



HARPSWELL BULLETIN

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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 AndroPay available through the Town's home page by clicking the online services tab—a \$1 fee will be assessed for each transaction. The first installment of the 2019 tax bill is due on Monday, September 16 with the second installment due on Monday, December 16. A 6% interest rate will be charged on the unpaid portion of any installment after its due date. The Tax Collector is authorized to accept pre-payments of taxes as a service to taxpayers for anyone who wishes to pay taxes in advance of receiving a tax bill.

GRANT PROGRAMS

Harpswell Home Repair Program: The Town has received a grant through the Cumberland County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in the amount of \$33,536 to help older people with certain home repairs so they can stay in their homes. This money comes from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development. Do you want to stay in your home as you get older and need home repair work that you are unable to do or cannot afford? If yes, please call the Town Office at 833-5771. The Town has partnered with Harpswell Aging at Home and Habitat for Humanity to provide no-cost repairs and weatherization. The CDBG program covers the costs of materials and skilled volunteers will perform the work. Examples of work performed include the installation of grab bars, wheel chair ramps, and stair rails.

Dock - Seasonal Float System at Mitchell Field: The Town has been awarded up to \$160,000 from the Maine Department of Transportation to proceed with the design, permitting and construction of an ADA compliant seasonal float system at Mitchell Field which would be located at the end of the causeway. The state funds will be matched (on a one-to-one basis) by a Town appropriation that was authorized by the Town Meeting. The estimated cost of the project is \$320,000. The Town recently issued a Request for Proposals for marine engineering services to finalize the design and obtain permits for the project. The float system is expected to be built in 2020 and ready for use by the spring/summer of 2021.

Harpswell Resilience: Long-Term Planning for Sea Level Rise: The Town has been awarded a \$9,245 grant from the Maine Island Institute to work on long-term planning for sea level rise. The goal is to draft a 10-year Resilience Plan that identifies infrastructure affected by sea-level rise and prioritizes the work that needs to be done to mitigate or adapt to changing conditions. The Plan will serve as a roadmap for the steps the Town should take to develop solutions and identify costs and potential revenue sources. One of the first steps will be for the Board of Selectmen to name a 10 to 12 member Task Force to serve as the Town's go-to organization on climate change issues. It is expected that the task force will work over the next 4 months with Mid-Coast Economic Development District planners and Town staff on developing the 10-year plan.

2019 TAX RATE

The Selectmen/Assessors set the 2019 tax rate at \$6.70 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This includes municipal, school and county taxes. It is an increase of 3.4% in the tax rate compared to the prior year amounting to \$22.00 more in property tax for every \$100,000 of assessed value. For example, if your property is assessed at \$300,000, then your property tax bill has increased \$66 from \$1,944 in 2018 to \$2,010 in 2019.

HARPSWELL'S PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Harpswell provides property tax assistance to qualifying Harpswell residents who have applied for and received the State of Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit (PTFC). Residents must file a Maine Income tax form and Form PTFC for 2018 with Maine Revenue Services. In addition, residents must also submit an application to the Town's program by October 15, 2019. Please contact Deputy Town Administrator Terri Sawyer at 833-5771 or tsawyer@town.harpswell.me.us if you have questions.

HEALTHY MAINE BEACHES

Under the direction of Harbormaster Paul Plummer, the Town has been participating in the Maine Healthy Beaches Program. Every Monday during the summer, the Deputy Harbormaster collects samples from beaches at Mitchell Field, Stover's Cove and Mackerel Cove. All of the samples have been satisfactory this year, however, if there is a problem, the Town will post a sign that states there is a beach advisory and people swim at their own risk.

MITCHELL FIELD UPDATES

Communications Tower Initiative: The Mitchell Field Committee (MFC) recommended to the Board of Selectmen that the Town move forward with the Energy & Technology Committee's initiative for a communications tower at Mitchell Field. This facility could support cell phone antennas as well as other services including emergency communications. The Board approved having the Town send out a Request for Expressions of Interest to see how many companies might be interested in exploring the construction of a non-guyed tower, not to exceed 200 feet, at Mitchell Field. Depending upon the interest shown, the Town may undertake a more formal Request for Proposals process.

Solar Array Initiative: The Mitchell Field Committee recommended to the Board of Selectmen that the Town move forward with a Solar Power Array for Mitchell Field that would be located in the northeast area of the upper meadow. The MFC recommended limiting the size of the array to one that would offset the electric usage of municipal facilities. The MFC did not support using Mitchell Field as a site for individual or large-scale power generation. The Board of Selectmen has taken this recommendation under advisement while the Energy & Technology Committee continues to work on the matter.

Waterfront Planning Policies: The Board of Selectmen named an advisory group to develop suggested policies for managing the use of the waterfront at Mitchell Field. With the removal of the pier, the Town is seeing additional use of and interest in the waterfront for a variety of activities. The group comprises Harbormaster Paul Plummer, Town Planner Mark Eyerman, Don Miskill representing the Mitchell Field Committee, Mose Price representing the Harbor and Waterfront Committee and Kevin Johnson representing the Board of Selectmen. The group's recommendations will come back to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

FALL RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

***NEW* Fall Sandlot Baseball** (Grades 3-5) - Calling all Harpswell girls and boys who love baseball! Meet us on the diamond to practice fundamental skills and play in casual, noncompetitive games.

Harpswell Harriers XC (Grades K-5) - Come hit the trails with us! Harriers XC running provides a unique experience in which kids compete as a team, but with a sense of individual performance and accomplishment.

Pee Wee Soccer (Ages 3-4, & 5 year olds not in kindergarten) - Provides littles with an introduction to the game of soccer. Fun based program where skills are applied through game play and teamwork!

***NEW* Ultimate Frisbee** (Grades 3-5) - Let it fly! Participants will use a Frisbee in a non-contact game that combines the speed of soccer with the aerial passing of football. Introductory and fun!

You can now sign up for programs in the comfort of your own home! Use our website, harpswellrecreation.com to register and pay with a debit or credit card from your computer, tablet or phone!

- Click on the 'Create New Account' link to open your account and start registering (or log in if you already have an account). Be sure to then add all the members of your household into the new account.
- Don't forget to enter your cell number with the carrier to we can text you with any last minute changes. Your new household account will provide you with registration history, financial history and much more!
- We still accept payments in person at the Town Office by cash, check and credit card.



T-Ball, June 2019

ADULT PROGRAMMING

We are working on bringing more adult and community programming to our lineup of regular programs of Yoga, Tai Chi and Bridge. We are currently working with Healthy Living for ME to bring a Living Well series for seniors and workshop for caregivers to help them manage time and personal wellness. A personal digital security talk will be coming in early September. Our website, harpswellrecreation.com will have full listings of programs and events that are upcoming for the fall and winter seasons. If there is a program you would like to see offered for adults, please send an email with your ideas to: recreation@town.harpswell.me.us