

THE CHELSEA MESSENGER



Spring 2024 Issue

Christine Landes - Town Manager

Mike Pushard - Selectboard Chair

Jason Mills - Selectboard Vice Chair

Jake Soucy - Selectboard Member

From the Desk of the Town Manager:

The end of the winter season starts the beginning of the budget season. When budget season is in full swing, the budget committee and selectboard review proposed budgets for individual town departments to ensure that your tax dollars are put to use wisely, effectively and efficiently. You will each have a chance to have input into the proposed town budget in May at a Public Hearing, just before the town meeting vote in June. The school and county budgets are presented and reviewed by the school district and county commissioners and voted on at the polls or by the county commissioners themselves. Everyone should take some time to look over where your tax money is being spent each year. I can assure you that each dollar spent in the town is thoughtfully considered before being placed in the budget. You all work hard for our money, and we do recognize that. Soon you will see a change in the front office team that serves the residents of Chelsea. Cheryl, our Town Clerk, will be retiring on the third of May, and Sandra, the Deputy Town Clerk has changed her hours back to part-time. This means that we will be bringing on a new Town Clerk and another person to fill the hours that Sandra has reduced. I ask that each of you be a little patient as learning to process registrations and learning our computer system amongst other things takes time. I am positive that in no time they will be up to speed, and no one will even notice that there was ever a slowdown in transaction time. Thank you, Cheryl for your service! As of March 1, 2024, papers are available for numerous elected seats in the town. (Please see the Town Clerk for more details.) I know I mention this in each newsletter, but I cannot stress enough the importance of getting involved in your local government. You will quickly realize what an impact you can have on the way your tax dollars are spent in the town and at the school district, the creation and implementation of rules surrounding planning and codes, and the future vision of where you would like to see this town be for your children and grandchildren. Even just a small amount of time gives back a huge amount of good. Please get involved. April 3, 2024, the town will be holding a special town meeting to address a couple of pending financial articles such as the lease of a new fire truck and allocating additional funds to hire a new town clerk prior to the end of the fiscal year (have two on staff for a few weeks) just to name a couple of items and to possibly adopt a junkyard moratorium ordinance. Please look for more information towards the end of March. April 10, 2024, is the due date for the second installment of your 2024 real estate taxes. You will not be receiving another bill as there were two coupons attached to the bill you received last fall. If you need a copy of the bill you were mailed, or need a payoff amount, please stop by the office and we will see what we can do for you. If you do mail your payment in, we will use the postmark date as your date of payment. If any of you have any questions, comments or concerns, my office door is always open. I will be happy to have a discussion with you regarding any town business that you may want to talk about. As always, it is a pleasure to serve the town of Chelsea. Have a wonderful spring!

Town of Chelsea, 560 Togus Road, Chelsea, Maine 04330

(207) 582-4802

www.chelseamaine.org

RADON

By Greg Lumbert, Chelsea Code Enforcement

What is radon? Radon is a radioactive gas and is a decay of Uranium. Radon is colorless, odorless, and a tasteless radioactive gas. In Maine 1 out of every 3 homes contain radon in their home and water supply. On a national level, 1 in every 15 homes have radon. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. It can take years for symptoms to be apparent depending on the radon levels in your home or water. Where does radon come from? Soil 69.3 percent, well water 18.5 percent, air 9.2 percent, building material 2.5 percent and .06 percent public water. Radon comes through visible and nonvisible cracks in your foundation or slab, through unsealed sump pumps in your basement and plumbing penetrations. It also dissolves in water in your well and gains access to your home through showering and clothes washing. How do you know if the home or water supply contains radon? You as a homeowner can buy radon test kits and then send them to a lab to be tested. Depending on the levels, you may have to install a radon system in your foundation or slab and a radon water filtration system to lower the radon levels in your well water. If your home is under contract, you must hire a Maine registered Radon Service Provider to do the testing. If you **air test** and the result is 4 pCi/L or higher, you need a radon mitigation system. If your radon **water test** is ten thousand pCi/L or higher, you need a water treatment system. Examples of what radon does to your body. A 4pCi/L level is equal to 200 chest x rays per year or eight cigarettes per day. A 20 pCi/L level is equal to 10,000 x-rays per year or 40 cigarettes per day. Alaska has the highest level of radon, which is 10.7 percent and Maine is number 13 at 5.9 percent. Hawaii reports 0 percent radon. The message here is to have a radon test of your air and water. By the time your symptoms are present it may be too late for you. Remember you cannot see it, taste it, or smell it. I hope this helps. A lot more to this but I only have a certain amount of space available in this newsletter.

Business Profile

Puptown Funk ~ (207) 441-1226



Puptown Funk LLC is a kennel free doggy daycare that is nestled on 3 acres of beautifully wooded land on Togus Road in Chelsea. It is the dream of Tyler Large who, after 12 years working for others, decided in May of 2022 to open his own business. He did this with a clear vision of what he wanted to do, and a list of things he would never do. To prepare for the daycare he expanded his dog's outdoor play area and adjusted the living space in his tiny home.

With an announcement on Facebook dogs began coming into his home, hanging out on his couch and sleeping on his bed. A year and a half later Puptown Funk have 4 dog handlers, a fully dedicated indoor facility, a welcome building, 5 outdoor play areas and an amazing group of dogs that all his handlers, and himself, love as if they were their own. Puptown Funk now offers boarding, funk walks, private dog training and pick-up/drop-off services. With an eye on the future, Tyler has plans to build a new indoor facility and then renovate his current buildings to encompass dog grooming and an area to sell locally crafted merchandise for dogs. He dreams of having a dedicated minibus for the pick-up and drop-off services. The driving goal behind every decision made at Puptown Funk is what is best for the dogs. They work hard each day to earn the trust of dog owners all around so that their beloved pets can grow, learn and play in a safe and loving environment.

Age-Friendly Chelsea – Pursuing Dementia Inclusion

by Wilma Ware

Once a quarter we cover a chapter from the Pathways to Well-Being with Dementia: Manual of Help, Hope and Inspiration during our informational luncheon. February was the third presentation. This chapter dealt with the importance of making people with dementia feel included in normal day to day activities. We learned that some of the ways to do this is with clearly written signage placed where they are visible to people. For example, signs showing entrances, exits and restrooms. The February luncheon had special table settings, food and decorations provided by the University of Maine Lifelong Fellows Program. The table settings were done in colors to show contrast, to make it easier for people living with dementia and other handicaps to distinguish what they are looking for. The next chapter from the Pathways to Well-Being with Dementia will be covered during our May 16, 2024 Informational Luncheon.

Town of Chelsea History – How Chelsea dealt with Black Jones

by Libby Doak

John Jones, commonly called Black Jones, was the representative and rent collector for the Kennebec Proprietors who had the original grant from the king for much of central Maine. He received land grants from them on both sides of the river. During the early days of the Revolution, he lived in Chelsea. Chelsea residents were not pleased to have an outspoken Tory among them. It is important to note most of the Kennebec Proprietors were loyal to the crown, owing their wealth and property directly to the monarchy. Apparently, he was twice taken to court over his views and behavior, but local residents found no relief in the decisions. Eventually, a deputation of local men went to speak to him. It was directly after that visit that Black Jones decided to follow the example of several others from Hallowell and Augusta and visit Canada. What was said or done during the visit is not recorded but there is no evidence that violence was done. In fact, Jones returned after the Revolution and, as far as we know, lived peacefully with his Chelsea neighbors. Chelsea residents were fiercely patriotic during the Revolution but apparently didn't hold a grudge afterwards.

Town of Chelsea – Celebrating 175 Years

by Pat Finale

The Town of Chelsea continues plans and fundraising for its 175th birthday year! We thank all for the generous donations for the Christmas Raffle in December as well as thanks to all who bought tickets. Gary was the winner of the Grand Prize, and the additional prizes were won by Donna and Linda. Ongoing fundraisers include Rata Cutlery; folks tell us this is a wonderful product, so if you missed the big sale, don't worry, the online link is still active. Chocolate bars, pretzels and meat sticks are still available at the town office. It may seem like a little thing, to buy a candy bar while you do a little town business, but little things add up when a big plan is in place. Gosh, have you thought of handing out free candy or meat sticks to family or customers? Talk to us about buying a whole box so you can give them away. Do you use Clynk? The 175th Celebrations Committee has an account, and we would love to give you some stickers; perhaps use our sticker for 1 bag when you take a trip to Clynk with a few bags for your own account? The 175th Celebrations Committee hopes to pull together a Battle of the Bands fundraiser in July! Yowzers! Is that true? OOH yes, work has already started! Do you know a band that might be interested? Do you want to volunteer to help? Want to sponsor this fundraising event? We are looking for sponsors and for only \$250 that could be you. Oh man, how often can you find that kind of deal? Having a party with events for 12 months takes inspiration and commitment and, of course, fundraising, so we need everyone to put on their thinking caps and lend us your help. Please contact us, we want to hear from you. Follow us on Facebook at **Chelsea Turns 175 Celebration** or call the town office at 207-582-4802.

Chelsea Fire Department

By Josh Howe



Chelsea Fire Department currently has a roster of 31 members which includes several new members. The Chelsea Fire Department meets every Wednesday from 6:30 – 8:30 pm for trainings/meetings. We encourage anyone wanting to join or see what the fire department is about to join us on a Wednesday night.

The Chelsea Fire Department has responded to a total of 41 Calls and had 12 training nights between December 1st and February 28th. Calls have ranged from motor vehicle accidents to fire alarms sounding. December was a very busy month with the wind/rainstorms we had. We thank all our residents for their patience during those storms.

Motor Vehicle Accidents: 7

Fire Alarms: 7

Mutual Aid/Station Coverage: 1

Fires: 2

Service Calls: 1

Tree/Wires Down: 23

12 Months of Giving in Chelsea

by Dot Grady

Our Community Rocks! The response to the 12 Months of Giving has been incredible. In January we collected items for the Chelsea Elementary School Food Pantry. Did you know the school food pantry helps approximately 32 students every week by sending home 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 snacks. That's 128 meals and 64 snacks every weekend. In February, we asked for donations for Heating Assistance. We raised \$1,135.00, yes you read that correctly, \$1,135.00 was donated to help those in our community who need help with heating their home. In March, we will be collecting pet supplies such as dog/cat food, bag or can, kitty litter, dog/cat treats, dog/cat toys. During the month of April, we are collecting items for the Warming Center. Did you know Chelsea now has a Warming Center located in our town office? We opened in December when our area lost power for 4 days. Residents were able to come in to get warm, have a cup of coffee/tea/hot cocoa, heat up a meal in the microwave, use the restroom and chat with members from our community. The Warming Center is open during emergencies and extended power outages, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you would like to help when the Warming Center is open, please call the town office at 207-582-4802 for more information. Thank you!

PTA News

by PTA Officers

The Chelsea Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meets the first Tuesday of the month during the school year in the school library at 6:00 pm. Parents, teachers, family members and community members are encouraged to attend. Together, we can achieve our mission to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. The PTA puts on fundraisers to help fund school events, support teacher's requests for items they may need for their classrooms, aid in funding field trips, and provide classroom snacks when needed. Annually, the PTA hosts the Fall Harvest Fest, a free event for our Chelsea families, and the Craft Fair. The PTA coordinates a spirit gear fundraiser to kick off the school year to offer Chelsea Eagle apparel for PBIS Assembly days for students. Additionally, we revamp our Chelsea Eagle Cards, which currently have 40 coupon deals to local businesses: still available for purchase at the school for only \$5 a card. The Reading for Education program is one of our biggest fundraisers that helps bring in thousands of dollars to aid in teacher and student support by allowing teachers to purchase books for their classrooms. The PTA is a sponsor of the Boosters' Fun Run, supports the Summer Reading Program celebration, and helps to bring more art supplies for the entire school to utilize. Outside of fundraising, the PTA selects the eighth-grade recipients of the Eagle Pride Awards, as well as takes on the voting process for the John Bernier Memorial Scholarships which are awarded to two high school graduates who attended Chelsea School and are pursuing college. We are always trying new things and looking for new ways to fundraise to help support these areas for our teachers, students, and their families. Membership is always open to anyone who supports the mission and the purposes of the PTA. Lastly, for several years now we have been fundraising specifically for a digital sign to be mounted on our existing school sign. When COVID-19 happened, we saw a need for town-wide communication, and therefore, the PTA feels the sign is important to communicate to residents on the happenings within the school and the town, as a whole. Messages would include, but are not limited to, school-related events, PTA events, school closings, sport-related activities, town meetings or voting announcements, and any unforeseen message that needs to be communicated quickly. We have a goal to raise \$35,000 which would cover procuring and installation of the digital sign, and construction costs for electrical upgrades necessary for the project. To date, we have raised approximately \$28,000. Thank you for your continued support in filling the bottle bin!

Chelsea Historical Society

The Chelsea Historical Society would like to put together some interesting and attendance worthy events this year. We welcome feedback on what would interest town residents, current and past. Ideas discussed for events include hosting a night of history with a specific history topic such as ice harvesting on the Kennebec, the Narrow-Gauge Railway, and the history of Chelsea's oldest homes. Also, outside events could include history on the Narrow-Gauge, history of Chelsea's cemeteries on site or any events at Butternut Park. What interests the residents of Chelsea? Share your thoughts by joining us on Facebook at Chelsea Historical Society, or email chelseamainehistoricalsociety@gmail.com. We meet once a month (currently via zoom) on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. It's free to join and we'd welcome more members or volunteers for events. As spring nears if you would like a memorial marker in a Chelsea cemetery cleaned you can reach out to the historical society to get that scheduled.

Cub Scout Pack #609

by Shawn McFarland



Cub Scouting has really taken off in the last few months. In November 2023, we became an official pack. Since we started the process, we had 6 scouts and now we have 19 Cub Scouts, including 2 girls. As a pack we have done so much in the short time we've been together. We've been part of a Veterans Day Parade and a Christmas Parade in Gardiner. In December we participated in Wreaths Across America at the Veteran's Cemetery in Augusta. We have also been visited by some amazing people. Game Warden Fowlie talked to us about what it's like to be a Game Warden and showed us pelts of wild animals...now that was cool. We have also been visited by Delta Rescue and Windsor Rescue.

Both gave us a tour of their Ambulances and the

coolest thing ever...they blared their sirens and flashed all their cool lights. They showed us all their wicked cool gadgets that they use to save lives. In the coming months we are planning for Kennebec Sheriff Deputy Boudreau with his K9 partner Brock. They will be doing a demonstration. Just recently we had our very first Pinewood Derby race. The first Pinewood Derby race in almost 10 years. Wait...what's that? You don't know what a Pinewood Derby is? Oh, let me tell you about it. All the kids get a block of wood with 4 wheels, 4 nails that they must make a car out of (with parents' help of course). There are rules and regulations that the kids must stick to. Once their car is done, we have a set day for a half day event where we race these homemade cars down a track to see who gets the fastest time. The track we used was a 40-year-old track original to the pack many years ago. The track is carefully measured to get the most accurate scale speed for these cars. Some of these cars were reaching up to 180 scale miles per hour! We have the District Pinewood Derby for the scouts that won first place in their ranks coming up. We have a tour of the Fish Hatchery in Palermo in May, Star Wars camping theme weekend in May as well with a whole bunch of scouts throughout central Maine. Also, in May, we are placing American Flags on all the Veterans headstones throughout Windsor in time for Memorial Day. If you're interested in getting your child into scouting, we have a scouting program that will fit your needs from ages 5-17. Cub Scout & Boy Scout information cspack609@gmail.com

Chelsea Grange #215

by Rick Grotton

Chelsea Grange will begin our event season on April 27th making May Baskets for the Veterans at Togus and the area nursing homes. This is a yearly event which is open to the public. Look for advertising on social media for hours. We encourage children to come and help so they will keep the May Day traditions active. The Grange's fundraising events will be temporarily split between the Chelsea Food Bank and purchasing a chair lift for the Grange. Some of the Grange members are also members of other Chelsea organizations, which means the Grange Hall is being used more often. Grange members would like to provide access to the upstairs for everyone, so the lift is a priority. We appreciate those who have supported us at community events! The Grange also wishes to thank all the organizations we work with in helping us to make Chelsea a great place to live!

Select Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Chelsea Town Office.

Age-Friendly Chelsea Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 11:00 a.m., Chelsea Town Office.

Age-Friendly Informational Luncheon: 3rd Thursday of the month, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Chelsea Grange.

Chelsea Elementary School PTA: Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Chelsea School Library.

SVRSU #12 School Board: Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Chelsea School Cafeteria.

Planning Board: Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Chelsea Town Office.

Chelsea Grange #215: Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., 230 Togus Road, Chelsea.

Chelsea Fire Department: Meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Hallowell Road Station.

175th Celebration Committee: Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Chelsea Town Office.

Comprehensive Plan Committee: Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Chelsea Town Office.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

MARCH 01, 2024:	NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE TO PICK UP AT THE TOWN OFFICE
MARCH 08, 2024:	LAST DAY TO PAY, BY PERSONAL OR BUSINESS CHECK, FORECLOSURE 2022 TAXES. BANK CHECK, MONEY ORDER, DEBIT/CREDIT CARD OR CASH ONLY AFTER THIS DATE
APRIL 03, 2024:	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, 6:00 P.M., CHELSEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
APRIL 10, 2024:	2 ND HALF OF FISCAL YEAR 2024 PROPERTY TAXES DUE
MAY 15, 2024:	CHAT WITH THE MANAGER, 6:00-7:00 P.M., TOWN OFFICE
MAY 28, 2024:	ANNUAL TOWN REPORT AVAILABLE TO PICK-UP AT THE TOWN OFFICE
JUNE 11, 2024:	MUNICIPAL VOTING, 8:00 A.M – 8:00 P.M., CHELSEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
JUNE 11, 2024:	TOWN OFFICE CLOSED
JUNE 13, 2024:	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, 6:00 P.M., CHELSEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Together we can make great things happen!