town's boat launches for a mere \$10,000 a year. However, the Town's insurance would increase by \$990,000 a year for liability, but could be reduced, depending on the extent of injuries from the first test flight.

While many in Town feel that the sheriff's department is responsible for the safety of Harpswell citizens, Bradbury's supervisor insists that Bradbury's first commitment to Harpswell is as clam warden.

But Morgan has spoken to the supervisor and guarantees that the Town boat could be aimed toward Uncle Zeke Island from the Town Office parking lot, launched at full pressure and land within inches of where the clambers are digging.

"It would be like stealth," Mort offered. "They wouldn't see or hear him coming. Just a splat in the mud and the wardens could be writing tickets."

Clammer and air boat owner Clem Poacher has mixed feelings about the launch.

"I bought an air boat so I could escape from the wardens across the mud and shoal water, but stealth is just too damn sneaky for me. But if the warden is willing to give it a try, I'll take my chances on him catching me. Will he be wearing a helmet?"

The consensus of opinion is that the Town will accept Morgan's proposal. However, the question has been raised as to how the boats will be hauled out after they have been launched. But Mort Morgan, inventor and friend of many liability lawyers, explained that where there is a (Morgan named in a legal) will, he will find a way.

"I have seen the future and the future looks bright. Today we soar upward and onward, tomorrow we send a deputy toward the heavens," Morgan said, adding, "What won't the marine patrol do for Harpswell boaters!?!?!"

THEM ANCHOR CONNECTIONS

We have implemented a new department to assist readers of the *Harpswell Anchor* to find that special connection...



Abbreviation Key: SF = Single Female. CCD = Commercial Clam Digger.

SF, Size 18, looking for worm digger. Must be able to do two tides a day. Love long walks through the flats and cuddling.

CCD, looking for long term relationship with SF, must have advanced degree. Tobacco chewing a plus. Experience in shucking a must.

SF, owns boat. Adventurous captain in search of submissive crew. Own equipment including hip boots required. I go out in all weather. "You gottem, I gut 'em."

Mama's boy looking to be a man. If you are the right woman, I'm the right man for you. Seeking instant family with dog. Will bring no baggage to relationship. Have only two more years payments on my truck.

SF, 78, can drive at night, looking for youthful companion to warm the winter nights and shovel the driveway. Smokers need not apply. Recreational use of Ensure and vodka a plus.

Former hippy, subsistence farmer. Looking for goat. *References required.*

Unemployed carpenter wants to build loving relationship with employed woman. Must have good paying job or access to social services. Must be able to open own beer.

Bait trucker with masters license looking for sensitive relationship with SF. Must have own washer and dryer. Sense of smell not required, in fact not recommended.

SF, own teeth (all original); tons of fun; slight facial hair on chin and upper lip seeking lobsterman for monthly electrolysis.

Lonely Lab looking for unfixed Bichon Frise bitch. Legs no longer sufficient, owner is getting upset. Into rhinestone studded collars and rubber chew toys, what's your desire?

Dirty old man, techie, no floppy disks, all hard drive. Looking for someone to do laundry, dishes and heating up TV dinners. Will interface with anyone, no conversions.

Single newspaper editor looking for someone special for intimate wine sipping. Fancy cheese and own teeth a definite plus. *Want to talk dirty?*

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BRIEFLYS

Scam Alert: 2020 Census

Is that really the census person at your door (or mailbox, or email)?

The United States census happens once every decade, and April 1, 2020 is National Census Day. The Census Bureau, like BBB and many other organizations, has its fair share of imposters, and they can be hard to spot.

There are only three ways to reply to the census; phone, mail or online.

The Census Bureau may request information through almost all communication outlets, including phone, email, mail, fax and in-person. And yes, some of the information they ask for can get pretty personal. But the Census Bureau states that they will NEVER ask for your full social security number, money, donations, anything on behalf of a political party, your full bank or credit account numbers, or your mother's maiden name.

Knowing how the Census operates can help you be better prepared when you're asked to participate.

For more information on the 2020 Census, visit the official website, census.gov.

The Brunswick Downtown Association launches "Operation Pick-Up"

The Brunswick Downtown Association (BDA) rolled out "Operation Pick-Up", a list of restaurants, retailers, and other small businesses in Brunswick that are offering Pick-Up, Take-Out, and Delivery options as well as on-line ordering. The list includes business hours, special offerings, and contact information and is available at <https://brunswickdowntown.org/brunswick-business-updates/>.

This initiative was created to help Brunswick area businesses weather the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. On Friday, March 19th, The Town Brunswick approved the designation of up to two parking spaces in front of downtown business for "5 Minute Curbside Pick Up Only" and the BDA provided signage and launched a Social Media campaign to promote "Operation Pick-Up". "Our local businesses and their employees need our support now more than ever" said BDA Executive Director, Deb King.

The BDA encourages the public to Order take-out, pick-up or delivery from local restaurants, make online purchases from local businesses, and purchase gift

cards to use at a later date. These are some of the ways to help make sure your favorite local business is still around when the crisis abates. The Brunswick Downtown Association has also joined the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce and other organizations in supporting local businesses and organizations with the Pay It Forward Maine Initiative a campaign that encourages individuals, businesses and organizations to continue supporting local businesses and their employees in our new world of closed storefronts and social distancing.

Scam Alert: You Missed Jury Duty!?

Some scams just don't quit! Despite running for years, this con still successfully uses threatening calls and intimidating emails to scare people into paying up. Jury duty scams have staying power because they prey on a fear of law enforcement.

How the Scam Works:

You answer the phone, and it's someone claiming to be from the local law enforcement or judicial agency. The caller tells you that you've missed a jury duty summons and could be arrested. They may even claim that a war-

rant has already been issued. The caller may appear to be very legitimate -- with caller ID showing a police phone number and an official-sounding voice on the phone.

The scammer tells you that, fortunately, you can avoid arrest by paying a fine. The scammer asks you to wire money or put cash on a prepaid debit card and share the PIN. Of course, the fine -- and the jury duty summons -- were never real.

How to Spot this Scam:

1. Be skeptical of email and unsolicited calls. Courts do not typically summon people via email, text message or phone. Unless you are involved in a case and have opted into receiving other types of communications, courts normally communicate through mail.

2. Pick up the phone. If you

ever question whether you need to appear in court, call the appropriate judicial agency. Don't call the number in the email, as that will likely just lead you to the scammer. Look for official websites in your jurisdiction... and be on the lookout for fake websites, too.

3. Ignore calls for immediate action. Scammers try to get you to act before you think by creating a sense of urgency. Don't fall for it.

4. Beware of requests to pay via wire transfer or prepaid debit card (such as MoneyPak, iTunes or similar cards). These are almost always a sign of fraud.

5. Ask someone for help. BBB's research shows that asking someone else is an important factor in reducing the chance of being scammed. Ask a family member or friend, "Does this sound right?" &

Did you know?

Eagle Island, located in Harpswell, is the former summer home of Admiral Robert E. Peary and his family.

It is currently a national historic site.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

O B I T U A R Y

Merle Bishop (Mickey) Pierce Jr.

On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Merle Bishop Pierce Jr., known as Mickey, passed away at age 75.

Mickey was born February 7, 1945 in Bath, ME and lived his entire life in Harpswell (except for one year in Massachusetts, which he would say doesn't count). He graduated from Brunswick High School and Maine Maritime Academy. He sailed as an engineer for Texaco from 1967 to 1970 and winters until 1986. He also worked for Stone & Webster of Boston for a year. He returned to Harpswell to be a lobsterman, his lifelong dream.

Mickey loved working and playing on the water with his family, playing cards with his grandkids, reunions with old friends, and every minute he spent with Linda, the love of his life. He considered himself the smartest man in the world for marrying Linda, and they shared an incredible love story for 50 years. He will be remembered for his twinkling blue eyes, his booming laugh, his calming presence and the way he made everyone he knew feel respected and appreciated.

Mickey is survived by his wife Linda, his daughter Angie and husband Jim, his son Tony and wife Jennifer, and his beloved grandkids Mia, Hudson and Sam.

His family looks forward to fulfilling his wish of a big celebration on the wharf at Lookout Point when the weather warms, and the world gets back to normal.



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Guest Column: Reflections on My Future in Harpswell

BY JIM LAUGHREN

“Are you awake?” I felt a hand on my shoulder. “Do you hear that . . . ? There’s something downstairs.”

I rose onto my elbow and cocked my head to listen. Nothing. Pause. Still nothing. She seemed to hear every little noise that seeped and creaked and slid through our old house. This wasn’t the first time I’d heard the “Pssst . . . are you awake?” As I dropped back down and began to get comfortable, I heard a distant clang or thud. And then again. Like a belt buckle tumbling in the dryer. I was about to say so, to suggest that very thing, when it dawned on me that no one was doing laundry downstairs at 3 am.

“Okay. I’ll take a look.” The sound came again, and then once more. I rose from bed and pulled on my pants, turned and bumped into my wife who was shadowing

my every move. “I’m coming with you,” she said. Brave girl. Curious.

I handed her a flashlight and started down the stairs. As we neared the bottom the noise sounded again, and then again, coming, indeed, from the direction of the laundry room. “Are you kidding,” I thought to myself, “someone broke into our house to use the dryer? In the middle of the night?”

By now the click/clang was distinct, and coming more often, a staccato almost. We moved quietly toward the noise, halting just shy of the large window that looks out over our yard and beyond to the barn. In the glow of our porch light the mystery revealed itself: ice, small bits and chunks of ice, raining from the tree above onto the roof and bouncing now and again off the window.

One more welcome to Harps-

swell! The ice storm of prior days had coated every limb, every branch and twig of our glorious old tree in a thick coating of ice. And now, thanks to that marvelous wind sweeping up from Harpswell Sound and rising temperatures, the tree was shaking off its frozen coat one frozen chunk at a time. It was actually rather dazzling; we opened the door and witnessed a veritable rain of ice cubes landing in the yard, piling up on the walk and plinking off walls and windows.

Our first winter here has been full of surprises, most of the very good to excellent variety. There’s substance here, a deep and abiding fabric underlying this town of islands and peninsulas and lousy roads and stunning seascapes and downed power lines and lobster boats chugging out with the rising sun and homegrown carpenters and tradesmen and a wonderful neighborliness, a practicality, a local economy often hidden but ever resourceful.

We’ve come to know painters and plumbers and artists and musicians, fishermen, merchants and mechanics. And the neighbors. Oh, those neighbors, showing up almost from the day we arrived with a smile and a handshake, occasionally with cookies or an invite to dinner and even, to celebrate our first power outage, with a spare generator and a full tank of gas. Do people get any better than these? Maybe, but if so, one would be hard put to find them.

I pour myself a glass of wine left over from last night’s dinner, an Amarone to be exact, perfect for the cold and snowy day that it’s

become (indulge me, I am a wine writer, after all) as I sit at my new-used desk and weave these musings together. We thought long and hard, my wife and I, about this move. I have Mainiacs in the family, quite a few, to be honest, and spent many pieces of childhood in the Pine Tree State. Unlike lots of newcomers, we’re not retired and don’t plan to be for some time. So we’re here for the full ride. This is our home now, our one and only. You’ll pass us on the road, see us at the church fair, bump into us at Hannaford or the Gulf of Maine bookstore. We support Ship 2 Shore and the School House and shop at Vegetable Corner and marvel at the best-in-the-world blueberry pancakes at BIGS. (that’s one fine bite of breakfast).

But fools we are not. We know some folks won’t like us much, that others will take issue with something we say or do, that Harpswell, like every town, has divisions and animosities, that people argue and get angry and have enemies. That’s part of the human condition. We all need contrast: people we perceive as above or below us, smarter or dumber, richer or poorer, right-thinking or wrongheaded. It gives life texture and allows us all a place to fit in.

The strength of Harpswell, from our admittedly brand-new perspective, is the almost universal pride of being from here. A place with no real town center, with communities and mini-settlements stretching from Cundy Harbor to South Harpswell, from Doughty Point to Land’s End, where town folk may not see each other more than once or

twice a year, if that often, where squabbles and disputes over territory or services or attention given tend to wax and wane along with the tides and phases of the moon, where town leaders work mightily to keep it all stitched together, doling out resources and encouraging cross-community events.

And yet, it’s a place that most residents claim as their own, as their hometown, with a glint of pride in their voice. Because, though there’s no “downtown,” no single voice directing the choir, in fact, no single unified choir to direct, we all know that no lobster is sweeter than one fresh from a Harpswell boat, that nowhere else has a million miles of coastline (or whatever the number is), that even the dump is worthy of civic pride and that we share vegetables and Christmas coats and children’s toys with those among us working a little harder to make ends meet, that meals are delivered and driveways get plowed and new endeavors are encouraged and supported. “Are you awake?” I am. Awake to the privilege of living in Harpswell, of being caretaker to a magnificent old property, of meeting and getting to know those who’ve lived here longer than ourselves – which is almost everybody. I’m awake to learning the rhythms and textures of this gem of a spot. We won’t learn everything at once but we will try to learn. Don’t be shy about pointing us, or any newcomer, in a different direction, or opening our eyes to something important that we’ve somehow missed. So that soon we’ll be able to say to the next new face or family in town, “Welcome to Harpswell.”

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- *Skip the refund and take a rain check:* If you paid in advance for an event, such as theater or concert tickets, a class, or a service, consider taking a credit for the future instead of asking for a refund.
- *Commit to future work:* While right now may not be the best time to start that home renovation project, your contractor will appreciate you committing to future projects when business opens back up.
- *Shop (local) online:* Local shops and vendors may have closed their (physical) doors, but many still run online shops. Look for them on social media or check the business's website for links to their online marketplace.
- *Look for virtual classes:* Now may be a good time to brush up on your skills through an online course.
- *Get take-out or delivery:* Many restaurants and breweries are now offering takeout and delivery options.
- *Write an online review:* This is a good time to finally get around to reviewing your favorite local business.
- *Like and share on social media:* Help your favorite business reach a broader audience by liking and sharing their information on social media. This will help them reach future customers and gain more exposure.
- *Tell your businesses that you appreciate their work:* These are tough times! Keep moral up by reaching out to the businesses in your community and letting them know that you appreciate their hard work. ☺

An Old Man's Fancy

BY ROBERT "BUTCH" LAWSON

As ol' Al Tennyson said, "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." First, that's a young man's problem and, as I remember, there was nothing "light" about that particular fancy. But, more the point, while young men have their own challenges, the rest of us also have stuff to be happy about in the spring. I'm talking about smoked brisket, baby back ribs, chicken, sausage, salmon, and sides such as fresh fiddleheads that make spring worth celebrating. For me, winter loosening its long hold and giving into the warmth of spring is one of the purest forms of contentment. Also right up there is a good protein smoking low and slow while I relax on the porch with a Moxie. In the spring, this man's fancy turns to thoughts of home-made BBQ sauce.

I was given a smoker a number of birthdays ago by some folks who may be my offspring and I quickly fell in love with the process and the results. Now there are

two smokers in the inventory as well as a couple of grills and cooking outside has become one of my favorite past times. I'm fortunate enough to have some very accomplished chefs among my friends who have been both helpful and inspiring.

Spring has her mean side, too. I have to change the oil in the snow blower, clean it out of old fuel and put it out of sight ready for the next winter, but that means I have to drag out the lawn mower. The ice melting stuff that comes in those handy 200-pound bags that the check-out lady at Lowe's has to load for me can get shoved under the workbench in the garage. Snow shovels, scrapers and the big ol' ice chipper go back into storage to reappear in seven months or so. Then there are the springtime bugs- ticks, mosquitos and later the black flies. Did I mention Mud Season? (If any seasons should be capitalized, it's this one.) Seriously, Ma Nature, lighten up on that one a bit. Thanks in advance.

With this spring will come the flowers from the bulbs I planted

last fall. I'm really looking forward to seeing what they will become. I don't remember what I bought or what flavors they are, so it will be a pleasant and colorful surprise when they bloom. Lilacs in the yard- I love lilacs-will bloom and fill the sea air with that wonderful, sweet aroma. There's a honeysuckle bush on my dog-walking route not far from my house that brings back pleasant, young-man memories of an evening walk holding hands with Linda Pifer. I think that may be the first time my thoughts had turned to thoughts of love, or perhaps it was something more primitive. The honeysuckle fragrance in the air that evening provided a trigger for the memory that lasts to this day.

So, I'm ready for warmer weather. For me, Harpswell is at her best in spring when everything is new and the air is sweet with the promise of summer. It's that little slice of time after winter and before the crowds when the honeysuckle awakens even an old man's fancy. ☺

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Cleanup

From page 1

A little bit of work by a lot of people makes a huge difference," said Chipman. "It's a big community effort. . . We can all be proud of Harpswell."

Participants can very easily leave their bags of collected garbage on the side of the road on Route 24, Route 123, or Mountain Road; volunteers will pick up the bags at the end of the day and weigh them at the Transfer Station before disposing of them. Chipman said that volunteers will often collect several tons of waste, including plastic and paper, brush, car parts, road signs that have blown down, and, on one occasion, moose skulls. "You find the craziest stuff. . . Part of the fun of getting together for lunch at the grange is to talk about the stuff you found on the side of the road," said Chipman. In years past, volunteers enjoy pizza donated from Bailey Island General Store and Ship to Shore at Merriconeag Grange, at which point they discuss their roadside adventures.

"A lot of us have amazing stories that come out of doing this after we're out there for several hours," said Jim Hen-



Road Crew Kids of all ages join in on Harpswell Roadside Cleanup.

(DAVE CHIPMAN PHOTO)

derson, who lives on Mountain Road and walks there regularly. "Seeing how much plastic there is beside the road was an awakening...A lot of us, including myself and several other people, hike up and down the mountain road, so this is a nice way to encourage people to use that as a walking space if it's decent."

Although the roadside cleanup only occurs one day each year, the effects are long-lasting. Individuals come together to show that they care about the community and our natural surroundings by reducing our impact on the beautiful islands and peninsulas that we call home. Businesses

and organizations, including Watson's General Store, Bailey Island General Store, Ship to Shore, Merriconeag Grange, and the Town of Harpswell, support the individuals who are actively participating in the cleanup by providing supplies, refreshments, space, and time. In years past, a separate beach cleanup was organized for the same day, an option

that could be resurrected with enough interest.

"It's a good cause, it's good for the community, it gets people out and about contributing to their local area...Getting out there to help isn't necessarily something we can do because we're open, but we can feed them!" said Sam Knight, manager at Bailey Island General Store.

Harpswell's Roadside Cleanup Day shows what it means to find beauty in simplicity, one small act at time. This tradition demonstrates the importance of individuals coming together to work toward a common goal: to love where we live.

"Like John said when he first brought it to my attention, he said it best: why don't we just all get together and clean it up?" said Chipman.

Harpswell Roadside Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 25. For more information, call Dave Chipman at (207) 833-6739 or email medistrict19@yahoo.com. &

Cumberland County Sheriff's Office (CCSO)

Tip Line can be called

24/7 to report tips:

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Did you know?

The Abanaki name for the area of Harpswell Neck was *Merriconeag*, meaning "quick carrying place", a reference to the narrow peninsula's easy portage.

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**Brunswick Reupholstering Co., LLC
takes on new business venture**

The Casco Bay Chart Pillow

Brunswick Reupholstering Co., LLC announced today the change over from reupholstering furniture to offering a line of nautical themed pillows. The Casco Bay Chart Pillow, made here in Maine is the premiere product. Having retired from reupholstering furniture, the timing was perfect for this new venture.

“Retirement only means it’s time for a new adventure” says Nancy Sherin, owner of Brunswick Reupholstering.

The Casco Bay Chart Pillow is now available at \$65.00. For more information on this pillow, visit www.brunswickreupholsteringco.com.

About Brunswick Reupholstering Co. LLC: Brunswick Reupholstering Co., LLC has been a family owned business since 1959. In 2009, after a twenty-year hiatus, the business re-opened their doors under the supervision of the owner’s daughter, Nancy Connolly Sherin.

They have recently retired from reupholstering furniture but now put the same care and expertise into their new venture.

The chief goal of the company is to maintain their reputation of good customer service, excellent quality and innovativeness. ☎

Twelve Years for Harpswell, Fourth Century for Maine

This is the twelfth year for Harpswell Heritage Apples (HHA) and the seventh for the Maine Heritage Orchard (MHO). Although apples are an introduced species from Central Asia, by way of Russia and Europe, serious cultivation began in Maine well before the Revolution. Harpswell is an ideal place to find surviving great old variety apples, from before the rise of commercially-convenient “modern apples”. In addition to great flavor, old varieties are generally self-protective, unlike McIntosh and other commercial types which require constant use of pesticides to look respectable in stores.

This latest generation of Harpswell trees are available, as well as unusual old variety trees from elsewhere in Maine. Special Harpswell varieties include: (West Harpswell) Firehouse, (Orrs Island) Firehouse, Baldwin, Black Oxford, VanDamme, Early Redbird, Lumpy Red and others. They are available for you or HHA to plant.

The Maine Heritage Orchard in Unity planted the first 102 Maine apple varieties in 2014, more in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

New trees will be planted this April, your help welcomed. Famous Maine-originated varieties such as Black Oxford, Canadian Strawberry, Kavanagh, as well as trees that are important in Maine, growing next to the town hall, school, post office or fire house. Seven Harpswell trees are among this group, most recently Harpswell Firehouse, “VanDamme”, “Kara Douglas”, Norton Greening and Lumpy Red. Many more Maine varieties will be planted over the next few years. Beginning last year, a heritage apple tree from each county in Maine is being planted on the Blaine House West lawn.

HHA and MHO trees are the only full-size apple trees you can get locally. Commercial nurseries offer trees that are dwarf or semi-dwarf (smaller less vigorous roots = much shorter life-span). All revenues of Harpswell Heritage Apples, after subtraction of our minimal costs, are divided among Harpswell charitable and public service providers. Our trees cost \$85.00 which is not a tax deduction.

HHA can also get Maine Heritage Orchard varieties for you to

be planted at your home as “reserve” or “security” trees for the mother trees in the Unity Orchard. You do not get to pick a specific apple variety for the stewardship tree, but they are all important old Maine trees. Stewardship trees cost \$70.00, which is payable to MOFGA, with \$35.00 of that amount a tax-deductible contribution to the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association.

Almost every year Maine & New England apple expert John Bunker finds another surviving old-variety tree in Harpswell: beautiful Black Oxford apples from the Bonney/Alexander Farm, enormous Pound Sweet, 20 Ounce, and Wolf River from the Merriman Farm on Allen Point Road, Lumpy Red and many others – all amazingly good tasting and generally bug-free despite only preliminary pruning work and no fertilizing or spraying of any kind for many decades. If you have interesting old apple trees, we can provide advice about how to bring them back to vigorous life.

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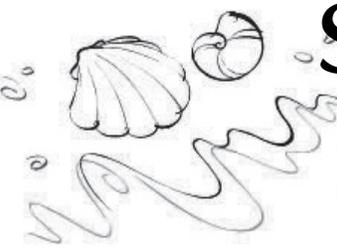
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As a marquis I saw on the news stated:
**Stay Healthy.
We’ll be back soon.**

Protocol

From page 1

back in a moment, returns outside and dons personal protective equipment (PPE) - an N-95 respirator, face shield, gloves, and gown. The gear is single-use only and will be discarded after this visit. The departments have a reasonable supply, but they use them as sparingly as the situation allows.

“We have inventoried our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and provided that information to the state Emergency Management Office (MEMA),” says Cundy’s Harbor and Orr’s and Bailey Island Fire and Rescue Chief Ben Wallace.

According to Wallace, MEMA will collect PPE information every 15 days going forward and distribute their limited supply as needed. Wallace has ordered N-95 respirators from two different sources, “hoping that one of them will become available in the next few weeks.” He notes that the respirators are currently unavailable through any suppliers, including for order by Maine CDC. For now, local responders are relying on their own supply.

On March 18, Selectman Kevin Johnson signed an emergency

proclamation to “impart to the community the gravity of the COVID-19 situation and make it easier for the Town to access additional resources, if needed.”

Johnson says, “If a federal emergency is declared, which is likely, this proclamation opens doors up to receive aid. Hospitals are being prioritized to receive (PPE) over rescue departments, but the Town is taking this whole situation seriously and we’re doing what we can to keep people healthy.”

Upon assessment, the paramedic assessing the patient determines that he requires transport to Mid Coast Hospital. Because he displays the symptoms of COVID-19, the responders call ahead so hospital staff can prepare. Everyone who will have contact with the patient suits up in protective gear.

Responders can’t administer COVID-19 tests. The best they can do if they suspect the virus is reassure the patient, make him more comfortable and help him get to a medical care provider who can take over treatment. But, that reassurance, that sense that he isn’t alone with his discomfort and fear, goes a long way.

Says Longley, “The biggest thing is to educate the public that we are doing things to help stop the spread and they are not alone.”

“We are looking to Maine

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for guidance on how to respond. In turn, Maine EMS is coordinating with Maine Centers for Disease Control (Me CDC), The State Emergency Management Office (MEMA), and US Centers for Disease Control (US-CDC),” says Wallace.

“Chief Pough and I are reviewing on a daily basis the latest information from the sources listed above, and participating in weekly conference calls with Maine EMS and Mid Coast Hospital for updates,” Wallace explains.

To slow virus transmission, scheduled trainings for all first responders and firefighters have been cancelled for the time being. The stations are minimally staffed. Routine gear checks and equipment maintenance is still done, with special attention to hand-washing and other safety protocol. The gym at the Orr’s Island Station is closed and the Orr’s Island Schoolhouse is off limits.

At Mid Coast Hospital after transporting the patient, responders remove and discard their protective gear. The ambulance is disinfected throughout and the responders return home to shower, wash their clothes and go about their daily lives, which for some includes returning

to work or checking in about school work with their kids or grandkids, who are also home.

“Most recent guidance from Maine EMS is that if a crew transports a (patient) for COVID-19 and they wear the proper PPE they only need to monitor themselves for fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. There is no need to self-isolate or quarantine unless they were not wearing their PPE, or they become symptomatic themselves,” says Wallace.

The rescue chiefs send updates

to responders several times each week, noting changes in protocol and communicating among departments. Reports about each incident are filed, like they always are. Behind-the-scenes paperwork generally takes more time than we on the outside can imagine.

And, then they wait.

Wait for the next call.

Wait to hear whether they were exposed to the virus.

Wait, like all of us, to see where this new path leads. ‡

Emergency Food Kits Be Prepared

At H2Outfitters much of what we do is in the outdoors. Dehydrated and freeze-dried foods often supplement our fresh offerings on our trips.

We have had requests for large emergency food orders & would like to offer Harpswell residents a discount on any emergency food we have on hand. We can also order large quantities so feel free to contact us at 207-833-5257 or

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Home Learning

From page 1

have to look into how to make that work for all students," says Mrs. Svenson. "I think I would become more tech-savvy to do lessons online and answer questions in real time. We could do it, but I would rather teach in person in our classroom as a community. If we're all in our separate houses, it's more difficult to build our classroom community, and that is one of my favorite parts of teaching."

Fifth grader Lila LaRose states, "I do like doing school work at home but miss being able to enjoy friends' company in school." Her brother, Luke LaRose, a third grader, appreciates some of the extra free-time that comes with being at home. He says, "I spend less time working on school work at home than at school."

Nina Beattie, an 8th grader who goes to Mt. Ararat Middle School likes the freedom to do school work on her own schedule. She says, "For me working from either school or home is about the same amount of work.

I'm spending about the same amount of time on school work as I would when I was at school, but I can do it whenever I want."

Brothers Bowman Wright, a second grader, and Isaac Wright, a fifth grader, enjoy doing school-work at home "because there are fewer distractions and fewer people talking." Recently, they've been doing "a fun spring plant growth project in our backwoods."

Not all students appreciate the quiet of learning at home. After asking Leif Svenson, a second grader, if he enjoys doing school work at home he replies, "No. I don't get to play with my friends when it's physical activity time. I don't get to sit with my friends at lunch time and talk. Also, the schedule doesn't seem as planned. I like how my teacher gets us to do things right on time at school. Another thing is that when we're home I can't hear what my friends are thinking. At home I have to sit on the couch and read by myself. I like to go to stations and read with my friends at school. We talk about what happened in our books and help each other as partners."

Leif's sister, Ingrid Svenson,

a kindergartener, reports that "the work is things I have done in school before. I'm practicing more at home. I watched some people read books on the computer, but I usually have Mrs. Pomerleau read to me."

For middle school students, the cancellation of school comes with another loss: The annual Freedom Tour to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. has been called off for this year.

"It's unfair to us kids who were excited to go," says Nina Beattie. "But, it is also unfair to the parents who signed up to be chaperones."

"I am unhappy that our chance for a bit of freedom and the chance to explore places beyond our small Maine towns was cancelled," says eighth grader Maryscott Larsen. "I am also sorry for the leaders who put so much effort into making sure we had a good time. I also put a lot of time and money into something that was only meant to be cancelled, and for that I feel that this was unfortunate for everyone involved."

Although most of the Freedom Tour costs will be reimbursed to families, students are disappoint-

ed to lose the opportunity.

Fifth graders at HCS may also have events cancelled if schools remain closed beyond the end of April: a trip to Boston, camping at Chewonki and fifth grade graduation.

Fifth grader Zoë Bolton says she's spending more time cooking, playing outside and planting. If school was cancelled for the rest of the year she would feel "sad, because we'd miss field trips and graduation."

Learning from home, students are spending more time with their families. According to fifth grader Willam Aguis, "I have been spending more time with my family and little sister. Even though my parents still have to work, I can still see them."

Shophie Shannon, an 8th grader, says, "I am spending most of my time with my family - my mom, dad, sister, two dogs, and two guinea pigs." She spends about 2-3 hours each day on school work and likes learning at home "because I can hangout with my pets and sister and I can wake up anytime I want without having to worry about being late for school."

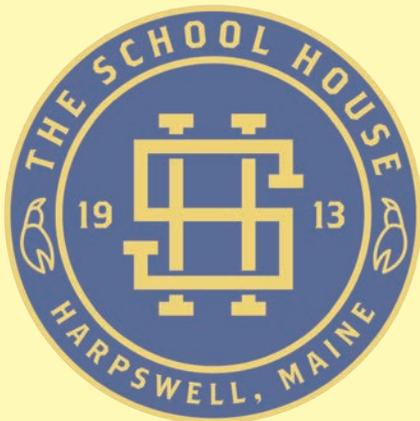
"If school was canceled for the rest of the year it would be shocking to hear," she says, "but we would get through it and it would soon pass. I would be sad because I couldn't see my friends, but online school is actually pretty nice and easy. At first I thought that it was kind of stressful, but I guess you never know till you try." †

Did you know?

Harpswell Community TV 14 first broadcast in 1986.

The first program was the town meeting with cameramen Dave Chipman and Joe Dehaan.

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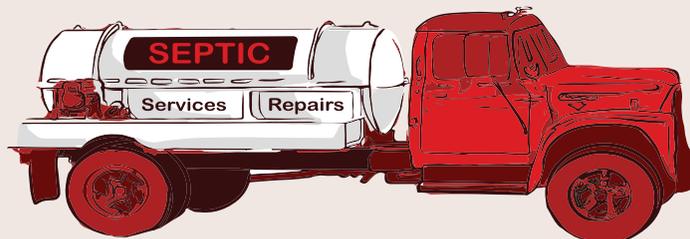
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Congratulations!

Camille Rowe, daughter of Fred & Mary Beth Rowe, received the Hobie Baker Good Character Award on Senior Night at the Bowdoin College Sid Watson Arena. As she finished up her time with the Mt. Ararat Girl's Hockey team, Camille also was awarded the Varsity Hockey Senior Award at the Winter Sports Award Banquet on March 9th. Camille will be attending the University of New England (UNE) this fall working on her Masters of Science degree in Athletic Training with a minor in Kinesiology.

"A Good Read"

Send your Good Read photo to photos@harpowellanchor.com



A Good Read

Griffin and Isla Perry take advantage of time off from school to build their own classroom (AKA fort) where they enjoyed a Good Read as a learn-from-home assignment. (PROF. MOM PHOTO)



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