



THE CHELSEA MESSENGER

Fall 2026 Issue

Sheri Truman
Selectboard Chair

Jake Soucy
Selectboard Vice-Chair

Mike Pushard
Selectboard Member

Christine Landes
Town Manager

Lailah Sher
Student Selectboard Member

From the Desk of the Town Manager:

As summer is quickly slipping away (it certainly hasn't been as warm as I like it to be these past few months), it is my pleasure to provide each of you with a brief update as to the things happening in the town office and around town. This past month the town completed paving on the eight (8) roads that had base asphalt coats applied in the past two years. This new top surface will finish the roads, and last-minute striping and shoulder work will be completed in the near future. It is our hope that there will be funds left over from the budget to possibly start paving the way for the next set of roads to have at least sub-surface applied this fall. We should know more in September. Ditching and culvert replacement has also been completed on several roads. This is in preparation for future paving. We know that 'navigating' around the road crew can be a challenge sometimes, we ask that you please be patient and drive safely around the team/equipment completing the work. Roadside mowing has been completed and with a lower-than-expected budget price, we are in hopes that in late fall we can complete another round of mowing. This will ensure that the roadsides are cut down prior to the snowfall. We are also attempting to take down any dangerous/dead trees in the road right-of-way before the first snow. We recently completed new striping in the town office parking lot. After many years of fading paint, it's nice to see it being spruced up a bit. We have also been fortunate enough to have inmates from the jail come into the office monthly to help with projects to save taxpayers money. Their most recent projects have been painting the office walls and trim and working with a volunteer to spruce up the 'Welcome to Chelsea' signs on Eastern Avenue and River Road. Their help will continue as long as we have projects, so we send our upmost thanks to Kennebec County for the free labor. I also want to extend my upmost thanks to Mary Szwec for volunteering to help spruce up those 'Welcome to Chelsea' signs. She purchased flowers and donated some from her own garden to complete the beautiful/colorful gardens that will welcome visitors to our quaint community. It's the little things that make all the difference and will leave an impression on someone visiting our area. Please be aware that our Facebook page does not allow comments on posts. The intent of our social media page is to relay information only. Should anyone have a question about any post, please contact the town office or any selectboard member. I also would be amiss if I didn't mention our new Student Selectboard Member Lailah Sher. She was chosen to represent the student body of Chelsea, and we are super excited to have her learning about municipal government. Please see her article in this newsletter. 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.

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

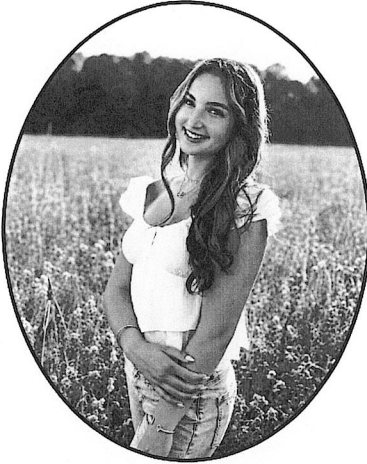
PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION

by Sandra Devaney, Finance

To help us process your property tax payment accurately and avoid possible errors, please bring your **tax bill, payment slip, or account number** with you when paying at the Town Office. If you are mailing your payment, please be sure to **write your Real Estate/Personal Property tax account number on your check**. If you would like a receipt mailed, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Providing this information helps us ensure your payment is applied to the correct account. Thank you for your cooperation.

STUDENT SELECTBOARD MEMBER

by Lailah Sher



Hello Chelsea residents, my name is **Lailah Sher**, and I am a senior at Erskine Academy. I am honored and excited to serve as the **2026–2027 Student Selectboard Member for the Town of Chelsea**. This opportunity will allow me to represent the students and youth of our community while learning more about how our town government works and how decisions are made at the local level. One of my goals as Student Selectboard Member is to help strengthen the connection between Chelsea's youth and adults. Our students are involved in so many wonderful activities that community members may not always hear about—from athletics and academic competitions to performances, clubs, service projects, student leadership, and academic achievements. I hope to find ways to share these accomplishments so our community can recognize and celebrate the young people who call Chelsea home. I also hope to encourage more young people to become involved in their community and local

government. I have always enjoyed opportunities to learn about government and leadership, including participating in **Maine Youth in Government** and **Maine's Dirigo State Program**. Serving on the Selectboard gives me the opportunity to take that interest further and apply what I have learned right here in the community I call home. Throughout my term, I hope to be an effective voice for Chelsea's youth, listen to their ideas and concerns, and help ensure their perspectives are heard and understood. I am very grateful to the Town of Chelsea for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to serving as a bridge between the younger and older generations of our community while encouraging youth participation in local government. I am excited for the year ahead and look forward to serving the residents of Chelsea!

CHELSEA FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Spencer Gagnon, Chief

The Chelsea Fire Department has had a busy and productive year so far in 2026. Since January 1, the department has responded to **62 calls for service**. These calls have ranged from fire alarm activations and motor vehicle accidents to brush fires, building fires, and mutual aid responses to surrounding communities. Our members continue to answer the call whenever our community and neighboring departments need us. Training continues to be a major priority for Chelsea Fire. So far this year, members have participated in **32 training nights**, totaling approximately **70 hours of training**. These trainings help ensure our firefighters are prepared, knowledgeable, and ready for the wide variety of emergencies we may face. Several members have also recently completed additional training,

including **Basic Pump Operations and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC)**. We are proud of our members for continuing to dedicate their time to furthering their education and improving the service we provide to the community. Chelsea Fire has also welcomed several new members to the department this year. They have been a great addition to our team and continue to train, learn, and become an important part of the Chelsea Fire family. The Chelsea Fire Department would like to thank our members and their families for the countless hours they dedicate to the department, as well as the residents of Chelsea for their continued support.



VOTER INFORMATION

by Samantha Peaslee, Town Clerk & Registrar of Voters

Novembers General Election is on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at the Town Office. Polls will be open from **8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.** If your address has changed, or you are new to Chelsea, please bring valid proof of residency. Call the office, (207) 582-4802, with any questions you may have.



Absentee Ballot requests are available now. Absentee Ballots will be available in the first week of October through the close of business on Friday, October 30, 2026.

IMPORTANT RAPID RENEWAL NOTICE

by Sandra Devaney, Finance & BMV Agent

If you used **Rapid Renewal** last year and received a **new Tree Plate** or **No Tree Plate**, please be aware that your upcoming vehicle registration renewal may need to be completed **in person at the Chelsea Town Office**. Due to complications with the Town and State computer systems not communicating properly, some registrations may not process correctly through Rapid Renewal. Before coming into the office, please give us a call. We may be able to update the necessary information in the system so that you can complete your renewal online and avoid a trip to the Town Office. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through these system issues.

DOG REGISTRATION

by Sophia Seigars – Deputy Town Clerk



TIPS FOR REGISTERING YOUR DOG IN MAINE!

All dogs must be licensed annually.

1 REGISTER EVERY YEAR



Licensing begins October 15th for the upcoming year.

2 VISIT YOUR TOWN OFFICE



Register your dog at your local Town Office. Some towns may offer online or mail-in options.

3 BRING REQUIRED INFORMATION



- Current rabies vaccination certificate
- Dog's age, breed, and color
- Spay/neuter certificate (if applicable—saves money!)

4 KNOW THE FEES



Fees vary by town, but:

- Lower cost for spayed/neutered dogs
- Higher fee for unaltered dogs

Late fee's apply after January 31st

5 GET YOUR DOG'S TAG



You'll receive a license tag. Your dog should wear it at all times.

6 WHY IT MATTERS



- Helps return your dog if lost.
- Supports animal control services.
- It's required by law in Maine.

7 NEW DOG OR NEW TO TOWN?



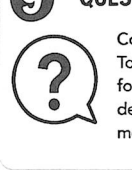
- Register your dog:
- Within 10 days of moving
- Or after getting a new dog

8 DON'T WAIT



Avoid late fees—register early!

9 QUESTIONS?



Contact your Town Office for fees, deadlines, and more information.





Thank you for being a responsible pet owner!

You care. They count.

TOWN OF CHELSEA

560 Togus Rd.
Chelsea, ME 04330
(207) 582-4802
www.chelseamaine.org



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

= FOR UPDATES =

CHELSEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SEEKING SOCCER COACH & SUBSTITUTE STAFF

Chelsea Elementary School is currently seeking individuals interested in supporting local students during the 2026–2027 school year. Opportunities are available for a Soccer Coach as well as substitute staff. Whether you are interested in coaching student athletes or helping in the classroom as a substitute, this is a great opportunity to become involved and make a positive difference for Chelsea students!

Soccer Coach: Looking for a qualified Soccer Coach to work with student athletes. Coaching experience is preferred. The position involves conducting practices up to four days per week, and the successful candidate must be available to supervise student athletes. Applicants must have a current State of Maine Department of Education CHRC authorization. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. For information regarding the Soccer Coach position, contact **Chelsea School** at **207-582-2214**.

Substitute Opportunities: The school is also building its list of qualified substitutes for the 2026–2027 school year. Looking for caring, dependable individuals who are interested in supporting students and staff when additional classroom and school coverage is needed. Those interested in becoming a substitute or applying for available school positions can learn more and apply online at <https://www.svrsu.org/page/employment-opportunities>

LIBERTY MAY REQUEST TO JOIN RSU 12: WHAT CHELSEA VOTERS SHOULD KNOW

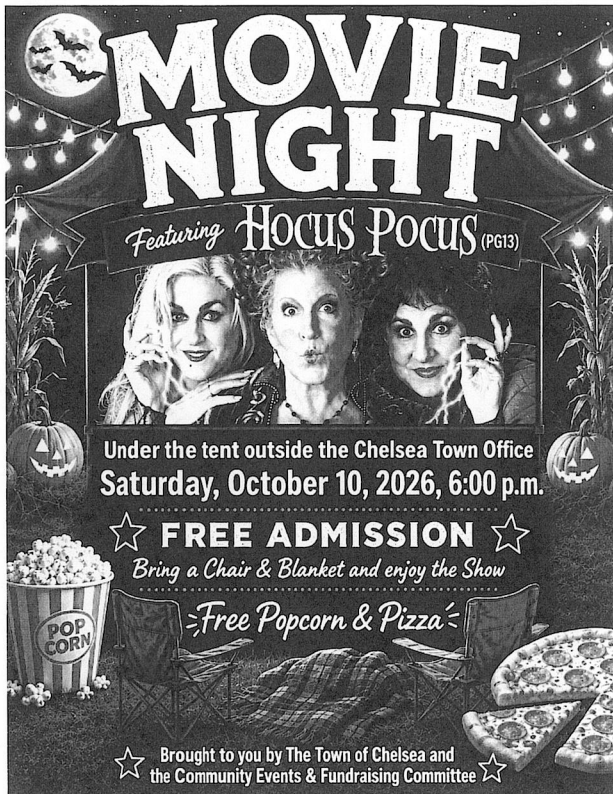
By Howard Tuttle, Superintendent of Schools, Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit 12

Thank you to the Town of Chelsea for the space in this newsletter. The Town of Chelsea is an important part of RSU 12, and I'm glad to have the chance to explain something our School Board has been working on. The Town of Liberty may request to join RSU 12. **Why this matters to Chelsea:** A school budget includes many fixed costs. For example, the superintendent's office, special education administration, building upkeep, and running our transportation system cost about the same no matter how many students walk through the doors. Those bills don't shrink much when enrollment dips, and they don't jump much when they grow. Liberty would bring more students into the district. When you spread the same fixed costs across more students, the cost per student goes down. That cost per student is the number that sets the bill each town pays. If Liberty joined RSU 12, the district would not spend less money overall. What changes is how the bill gets divided. With an eighth town helping carry the same load, Chelsea's slice gets smaller. Our early projections show Chelsea's share of the costs shrinking by about 5%. We will publish the full analysis, with real figures, well before anyone is asked to vote. We also have the room. Liberty's PK-8 students would attend Palermo Consolidated School, which has space in every grade. No current RSU 12 students would move to a different school. No school would close. No teacher would lose a job. No new staff would need to be added. **This is going to take a while:** Two things must happen first, and neither one is quick. **Liberty has to leave RSU 3.** Liberty and RSU 3 are negotiating a withdrawal agreement right now, and Liberty voters must approve it. RSU 12 cannot move ahead until that work is finished, and we do not control how long it takes. **The plan needs two approvals.** The Maine Commissioner of Education must approve it first. Then voters in all seven RSU 12 towns, including Chelsea, vote on it by referendum. Liberty votes separately. Both votes must pass, or the plan does not take effect. Because the Liberty and RSU 3 talks will take time, we expect the RSU 12 referendum in June 2027 or November 2027 rather than this fall. If voters say yes, Liberty will most likely join on July 1, 2028. **How to weigh in:** Nothing here gets decided quietly. Here is how to be part of it:

- **Come to a public input meeting.** We will hold them in Chelsea and in every other member town when the plan is finalized.
- **Attend an RSU 12 Board meeting.** Meetings are open, and there is time set aside for public comment.
- **Come to the public hearing.** State law requires one public hearing before the vote. We will explain the full cost analysis in writing beforehand and in person that night.
- **Read the plan.** It will be posted on the RSU 12 website once it is finalized.

Then vote. The final decision belongs to you. Thank you, Chelsea residents, for your continued support of our students.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS & FUNDRAISING
By the Town of Chelsea & the Community Events & Fundraising Committee



MOVIE NIGHT
Featuring *Hocus Pocus* (PG13)

Under the tent outside the Chelsea Town Office
Saturday, October 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

★ **FREE ADMISSION** ★
Bring a Chair & Blanket and enjoy the Show

Free Popcorn & Pizza

★ Brought to you by The Town of Chelsea and the Community Events & Fundraising Committee ★



HUNTERS BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026
5:00 A.M. TO 9:00 A.M.
CHELSEA TOWN OFFICE

YOUTH HUNTERS
EAT FOR FREE & GET A FREE COMPASS/WHISTLE!

- SAUSAGE
- BACON
- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- HOME FRIES
- COFFEE, JUICE & MORE

ADULTS **\$12.00**

Brought to you by the
CHELSEA COMMUNITY EVENTS & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



Chelsea Community Events & Fundraising Committee
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets on sale at the Chelsea Town Office

\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

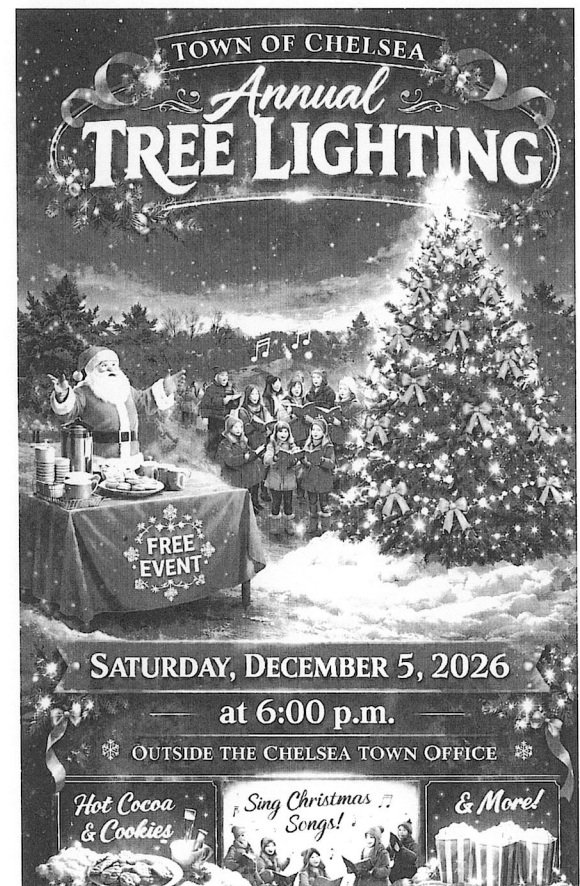
3 CHANCES TO WIN!

Gift Cards, Lottery Tickets, Handmade Jewelry, Handmade Afghan, Handmade Christmas Tree Skirt & More!

★ **DRAWING: DECEMBER 17, 2026** ★

All proceeds will go toward building a kitchen in the Town Office, for the Warming/Cooling Center, and hosting community events.

Tickets on Sale October 30, 2026



TOWN OF CHELSEA
Annual TREE LIGHTING

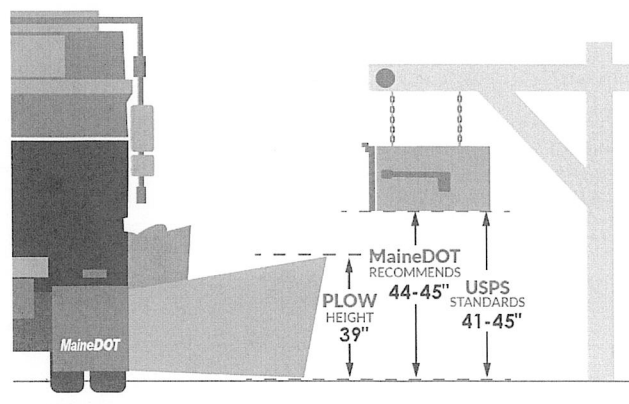
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026
at 6:00 p.m.

OUTSIDE THE CHELSEA TOWN OFFICE

Hot Cocoa & Cookies
Sing Christmas Songs!
& More!

Mailbox Installation Information

Now's the time ~ before the ground freezes ~ to make sure your mailbox is properly installed and in compliance with **MaineDOT standards**. Proper mailbox placement and installation can help reduce damage during winter snowplowing and improve safety for motorists, plow operators, and mail carriers.



Mailbox Support Design and Road Offsets

