

THE CHELSEA MESSENGER



Summer 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:

Once again, it is my pleasure to provide each of you with a brief update as to the projects I am working on as your manager. The past couple of months have seen some changes in the front office. Cheryl Mitchell, our most recent Town Clerk, retired and Sally Lester was hired as the new Town Clerk. Sandra Devaney asked to move her hours back to part-time as Deputy Clerk, so Sophia Lapointe was hired to fill the full-time Deputy Clerk position. Rounding out the newest employees, we also have brought on board Dot Grady as a fill-in on Tuesday's and when others are on vacation, at trainings, or out sick. This front office coverage, once they are all brought up to speed and fully trained, should make for a very efficient front office staff that will be able to accommodate all your needs in an expedient manner. Please be patient with each of them until they are fully trained. This time of year, my office is busy working on the final touches of the proposed FY2025 budget. This process started on the first of the year with a lot of analyzing, quantifying and qualifying data to substantiate proposals for an upcoming budget. Once this is completed, the budget committee and selectboard get an opportunity to review the data and make changes to the proposal and finally come forward with recommendations that each voter will see on the annual town meeting warrant. A lot of work goes into this process, and it is not taken lightly. It is understood that each person's tax bill pays for services that are crucial to sensible growth in Chelsea. Please also be aware that in each tax bill, the total bill is split into three portions: county, municipal and school. Make yourself aware of how much of your tax bill is allocated to each area. You will be surprised. Make sure each of you takes an opportunity to vote on June 11th and attend the annual town meeting on June 13th. Each of these days are important to the town. At the polls you will elect individuals to various boards (some have taken out papers to have their name on the ballot and some are write-in only as no one has stepped up). Also, in the open town meeting portion, you will each vote on a proposed ordinance adoption and various budget articles, along with warrant articles that are required annual housekeeping items. Please make sure to attend. The comprehensive plan committee is hard at work on editing the plan that was reviewed a few years back. Working with Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, the committee hopes to have a complete and final plan that will go to the voters in June of 2025. If you have any suggestions on what vision or path you would like to see the town moving towards, please take a few moments to attend a comprehensive committee meeting or speak to one of the board members. This ten-year plan sets in motion a guide for growth and development in the town. As always, it is my pleasure to serve the town of Chelsea. I always have an open-door policy and welcome your comments, questions, or concerns at any time. Please stop by or give me a call. Have a wonderful summer.

Town of Chelsea, 560 Togus Road, Chelsea, Maine 04330
(207) 582-4802
www.chelseamaine.org

Meet the Selectboard Candidates



Sheri Truman

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those that might not know me. My name is Sheri Truman, I have lived in Chelsea for 30 plus years. I am married to Henry Truman Jr., and together we have raised our five children. We were lucky enough to have watched them all go through Chelsea Elementary School and could pick the high school that was best for them. I am passionate in supporting Chelsea students in continuing to have a school of choice for their next adventure. During my time as a parent of school aged children I was an active member of the Chelsea PTA, holding various positions over the years. I still volunteer for our Chelsea Sports Boosters. I have had the opportunity to work in the private sector, I am currently employed by the Togus VA where I hold a position in Human Resources. During my time in the workforce, I have gained skills in conflict management, negotiation skills, and employee retention. I believe the knowledge and exposure that I have gained from working from an entry level position to a leadership role allows tremendous growth for oneself. I have held many positions for our town, Planning Board, Budget Committee, and the Selectboard. I continued to attend selectboard meetings, I am seeking to hold a

seat yet again for our Selectboard. I believe that our board should be made up with a diverse group of views, I can bring that back to our board. I would come to the board with an open mind and a goal to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars. In my free time I enjoy spending time with family and friends, quilting, and volunteering for the Chelsea Sports Boosters. I truly enjoy meeting members of our wonderful town. I believe that together we can continue to move our town on a positive, progressive path. I would greatly appreciate your support and your vote on June 11, 2024, polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Chelsea School Gymnasium.



Dustin Freeman

Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Dustin Freeman, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for Selectman in our wonderful town of Chelsea. I grew up attending Chelsea School and have lived in Chelsea totaling over 20 years combined. I have had the privilege of calling Chelsea my home, building my life and career within this vibrant community. I hold a Master's degree in business and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Husson University. These qualifications have provided me with a strong foundation in financial management and strategic planning – skills that are essential for effective governance. In my professional life, I serve as a Firefighter and Paramedic, a role that has not only been immensely fulfilling but also allowed me to deeply understand the needs and concerns of our residents. My 15 years of experience working with the Municipal Government have equipped me with the knowledge and expertise to navigate the complexities of local administration. Additionally, my service to the community over the past two years includes a one-year term on RSU 12 School Board, along with my current one-year term on Chelsea's Planning Board. Those roles have given me valuable insight into the educational and developmental needs of our community. These roles have been instrumental in honing my leadership skills and my commitment to

public service. I am running for Selectman because I believe in the potential of Chelsea and am dedicated to ensuring our community continues to thrive. My goals include improving local infrastructure, enhancing public safety, and fostering a supportive environment for businesses and families. I am committed to working collaboratively with all of you to address the challenges we face and to seize the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can make Chelsea an even better place to live, work and raise our families. Thank you for your support, I look forward to serving you as your next Selectman.

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 p.m. for training/meetings. They encourage anyone wanting to join or see what the fire department is about to join in on a Wednesday night.

The Chelsea Fire Department has responded to a total of 20 calls for service and 15 training days from March 1st to May 18th. Calls have ranged from motor vehicle accidents to fire alarms sounding.

During these months Chelsea Fire has spent many hours training, including a full weekend in the Town of Vassalboro for a Basic Pumps class and for a night class with Pine Point Training.

After the Revolution

By Libby Doak

The period after the Revolution was a boom time for Chelsea. The census of 1810 shows approximately 335 heads of household in East Hallowell, i.e. Chelsea. This number counts only individual households, not the number of people in each household so the total population was much greater. This time was the beginning of industry in Chelsea. Shipyards were established and ocean-going ships were sliding down Chelsea slips to ply worldwide oceans. This created jobs for loggers, sawmills, blacksmiths, grocery stores and of course, sailors and ship's officers. Many sea captains called Chelsea home. Kennebec ice was beginning to be harvested and shipped to ports as far as the Caribbean Islands. Mills were established along the numerous streams including grist, shingle and lumber mills. The production from these could be easily shipped down river. The fishing industry, one of the first commercial industries in Chelsea dating back to before the Revolution, was in full swing. Regular shipments were sent to the Boston markets creating jobs for not only the fishermen but brokers, shippers and general merchants. Education was not neglected either. In 1792 there were 3 public schools in Chelsea, by 1850 there were 8. Dozens of other smaller businesses were springing up too. In those days Chelsea was not a quiet Gateway to the Capital, but a vibrant and booming economic entity on its own.

Remembering our Veterans

By Maureen Malley

Members of the Town Office, Age-Friendly Chelsea, Chelsea Cemetery Committee, American Legion, Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 in Hallowell and Girl Scout Troop #1075 worked together this year in remembering and honoring our veterans by placing American Flags on their graves in observance of Memorial Day. We would like to thank Bob and Myra Drisko for their many years of providing this service.

12 Months of Giving

By Dot Grady

In June, the Town of Chelsea and Age-Friendly Chelsea are collecting toiletry items to be delivered to the Togus VA. Next, they will be collecting items to give to the Chelsea Food Bank in their Christmas in July Food Drive. August they are collecting school supplies to be delivered to Chelsea Elementary School. All donations may be dropped off at the Chelsea Town Office, 560 Togus Road, during regular business hours.

Mold and Moisture

By Greg Lumbert, Chelsea Code Enforcement

Many times, people get confused as it relates to mold, and that mold can cause extreme health issues and eventually death. In some extreme cases this may be true. Mold is everywhere indoors and outdoors. There are many different types of molds. Molds are a necessary part of our natural environment. There are many different types of molds. Stachybotrys mold, also known as black mold, can cause serious respiratory issues. Ganoderma mold is mostly found on wood and can damage a structure but rarely causes respiratory issues. You all probably been in a building that has a musty odor. This type of mold that causes that odor is Chaetomium. Quite common in water damaged buildings. Molds grow best in warm, damp, and humid conditions. Hot humid days indoors without air conditioning or a humidifier are a great place for mold to survive and expand. Testing for mold is sometimes warranted, but if you can visually see mold, there is not a need to test for mold because it's there. Just take precautions to get rid of it. The effects of mold are individual. Mold may affect you but not anyone else in the household. When you have health issues and mold is suspected but you cannot find a source of mold, this is when testing is most helpful. Cleaning mold. Small areas you as the homeowner may be able to clean with bleach or a soap and water solution. Make sure your windows are open and you have plenty of ventilation when cleaning. If you hire a professional, he or she must be a Maine licensed pesticides applicator to use bleach. It is best to remove the area affected by mold and replace it. If you have mold, there is moisture. Do not mix bleach with any other household cleaners because it can cause dangerous harmful fumes. A few examples would be leaking roofs that run down the walls, doors, cardboard, drywall, leaking or rotted window/frames, uninsulated basements especially in the summertime when humidity is high, leaky faucets onto the floor or water that sits for extended periods of time. If you have a basement, it is recommended you run a humidifier year-round and set the level at 30 percent in the winter and 50 percent in the summer. When clean-up is done shut off heating and air conditioning so as not to spread mold spores. Clean up all affected materials and disposal of them properly. Mold can be seen in all sorts of shapes, colors, and size areas. Just because it is not black does not mean it is not mold. It is recommended an area affected more than ten square feet that it be removed and replaced verses cleaning it. It may appear that it has been removed but over time it will come back. Maine CDC is a great resource on mold and they can be reached at 207-287-6227 or <http://www.mainepublichealth.gov> or Federal CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/mold/dampness>

Chelsea Historical Society

By Mary Street

The Chelsea Historical Society is offering instruction on how to clean gravestones properly. Anyone interested in learning about it may contact the society by email at chelseahistoricalsociety@gmail.com or through the Chelsea Historical Society Facebook page. The society hosts Zoom meetings at 10:00 a.m. every third Saturday of the month. We also host, by appointment, cemetery tours, including graves of Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans. Interested in joining the Chelsea Historical Society, Membership is FREE!

Chelsea Grange #215

By Rick Grotton

Chelsea Grange and visitors had a great time on April 27 making 146 May baskets for veterans at the Maine Veteran's Home. The basket makers and fillers were just as excited as the veterans who received them. We filled the baskets with donated items such as small tissue packs, playing cards and games, erasers, pencils and pens, small toothpastes, soaps and shampoos, etc. Also included were thank you notes and thinking of you stickers. Next year we will be asking for more donated small items for the veterans to enjoy. Let's keep this project rolling! Thank you for all the help! We encourage the community to become Grange members. It is the 150th anniversary of the Maine State Grange. Chelsea Grange will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2026! The Chelsea Food Pantry, located in the Grange Hall, has, and will continue to serve our community. They also could use donations to help those in need.

File of Life
By Age-Friendly Chelsea



The File of Life is a red, magnetic packet that contains vitally important medical information about you or a family member and can be placed on the front of your refrigerator for easy access. The File of Life packet enables first responders to obtain a quick and accurate medical history when a patient or family member is unable to provide one. Chelsea Fire Chief, Shawn Ramage, did a presentation on the File of Life at an Age-Friendly Chelsea Informational Luncheon. If you missed the luncheon, the File of Life is available to pick up at the Chelsea Town Office. Get yours today while supplies last.

Chelsea Community Garden
By Dot Grady

Interested in using one of the raised bed planters in the Chelsea Community Garden located at the town office? This year we are asking members in the community if they would like to use one to grow their own herbs/veggies. You care for your own assigned planter, (planting, weeding, watering & harvesting). Age-Friendly Chelsea provides the planter, soil, rain barrel with water and watering cans. There is also a shade canopy set up with a bench for taking a break. If interested, please call 207-582-4802 to reserve your spot. Planters are limited and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. We would like to thank Maurice Soucy & Sons Lawn Care, First Alarm LawnCare, Willett Family Construction, Longfellow's Greenhouses, Chelsea Grange, Heart & Soul and Chelsea FD for their help and generous donations in sponsoring the Community Garden.



Select Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Chelsea Town Office.
Age-Friendly Chelsea Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10:00 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.
Chelsea Historical Society: Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m., Zoom meeting.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

JUNE 05, 2024:	GREET THE CANDIDATES, 6:00 P.M., TOWN OFFICE
JUNE 11, 2024:	MUNICIPAL VOTING, 8:00 A.M.-8:00P.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
JULY 05, 2024:	TOWN OFFICE CLOSED
JULY 29, 2024:	CHELSEA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, CONCERT #1, <i>BRIAN GELINA & HAROLD BAILEY DUO</i> , 6:30-8:00 P.M., UNDER THE TENT OUTSIDE THE TOWN OFFICE
AUGUST 05, 2024:	CHELSEA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, CONCERT #2, <i>SYNCHRONIZED KHAOS</i> , 6:30-8:00 P.M., UNDER THE TENT OUTSIDE THE TOWN OFFICE
AUGUST 12, 2024:	CHELSEA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONCERT #3, <i>WILDHORSE BAND</i> , 6:30-8:00 P.M., UNDER THE TENT OUTSIDE THE TOWN OFFICE
AUGUST 19, 2024:	CHELSEA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, CONCERT #4, <i>WOLF RIVER</i> , 6:30-8:00 P.M., UNDER THE TENT OUTSIDE THE TOWN OFFICE
AUGUST 21, 2024:	CHAT WITH THE MANAGER, 6:00-7:00 P.M., TOWN OFFICE

Together we can make great things happen!