

Maine Town & City

The magazine of the Maine Municipal Association

JULY 2023 | VOLUME 85 | ISSUE 7

Where In Maine?

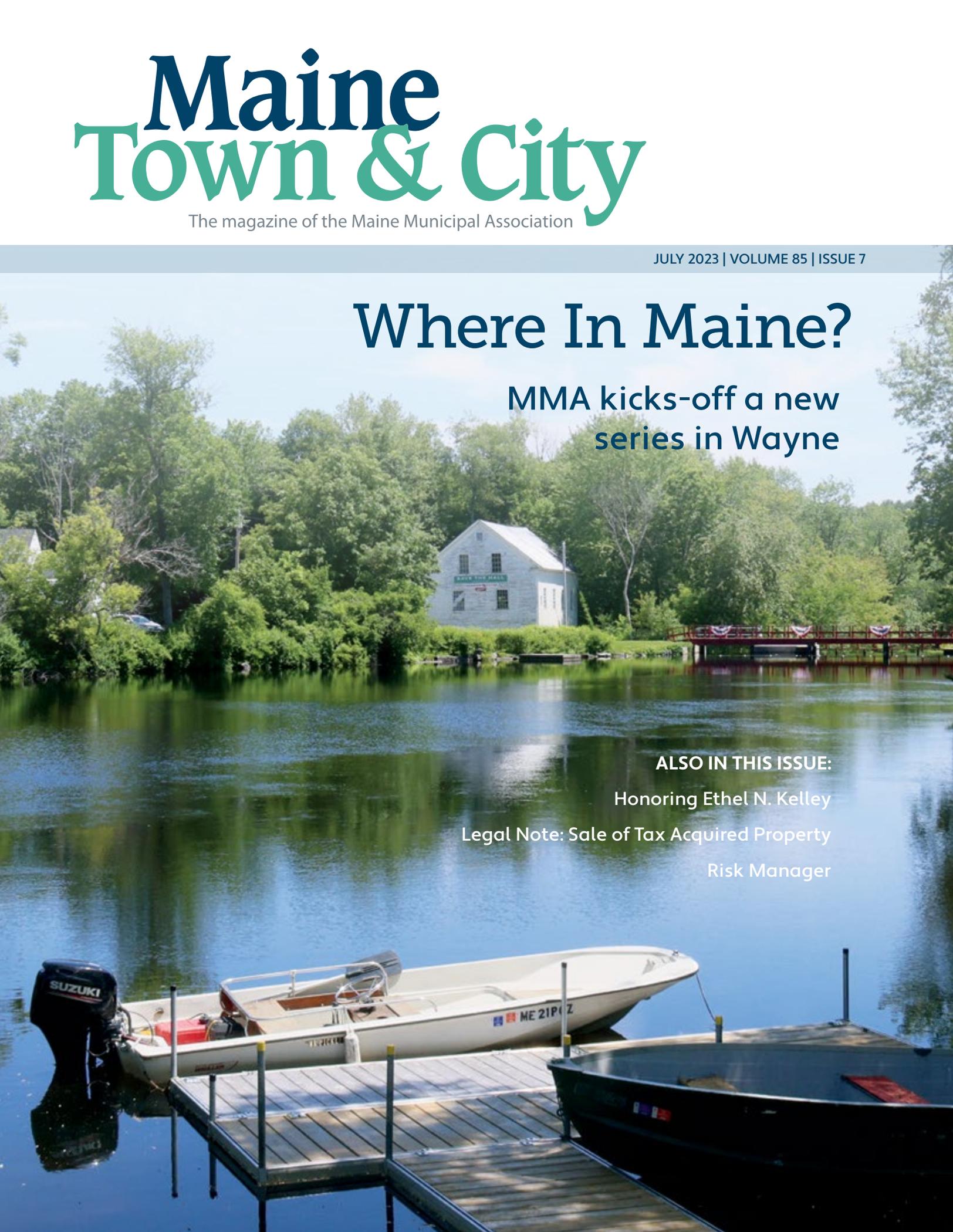
MMA kicks-off a new
series in Wayne

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Honoring Ethel N. Kelley

Legal Note: Sale of Tax Acquired Property

Risk Manager





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Maine Town & City



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ETHEL KELLEY AWARD. For 38 years, local government service has been recognized via MMA's Ethel Kelley Memorial Award. Now is the time to celebrate a member of your community. **PAGE 5**

MUNICIPAL TRAINING NEEDS - A SERIES. The third article in this five-part series focuses on the members of MMA's recently appointed 14-member Advisory Council, which is responsible for supporting and advising MMA on municipal training needs across the state. Learn what drives six members' participation in this important work. **PAGE 7**

HUMAN RESOURCES. With the growing complexity of labor laws and the need to be competitive in the recruitment arena, many municipalities are employing human resources personnel to get the job done right. However, it is not a one-size fits all approach for providing this vital service. **PAGE 17**

Q&A WITH HEALTHTRUST. MMA's Municipal Employees Health Trust will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year. Don Gerrish, who has served on the trust board since its inception in 1983, discusses the importance of this benefit to municipal officials across Maine. **PAGE 23**

WHERE IN MAINE? Wayne is up first in this series dedicated to exploring the attributes that make each Maine community unique. Access to several lakes and ponds, Tubby's famous ice cream and a boys' summer camp boasting a roster of alumni with a combined seven Superbowl wins, are just a few reasons for visiting the Kennebec County community. **PAGE 25**

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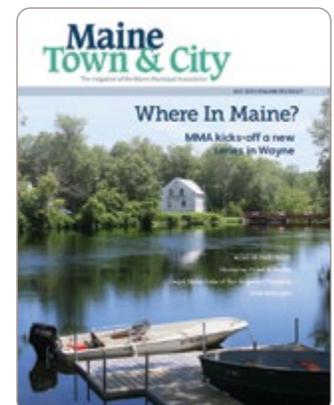
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ABOUT THE COVER

Stevenson's Strawberry Farm overlooking Mill Pond before it flows over the village dam.
(Photo by Rebecca Lambert, MMA)





Home is Key

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The Ethel Kelley Memorial Award

A 38 Year Tradition Honoring Community Service

By Kate Dufour / Director, Advocacy & Communications



Question: What do George Richardson, Jr., Patricia Sutherland, and Kathy Littlefield have in common? Answer: Their commitment to local government service. Just as importantly, these municipal icons are past recipients of MMA's Ethel N. Kelley award.

"The Kelley" is MMA's most prestigious award, which was created in 1986 to honor municipal officials and volunteers who have tirelessly served their communities, in some cases for decades. To put this recognition into context for those of you who follow college sports, this award is on par with the Heisman Trophy.

The award's namesake was a legend who dedicated 45 years to the Association's mission.

She began her career upon the founding of MMA in 1936, and worked for the Association until she passed away in 1981. During her tenure, Kelley was most famously remembered for having held every position in the Association, including a stint as the executive director; a role she filled during World War II.

Her commitment to local government service and the work of the thousands of municipal officials who selflessly give to their communities is honored annually. The award was first issued in 1986 to Harold Beathem, Medway select board member and most recently to Judy Akers, Poland town clerk, whose family, incidentally, has collectively served the Androscoggin County community for over 200 years.

Who will be this year's recipient? Well, that is entirely up to you, as nominations for the next Ethel Kelley honoree will be accepted until **noon on Friday, August 18, 2023.**

Any elected or appointed municipal official from a member community can nominate a candidate by completing the form posted on MMA's newly redesigned website (www.memun.org). The

quickest way to get to the application is by typing "Ethel Kelley" in the search bar found in the blue ribbon at the top of the homepage. Or better yet, contact me at kdufour@memun.org and I'll hook you up.

The application should include up to five letters of support describing the nominee's exceptional contributions to local govern-

ment service. The statements can be authored by municipal, state, county and federal officials, business leaders, or members of your community that have been impacted by your nominee's dedication to public service. A simple statement of support is sufficient. Quite frankly, a heartfelt declaration of appreciation is just as impactful as a formal letter. Although, if formality is your thing...go for it.

In late August the esteemed selection panel will convene to review the nomination materials and take on the difficult task of choosing the recipient. The 2023 selection panel will include Jim Bennett, current MMA Past President and Biddeford City Manager; Linda Cohen, South Portland Councilor; and Stephan Bunker, Vice Chair of the Farmington Select Board.

For more details on the process and deadlines, please review the accompanying sidebar.

Without a doubt there is someone in your community who either goes out of the way to help a resident in need or who can always be counted on to step up to the plate when a call for volunteers is issued. Honor that individual, as well as the legacy of Ethel Kelley, by participating in this process.

The 2023 recipient will be announced at the awards luncheon held on the first day of MMA's Annual Convention, taking place on October 4 and 5 at the Augusta Civic Center. I, alongside municipal officials across Maine, look forward to honoring a member of your community.

Ethel Kelley Memorial Award Nomination Process & Deadlines

Qualifications: Any elected municipal officer, elected or appointed municipal official, or employee of any *member municipality*, including those who have retired within the past two years, are eligible. The award may also be given posthumously. Additionally, individuals nominated in previous years are also eligible, provided, of course, they have not already earned the title.

Criteria: The nominee should: (1) embody a straightforward and selfless concern for the people they serve; (2) demonstrate capability and willingness to work selflessly to hold the community together; and (3) illustrate dedication to the cause of good local government via their daily actions.

Process/Deadline: Submit a completed nomination form and up to five letters of support for your nominee no later than **noon on Friday, August 18, 2023**. The letters can be as formal and creative as warranted and be authored by residents, business owners or local, county, state, or federal officials. *The supporting letters are a critical part of the process* and should describe, in detail, why your nominee should receive this distinction.

Contact: The nomination form and support letters should be submitted to Kate Dufour at kdufour@memun.org or:

Kate Dufour
Ethel Kelley Award
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

Decision: The selection panel will meet in late August to choose a winner.

Presentation: The Ethel Kelley award will be presented at the MMA Annual Convention, which will be held on October 4 and 5 at the Augusta Civic Center.

FMI: For more information, visit MMA's website at www.memun.org or connect with Kate Dufour at 1-800-452-8786 or kdufour@memun.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

Maine Municipal
Association
187th Annual Convention
October 4 & 5, 2023
Augusta Civic Center

details coming soon...

MMA's Advisory Council Appointed

Passion for local government service coupled with a desire to recruit and train the next generation of municipal employees drives interest in the council's work.

By Janine Pineo

Old Town Assistant City Manager Travis Roy is passionate about getting the best training for his coworkers and himself.

"I have a dream of a municipal leadership and management certificate program," Roy said, "and when I shared this with the newly hired [Maine Municipal Association] Education and Training Director Peter Osborne, I was hooked."

It led to Roy joining MMA's inaugural Education and Training Advisory Council. The panel is one of the first major recommendations from the Curriculum Inventory and Training Gap Analysis conducted in 2020 and 2021.

Fourteen individuals will serve on the council as it launches this month, with an objective of supporting and advising MMA on municipal training needs across the state. It also will aid in fostering collaboration and partnerships in education and training among MMA affiliate groups, municipalities, educational institutions, and training providers.

An interim group worked over six months to envision the structure, core functions and focus areas for the advisory council. It included municipal elected and appointed officials, employees, regional organizations, and education and training partners.

For the next year, the inaugural council will focus on the following:

- Development of a municipal management and leadership training program;
- Design of a municipal training portal; and
- Creation of a strategy for how MMA can best support and promote municipal workforce development and recruitment.

Maine Town & City asked several council members why its work is important, why they are on the council, and what their vision for MMA and municipalities are as a result of this work. Here are their answers, as well as a bit about their backgrounds.



Jon Beekman

Seat: At-Large, 1-year term
Fayette Selectboard member

Retiree Jon Beekman has long served municipalities, including stints on conservation panels in Coventry, R.I., and Natick, Mass., as well as Natick's finance and planning

boards. He worked on Fayette's budget committee for a few years before being elected to the town's selectboard in 2012, serving as chair from 2015 to 2021.

Beekman has been a member of the MMA Executive Committee from 2018-2023 and its Strategic & Finance Committee 2019-2023, serving as chair 2020-2021. Prior to that, he was an advisory board member from 1997 to 2003 to the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

Additionally, he was assistant director of water resources for the Water Supply Board in Providence, R.I., and director of water resources for the Cambridge, Mass., Water Supply Board. Later, Beekman provided consulting services through private firms on engineering and management to federal and state entities, cities, and towns.

Beekman, on the council:

"As one of the lead training opportunities for municipal employees and volunteers in Maine, MMA has the responsibility to maintain programs that are timely, educationally robust, accommodating, appropriate and all at a reasonable cost. Municipal employment demands are not static, and the skills and demands required to be proficient and effective are ever increasing."

"As a result of the BerryDunn report, MMA's education advisory council has the unique opportunity to establish a new path for education in Maine that will allow municipal employees and volunteers to better achieve day-to-day demands, longer-term success and the recognition for meeting these challenges that has been long overdue."

"Training municipal employees and volunteers in the ever-challenging environment facing local government in Maine is, I believe, one of MMA's most significant services. I believe that with almost 50 years of experience as a volunteer, employee and consultant to municipal,

About the Author: Janine Pineo is a freelance writer from Hudson and regular contributor to *Maine Town & City*, jepineo@gmail.com.

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state and federal governments, my background provides a varied perspective that can provide value in helping to develop a dynamic municipal educational future in Maine.”

Brenda McAleer

Seat: University of Maine System, 2-year term
Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Associate Provost, University of Maine at Augusta



McAleer, on the council:

“Knowing that many municipal administrators and employees are approaching retirement, we will need qualified people to take their places. MMA’s Education and Training Advisory Council will play a central role to prepare either current employees or new recruits to be able to step into important roles in our towns and cities. Though I do not work in a municipality, I do work in higher education so understand education and training delivery modalities.”

“In my role as dean of the College of Professional Studies at UMA, I can assist MMA in developing modules for short-, intermediate-, or long-term education training. The instructional staff at UMA is standing by to assist with up-to-date technology production. We can offer courses in flexible modalities for working adults with families.”

“At the university level, we would concentrate on certificates and degrees for current and future municipal administrators. Our community college partners will be able to offer any trades training at their locations throughout the state. At UMA, we are currently designing an Early College course for high school juniors and seniors, ‘This is Your Town,’ to get young people to know that they can stay home and help their own community. There are so many local possibilities for employment and advancement.”

Yanina Nickless

Seat: Early Career Professional, 1-year term
Director of Support Services, Town of Kennebunkport



Yanina Nickless became interested in municipal service when she participated in the Maine Government Summer Internship Program. She has worked for four years in Kennebunkport, starting as an intern in the town clerk’s office in 2019 before being hired full time as the deputy treasurer and human resources administrator. She then became HR administrator and administrative assistant

to the public works department before becoming assistant to the town manager and just recently becoming the director of support services.

Nickless, on the council:

“I believe this council can build a strong foundation for the future generation of municipal workers. Any job should start from something, and I hope that this council can create a good starting point. We can educate the general population on municipal work and thus recruit new workers, we can create programs for new employees, and we can enhance the network for seasoned employees.”

“I am on this council because I believe in education/training and its power; before I moved to the United States, I was an English teacher in Ukraine. I also want to support MMA’s work. MMA has many wonderful people and a wealth of resources, so it is important to spread the word in the municipal community.”

“This council has unlimited potential, and, depending on where we will take it, it can bring so many wonderful results. I see it on two levels: MMA + schools and MMA + municipalities.”

“MMA + schools: I hope that MMA and municipalities will be able to partner with local schools and universities. That way, we will be able to create internship opportunities, educate children on municipal careers and their influence, and promote community involvement and voluntarism.”

“MMA + municipalities: I hope that we can create mentorship programs for those who start their careers in municipalities as well as enhance the knowledge and professionalism of current employees.”



Travis Roy

Seat: At-Large, 2-year term
Assistant City Manager, City of Old Town
President, Maine Association of Assessing Officers

For Travis Roy, public service seemed like a natural path since his father was career military and his mother a U.S. Postal Service worker.

Roy entered public service with the Penobscot Nation Police Department in 1990 and continued to serve in law enforcement in Old Town, as an instructor in the law enforcement arena, and for a decade as a gubernatorial appointee to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees.

He was self-employed as a real estate appraiser and left law enforcement in 2011, taking a position in city government as Old Town’s assessor. Then he was appointed assistant city manager in 2019, keeping the assessor role. In 2021, Roy became the assistant city manager.

In his role as president of the Maine Association of Assessing Officers, he has focused on growing training and professional development for assessors across the state. “I stand for the small jurisdictions and the under-funded,” he said. “We need to get them the same opportunities that we all have.”

Roy, on the council:

“The council’s work must focus on the ever-changing needs of the people that are delivering services across Maine. Better and more accessible training options makes for better prepared municipal employees that we hope will feel more fulfilled in their chosen jobs and make municipal service a career.”

“I am here because I believe that MMA and the members of the council are prepared to make meaningful progress in the education and training of municipal employees, no matter where they hail from or what budget they have.”

“I want municipal employees to feel that there are fresh, challenging education and training options available to them. We all need to feel challenged and like we are part of a profession. This council is charged with changing the optics of what municipal employees have available for professional training. We have some great programs at colleges and universities in this state, and that is great for those geographically located to take advantage of them.”

“Maine’s layout does not allow many to access such programs. Technology is growing faster than many of us

can learn it, and if this council harnesses the power of technology and the experience and knowledge base at the table, I expect the results to be great.”

Dustin Ward

Seat: Elected Official, 2-year term
New Gloucester Selectboard member



Dustin Ward is a racial equity and reconciliation advocate, as well as a member of a number of nonprofits, including serving as president of the Board of Directors of Atlantic Black Box, a nonprofit that looks to uncover the history of enslavement in New England.

Ward has been a selectboard member since 2021, which has been his introduction to municipal governance. He has worked with MMA previously, including training programs promoting and teaching Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work.

Ward found himself running for office in New Gloucester after a selectboard member resigned following racist remarks. At the time, he was engaged with a local group, New Gloucester United Against Racism, which was working on efforts to eliminate racism and discriminatory issues that happened in the town.

“I felt this was a moment where I wanted to set an example of the initial work I was doing,” Ward said, “being a voice for Black and Brown members who were in my local town but were harmed by such comments and

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any other instances where local government hadn't represented them fully. I ran and got elected that same year of his resignation, finishing his term, and have loved every moment of it."

Ward, on the council:

"It is critical, I feel, that we engage more new voices and find ways to get them to be an integral part of municipal governance. Too often the same small group of folks have been holding up the municipal work for many years, and while we appreciate the dedication to this public service, we know that to expand and move forward, we need new voices and ideas to make our municipalities more representative of the communities they encompass. The efforts of this council will work to make that entrance and education easier, and more applicable so that more folks will desire to step in and serve for the future."

"I particularly desired to be on this council because part of the work of my own organization is to find ways to empower Black and Brown individuals to be representatives and decision-makers in their local towns and municipalities. Finding paths to empower Black members is key for me, and too often they, along with other marginalized groups, don't get a chance to be part of local efforts due to lack of knowledge, or lack of invitation into the process. I hope that through the efforts of this council, we can bridge that gap through education, awareness, and reflecting multiple identities in the work

of municipal government."

"I hope to see new members, like myself, who are new to this arena of municipal work, take a leap and either run for local offices, or take up positions in municipal government, allowing them to gain insight into how they can make change in their local spaces. If this group is successful, it will mean we see an increase in new voices to the table of decision-making, who represent more varied, diverse, lived experiences, and we see an increase in new folks who, through education or certification, can add to their credentials and gain valuable experience working in municipal government."



Christie Young

Seat: Human Resources Professional, 2-year term
Human Resources Director, Town of Gorham
President, Maine Local Government Human Resources Association (MLGHRA)

Christie Young started a municipal career by chance 11 years ago after she saw an advertisement for a human resources assistant in Westbrook.

She worked more than four years as an HR generalist in Westbrook, then more than a year as the employee relations manager for Cumberland County before reaching her current position in Gorham. She has been on the



board of the Maine Local Government Human Resources Association since 2019, and president of MLGHRA since 2020.

Young, on the council:

“The council will be supporting MMA in developing strategies and impactful solutions to help mitigate municipal staffing challenges throughout the state.”

“Municipal jobs are extremely challenging, costly, and time-consuming to fill in the absence of a reliable talent pipeline. Municipalities have many unique, sometimes obscure, jobs that lack formal training programs and clear career development paths. The changing recruitment landscape and current labor shortage often necessitates hiring candidates who may have transferable skills but no direct experience. In these situations, employers must invest a great deal of time and expense in getting inexperienced new hires up to speed. It can also be overwhelming to current employees who are tasked with providing on-the-job training to inexperienced new hires in addition to handling full workloads.”

“Without taking concrete, proactive measures to address these challenges now, the problem will continue to grow and plague towns and cities in the coming years due to the slow-growing and aging workforce in Maine.”

“In my role as a human resources director, I have a vested interest in ensuring our municipal workforce has access to professional development opportunities and in developing strategies that will expand the available pool of qualified candidates to fill specialized local government positions. Municipal training and education are also primary strategic focus areas for the MLGHRA, and my participation on the council will help ensure municipal human resources professionals from Kittery to Madawaska are represented.”

“My hope is that the increased collaboration and communication between MMA, affiliate groups, municipalities, and higher education institutions as a result of this work will lead to reduced gaps in municipal education and training needs throughout the state, as well as increased awareness among students and workers in Maine regarding the many career path options in local government.”

“I am optimistic that these efforts in the long term will ultimately have a positive impact on recruiting and succession planning in municipalities, leading to reduced costs and improved services within Maine communities.” 🏔️

Meeting Municipal Training & Education Needs: A Series.

The future of Maine’s municipal workforce represents a set of multi-faceted challenges that command multi-faceted solutions. Maine’s towns and cities are collectively grappling with the ongoing pandemic, effects of inflation, and demographic changes in the state, which present questions around recruiting and retaining employees and educating and training their incumbent workforce for the changing nature of municipal government. Through it all, MMA members are exploring and embracing innovative strategies and resources for workforce development. In 2023, the Association will be highlighting these efforts, as well as new initiatives in development and currently in use by members, partners, and MMA to meet workforce development needs through the publication of a five-part series. The third segment of the series introduces readers to six of the 14 members of MMA’s Advisory Council responsible for supporting and advising MMA on municipal training needs across the state.



Michael A. Hodgins

Land Use and Zoning Attorney

Mike represents towns in contract disputes and other general litigation, land use enforcement actions, Rule 80B appeals to Superior Court and he has participated in several appeals to the Law Court. Mike was recently recognized as a Lawyer of the Year by The Best Lawyers in America® for land use and zoning law. Mike has been recognized for his general litigation practice by New England Super Lawyers.

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Results from the June 13 Election

By Liz Mockler

What follows are some of the official results from the June 13, 2023 election. Only select board and town council races are listed. For space considerations, unopposed incumbents are not named, nor are challengers unless they served previously. The results are based on news reports, interviews with town clerks and municipal websites.

The results are listed in alphabetical order by municipality.

Bar Harbor: Eleven candidates vied for four seats on the town council in June. Voters returned an incumbent and elected three newcomers. Veteran newspaperman **Earl Brechlin** was elected to fill the final two years of former Jeff Dobbs' term with 735 votes. Dobbs retired after decades of service because of health problems. Brechlin held off three challengers for the seat. In a seven-way race for three open seats, **Maya Caines**, **Kyle Shank**, and incumbent **Valerie Peacock** collected the most votes with 847, 798 and 723, respectively. Among those who fell short were incumbent Erin Cough with 468 votes and Nathan Young, who received 606 votes. Councilor Jill Goldthwait did not seek re-election.

Bridgton: Incumbents **Carrye Castleman-Ross** and **Paul Tworog** defeated two challengers to win re-election. Castleman-Ross received the most votes at 260, followed by Tworog with 231 votes. The challengers collected 211 votes and 139 votes.

Buckfield: Incumbent **Heather Henley** held off a challenger to win re-election by a vote of 99 to 70.

Canton: Incumbent selectperson **Carole Robbins** and newcomer **Brian Keene** were elected with 59 and 61 votes, respectively. They ran unopposed. Keene replaces Russell Adams, who did not seek re-election.

Chelsea: Newcomer **Jacob Soucy** defeated incumbent Sheri Truman by a vote of 126 to 88.

Cumberland: Newcomer **Baily Douglass** defeated a challenger to win a town council seat. The vote was 967 to 609. She replaces Allison Foster, who did not run again.

Dixfield: Former selectperson **Richard "Ricky" Davis** was elected to replace Norman Mitchell, who did not seek re-election.

Farmingdale: **Isaiah Peppard** ran unopposed to replace selectperson Andrew Vellani, who did not seek re-election.

Greenwood: **Robert Oickle** won a seat on the select board by defeating a challenger, 16 to 11. He replaces Arnold Jordan, who did not seek re-election.

Harrison: In a six-way contest for two open town council seats, newcomer **Nathan Sessions** and incumbent **Matthew Frank** were elected with 238 votes and 150 votes, respectively. All other candidates were running for the first time. Sessions replaces Richard Sykes, who did not seek re-election.

Kennebunk: There were two open seats on the select board and only two candidates to fill them. Newcomer **Kevin Therrien** will replace Sally Carpenter, who did not seek re-election. Incumbent **William Ward** won the second seat.

Kingfield: **Kim Jordan** won election over incumbent Polly MacMichael by a vote of 197 to 131.

Lincolntonville: Incumbent **Michael Ray** and newcomer **Robyn Tarantino** held off a challenger to win select board seats with 214 votes and 201 votes, respectively. Tarantino replaces Joshua Gerritsen, who resigned when he moved out of town.

Madison: **Kathy Estes** received 373 votes and incumbent **Sally Dwyer** received 313 votes to win the election. They defeated three other candidates, who won 200, 80 and 20 votes. Estes replaces Robert Hagopian, who did not seek re-election.

Mechanic Falls: Incumbent **Paula Stotts** was re-elected to the town council with 124 votes. Former Councilor **Ray Lavoie** won the second seat as a write-in candidate with four votes.

Mexico: Newcomer **Kevin Jamison** ran unopposed to replace Clifford Stewart on the select board.

Milford: **Cory LaBelle** was re-elected with 85 votes and newcomer **Matthew Niles** garnered 111 to replace Diane Lacadie, who died last December. Former selectperson Charles Weymouth received 70 votes.

Monmouth: Incumbents **C. Douglas Ludewig** received 233 votes and **Kristin Sanborn** collected 223 to hold off a challenger and win new terms.

Mount Vernon: Incumbent **Robert Grenier** won 190 votes to beat two challengers for a select board seat. The opponents scored 104 and 30 votes.

New Sharon: Newcomer **Kevin Libby** defeated select board chairperson Lorna Nichols. Libby was a member of the planning board at the time of the election. He will serve a three-year term. Nichols was first elected in 2014

About the Author: Liz Mockler is a freelance writer from Newport and regular contributor to *Maine Town & City*, lizmockler@hotmail.com.



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and served three consecutive terms.

North Yarmouth: In a four-way race for two seats, **Katherine “Kit” Murray Maloney** won 631 votes to take one of the open seats on the select board. She served most recently as chairperson of the town’s Economic Development and Sustainability Committee. Newcomer **Karl Cyr** collected 612 votes to take the second seat. They replaced board chairperson Brian Sites and Katherine Perrin. Neither sought re-election.

Paris: Incumbent **Scott McElravy** defeated former fire chief Jonathan Longley by a vote of 152 to 144 to win another select board term. Planning board member Matthew Brackett held off a challenger to win the second open seat with the most votes at 182. His challenger garnered 138 votes. Brackett replaces Carlton Sprague, who did not seek re-election.

Phillips: Voters elected three new select board members as the panel increased in size this year from three to five members. **Eugene Canton** and **Ken Bubier** won three-year terms, while **Justin Vachon** won a two-year term. Incumbent Ray Gaudette was unsuccessful in his re-election bid.

Rangeley: **Wendyll Caisse** and **James Jannace** defeated incumbents Shelly Lowell and Cynthia Egan in a six-way race for two seats. Caisse received 214 votes, followed by Jannace with 207 votes. Lowell and Egan collected 180 votes and 150 votes, respectively.

Readfield: Newcomer **David Linton** defeated incumbent selectperson Dennis Price by a vote of 392 to 299.

Richmond: Incumbents **Andrew Alexander** and **Robert Bodge, Jr.** held off two competitors with 238 votes and 217 votes, respectively. The challengers garnered 128 and 79 votes.

Rockport: Newcomers **Kim Graffam** and **Michael Thompson** were elected to the select board to replace Michelle Hannan and Mark Kelley, who did not seek re-election. Both ran unopposed.

Rumford: Newcomer **Theresa Sax** ran unopposed to replace Eric McLean, who did not seek re-election. Newcomer **John Pepin** was also unopposed for a one-year term, taking the seat of the late Michael Peter Chase.

Skowhegan: **Charles Robbins, III** collected 293 votes to defeat two challengers to win re-election to the select board. The opponents collected 251 votes and 129 votes.

Windsor: In a four-way race for two select board seats, **Tom McNaughton** and **Chester Barnes, Jr.** prevailed with 101 votes and 95 votes, respectively. They replaced Richard Gray and Ronald Brann, who did not seek re-election.

Winthrop: **Bernard “Roy” Weymouth** defeated Gilles Soucy by one vote, 223 to 222 in a special election held on June 13. Soucy did not pursue a vote recount. Weymouth replaces former chairperson Sarah Fuller, who recently resigned. Incumbent Priscilla Jenkins lost her re-election bid.

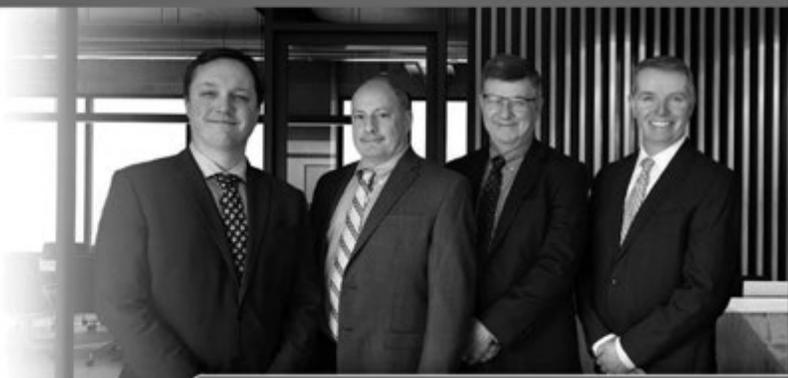
Wiscasset: In a four-way contest for two select board seats, incumbent Terry Heller and former select board member **Pamela Dunning** collected the most votes with 357 and 311, respectively. Incumbent Dusty Jones received 276 votes.

York: Incumbent **Robert Palmer, Jr.** and newcomer **Marla Johnson** held off a third candidate to win two open seats on the select board. Palmer received 1,354 votes, followed by Johnson with 1,295. The third candidate collected 684 votes. Johnson is the former chairperson of the town budget committee. She replaces Kinley Gregg, who did not seek re-election. 🏔️

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Municipal Human Resources Functions

Municipalities of all populations are turning to HR experts to relieve some of the burden foisted onto other staff.

By Stephanie Bouchard

Maine communities are increasingly adding HR directors to their staffs, says Christie Young, human resources director for Gorham and president of the Maine Local Government Human Resources Association, an affiliate of the Maine Municipal Association.

While the rationale for hiring an HR director varies from community to community, at the top of the list are the increasing complexities of rules and regulations that impact human resources matters and the difficulties of recruiting employees, she says.

For a long time, many communities, especially smaller ones, have felt they could get by with a human resources director slash assistant to the town manager, she says, but the environment has changed, and the pressures have increased across the board.

“I think a lot of times there are employees who do a really good job wearing multiple hats, and it appears like they can just do it all,” she says. “So maybe since things are going so well, there doesn’t appear to be a need for having a separate HR, but I would venture that those employees are probably feeling pretty overwhelmed, and I think when you spread employees too thin, they’re not being as effective as they could be if there were more support. I think HR can just help alleviate some of the pressure from other positions while improving the compliance and all of that.”

That’s exactly how Sarah Gilbert and Jake Wright saw it. Like in many towns and cities across Maine, Wright and Gilbert were doing double-duty. In addition to their primary roles, Wright, Mt. Desert’s finance director, and Gilbert, Bar Harbor’s treasurer (and currently also the interim town manager), were also handling unofficial human resources management roles, even though neither had HR backgrounds.

While each was managing the additional HR responsibilities, they both recognized that their towns really needed an HR professional.

“We knew we could do better,” Gilbert says. “HR kind of lived in the finance office because we process payroll. We’re accountants. (HR’s) not our expertise. . . . We (did)

the best that we could (but for) some things we don’t know what we don’t know.”

In the course of the 18 years Gilbert has worked for the town of Bar Harbor, hiring a human resources director came up repeatedly. For budgetary reasons, the needed position always got cut. But with the complexity of employment regulations and the unprecedented difficulties of hiring new employees, human resources pressures increased.

Bar Harbor and Mt. Desert already had in place cooperative employee sharing agreements for other departments. Since the HR needs of each town were similar, Wright and Gilbert proposed to their towns a 60/40 sharing agreement for an HR director. Bar Harbor would hire an HR director who would work for the town 60% of the time, and contract out to Mt. Desert for the remainder.

“We have lots of sharing agreements with Bar Harbor, and (they have) worked out really well,” says Wright. “The benefit to both Mt. Desert and Bar Harbor (is) we’re able to access employees that are really only achievable through full-time employment.”

Both towns approved the arrangement and were able to hire an HR professional – Zach Harris – with municipal experience who started working for the towns late last fall. The two towns saw immediate results, say Wright and Gilbert.

“He’s been doing a really good job of coming in, taking stock of current policies, procedures, comparing them with best practices,” says Wright. “And there were things that were on his radar that weren’t maybe on mine, such as there’s a grant program through the state that reimburses towns for a portion of training costs and he immediately got us hooked in with that.”

Besides doing the day-to-day tasks of HR management and being an employee resource, Harris is doing strategic thinking, too, says Gilbert, such as determining how to streamline the payroll and time and attendance processes. “He’s got experience with that. We’ve always wanted to do it, but we just haven’t had the time or we just haven’t had the \$15,000 (to contract out that work).”

Strategic thinking is another reason communities are considering hiring HR directors, says Christie Young. HR

About the Author: Stephanie Bouchard is a freelance writer from Nobleboro and regular contributor to *Maine Town & City*, stephanie@stephaniebouchard.net.

professionals are “going to be interested in contributing to the organization at a strategic level and helping to move the organization forward instead of just maintaining,” she says.

This is a crucial resource to have in today’s tough employee recruitment environment. Having someone who can analyze market trends, for example, can help towns determine what benefits or work environments potential employees are attracted to so they can come up with what’s needed to gain employees and keep them, she says.

Having an HR director is vital to the Cumberland County town of Raymond, said Don Willard, the town manager. Being an hour away from Portland puts the town in one of the most competitive employee markets in the state. “I’ve been a town manager for over 40 years in Maine. I’ve never seen an environment like (the) one we’re in now: shortage of candidates, fierce competition between towns for quality people,” he says. “I think having an up-to-date HR effort helps with the recruiting certainly, and it also helps with gauging where we are competitively amongst the other towns in our labor market and region. . . . It’s a dog-eat-dog world out there, and trying to attract the best people and retain them is essential to community success.”

Every town understands the need for good human resources management, but hiring an HR director is often not financially possible nor may it be needed. A trend Betsy Oulton, a Yarmouth-based HR consultant who was once the HR director in Kittery, sees is smaller communities hiring an HR generalist to do the day-to-day administration and paperwork and then contract with HR consultants, such as herself, or with labor lawyers for higher-level concerns, such as union negotiations or workplace investigations.

Outsourcing can be costly, but it can fill a void, notes Young. “I think as with any service that you hire an outside consultant or contractor to manage versus doing it internally, there’s a cost analysis that is involved,” she says.

But the analysis should go beyond dollars, she and Oulton say. Thinking about the following will help you

determine whether hiring someone might make good sense for your community:

- How many employees do you have? How many seasonal employees?
- What, if any, issues have arisen in the last few years from the standpoint of the number of employee grievances?
- Who’s handling HR functions and do those people (or that person) have the bandwidth to do their main role effectively and the additional HR role?
- Are you able to stay on top of changing employment rules and regulations?
- Have there been any human rights claims?
- Have there been any legal issues relating to employees?
- Are your job descriptions up-to-date?
- Are your policies up-to-date?
- Are you following all your collective bargaining agreements?
- Have there been safety issues?
- Are trainings, including safety, getting done?
- Is there a really high workers’ compensation rate because no one’s really focusing on safety?
- Are you paying more for benefits than maybe you need to because no one’s there to keep track of and go out to bid for different vendors?
- How much time is it taking your non-HR staff members to handle HR-related tasks?
- How well trained are your other staff to handle the various human resources type functions?
- Are you staying abreast of recruitment trends and best practices? Are you able to develop recruitment and retention strategies?
- If you’re currently contracting out, what’s the quality of the service that you’re receiving? Do employees feel like they have someone they can go to with the day-to-day needs and questions? 🏔️

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the Municipal

RISK MANAGER

A PUBLICATION OF THE MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

JULY 2023

RMS Property & Casualty Claims Team

The Risk Management Services Property & Casualty Claims Team (P&C Claims Team) is comprised of dedicated licensed adjusters that have a focus on municipal/governmental claims management. The P&C Claims Team administers all claims filed by our members, whether for property owned by our members, or for claims made against them by others. Currently we are handling over 500 open claims, and this is our slow time of year. During the winter months, our open claims increase dramatically due to the adverse weather conditions that we all experience by living in our great state.



Displayed left to right, Peter Tanous, Randa Veilleux, Debra Marquis, Colette Robbins, and Nick McDaniels

A typical day for the property claims involves the handling of collision losses for autos and mobile equipment, damage to municipal buildings and damage to other property such as light poles, monuments, electric vehicle charging stations and other scheduled property. We also administer E-Commerce extortion or computer virus losses. Debra Marquis, our Property Adjuster, is also available to assist you with recovering your deductible when loss to your property is the fault of another party.

Casualty losses include auto liability losses and when members of the public are injured or receive damage that they believe a member is legally responsible for covering Law Enforcement claims for excessive force or wrongful arrest along

with employment practices claims for wrongful termination or other civil rights violations should be sent to us as soon as you are aware a claim may be filed. Don't forget to send us any civil complaints filed against you, the entity, and/or any complaints filed with the Maine Human Rights Commission. We are always willing to review such matters for potential coverage with the Pool.

Who we are:

Randa Veilleux – P&C Assistant Claims Manager

Randa has worked at MMA for 23 years, 20 of which has been with the P&C Team handling claims. Randa started out with MMA as a file clerk, transitioned to handling property losses for our members, and then began handling liability claims. Randa was promoted to supervise the P&C Department in December of 2022.

Colette Robbins – Senior Claims Representative

Colette has worked with the P&C Team for 22 years and handles casualty claims in the southern tier of the State, from Kittery up to the Portland area. Colette's previous industry experience includes Patrons-Oxford and Middlesex Mutual.

Peter Tanous – Senior Claims Representative

Peter has worked with the P&C Team for 16 years and handles casualty claims. He had 10 years previous insurance industry experience at Sedgwick Claims Management and Peerless. Peter's territory includes Portland north to the Waterville area.

Debra Marquis – Senior Claims Representative

Debra has worked with the P&C Team for 21 years. She handles property claims for all our members. This includes damage claims to autos, mobile equipment and member-owned buildings and equipment for the entire state of Maine.

Nick McDaniels – Claims Representative

Nick is our newest employee in the Property and Casualty Pool, joining the team in February 2023. Nick's previous experience includes working with the National Credit Union Administration and has his master's in finance. Nick's territory begins in the Waterville area and extends West, North and East to the entire Canadian border.

The Property & Casualty Pool Claims Team is always happy to visit with you in person, or remotely, to provide a claims review or best practices presentation. Simply reach out to your assigned Claims Representative to schedule.

Risk Management's Loss Control Department Takes on Pests and Poisonous Plants at 30th Annual Highway Congress

Maine Municipal Association's Risk Management Services Loss Control Department braved brown tail moths, blood-thirsty ticks, and blistering heat at this year's 30th Annual Highway Congress on June 1st...although the only clear and present danger that day was the 90 degree plus heat. The brown tail moths and ticks were only seen on banners hanging from the pop-up shelter being manned by members of the Loss Control Team, consisting of Dan Whittier, Kyle Sheridan, Jim Toman, and Jason Johnson.

Over 200 attendees picked up informational packets from the MMA booth and 161 entered the drawing for two gift cards. The free tick spoons – which allow a user to easily pull off an attached tick – were extremely popular with many attendees asking if they could grab two or more for use at home as well as at work.

It may come as a surprise to learn that Maine has tied with Pennsylvania in second place for the highest rates of Lyme disease. Ticks are opportunistic as they will climb on to tall grass or brush and wait for an animal (or person) to come by and will attach themselves for a meal. While Lyme disease may be the best-known tick-borne disease, ticks can also carry a number of other diseases including Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis.

Brown tail moths became more well known a few years back when the population in the mid-coast area suddenly exploded. Accidentally introduced to

Massachusetts in 1897, brown tail moths spread throughout all New England and into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia before natural controls limited the population to Cape Cod and some off-shore Maine islands by the 1960s. However, in recent years, the moth population soared and can now be found along most of Maine's coast to 60 miles or so inland. The hairs on the caterpillars (larval stage) of the brown tail moth can cause severe rashes with some people.

Fortunately for Loss Control no pests were on site, but the crew did have to deal with an unusually warm day with the thermometer eventually climbing to 91 degrees...which made Loss Control's message on how to beat the heat especially relevant at this year's Highway Congress.



First started in 1992, the Highway Congress is sponsored by the Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association. Public Works employees spend the day attending safety training, trying out equipment, and meeting vendors. A highlight of the event is the SnowPlow Rodeo where drivers maneuver a snowplow along a road course, skirting parked cars, fire hydrants, mailboxes, and other obstacles.

For MMA's Loss Control Department, the Highway Congress is an opportunity to provide a focus on a topic of importance. With the tick population booming this year, Loss Control opted to focus on ticks and brown tail moths along with information on poisonous plants and working in the summertime heat.

MEMBERS RECEIVE DIVIDENDS

All of us at MMA Risk Management Services would like to recognize the extraordinary risk management efforts of our membership and thank them for their continued commitment.

We are pleased to announce that the Property & Casualty Pool and Workers' Compensation Fund have approved the issuance of dividends to eligible members. Since 1997, the Property & Casualty Pool and Workers' Compensation Fund have returned more than \$27

million in dividends to participating members. The dividend checks will be distributed late this summer.

For more information about any of the MMA Risk Management Services programs, including dividend distributions, online training programs, grants, scholarships and other available services, please visit www.memun.org and click on the Risk Management Services link, or call 1800-590-5583 and ask to speak with RMS Member Services representative.

Proud to Fund Exclusive Grant Opportunities to Property & Casualty Pool Members

MMA Risk Management Service is pleased to provide members of the Property & Casualty Pool the **Risk Reduction Grant Program (RRGP)**. The RRGP is offered to assist members by providing financial support for the reduction of liability and property exposures. The implementation of effective risk management and loss control techniques are primary steps in the development of a successful safety culture and the protection of your entity. Therefore, we are excited to award eligible members 100% reimbursement for up to \$3,000 for the purchase of:

- Eligible Grant Purchase Suggestions.
- Moisture Detection Alarms.
- Automatic Water Shut Offs.
- Stair and Emergency Lighting.
- Temperature Warning Alarms.
- Security Cameras.
- Motion Detection Devices.
- Vehicle Backup Cameras.
- Cyber Security Equipment.
- Liability Training.
- Generators.
- Slip Resistance Surfacing.



Submissions must demonstrate a proactive approach to mitigate property and liability losses and grants must be submitted by September 15th (only one grant submission per year).

For more information contact MMA Risk Management Services:
safetygrants@memun.org | (800) 590-5583 | www.memun.org



The Municipal Risk Manager

The Municipal Risk Manager is published seasonally to inform members of developments in municipal risk management which may be of interest to you in your daily business activities. The information in these articles is general in nature and should not be considered advice for any specific risk management or legal question; you should consult with legal counsel or other qualified professional of your own choice.

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Editor: Marcus Ballou

Layout Designer: Sue Bourdon

P.O. Box 9109, Augusta, ME 04332 | 800-590-5583 or (207) 626-5583

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the MLEAP Grant?

The Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (MLEAP) Grant awards up to \$5,000 to develop nationally recognized procedures and training. The MLEAP Grant is created to encourage MMA Property & Casualty Pool Member Law Enforcement Agencies to have Standard Operation Procedures and relevant training specific to their Agency; and to support those Agencies that want to improve policy management and officer training; and to achieve certification in the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

GRANT AWARD

The grant awards up to \$5,000 of which \$2,500 is initially granted upon award and proof of contract with outside agency and a second installment of \$2,500 at end of award period once prerequisites are achieved. This will allow the agency to contract with an outside vendor who can assist with, review, update and develop agency specific policies.

Note: Agencies that are MLEAP certified are eligible for up to 15% credit on the Law Enforcement Liability contribution with your participation in the MMA Property & Casualty Pool.

ELIGIBILITY

All MMA Property & Casualty Pool members with a Law Enforcement Agency are eligible to participate. The Law Enforcement Agency must be a current Member of the Pool on or before July 1, 2023.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications will be accepted until August 1, 2023. Application should be electronically submitted to safetygrants@memun.org with "Law Enforcement Grant Submission" in the subject line of the email.

For more information or to apply for the MLEAP Grant, please visit: memun.org/Risk-Management/Grants-Scholarships/Law-Enforcement-Grant

(Please note that a login is required to access)



MMA Employee Health Trust stable, reliable as it marks 40th anniversary.

By Liz Mockler

Don Gerrish has served as a trustee of the Maine Municipal Employee Health Trust (MMEHT) since its inception 40 years ago this year. He sees a bright horizon for the Trust, established to provide quality health care coverage and to control the rate of increase in costs for municipal employees.

"It amazes me, too," Gerrish said of serving on the Board of Trustees since the organization's inception in 1983. He said he's never served on a better board.

"It's the best (board) I've been on in my municipal experience," said Gerrish, who managed the towns of Gorham and Brunswick for a combined 30 years and now works as a consultant to municipalities. He has sometimes worked as an interim manager while helping a council or select board find a permanent replacement.

"I think it's been a major benefit to communities," Gerrish said of the board. "We've done a great job trying to help out communities and organizations. It's just a great group of people."

In a recent email exchange, Gerrish talked about the importance of the trust, its effectiveness and why it's prepared for the future.



formed and Steve Gove, then director of the Health Trust, for leading the Trust through its early years.

Q What do you credit its success?

Gerrish: The MMEHT staff, the benefit advisors, actuary, legal advisors and trustees are all committed to providing a quality health-related insurance program at a reasonably affordable cost and effectively works together for the best interest of the Trust.

Q How can you offer stable rates with increases lower than the market?

Gerrish: Over the years, the Trust has built up significant reserves to assist in managing premium rate increases in what has become a highly volatile industry. The Trust attempts to stabilize rate increases over the long term so that participants are not subject to double digit premium increases in any given year.

Q Has there been any major changes over the decades to the way the Trust operates?

Gerrish: The Trust has continually reviewed changes in the Health Insurance Market and has added additional plan options for participants and added options like vision insurance, dental insurance, and short-term disability as choices.

Q What is the Trust doing to try and control health care costs?

Gerrish: The Health Trust is a member of the Health-care Purchaser Alliance of Maine, which is represented by many of the other major health care purchasing groups within the state. This allows us to benchmark our program with the other large groups and to focus on strategies to control health care costs in critical ar-

Q What was the impetus for creating the Health Trust?

Gerrish: In the mid to late 1970s, the MMA established a group purchasing program for municipalities to acquire health insurance coverage for their employees at a cost-effective premium. The establishment of the Health Trust was to allow for a self-insured program to be formed under state and federal guidelines so that any savings could stay within the group rather than being controlled by insurance companies. Chris Lockwood, MMA executive director at the time, deserves credit for his guidance and leadership in getting the Trust

About the Author: Liz Mockler is a freelance writer from Newport and regular contributor to Maine Town & City, lizmockler@hotmail.com.

eas such as specialty drugs. In addition, our wellness program helps us to focus on the high-cost areas like cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Q How important are education and preventive care?

Gerrish: The Trust's health program is instrumental in helping the employers and employees in the Trust to provide healthy lifestyles for all participants. This reduces the amount of sick days for employers and the overall cost of health care for both employer and employees.

Q How do you provide "exceptional" service to municipal employees?

Gerrish: One of our top priorities is to provide exceptional service to our participants. The Health Trust staff is dedicated to resolving any and all issues which participants are faced with in a complicated health care environment. Our team of member service representatives are constantly being praised by members for their responsiveness, knowledge and success in answering questions and resolving issues. This excellent customer service sets us apart from any other insurer.

Q You offer health promotion and wellness programs. Have they been successful?

Gerrish: The wellness programs have been very successful and receive great reviews by its participants.

Even during the period of the pandemic, online programs were offered and well received by all participants.

Q What does the future look like for the Trust?

Gerrish: The Health Trust will undoubtedly face many challenges in the future with the increasing cost of prescription drugs; the reduction in the number of primary care providers within the state; managing the impact of any state and federal legislation that is enacted; and the overall shifting of cost by medical providers. However, the MMEHT is well positioned to address these issues with an adequate reserve that has been built over the years to offset the negative impact of any of the aforementioned issues. 🏔️



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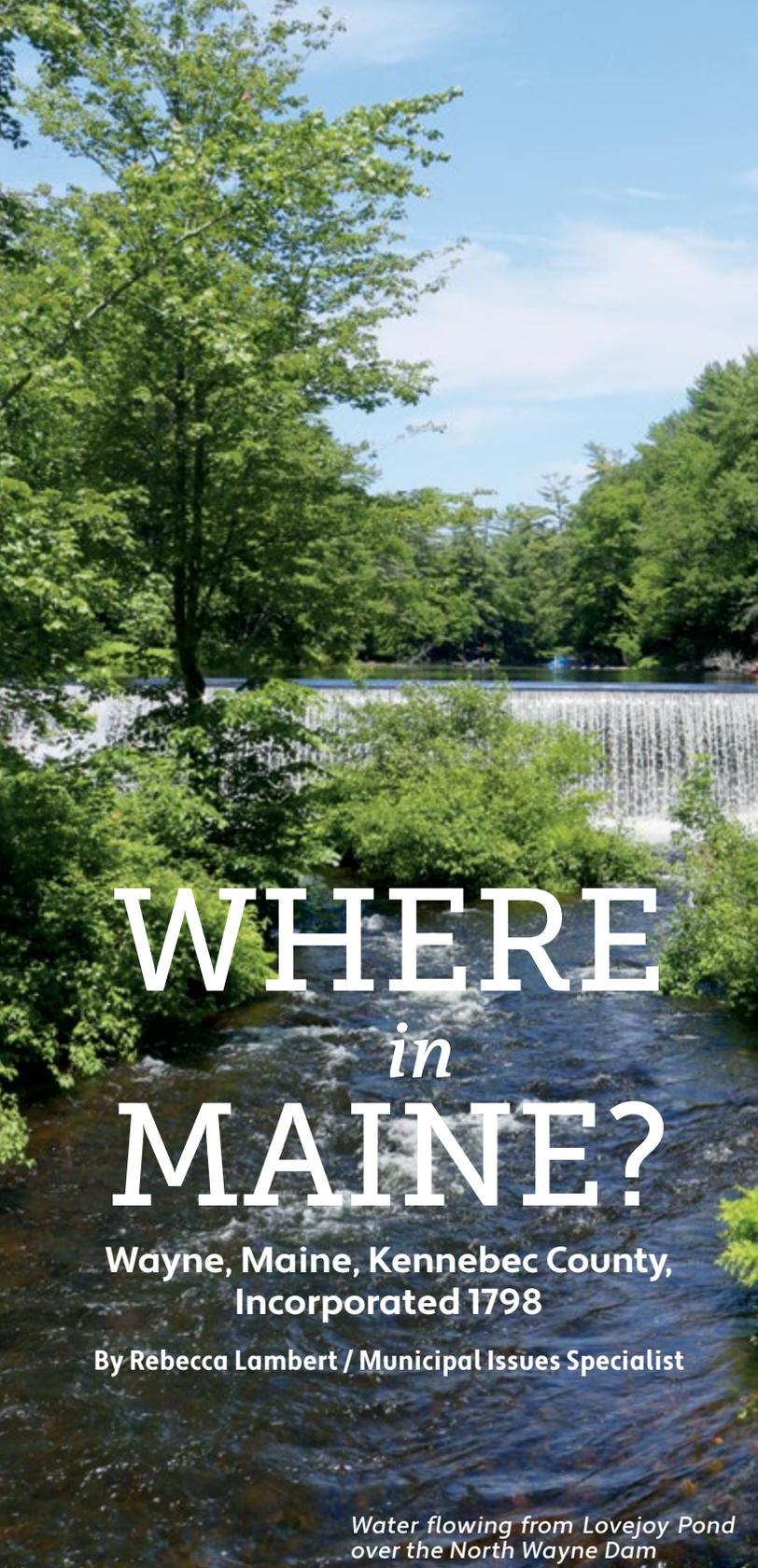
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WHERE *in* MAINE?

**Wayne, Maine, Kennebec County,
Incorporated 1798**

By Rebecca Lambert / Municipal Issues Specialist

*Water flowing from Lovejoy Pond
over the North Wayne Dam*

The “Where in Maine” series will showcase the more whimsical sides of our communities. One city or town from each of the counties in Maine will be explored focusing on their vibrant downtowns, historical landmarks, and other places, as well as the things that make each Maine town or city unique.

Photos in this series by Rebecca Lambert, MMA

Nestled in the most western part of Kennebec County, between Pocasset and Androscoggin Lakes, sits the charming little downtown of Wayne. Antique shops, gourmet foods and crafters’ shops line the street offering a walkable downtown community with a general store, quaint parks with water views and an ice cream shop. Incorporated in 1798 and named after Revolutionary War hero, General Anthony Wayne, this small, quintessential Maine town, has a substantial summer population and represents Maine with a rich history, a treasured library, and a vibrant and passionate community.

Spanning approximately 25 square miles, Wayne boasts water frontage on several different bodies of water. All these bodies of water are part of the Thirty Mile River, which is a chain of lakes, ponds, and rivers used by Native Americans and early pioneers traveling down the Androscoggin River to the Sandy River Valley, and include: Androscoggin Lake, Pocasset Lake, Pickerel Pond, Wilson Pond, Lovejoy Pond, Berry Pond, and Dexter Pond along with several rivers and streams, making it a popular destination to recreate in any season.

In 1909, residents noticed the increased usage of Pocasset and Androscoggin Lakes for recreational purposes and felt the need to protect and encourage these activities. The idea of a yacht club was born to help ensure access and fish and game in and around the waters were protected, while also being an attractive addition to the town. With support from the townspeople the Androscoggin Yacht Club was built, and the first regatta was held in 1910.

The club struggled financially during World War II, but has managed to survive for over a century, with membership growing particularly in the last 40 years. In the summer, sailing lessons are available but are on hold for the 2023 season unless they can find a sailing instructor. Swimming lessons are also available to members and nonmembers. Nonmembers can schedule lessons through the Ladd Recreation Center.

The Ladd Recreation Center was a gift to the town of Wayne from residents George and Helen Ladd. The Ladd’s were a quiet couple who were devoted to family and had a special sense of responsibility for the common life. They deeply cared about their community and selflessly gave their time to countless efforts in life, were passionate about the activities of young people and were strong partisans for the performing arts.

This gracious gift has enhanced the lives of students and will continue to do so for generations.

With the yacht club and later the Ladd Center fulfilling recreational needs, a small group of residents came together to form the Cary Memorial Library in the 1880s, which operated out of private homes until getting a permanent home in 1938.

The library is a staple in the community and carries approximately 11,000 titles at any given time. It also belongs to the Maine Regional Library Service, which is a service that links libraries across the state. You can browse for, and reserve materials using this service and pick them up at the local library near you. Along with books and magazines, the library offers five computer terminals with wi-fi and a printer to use. In an area underserved by internet access, you can often find people parked in the parking lot when the library is closed to take advantage of their strong wi-fi signal.

The Friends of the Library is an active volunteer group whose fundraising efforts support the operation of and the programming at the library. Their efforts have provided financial assistance for a major renovation in 2013 that included handicapped access throughout the building and climate controls. The library was also able to purchase the Williams House located across the street, which provides the community with a space to hold auctions, public lectures, and meetings of all sorts.

If all this reading and recreation has made you feel famished, there are a few options to satiate your hunger. The Wayne General Store is a small community store and cafe where you can find a little bit of everything. Fresh breads and pastries, sandwiches, and breakfast can be purchased alongside a souvenir "Where the hell is Wayne, Maine" t-shirt or a pack of local craft beer.

Not digging a café? Head over to what is probably the most popular spot in town, Tubby's Own Ice Cream. For over 20 years Tubby's has been making their own ice cream, hot fudge, and toppings from scratch. With several flavors to choose from, you are bound to find one that suits your palate. They also offer food items such as infamous lobster rolls and lobster stew, other sandwiches, and a foot long hot dog to name a few.

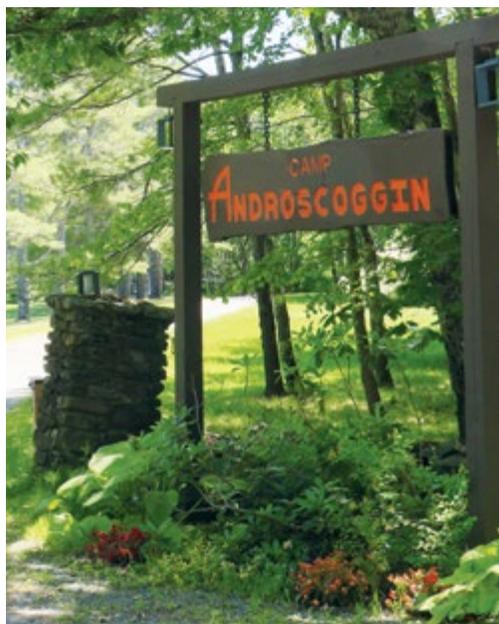
In the name of research, I am happy to report that their sea salt caramel m'oreo flavor was delicious and their homemade chocolate sprinkles were divine.

While enjoying ice cream, you can walk along the village dam or sit by the pond. After you are finished, there are antiques shops and a gourmet food store to peruse.

When venturing away from the village area you will find another local commodity, Stevenson's Strawberry Farm where people gather to not only pick strawberries, or peas when in season, they also



Androscoggin Yacht Club: A member organization dedicated to promoting recreation for people of all ages



Camp Androscoggin: An all-boy summer camp for both national and international campers, one of the oldest summer camps in the state.



A staple in the community in the heart of the village area, the Wayne General Store has a little something for everyone who stops in.

go to share recipes or chat with a neighbor or new friend they just met. Scattered around the area you will find their farm stands where they sell picked strawberries in addition to fresh vegetables, baked goods and other items from local farms and shops.

As you can imagine, they are a major contributor and supporter of the Wayne Strawberry Festival that occurs every July. This year will mark the 20th year of the festival.

There are endless spots to hang out by the water. One popular area is at the North Wayne dam, next to an old brick building that used to be the town office. On any sunny summer day, you will find people splashing in the cool water to escape from the summer heat and humidity. Likewise, in the village area, behind Tubby's, is another well attended hangout spot to cool off.

Wayne is home to one all boy summer camp that is open to campers aged 8 to 15 from national and international locations. Sessions include activities you would assume to find at a summer camp like swimming, fishing, and kayaking, but these campers also get to compete against other camps in sports tournaments, such as baseball, basketball or soccer or participate in a plethora of arts and craft options and culminates with a talent show at the end of the camping session.

According to Wikipedia, John F. Kennedy, Jr. and Robert Kraft, the owner of the New England

Patriots, are alumnus of Camp Androscoggin, as is Jeffery Lurie, the owner of the Philadelphia Eagles. The Wikipedia page cheekily points out that Camp Androscoggin alumni have won seven Superbowl's as NFL owners.

Not only are there things to do in the summer, though one must admit summer in Maine is sublime, Wayne has an active snowmobile club, Thirty Mile Snowmobile Club, and the bodies of water in the area are ripe for ice fishing. For those partial to snowshoeing or cross-country skiing, there are several trails and lakes to use.

Several businesses offer open houses near the holidays that help to keep the sense of community alive during the darkness of winter. The Wayne Community Church publishes a newsletter year-round (available online) with updates on events happening within the community, business listings, and other community news. Of course, the library is always a warm place to gather for those wanting to escape the winter weather and the library annex, the Williams House, hosts meetings, lectures, poetry readings, and other events.

Regardless of the weather, Wayne is a beautiful Maine town overflowing with culture, history, and beauty (and really good ice cream!) Whatever season you enjoy, it would be worth the trip to explore all that this bucolic town has to offer you. 🏡



This small brick building is located next to the North Wayne Dam and used to be the town office.

Tubby's Own Ice Cream and the Wayne Post Office sit next to each other in the village area of Wayne.



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Town Manager - Madison

Start Date: June 16, 2023 | End Date: September 16, 2023

County: Somerset County

Job Type: Manager

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TRAINING CALENDAR

Maine Municipal Association & Affiliates

JULY

7/12	Wed.	MTCCA Licensing Workshop	Augusta - MMA	MTCCA
7/13	Thurs.	MBOIA July Membership Meeting & Training	Augusta - MMA	MBOIA
7/18	Tues.	MMTCTA I've Got The Job - Now What? Workshop	Augusta - MMA	MMTCTA
7/19	Wed.	Elected Officials Workshop	Zoom Webinar 4:00-7:30pm	MMA
7/26	Wed.	MTCCA Municipal Law for Clerks	Augusta - MMA with Zoom Webinar	MTCCA

AUGUST

8/2	Wed.	Understanding the Freedom of Access Act	Zoom Webinar	MMA
8/9-11	Wed.-Fri.	MTCMA 77th New England Management Institute	Carrabassett Valley - Sugarloaf Mountain	MTCMA
8/15	Tues.	Planning Board/Boards of Appeal	Presque Isle - The Northeastland Hotel	MMA
8/16 & 17	Wed. -Thurs.	MTCCA New Clerks Workshop	Day 1: Augusta - MMA (full day) Day 2: Zoom Webinar (half day)	MMA MTCCA
8/17 - 18	Thur.-Fri.	MMTCTA Governmental Accounting	Orono - Black Bear Inn	MMTCTA
8/23	Wed.	Becoming an Empowered Leader of DEI (this 25-person max co-hort group will meet 4 times, on 8/23, 9/19, 10/18 and 11/13; those that register must commit to the full program).	Augusta - MMA	MMA
8/30 & 8/31	Wed-Thurs.	Athenian Dialogue: Destiny of the Republic	Zoom Meeting	MTCCA

SEPTEMBER

Sept. TBD	Fri.	MCAPWA Golf Tournament	Cumberland - Val Halla	MCAPWA
9/6	Wed.	Elected Officials Workshop	Bar Harbor - Atlantic Oceanside Hotel	MMA
9/7	Thurs.	MMTCTA Payroll Law	Waterville - Elk's Lodge	MMTCTA
9/10-13	Sun.-Wed.	NESGFOA 76th Annual Fall Conference	Rockport - Samoset Resort	MEGFOA
9/12	Tues.	MTCCA 28th Networking Day & Annual Business Meeting	Augusta Civic Center	MTCCA
9/13	Wed.	Mental Health First Aid	Augusta - MMA	MMA
9/14	Thurs.	Verbal Judo for the Contact Professional - 1 DAY	Bangor - Hilton Garden Inn	MMA
9/19	Tues.	Becoming an Empowered Leader of DEI (this 25-person max co-hort group will meet 4 times, on 8/23, 9/19, 10/18 and 11/13; those that register must commit to the full program).	Lewiston - TBA	MMA
9/19	Tues.	MTCCA Title 21A - State Election Law	Presque Isle - Northern Maine Community College	MTCCA
9/19-9/21	Tues.-Fri	MCAPWA Supervisory Leadership in Public Works Program - Part II	Fairfield - MDOT Training Center	MCAPWA
9/21	Thurs.	MTCCA Title 21A - State Election Law	Augusta Civic Center	MTCCA
9/21	Thurs.	MBOIA September Membership Meeting & Training	Portland - Clarion Inn	MBOIA
9/22	Fri.	MWDA GA Basics	Augusta - MMA	MWDA
9/27-9/29	Wed-Fri.	MAAO Fall Conference	Sebasco - Sebasco Harbor Resort	MAAO

OCTOBER

10/4-5	Wed.-Thurs.	87th Annual MMA Convention	Augusta Civic Center	MMA
10/12	Thurs.	Planning Board/Boards of Appeal	Augusta - MMA	MMA
10/17-18	Tues.-Wed.	MCAPWA Supervisory Leadership in Public Works Program - Part I	Fairfield - MDOT Training Center	MCAPWA

10/18	Wed.	Becoming an Empowered Leader of DEI (this 25-person max co-hort group will meet 4 times, on 8/23, 9/19, 10/18 and 11/13; those that register must commit to the full program).	Zoom Webinar	MMA
10/19	Thurs.	MMTCTA Municipal Law for Tax Collectors & Treasurers	Augusta - MMA	MMTCTA
10/20	Fri.	MWDA Advanced GA	Augusta - MMA	MWDA
10/24	Tues.	Labor & Employment Law	Augusta - MMA with Zoom Webinar	MMA
10/24	Tues.	MBOIA MUBEC Training	Portland - Clarion Inn	MBOIA
10/25	Wed.	MBOIA MUBEC Training	Brewer - Jeff's Catering	MBOIA
10/26	Thurs.	MBOIA MUBEC Training	Waterville - Waterville Elks Lodge	MBOIA
10/27	Fri.	MBOIA MUBEC Training	Waterville - Waterville Elks Lodge	MBOIA

NOVEMBER

11/6	Mon.	Advanced Excel Training	Augusta - MMA	MAAO
11/9	Thurs.	MMTCTA Municipal Law for Tax Collectors & Treasurers	Zoom Webinar	MMTCTA
11/13	Mon.	Becoming an Empowered Leader of DEI (this 25-person max co-hort group will meet 4 times, on 8/23, 9/19, 10/18 and 11/13; those that register must commit to the full program).	Augusta - MMA	MMA
11/16	Thurs.	The ABCs of Assessing - for Non Assessors	Zoom Webinar	MMA
11/28	Tues.	Elected Officials Workshop	Zoom Webinar	MMA



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Stephan Bunker

Stephan Bunker Farmington firefighter, Vice Chair of the Select Board, and past president of the Maine Municipal Association has been named Maine Humanitarian of the Year by the American Legion, Department of Maine. The award recognizes Bunker's extensive volunteer service, in addition to his regular work in the firefighting and emergency medical response field in Farmington and Franklin County. Bunker has served 47 years in the Farmington Fire Department and a total of 30 years as a select board member. The Post 28 commander served in the U.S. Army as a military policeman and retired as a lieutenant commander with the U.S. Coast Guard.



Angie Crosby

Angie Crosby has been named Belfast city clerk after serving as deputy clerk for eight years. She replaces **Amy Bradford**, who was promoted to finance director in April. Crosby was unanimously selected by a search committee from a pool of 34 applicants.

Wilton Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief **Tom Doak** was honored recently as he stepped down after 40 years of service to the town's fire service, and 25 years as a member of the Rangeley Fire Department. Doak, 81, also served in emergency medicine for 25 years and was a paramedic when he retired. Doak and his father joined 14 others to establish the Rangeley Volunteer Ambulance service. His career began at age 16 in 1967.



Tom Doak



Charles Frazier

Town Manager **Charles Frazier**, who has been instrumental in outlining a plan for the future of Enfield, resigned effective July 6 to join his wife at Frazier Signal Technologies. Frazier, who has a law enforcement and management background, has served as Enfield manager for five years. He was recognized as a creative thinker and problem solver for

the Penobscot County town of 1,600.

Interim Portland Police Chief **Heath Gorham** retired last month, after leading the department since November 2021 following the resignation of **Frank Clark**, who held the position for two years before taking a private



Mark Dubois

sector security job. Clark joined the department in 2001. If confirmed by the city council, **Mark Dubois**, who is currently Braintree Massachusetts' police chief, will start work on July 31.

Recently retired **Rhonda Irish** is back for a second town manager stint in Livermore Falls following the early June resignation of **Amanda Allen**. Irish served as Wilton town manager from 2009 to 2022, when she retired. She agreed to serve while the board searches for a permanent manager.

The 2023 Maine EMS Governor's Award has been awarded to **Tom Judge**, founder and executive director of LifeFlight of Maine, and to **Dr. Norm Dinerman**, founder and medical director for the helicopter service that provides statewide air assistance to Maine's first responders. The coveted governor's award recognizes exceptional contributions to the EMS system at both the state and national levels. LifeFlight has worked alongside local and state fire and police first responders for 25 years. It has flown 36,000 patients to emergency medical centers and is the state's only emergency air ambulance service. Additionally, LifeFlight is launching a new statewide critical care ground transport program in the summer of 2024.



David Morton

David Morton, who spent his entire 31-year municipal career managing the Town of Casco, died at home on June 25 at the age of 68. Morton suffered from a rare and aggressive type of kidney cancer. Morton was born in Portland but grew up in Windham. He earned a degree in sociology and political science from the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham. Morton was hired as Casco's first-ever full-time manager at the tender age of 22. He was respected for his work ethic, knowledge, leadership and honesty over his long career in the Cumberland County town of 4,000. Morton, who considered the outdoor his first passion, is believed to be the longest-serving manager in one town in Maine history. Morton died surrounded by his family, who were camped out on the living room floor.

The Limestone select board has hired a real estate manager to assume town manager duties after losing 11 managers over seven years. Board members said they have faith that **Alvin Lam's** experience in real estate, his enthusiasm for the job and his successful career will

serve the town well. Lam, who offered to donate his entire \$80,000 salary with the stipulation that he can decide where the money goes, will replace **Walt Elliot**, interim town manager.



Galen Larrabee

Galen Larrabee, longtime Knox selectman, died in mid-June at the age of 74. A dairy farmer and singer, Larrabee served on the select board for 24 years. He served on numerous boards over the years, including the Maine Municipal Association’s Executive and Legislative Policy Committee. Select board members said

Larrabee accomplished much for the town, particularly road work, and that his institutional knowledge will be missed.



Roger Taschereau

Roger Taschereau, former Arundel public works director, retired in April after nearly 44 years of dedicated service to the town. From 1979 to 1990, Taschereau served as a member of the select board. When the town lost its road foreman in 1990, he resigned as selectperson to take the position. His title was changed to

public works director, and he held that position until his retirement. Town leaders said Taschereau saved the town untold money over the years because of his knowledge and talent.

Cape Elizabeth Deputy Fire Chief **Steve Young** has been named the town’s new fire chief, effective July 1. Young joined the department at age 16 in 1982. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1985 and deputy chief in 2009. Young served the Portland Fire Department for 28 years and has also worked as transportation director for the school department. He replaces Peter Gleeson, who retired on June 30 after 47 years with the town. He and Young were both feted during Gleeson’s retirement party, when Young was sworn in.



Anthony Wilson

Anthony Wilson is the new town manager of Winthrop, effective in June. He is the former manager of the Town of Belgrade nearby and communications director for the City of San Antonio, Texas. He takes over for interim manager Steve Eldridge, a retired veteran manager who has helped since February. 🏡

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STATEWIDE

Gov. Janet Mills announced in early June that the latest Land for Maine's Future purchase of thousands of acres over nine parcels will be funded with part of the \$40 million infused into the conservation effort by the Legislature and her administration. The money will fund 46 new projects, including nine key parcels in Brunswick, South Berwick, Rumford and in the counties of Franklin, Hancock, Somerset, Oxford and Waldo. The Land for Maine's Future program began purchasing property to preserve for public use in 1987 thanks to a \$35 million bond approved by Maine voters. Over the decades, the group has conserved 70 water access sites; 67 miles of shoreline on rivers, lakes and ponds; 41 farms; 69 miles of coastal access; and funded efforts to convert 158 miles of former railroad corridors into recreational trails.

HOULTON

As many as 80,000 visitors could overwhelm this town of 5,300 when the first total solar eclipse since 1963 occurs on April 8, 2024. Houlton is getting attention as an exceptional spot to watch the moon completely cover the sun, so local officials must plan for the onslaught. The Weather Channel is considering setting up a location for the event, which will be eight miles north of Houlton on U.S. Route 1. A town committee has been formed and is already making plans and anticipating the needs for

the event, still several months out. Those needs include food, lodging, bathrooms, police patrols and emergency routes, among others. The visitors are expected to stay in motels and hotels even hours away and drive to one of the best spots in Houlton to watch the earth plunge into darkness for 3.32 minutes. The committee is asking the public and churches to help feed the visitors – perhaps the biggest challenge along with lodging faced by the planners.

JAY

The town sustained major damage from a flash flood in late June, destroying roads and sewer lines that will cost \$4 million to repair or replace. Roads were washed out in the Franklin County town, as well as 1,300 feet of sewer lines. Five to six inches of rain poured over the region for two hours during the afternoon of June 29. The damage was evaluated last month by federal, state, county and local officials in order to release emergency money for the repairs. Franklin was the only county that sustained enough damage to reach the emergency threshold.

LISBON

The town of 9,000 was the only one in New England to be chosen this year to host the traveling Goldstar Tribute Wall. The wall commemorates the more than 7,000 soldiers who died in the Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan

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wars. The wall was escorted to the viewing site last month by a police escort and a ceremony was held with a color guard.

MEXICO

When the town's elementary school closes in 2025, it will become a municipal complex and include the town office, library and the recreation, police and fire departments. Officials say the only need will be an adjacent building to house firetrucks. The public works garage will remain at its present site. Voters had approved \$100,000 to buy land for a new fire station. The town is uncertain what it will do with the land, where some sitework has been done.

PORTLAND

It's no small feat to be the largest container ship ever berthed at the International Marine Terminal. But in early June, the Bakkafoss vessel from Iceland broke the record at 515 feet in length, more than 75 feet wide and weighing 11,000 tons. The ship was carrying all kinds of goods, including household items and food. Maine's only container port expects at least 36,700 shipping containers to arrive this year.

SACO

The Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) has been awarded a \$3 million grant to fund brownfield clean-up projects. The money will be used in the commission's revolving loan and grant program for the 39 municipalities served by the agency. Three projects are being eyed for work under the new grant award in Berwick, Biddeford, and Kittery. The federal funding is part of the infrastructure law passed in November 2021. The SMPDC was one of just nine agencies nationwide to receive the maximum grant under the brownfields program. The new award brings the total grant funding to \$13 million over the last 16 years. Cities and towns in York and Cumberland counties, as well as southern Oxford County, are served by SMPDC.

THOMASTON

Annual town meeting voters barely approved a proposal to allow a community health clinic to be built on the site of the former Maine State Prison. The vote was 159 to 155. The proposed Knox Clinic will be allowed to buy 1.5 acres of the 15-acre site for \$79,000. Voters in the past have rejected at least three proposals to reuse the property on Route 1

- including a request from Dollar General. Voters also approved two more "Thomaston Green" proposals; one to set aside 2.7 acres for the town's fire and ambulance departments and another to reserve the southern half of the green as a public park. Last year, voters rejected a ballot measure to conserve the entire 15 acres as green space.

TOPSHAM

The mid-coast town's fire and rescue department has won a \$60,000 state grant to provide paramedic-level, non-emergency care to residents in their homes. The program is expected to begin this month and take some of the stress off EMS responders who have been taking non-emergency calls in addition to their regular duties. The program will provide services to the underserved members of the town, officials said, such as elderly residents who cannot get to a doctor or hospital. The effort will include wellness checks, medication management, access to mental health services, vaccinations and more. A quarter of Topsham's population of 9,000 are age 65 or older. The grant was awarded by Maine Emergency Medical Services.

YORK

A critical upgrade of York's Long Sands Beach seawall will move forward after voters agreed to spend \$1.1 million for the next phase of the project to repair storm damage from 2017 and 2018. The work will protect the infrastructure along the popular beach. Plans call for construction of a new section of the seawall in a multiple-year effort to replace the entire wall. The new section is expected to better protect against storms and waves. 🏖️

Call for Contributions

MMA wants to help share your successes with municipal officials across the state. Please submit descriptions and photos of your events, promotions and festivities to Sue Bourdon (sbourdon@memun.org) or Kate Dufour (kdufour@memun.org).

Submissions will be published in a time sensitive and as space allows format.

Depending on the response, we may expand the selection of regular features published in the magazine.

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MAJOR CHANGES AHEAD FOR TAX-ACQUIRED PROPERTY SALES

A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision and new Maine legislation will require municipalities to implement major changes to their tax-acquired property sale procedures.

In *Tyler v. Hennepin County, Minnesota*, 143 S.Ct. 1369, decided May 25, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously held that a government likely violates the Takings Clause of the U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment when it sells tax-acquired property and keeps more sale proceeds than are owed in delinquent taxes, interest, costs.

In *Tyler*, a Minnesota County foreclosed on Geraldine Tyler's condominium for unpaid property taxes and later sold the property for more than she owed in back taxes. Like Maine's tax lien mortgage foreclosure law, Minnesota law allows the government to keep all proceeds from sales of tax-acquired property – which it did in Tyler's case. Tyler sued, claiming the County's action violated the Takings Clause of the U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment, which prohibits the government from taking property for public use without just compensation.

The Court agreed, holding that Tyler had a property interest in the "excess" equity, and that although the County had the right to foreclose on, seize and sell the property, it violated the Fifth Amendment when it retained sale proceeds above the amount Tyler owed.

The decision is significant because Maine law is similar to the Minnesota law considered in *Tyler*. As a result, it is now likely unconstitutional for Maine municipalities to retain "excess" proceeds of tax-acquired property sales.

The *Tyler* decision does NOT invalidate Maine's tax lien mortgage foreclosure statute or any municipal lien foreclosures; nor does it require changes to the lien process itself.

Immediately after the decision was announced, the Maine Legislature developed legislation to implement the Court's decision and to require the return of excess tax-acquired property sale proceeds to the former owner. The legislation was finalized June 30 and will significantly limit municipal sale procedures for tax-acquired property.

Currently, we recommend that municipal officials delay planned sales of tax-acquired property and that any proceeds of recent sales be held in a separate bookkeeping account until further guidance can be provided.

Look for updates from MMA Legal Services on this topic in the "Current Issues" section of our website (www.memun.org). In the meantime, please contact us at 800-452-8786 or legal@memun.org with any questions. (By S.F.P.)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLIANCE DELAYED

The July 1, 2023 deadline for municipalities to comply with most portions of the "Affordable Housing Law" enacted last year (a.k.a., LD 2003) has been extended. That legislation requires municipalities to relax density standards for affordable housing developments and requires that municipalities allow multiple dwelling units and accessory dwelling units in specified areas. See 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364 – 4364-C.

Emergency legislation (PL 2023, c.192) effective June 16, 2023, establishes two new "implementation dates" based on the type of municipal government involved. Implementation of the requirements in Title 30-A sections 4364, 4364-A and 4364-B is delayed:

- (1) until January 1, 2024 for municipalities in which the municipal officers (select board or town/city council) have authority (via municipal charter) to adopt ordinances without further action or approval by the voters; or
- (2) until July 1, 2024 for all other municipalities.

Note that the Affordable Housing Law's requirement that municipalities ensure that local ordinances are designed to affirmatively further the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act and the Maine Human Rights Act (30-A M.R.S. § 4364-C) has been in effect since August 8, 2022, and is not impacted by the extension.

Minor changes were also made to other provisions of the Affordable Housing Law, which will necessitate additional rulemaking by the Department of Economic & Community Development to update its "*Housing Opportunity Program: Municipal Land Use and Zoning Ordinance Rule*," 19-100 C.M.R. ch.5.

Look for updated guidance from MMA Legal Services in the near future. In the meantime, contact us at 800-452-8786 or legal@memun.org with questions about the law's requirements. (By S.F.P.)

POLE ATTACHMENT INSURANCE

New legislation addresses an issue of concern to municipalities seeking to attach wires, equipment, or related facilities (e.g., broadband systems) to existing utility poles.

In a development that is not welcome news for municipalities, Maine law will now expressly allow the owner of a shared use pole to require a municipality, as a condition of the municipality's use of the pole, to purchase and maintain general liability insurance meeting the pole owner's specifications, provided that the pole owner may not require a coverage limit exceeding \$5 million per occurrence. See PL 2023, c. 313 (to be codified at 35-A M.R.S. § 2524(3)).

Moreover, if the coverage limits required by the pole owner exceed the general \$400,000 (per occurrence) damages limit under the Maine Tort Claims Act (MTCA), those higher limits will apply instead. Similarly, if the required insurance provides coverage in areas where the municipality would otherwise be immune from liability under the MTCA, municipal immunity is waived in those areas to the limits of the insurance coverage.

The law takes effect this fall, 90 days from the end of the current legislative session, and sunsets in 2028. (By S.F.P.)

SELLING TAX-ACQUIRED MOBILE HOMES

Mobile homes are considered personal property in Maine; however, (except for stock in trade) mobile homes are treated as real estate under property tax laws (36 M.R.S. § 551). For this reason, they are assessed as real property and are subject to real property tax collection mechanisms, including the real estate tax lien mortgage process.

A mobile home located on land owned by the mobile homeowner is generally assessed (and tax-acquired) together with the land. When a municipality conveys a tax-acquired mobile home with the land it sits on, it is generally conveyed via quitclaim deed as part of the real estate.

However, a mobile home owned and assessed to someone other than the landowner (e.g., located in a mobile home park or on leased land) is tax-acquired separately. When a municipality conveys only a tax-acquired mobile home and no land, a “bill of sale” should be used, not a deed, because mobile homes are considered personal property in Maine for purchase and sale purposes.

The bill of sale should identify the parties, recite the consideration (i.e., purchase price), and describe the mobile home by make, model, serial number, and present location, if known. The bill of sale should also state that the sale is “as is, where is, with no warranties, express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, habitability or fitness for any particular purpose.” This language will help protect the municipality against claims that title is defective, that the mobile home is uninhabitable or worthless, or that it is the municipality’s obligation to evict occupants or deliver it to the buyer.

The bill of sale should be executed by the same officials who are authorized to execute deeds to tax-acquired real estate, and at least one of their signatures should be acknowledged by a notary public so that it is recordable in the registry of deeds.

See our *Guide to Municipal Liens* for a sample bill of sale and quitclaim deed. (By S.F.P.)

WINTER ROAD CLOSING ORDERS: A REMINDER

Most municipal officials know that Maine law contains a process allowing municipalities to temporarily close a road to winter maintenance from November to April, or any portion of those months. See 23 M.R.S. § 2953. The final step in the process is a town meeting vote, which may be taken only between May 1st and October 1st.

However, it may not be common knowledge that under a town meeting form of government, the voters may authorize the municipal officers (select board or council) to make the final determination on winter road maintenance closings, and *this* vote can be taken anytime, including at the annual town meeting, thereby avoiding the need to call a special town meeting each time a closing order is issued by the board.

The following warrant article would accomplish this purpose:

Article _____. To see if the Town will vote that orders made by the Municipal Officers pursuant to 23 M.R.S. § 2953 to close roads to winter maintenance, or to annul, alter or modify such orders, are and shall be a final determination.

Another reminder – closing a road to winter maintenance is merely a temporary closing and does not discontinue the road or change its status as a town way. Moreover, specific criteria outlined in the statute must be met in order for a closing order to be valid.

For a detailed discussion of winter road closing procedures, see MMA Legal Services’ *Municipal Roads Manual*, available at no charge to members on our website (www.memun.org). (By S.F.P.) 🏔️

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

BY JULY 31 – Deadline for employers required to submit quarterly withholding taxes to file a return and remit payment to the State Tax Assessor (36 M.R.S. § 5253).

BY AUGUST 15 – Monthly/quarterly/semi-annual expenditure statement/claim for General Assistance reimbursement to be filed via online portal, faxed to (207) 287-3455, emailed to GeneralAssistance.DHHS@maine.gov, or sent to DHHS, General Assistance Unit, #11 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0011 (22 M.R.S. § 4311).

BY SEPTEMBER 15 – Monthly/quarterly/semi-annual expenditure statement/claim for General Assistance reimbursement to be filed via online portal, faxed to (207) 287-3455, emailed to GeneralAssistance.DHHS@maine.gov, or sent to DHHS, General Assistance Unit, #11 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0011 (22 M.R.S. § 4311).

MAINE MUNICIPAL BOND BANK

2023 FALL BOND ISSUE SCHEDULE

Capital financing through the Bond Bank's General Bond Resolution Program allows borrowers to take advantage of the Bond Bank's high investment grade rating, low interest rates and reduced issuance and post issuance costs. Traditionally twice a year, in the spring and fall, the Bond Bank will consolidate eligible applicants and engage in a bond sale. From application to receipt of funds the bond issuance process usually lasts three to four months. Below is the schedule for the Bond Bank's Fall Issue.

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Tuesday, August 1st – Application Deadline

Wednesday, August 23rd – Application Approval (Board Meeting)

Wednesday, September 13th – Preliminary opinions and loan agreements due from bond counsel of each borrower

Thursday, September 14th – Last date for signing school contracts and rates in place for water district. PUC approvals due

Week of October 2nd – Maine Municipal Bond Bank Pricing

Monday, October 23rd – Final documents due from bond counsel

Wednesday, November 1st – Pre-closing

Thursday, November 2nd – Closing – Bond proceeds available (1:00pm)

If you would like to participate in or have any questions regarding the 2023 Fall Bond Issue, please contact Toni Reed at 1-800-821-1113, (207)622-9386 ext. 213 or treed@mmbb.com.





MAINE MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION **SINCE 1936**

60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330

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