

THE CHELSEA MESSENGER



Spring 2025 Issue

Christine Landes - Town Manager

Mike Pushard - Selectboard Chair

Jake Soucy - Selectboard Vice-Chair

Sheri Truman - Selectboard Member

From the Desk of the Town Manager:

Is anyone ready for spring yet? I can tell you that all of us in the office are! The winter has been relatively mild for road/parking lot plowing costs, thus the budget line for those expenses is right in line standing at 59% as of this writing (should be about 58% at the end of January). It is always a win when budget numbers are very close or below predictions. Watching and predicting the next year's budget numbers becomes the theme in February and March. It's always a fine balance to make sure that tax dollars are effective in providing the services that Chelsea residents have come to expect and appreciate, without a massive hindrance to their tax bill. As we all know, the cost of things goes up over time, and with a municipal budget the largest expense besides roads is personnel. When evaluating the salary for team members it is always beneficial to look at the consumer price index urban estimation on how much more it costs a person to live today. (The CPI is a measure of inflation.) The CPI for the Northeast region from January 2024 to January 2025 was 3.7%. Looking at that number, the administration salaries for FY2026 are proposed to change by 4.5%. This would include a small increase in incentive pay for the great team that serves each and every one of you. Please understand that personnel are the lifeline for getting things done at the office and for the town. It's a small price to pay for the greatest asset a town has in order to secure experience and professionalism. The beginning of March also marks the start of the local election season. Papers for numerous seats on boards and committees will be available. (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. The second installment of your 2024-2025 taxes are due April 11, 2025. You receive one bill in the fall and on the bottom of that bill are two coupons. Please detach the coupon when mailing in your payment. If you have a mortgage holder and escrow your taxes, feel free to call to make sure they are paid if you are unsure. Also, for those that believe paying monthly is easier, the town does offer a budget plan where payments are spread over the year. Please see the front office team for more information. Lastly, look for upcoming details regarding the 175th birthday of the town of Chelsea. The committee has been working very hard to plan an amazing event that will be held on August 16, 2025! There will be something for everyone that day and it will be an amazing birthday for the town to celebrate being 175 years young! As always, 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



**NOMINATION PAPERS
AVAILABLE
MARCH 4, 2025**

**MUST RETURN
TO THE
CHELSEA TOWN OFFICE
NO LATER THAN
CLOSE OF BUSINESS
APRIL 11, 2025**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

This year, the June 10, 2025 elections will be held at the Chelsea Town Office, 560 Togus Road, Chelsea, Maine. You will be voting at the Chelsea Town Office, **NOT** the Chelsea Elementary School. Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m. If you have questions regarding this change, please call (207) 582-4802. Thank you.



PROPERTY TAX:

Second installment for Fiscal Year 2025 property taxes are due by close of business on April 11, 2025.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

Annual Town Meeting will be held in the gymnasium at the Chelsea Elementary School on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Comprehensive Plan **by KVCOG**

The Town of Chelsea has been working diligently on updating its Comprehensive Plan since December 2023, and now we need your input! A Comprehensive Plan serves as a roadmap for the town's future, guiding decisions on land use, housing, economic development, natural resource protection, and community services. It helps ensure that Chelsea grows in a way that reflects the values and priorities of its residents while meeting state planning requirements. To make sure this plan truly represents the community's needs and vision, we invite all Chelsea residents to a **public meeting on May 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Chelsea Elementary School**. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, and help shape the future of our town. Whether you care about protecting open spaces, improving local roads, or planning for future growth, your voice is essential. In addition to the public meeting, we encourage residents to share their opinions through an **online survey**. This is a great way to provide feedback if you can't attend in person. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7ZTRGJM> to take the survey and make sure your voice is heard! Please join us for this important discussion and help build a strong future for Chelsea! Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved.

175th Celebration **By Pat Finale**



The Cabin Fever Reliever\Battle of the Bands fundraiser was a huge success and fun for all. Friends, family and fans showed up to dance, bid on desserts, buy 50/50 tickets and vote for their favorite band (Synchronized Khaos received the most votes, in case you are wondering). The winner of the 50/50 donated back to the fundraiser, every dessert auctioned off to the highest bidder. The committee thanks the many guests and the many hands that made this so successful from ticket sellers, auctioneer, office workers, dessert makers, selectboard members, Crystal Falls, all 3 bands who donated their time, Synchronized Khaos, Dirty Thirty and All That Matters Band, and to Chelsea Thrift & Gift and Puptown Funk for sponsoring the event.

SAVE THE DATE: August 16, 2025 (rain date of August 17, 2025). Watch for updates on our rockin' birthday celebration! It's going to be a fun day!

Chelsea Grange #215 **by Rick Grotton**

Chelsea Grange is pleased to announce the installation of a stair lift that will benefit all who meet in the Hall as well as visitors and community members! Thanks to a grant we received this goal has been achieved. Next on our list is to remodel the kitchen. We do thank the community for all the support given to the Grange throughout the years. We still are not renting the Hall at this time, and we are sorry for any inconvenience to the community members. Our upcoming meetings will include planning our annual May Basket for Veterans, which is usually the last Saturday in April as well as other events. Stay tuned! Chelsea Grange is always looking for new membership. Come and be part of the fun! Our meetings are on the second Saturday from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6

by Maureen Malley

Greetings from the Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6 Hallowell, Maine. This past quarter we have been busy doing outreach to Veterans and their family. Briefings on American Legion programs and Veterans eligibility for health care and benefits. Two visits were made to the Granite Hills Estates, briefing for Veterans and one for their spouses. Our next briefing will be on March 24, 2025, 6:00-7:30 pm. Dinner will be served. All Veterans and their spouses are invited to attend. Location is 114 Second Street, Hallowell, across from the Hubbard Free Library. RSVP to 207-557-3109, please leave a message if I don't answer. April and May, we will be collecting damaged US Flags to be retired. Drop them at the Chelsea Town Office. We will host the annual Memorial Day Service on May 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m. at the Hallowell Cemetery. All are invited.

Age-Friendly Chelsea

by Lori Milner

“Did You Know?” The Age-Friendly Chelsea Committee was formed in July 2021 and hit the ground running. That autumn, Age-Friendly Chelsea started a walking group, began offering monthly informational luncheons which continue to the present, arranged for a community concert, and applied for grant money that was available for community projects. In March 2022, Age-Friendly Chelsea submitted both the application to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, and our Action Plan. Also in 2022, we collaborated with Chelsea Heart & Soul to create a resource guide for the town office to make available to residents. We also put together “new resident” packets. Collaborative work continued when we joined forces with Chelsea Historical Society to create a sign for Butternut Park on the history of the Chelsea waterfront. That summer the two committees hosted an end-of-season event where the sign was installed with a ceremony attended by family of Frank Hassen, “The Last Boatman”, to whom the sign was dedicated. The day also included games and a free lunch with food that would have been appropriate to the times. In preparation for the event, we worked with the Chelsea Conservation Committee on improvements to Butternut Park with emphasis on cleanup. We also purchased and installed picnic tables and joined forces with the Historical Society to reintroduce butternut trees to Butternut Park. A robust Summer Concert Series was planned and executed for six monthly concerts from May - October. This entailed lining up sponsors, food trucks, and pitching a very large tent for each concert. We hired a concert promoter to help find an amazing lineup of bands. In September, three committee members joined AmeriCorps and took on additional community responsibilities. We finished out 2022 with a hugely popular dessert auction fundraiser in conjunction with the town's annual community dinner and tree lighting; and began the first quarterly Chat with the Manager. The Age-Friendly Chelsea Committee continues to do their part to make Chelsea the best place to live, work and play! We are helping to build community one day at a time and having fun doing it. Lifelong friendships are being formed and strengthened among the members, and we have room for YOU. Won't you join us? Meetings are generally on the second Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at the town office. There are other volunteer opportunities available if a monthly commitment doesn't fit your schedule. 2023 brought more opportunities for the committee to enhance the value of life in Chelsea. We published a cookbook whose first printing sold out immediately; and conducted a chocolate bar fundraiser. Our luncheons and cookbook fundraisers were topics presented by committee members at the AmeriCorp Volunteer Conference in April. Also in April, The Reading Connection, an intergenerational reading program began. In coordination with Chelsea Elementary School librarian, the committee purchases books that are donated to the school library after guest readers read the books to students. The summer was filled with activity: working with Girl Scout Troop #1076 to clean up Butternut Park and installing a dog waste station; hosting Regional Age-Friendly meetups for our area; presenting at the Lifelong Maine annual conference on volunteers; and the Summer Concert Series. We also started working with Spectrum Generations and offered the Commodities Supplemental Food Program to Chelsea residents, assisting with applications and food box pickup. With money awarded from the AARP Community Challenge Grant we

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Age-Friendly Chelsea

by Lori Milner

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were able to create a Community Garden. We purchased raised boxes and installed the garden adjacent to the town office. We also purchased handicap accessible mats for the Chelsea School Garden. The committee also received a Dementia Inclusive Grant and purchased items for patients diagnosed with dementia at the Togus VA. We ended the summer by installing an information kiosk and two combination bench/picnic tables at Butternut Park and hosted the Chelsea Remembrance Day with the Chelsea Historical Society. Autumn 2023 didn't slow us down. In September one of our members became a Lifelong Maine Fellow and mentored another town. We also helped create a new quarterly town newsletter. Our September monthly informational luncheon topic was the first chapter of "Pathways to Wellbeing with Dementia", and this has continued with a chapter each quarter since then. The year ended with another dessert auction fundraiser and the establishment of a Warming/Cooling Center located in the town office, which is activated when adverse weather conditions result in power outages. 2024 started with the establishment of "12 Months of Giving". Our February informational luncheon was a Dementia Inclusive event, with dementia-friendly food and table settings generously provided by the University of Maine Lifelong Fellows Program. The Reading to Connect program, where volunteers read "good news" stories for dementia patients at Togus, also began in February. The Chelsea Community Garden reopened in spring with additional planters and sponsors. Three members attended the Conference for Lifelong Leaders, with presentations on luncheons and the warming/cooling center. A committee member completed fellowship mentoring, leading to another town joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. The Chelsea Summer Concert Series continued into its third year. In the fall, The Reading Connection resumed, quickly filling all 30 slots. An information table was shared with the 175th Celebrations Committee at the PTA Craft Fair. Monthly informational luncheons continue at the Chelsea Town Office. An end-of-year fundraiser featuring home-baked pies was successful. Age-Friendly participated in the Christmas Social and Tree lighting at the town office, coordinating a card-making table for veterans and involving the school art teacher and students in creating cards. In total, 86 handmade cards were delivered to the Togus VA. The Twelve Months of Giving in Chelsea continues.



COME & SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY AGE-FRIENDLY CHELSEA

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (207) 582-4802

City of Gardiner

Compost Bin Sale



Composting organic waste, such as food scraps and yard trimmings, helps reduce the amount of trash in the landfill, and helps your garden plants grow bigger and healthier.

Backyard Composting Supplies

Pick up order form at Gardiner City Hall or the Gardiner Public Library or go to www.gardinermaine.com and download the form

Orders due April 14 at Gardiner City Hall

For More Information, please contact Judy Dorsey 207-582-3298.

Pickup at Gardiner Public Works 196 Old Brunswick Rd., Mon-Thur, May 19-22 from 7am-3pm

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.

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

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

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

Chelsea Grange #215: 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: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Chelsea Town Office.

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

Chelsea Historical Society: 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m., either in person or Zoom.

Together we can make great things happen!