

# Harpswell Bulletin

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## OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

Harpswell has many public access sites that provide outdoor opportunities for all, including hiking trails of all levels of difficulty, ranging from a hike to the top of the cliff on Mountain Road to a perimeter walk around Mitchell Field on Harpswell Neck. Over the past 10 years, the Town has purposefully invested in its public properties. New trails, such as Devil's Back on Orr's Island, have been added, and other trails, such as the Cliff Trail off Mountain Road, have been improved. If you are looking for a public boat launch, the Town has recently upgraded its boat launches at Mackerel Cove and Pott's Point. If you are looking for a beach, check out Mackerel Cove or Mitchell Field. At both of these locations, the water is tested as part of the Town's participation in the Maine Healthy Beaches program. There are two near-future projects being planned for Mitchell Field—one a float system (where the pier used to be), the other a boat launch (proposed to be located off the north side of the causeway). These projects will be funded by the Town and by grants from the Maine Department of Transportation.



*View of Long Reach from the top of Cliff Trail*



*New and Improved Pott's Point Boat Launch*

For more information about what Harpswell has to offer for recreational activities, please check out the Guide to Recreation on the Town's website at [www.harpwell.maine.gov](http://www.harpwell.maine.gov) under the "Things to Do" heading.



*View from Devil's Back West*

## MITCHELL FIELD BUSINESSES

In November of 2018, Running Tide Technologies became the first business to operate in Harpswell's Marine Business District at Mitchell Field. The company signed a five-year lease with the Town of Harpswell to operate an oyster hatchery at the site. Owner Marty Odlin has plans to grow baby oysters and become the third licensed hatchery in Maine. The business met all of the standards established for the Marine Business District and has options for expanding within the District and extending the lease.

Pammy's Ice Cream signed a three-year lease to occupy the property near the entrance to Mitchell Field. The business was part of a pilot project in 2018, which allowed for a one-year trial period. The Town and owner Pam Douglas reached agreement on a three-year lease extension to allow the continuation of her operation.

## EMPLOYEE UPDATE



**Kayla Matthews** has been hired as the Recreation Programs Assistant for up to 15 hours a week. She has a background in physical education and will concentrate on overseeing children's programming under the direction of Recreation Director Gina Perow.



**Gregory Coyne** has been hired for the position of Deputy Harbormaster, a seasonal position from Memorial weekend through Labor Day weekend with work occurring primarily on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. Last summer Greg worked as an attendant at the Recycling Center.



**Meriel Longley** and **Matt Richard** have been hired as regular part-time firefighters for the Town of Harpswell. They have been working for the Town as per diem firefighters, but will take on more regular shifts. Both have significant experience in public safety.

## ARE YOU READY TO GO NATURAL WITH LAWN AND YARD CARE?

Spring is here, and everything is growing rapidly. We're finding lawn care and insect control company advertisements in our mailboxes! Knowing the dangers to the marine waters that many fertilizers and pesticides pose, homeowners in town, many whose yards end at water's edge, are especially interested in finding a service that offers a synthetic-free product to control weeds, grubs, ticks, browntail moth and mosquitoes. Did you know that, in addition to their conventional program, many service providers offer an all-natural program? Unless you express a preference for a natural plan, they may not talk about it. If a natural product is your preference, ask if they provide one, and if they don't, call someone else.

Harpswell has an ordinance that prohibits the use of water-soluble nitrogen fertilizer in the 250-foot Shoreland Zone. The [Outdoor Pesticides Control and Fertilizer Use Ordinance](#) states, "Only non-water soluble fertilizer, compost or composted manure may be applied." Harpswell's ordinance not only regulates the application of high nitrogen fertilizers, building on State regulations, the ordinance also regulates pesticides that are harmful to marine invertebrates and/or pollinators by limiting usage and using an application protocol that considers distance from the water, time of day, wind speed and wind direction, as well as application methods (injection, handheld sprayer versus hydraulic and aerial). There is a table at the end of the ordinance which summarizes the pesticide prohibitions enforced in Harpswell.

- When buying a pesticide, remember Pesticides are designed to be toxic!—Be sure to use the proper product; READ THE LABEL and be sure your insect is listed. A list of local garden centers that sell natural products is on the Town's Environment webpage.
- Learn the Pesticide Signal Words that denote toxicity levels of the product. They are listed in ascending order: DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION
- If you are paying someone to control weeds or insects in your yard, Maine State requires that they must be a licensed pesticide applicator.

Using the correct pesticide that has a minimal effect on the non-target species is complicated; that is why it is important to hire a licensed pesticide applicator. A working knowledge of federal, state and local regulations is needed for certification.

You can find the complete Outdoor Pesticides Control and Fertilizer Use Ordinance and information on natural products and retailers at [www.harpswell.maine.gov](http://www.harpswell.maine.gov). Click on sidebar Environment, then Pesticides. If you have additional questions, please contact [Conservation@town.harpswell.me.us](mailto:Conservation@town.harpswell.me.us) and someone from the Conservation Commission will get back to you.

When considering the use of pesticides or fertilizers, think about how your approach may effect: pollinators, marine invertebrates, waterbodies, private wells, pets, and children playing on the grass.

### CAN WE SEE YOUR HOUSE NUMBER CLEARLY?

Harpswell's 911 ordinance requires that your house number be clearly posted. We ask for numbers of **at least 4" height**, on your house if visible and less than 50' from the roadway. If greater than 50' from the roadway or down a driveway, please put numbers on both sides of the mailbox or on a prominent post or tree. Not having your house number posted means a delay in arrival during an emergency.

## RECYCLING CENTER & TRANSFER STATION NEWS

2019 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Recycling Center facility and recycling in Harpswell. Things have changed a lot since 1979; the switch to single sort recycling may be the most significant change of all. Compaction and the ease of putting all recyclables in one hopper help to increase overall waste recycling. When recycling, it is important the materials are as clean and food free as possible. The more waste, plastic bags and Styrofoam that we can keep out of the recycling mix, the better for everyone. Harpswell should be proud of the approximately 18,000 tons of material that has been recycled locally since 1979. The summer season is upon us; landlords are reminded to do their part in educating renters on proper disposal methods. Recycling is mandatory for all, including renters, visitors and residents. Unsorted materials and non-compliant waste will be sent to the Transfer Station for disposal.



Everyone is encouraged to compost at home or take part in centralized composting. Your trash will weigh less and smell better. Keep compostable material separate from other trash, and dispose of it in the compost bins. The compost is processed and sent back for use in gardens and flower beds. It is for sale at the Recycling Center throughout the summer and fall seasons.

2019 marks the third year of the Trap Take Back program. Local commercial fishermen and women are reminded that traps, buoys, netting and rope can be disposed of without charge at the Transfer Station. Please follow the guidelines for proper disposal of the allowed gear. Harpswell has recycled over 58 tons of fishing gear over the life of this program, which is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The Town of Harpswell has been a recycling leader in Maine for 40 years. Help reduce the costs to the Town by separating and maximizing recycled and compostable material. This in turn reduces the amount of household trash, which costs the Town more than twice as much to dispose of as recyclable material. Thank you for composting & recycling!

## HOME REPAIR GRANT

The Town of Harpswell, Habitat for Humanity and Harpswell Aging at Home are continuing their partnership to offer home repairs to qualified homeowners. If you or someone you know needs a wheelchair ramp, grab bars, handrails or other repairs to the home, call the Town Office at 833-5771 to see if you are eligible. The program is funded largely by a federal Community Development Block Grant administered by Cumberland County government.

## THE HARPSWELL SHARING TABLE

Merrymeeting Gleaners, of the Merrymeeting Food Council, has organized a Sharing Table in Harpswell that provides free local produce for anyone who needs it. The produce for the Harpswell Sharing Table is graciously donated by Growing to Give of Brunswick. The Sharing Table is located in front of the Town Office on Wednesdays from 1-4pm from May through October. Take what you need and leave the rest for someone else. There is no need to check in with anybody before taking produce. There is no one stationed at the table. We thank all local farmers who contribute produce to the Sharing Table.

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Town of Harpswell is a host site for Mid Coast Hunger Prevention's mobile food pantry. The mobile food pantry sets up on the fourth Thursday of every month from 10-11:30 at the Town Office. The goal of the program is to enhance a community's access to nutritious food for those in need. Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program recognizes that accessing regular pantry hours in Brunswick can be challenging for some and designed the Mobile Pantry to be supplemental.

### The Harpswell Sharing Table

Organized by The Merrymeeting Gleaners, a project of the Merrymeeting Food Council

**What is the Sharing Table?**  
The Sharing Table is free local produce for anyone that needs it. There is no criteria to meet and it is 100% anonymous. The produce for the Harpswell Sharing Table is graciously donated by Growing to Give of Brunswick.

**Where is the Harpswell Sharing Table?**  
It is in front of the Harpswell Town Office (outside). Visit the table Wednesdays between 1-4pm, May – October, 2019.

**How to use the sharing table:**  
-Take what you need and leave the rest for someone else.  
-There is no need to check in with anybody before taking produce. It is an unmanned table.

~ We sincerely thank all of the local farmers that contribute produce to the Sharing Tables! ~

Contact [merrymeetinggleaners@gmail.com](mailto:merrymeetinggleaners@gmail.com) to volunteer for Sharing Table set-up and breakdown!



**NONRESIDENT  
TAXPAYER MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 10, 6 pm  
Old Orr's Island Schoolhouse  
1579 Harpswell Islands Road**

**CONSUMER FIREWORKS**

Per Town Ordinance, consumer fireworks may be used only on the following dates and times in Harpswell:

- July 3, 9am to 10pm
- July 4, 9am to 12:30am on July 5
- July 5, 9am to 10pm
- Dec. 31, 9am to 12:30am on Jan. 1
- Jan. 1, 9am to 10pm
- Weekends immediately before and after July 4 and Dec. 31, 9am to 10pm



Harpswell Shellfish Harvesters are pictured here doing a Pollution Mitigation Inspection as part of their 2019 Municipal Shellfish Conservation work. In all, 28 Harpswell Shellfish Harvesters collected a total of 1,160 lbs of trash.

**Harpswell Bandstand by the Sea  
FREE Summer Concert Series**

6/13	Harpswell Concert Band
6/20	Nor'Easters Barbershop & Royal River Chorus
6/27	Coastal Winds
7/4	Spiros Exaras
7/11	Blue Hill Brass
7/18	Harpswell Concert Band
7/25	Pretty Girls Sing Soprano
8/1	Portland Jazz Orchestra
8/8	Erica Brown & the Bluegrass Connection
8/15	Studio Two, A Beatles Tribute Band
8/22	Pat Colwell & Soul Sensations
8/29	Harpswell Concert Band

All concerts begin at 6pm, Mitchell Field  
1410 Harpswell Neck Road

Town of Harpswell  
P.O. Box 39  
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