

# Harpswell Bulletin

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OFFICE FOR HARPSWELL RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS – AUGUST 2016

TOWN WEBSITE: HARPSWELL.MAINE.GOV

## PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

### 2016 TAX RATE

The Selectmen/Assessors set the 2016 tax rate, or mil rate, at \$6.40 for every \$1,000 of assessed value. This is an increase of 2.56% in the tax rate compared to the prior year amounting to \$16 more in property tax for every \$100,000 of assessed value. The tax rate increase results primarily from an increase in municipal appropriations, particularly for capital projects such as roads and the required removal of the pump house at Mitchell Field.

### HOW TO PAY YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL

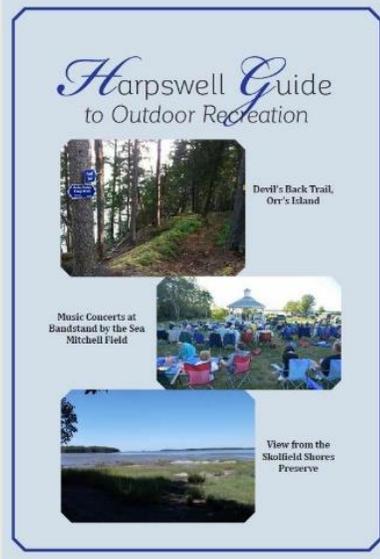
There are several methods available for paying your property tax bill. 1) Cash—stop by and pay in person; 2) Check—in person or via mail; 3) credit or debit cards—in person only, with a 2.5% fee assessed for each transaction; and 4) a web-based payment service called AndroGov available through the Town's website by clicking the online services tab—a \$1 fee will be assessed for each transaction. The first installment of the 2016 tax bill is due on Thursday, September 15 with the second installment being due on Thursday, December 15. A 6% interest rate will be charged on the unpaid portion of any installment after its due date.

### HARPSWELL'S PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Town's Property Tax Assistance Ordinance provides property tax assistance to qualifying persons who reside in Harpswell. Under this program, the Town will provide supplemental cash refund payments to those individuals who qualify as beneficiaries of the State of Maine Residents Property Tax Fairness Credit. Residents must file Form PTFC with Maine Revenue Services and receive a credit. In addition, residents must also submit an application to the Town's program by October 15 of each year. The Property Tax Fairness Credit replaces the State of Maine's former Circuit Breaker Program. Please contact Deputy Town Administrator Terri Sawyer at 833-5771 or [tsawyer@town.harpswell.me.us](mailto:tsawyer@town.harpswell.me.us) if you have questions about this program.

### MITCHELL FIELD RECREATION AND WATERFRONT PIER SURVEY

We are planning for disposition of the Navy Pier at Mitchell Field in accordance with 2016 Town Meeting warrants. Your input on the recreational use of the field and waterfront will help guide proposals for future use. We are conducting a survey to develop options for the pier replacement that will inform public meeting discussions this fall. Please take a few moments to complete the survey online at the Town website <http://www.harpswell.maine.gov> or stop by the Town Office for a paper copy. Your input is important no matter how much or little you currently use the recreational resources at Mitchell Field. Thank you so much. The Mitchell Field Committee.



The updated 2016 Harpswell Guide to Outdoor Recreation is now available at the Town Office and on the Town's website.

### MCHPP Food Mobile

Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) is partnering with the Town of Harpswell to provide monthly mobile food pantry visits to the Town Office from 10 – 11:30am on the following Thursdays:

August 11	November 10
September 8	December 8
October 6	

You do not need to be a MCHPP food pantry client to attend. Everyone is welcome, no questions asked.

### Addressing Numbers

Please post your house number in a visible location on your home, at the end of your driveway (if the house is further than 50 feet from the road) or on your mailbox. This will help emergency responders with locating your property more quickly in an emergency and help with the delivery of mail as well.

## HARPSWELL AGING AT HOME INITIATIVE

Harpowell Aging at Home (HAH), a community organization helping older adults address the challenges of aging at home, has been busy this summer. Our Facebook page, Harpswell Aging at Home, is now up and running. If you have a Facebook account, please “like” it and invite your friends in Harpswell to like it too. HAH’s partnership with the People Plus Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) continues to grow. We currently have 9 VTN Harpswell drivers and People Plus has 18 registered riders from Harpswell. Free rides are available to Harpswell residents who are unable to drive, for medical appointments, grocery shopping, hair appointments, or even events. Rides are offered Monday through Friday 9-5. Three days prior notice is required. To request a ride, call VTN at 729-0757 Monday - Thursday, 9am to 2pm.

The new Senior Services page is now on the Town of Harpswell website. Click on “Services” then click on “Senior Services” for a comprehensive list of services and providers. The intent of the Senior Services page is to make sure older adults can access available supports and services to help them age well at home for as long as possible. Current categories include general, transportation, food resources, legal services, food/heat assistance, help paying for basic needs, financial services, daily safety check-in program, and health resources.

HAH is pleased to announce its first cooking event for seniors, “Cooking With Friends.” This free event is a partnership between HAH, the Town of Harpswell, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, Orr’s Island Schoolhouse, and Harpswell Community Gardens. It will be held at the Orr’s Island Schoolhouse from 11am- 2pm, Thursday, September 15. Registration is limited to 12 seniors on a first-come basis. Register early by calling Linda Strickland at the Harpswell Town Office, 833-5771. HAH is planning a Health Fair on Friday, November 4 from 10am - 1pm at the Harpswell Town Offices. More information on this will be available soon. For more info on HAH, call Dave Brown at 725-5601 or Jess Maurer at 332-1640.

## FIRE & RESCUE PLANNING EFFORTS

Selectmen appointed a seven-member planning committee, including two members of the Board of Selectmen, to look at the overall organization of emergency services and to plan for the future delivery of both fire and rescue services in the Town. The Committee will consider the viability of the volunteer approach and whether some paid staff may be required as a supplement to existing volunteer service providers. In addition, the Committee will consider how vehicle, facility and other capital investments may need to change over time. Cost and budget implications will be considered including changes or enhancement of the paramedic service. The Committee expects to deliver a progress report to the Selectmen by early October.



Selectmen Ed Johnson, Rick Daniel, Kevin Johnson, Laddie Whidden

## EWINGS NARROWS BRIDGE

On Sunday, July 10, 2016, a ceremony was held to commemorate 40 years since the opening of the Ewing Narrows Bridge on Mountain Road. Former Selectmen Ed Johnson, who served from 1966 to 1969, and Malcolm “Laddie” Whidden, Jr., who served from 1962 to 1988, were both honored for their visionary leadership which led ultimately to the building of the bridge. In 1966, it was voted 136-2 in favor of starting a sinking fund for the mountain road and bridge. At the 1968 Town Meeting, it was voted to accept the road over Long Reach Mountain, and at the same meeting, \$6,000 was raised to continue clearing the land and to put in a larger culvert at Strawberry Creek. Ed Johnson remarked that “Laddie and I will both leave something behind in the accomplishment of spearheading the building of the road that led to the construction of the bridge for the people of Harpswell for generations to come.”



## Harpowell Bandstand by the Sea

Located at Mitchell Field  
Route 123, Harpswell  
Remaining Concert Series Dates

### Thursday 6 – 8 pm

August 11	Denny Breau Trio
August 18	Harpowell Concert Band
August 25	Primo Cubano

### Sunday 2 – 4 pm

Sept. 4	Tom Porter Quartet
Sept. 11	Jimmy Jo & the Jumbol’ Ayuhs
Sept. 18	German Oktoberfest Band
Sept. 25	Harpowell Concert Band

Rain location is HCA, 9 Ash Point Road,  
one mile south of Mitchell Field.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost!

The Harpswell Recycling Committee asks you to do your part for the environment and your community by composting your yard and food waste. Check out the “Guide to Home Composting” available at the Recycling Center or on the Town’s website under the Recycling Department, or stop in to see Recycling Center Manager Chuck Perow to learn more about the benefits of backyard composting.