Town Department Heads

State Senator:
Rick Bennett.....287-1505

State Representative:
Nate Wadsworth.....838-7451

Selectmen:
Richard Murray Kimberly Clarke
Tom Kingsbury Tom Klinepeter
Jim Tyrrell

Town Manager:
(treasurer & Tax Collector)
Katie Haley.....935-2805

Town Clerk:
Theresa Shaw.....935-2805

Public Works Director
(Highway & Transfer Station)
Lester France.....935-2772

Police Chief:.
Aaron Mick….....935-3323

Fire Chief:
Andrew Dufresne.....935-2615

Fryeburg Rescue:
Steve Goldsmith..... 935-3024

Recreational Depart:
Rick Buzzell.....935-3933

Code Enforcement Officer:
Natalie A. Foret.....935-2805

Animal Control Officer:
Cindy Eaton.....890-5313

Eastern Slope Airport:
David Cullinan.....935-4711

Fryeburg Library:
Maryann Eastman.....935-2731

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AUTO FACTS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW *By Eric Meltzer*

Compromise can be loosely defined as a settlement or trade-off needed to reach a mutual conclusion. A dirty word in modern politics – and that's as much as I'm willing to opine on that subject – compromise in engineering has proven to be one way to achieve separate ideals, particularly with regard to transportation pursuits. You might say certain vehicles have dual personalities.

In the world of motorcycles, the Enduro or on/off road bike can take you to the trails on paved roads and then explore those back-country trails before taking you home again. Equipped with lights and turn signals to alert other drivers, aggressive tread but not deep lugs, high mounted exhaust for off road clearance but limited suspension travel for on road handling, these motorcycles are the definition of compromise but can do what a dedicated dirt bike or street bike can't. For a little fun and variety they can't be beat. Make mine a vintage 70's or 80's model, of course, and don't forget to wear a helmet.

I can name numerous examples of automotive schizophrenia and I bet you can too. The Chevy El Camino is probably the best known example of a vehicle that has one foot in the car gene pool and the other in with the trucks. These half car, half pickup never did anything particularly well but they did do everything both types of vehicle could, albeit with more limits or compromise and they did exceed in the cool department. The original Sport Utility Vehicles were a compromise between the sport of off-roading and the utility of working. One would never mistake the current bastardized and inflated versions with anything resembling the bare bones International Scouts or Jeep CJs of yore. The name lives on, but I'm afraid the spirit is dead. The Targa top or removable roof panel is a compromise between a convertible and a coupe offering wind in the hair motoring – sort of, while providing body rigidity – kind of.

If you really want to get your feet wet in the world of automotive double duty, look no further than the Amphicar, pun intended. Yes, this odd duck – I'll stop now – is the epitome of purpose built trade-offs. Manufactured in Germany from 1961 to 1967, nearly 4000 were produced with most going to the U.S.A., where nothing seemed too outlandish in the 1960's. If you've never seen one of these sea going cars or road going boats I encourage you to check them out on the internet, videos and photos abound. The Amphicar was a rear engine car with a transmission that could send power to the wheels or water propellers while the front wheels acted as rudders on the water. They could go 70 mph on land and up to 8 knots on the water. It's even rumored that the largest concentration of Amphicars in the U.S. is around Sebago Lake. As cool these were, Time magazine named them one of the 50 worst cars of all time, but what does a news magazine know about that anyway? If weird was cool this car would be King or at least royalty.

What's a cooler compromise than a car-boat? I would say a car-airplane! In 1949 Moulton Taylor felt the same way and created the Aerocar, a funky little buggy with detachable wings that would fold and tow behind the pod-like car. A rear mounted driveshaft turned a pusher propeller assembly and in short order the Aerocar metamorphosed into an airplane, admittedly neither a good plane nor a satisfactory car but way too cool to care. Only 6 were ever built in Longview, Washington, and in a strange twist of irony, one of the Aerocars was used by a radio station in Portland, Oregon as their traffic watch aircraft from 1961 to 1963.

The concept of a flyable car is still up in the air (how can I pass up a pun like that?) and Terrafugia in Cambridge, MA feels it's a compromise worthy of pursuing. Terrafugia, derived from the Latin for "Escape the Earth", was formed by 5 award winning MIT graduates and has recruited many industry leading designers and engineers to see their flying car come to fruition. They have already flown a prototype and proof of concept and reached some certification milestones. With modern design, testing, and manufacturing technologies combined with lightweight materials the future of the flying car may just be possible. As a car and airplane enthusiast I'm excited to watch the future unfold.

Happy New Year everyone!

FRYEBURG TOWN MATTERS

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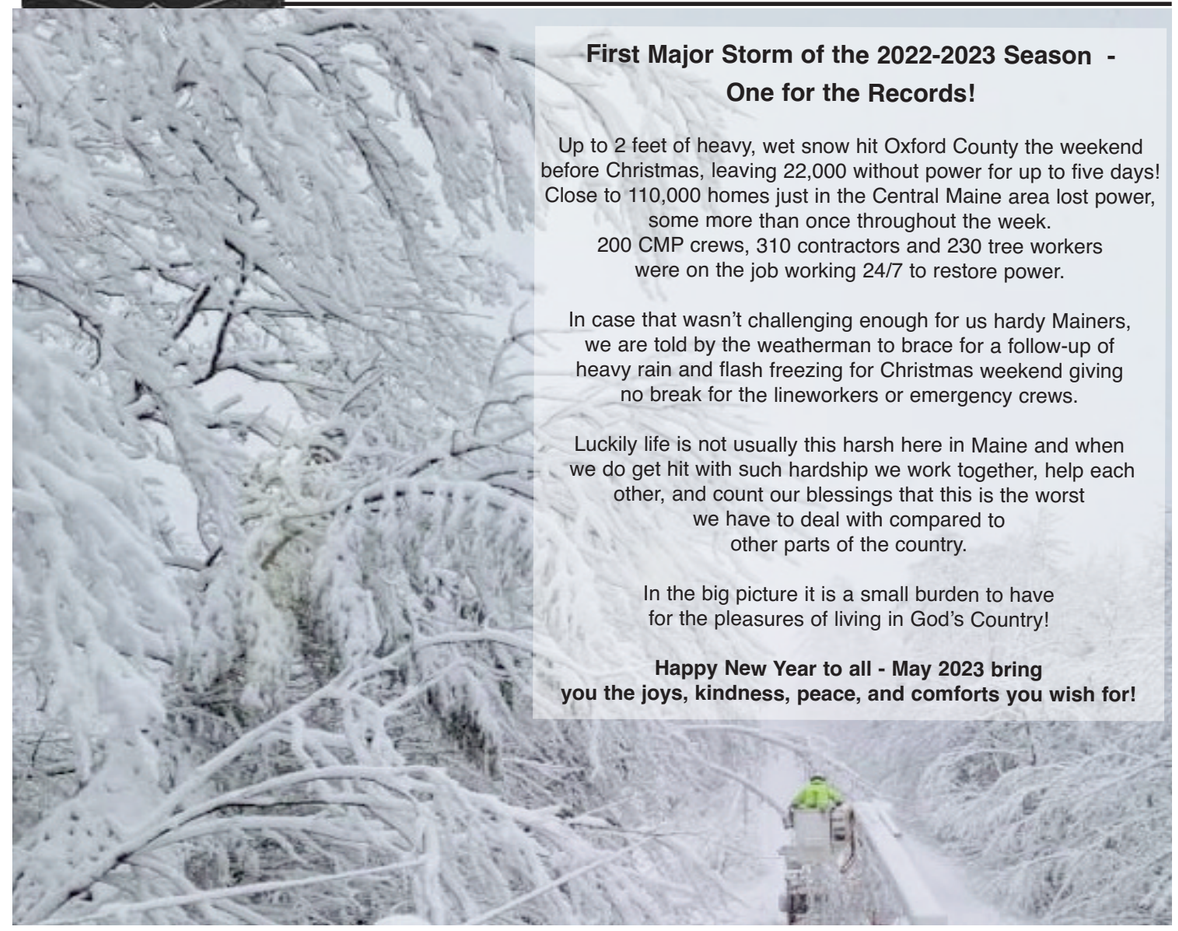

First Major Storm of the 2022-2023 Season - One for the Records!

Up to 2 feet of heavy, wet snow hit Oxford County the weekend before Christmas, leaving 22,000 without power for up to five days! Close to 110,000 homes just in the Central Maine area lost power, some more than once throughout the week.
200 CMP crews, 310 contractors and 230 tree workers were on the job working 24/7 to restore power.

In case that wasn't challenging enough for us hardy Mainers, we are told by the weatherman to brace for a follow-up of heavy rain and flash freezing for Christmas weekend giving no break for the lineworkers or emergency crews.

Luckily life is not usually this harsh here in Maine and when we do get hit with such hardship we work together, help each other, and count our blessings that this is the worst we have to deal with compared to other parts of the country.

In the big picture it is a small burden to have for the pleasures of living in God's Country!

Happy New Year to all - May 2023 bring you the joys, kindness, peace, and comforts you wish for!

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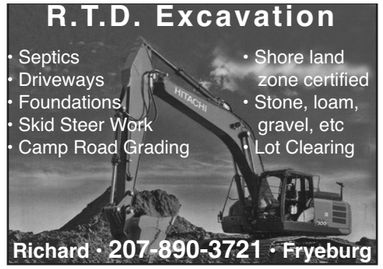
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Fryeburg Town Managers Report - *by Katie Haley*

Happy New Year!!

While there are many things going in within town as the new year arrives on of the most notable things that the public should be aware of is the new Tow Office hours (effective January 1st). The Town Office will be closed on Fridays but open later each day. Specifically, the hours will be as follows:

• Monday 8am - 5pm
• Tuesday 8am - 5pm
• Wednesday 8am - 5pm
• Thursday 9:30 am – 6:30pm
• Friday, Saturday, Sunday - Closed

Employees will still be working a 40-hour work week since they arrive 30 minutes before opening and typically stay 30 minutes after closing. Many towns have transitioned to a similar schedule and report favorable results. A 4-day work week seems to be becoming a necessary employee attraction and retention tool. Furthermore, being open later in the afternoons will allow more people to conduct their business after their own work day is over. We are also taking advantage of many opportunities to direct people to do their business online if they are unable to make it to the Town Office (see some options below).

ONLINE LINKS:
Car Registrations: apps1.web.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/
Snowmobile/ATV Registration: apps1.web.maine.gov/online/atv_snow/index.htm
Boat Registration: apps1.web.maine.gov/online/boat/
Hunting & Fishing Licenses: moses.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/moses_v3/index
Vital Records: vitalchek.com/v/vital-records/maine/maine-vital-records
Drivers License Renewal: apps1.web.maine.gov/online/bmv/dlr_v2/
Maine Burn Permits: apps1.web.maine.gov/burnpermit/public/index.html

Eastern Slope Regional Airport by Eric Meltzer

As we continue through the first winter following the completion of our transient hangar we're encouraged with the demand it has generated. Our friends from north of the border utilized the new hangar space during Thanksgiving week to secure their now-familiar yellow Royal Canadian Air Force AgustaWestland CH-149 Cormorant helicopter while it was performing training as part of the 413 Transport and Rescue Squadron based in Nova Scotia.

Last year also saw the airport authority contract with Allison Navia to return as our airport manager. Allison is very accomplished at her job and received some early experience working with Dave at Eastern Slope Regional Airport while she was still in college.

After successfully managing Hancock County Regional Airport in Bar Harbor she was hired by Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport, the busiest airport by volume in the State of Maine. We're fortunate to have her working on our behalf as well.

The Eastern Slope Aviation Academy is going strong and progressing student aviators through the ranks and we're excited for them. We continue to work towards some strong goals for the future sustainability of the airport.

We hope you'll come out for a visit or make 2023 the year you take that introductory flight or learn to fly!

All of us at Eastern Slope Regional Airport are excited to see what 2023 has in the plans for us as we continue to follow our mission to the airport and the community. We also want to wish all of you a safe, happy, healthy New Year.

Fryeburg Public Library *by Maryann Eastman*

It has been a steady month at the Library. For Nov we have assisted 412 patrons with circulation of 502 items. 12 programs were held with 50 attendees.
We added several new releases into circulation, such as James Patterson's Alex Cross mystery series, Carleen Hoover, Louise Penny. Stop by - take a look!

RECAP: Santa Claus came to the Library on Dec 13th where 8 people gave Santa their wishes and enjoyed a couple of stories. Unfortunately, due to the storm, the second visit was cancelled.

Coming up Next: Friday Jan 20th Robert Spencer will be on hand to discuss his latest historical fiction novel. Tues Jan 24th at 4-6 pm Karen McCarthy will give a presentation/talk on her upcoming book 'Beyond the Veil", a personal account of a nun who left the cloister.

On-Going Events:
Story time: meets every Sat at 10 am, designed for ages 3 to 5
Puzzle Club: Meets 1st Wed of each month. Anyone can work on current puzzle any day the library is open, set up in Mulford Room
Crochet Club: meets 10 am on 2nd and 4th Sat of the month in Weston Room
Book Group: meets on 2nd Wed of each month in Weston Room.

Phone: 207-935-2731
Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs 9 am to 4 pm Tues, Fri -Noon to 6 pm Sat - 9 am to Noon

Real Estate - *by Emily Kubichko, Realtor - Pinkham RE*

Hello and Happy New Year! I can't believe it's 2023 already! It finally feels like things are getting back to a more "normal" market. Moving into 2023, we are trying our best to determine upcoming market conditions based on interest rates and inflation, but of course we have all seen how unpredictable things can be!

Before we look too far ahead, let's review our 2022 numbers. There were 61 residential home sales in Fryeburg, ranging in price from $78,000 to $699,500. As demonstrated in the past, our most popular markets tend to be between $100,000 to $200,000 and $200,000 to $300,000. Let's see how 2022 breaks down:
$0-$99,999: 2 sales
$100K-$199,999: 9 sales
$200K-$299,999: 21 sales
$300K-$399,999: 13 sales
$400K-$499,999: 12 sales
$500K-$599,999: 1 sales
$600K-$699,000: 3 sales

As you can see, we moved away from our core market of $100K to $300K, and the bulk of our sales were actually higher, between $200K to $500K. What's interesting is the $400K to $499,999 price range, which barely registered on the radar a couple of years ago, is now our third highest-selling price range. This means that even with a market decrease, our home values have gone up considerably since 2019.

If you're considering selling, it's important to keep this value increase in mind. Even if the market has cooled down, chances are high that your house is still worth significantly more than it was in prior years. And, if you're in the market to buy but interest rates are giving you pause, talk to your lender! Lenders are getting very creative with loan programs designed to lower your interest rates and offer options for low-to-no fee refinancing if rates decrease. Housing in general is still in high demand, so holding out for lower interest rates may put you back in a competing position, and that wasn't fun for anyone!

Please get in touch if you have questions:
Emily@PinkhamRealEstate.com or call my cell (603) 662-4455.

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HIGH SPEED INTERNET by Bill Fineisen

If we had high speed internet…..

Ever think of ending your commute and opening a home-based business? High speed internet can save you money and open all kinds of opportunities for home-based jobs, education, shopping, and health care. Sadly, many of us do not have access to broadband internet.

Currently, if you don't have cable, then you don't have access to affordable high-speed internet. That would be the situation for all of Brownfield, Stow, Sweden, Stoneham, and parts of Denmark, Fryeburg, and Lovell.

Despite this gloomy picture, hope may be on the horizon. Eastern Slopes Regional Broadband, a volunteer group of your neighbors, is working with the select boards in the seven MSAD 72 towns to bring better broadband options to the region. More options mean more competition and lower prices.

Better options can open other savings. too. With fast internet, you can save by dropping your cable tv and landline and buying only the streaming services and internet telephone you want. You might be able to save by working from home and ending your commute to work.

Qualifying households can also get access to the Federal ACP program providing a $30/month subsidy.

You may feel you can get by without broadband, or fast internet, but for many people in our towns, it is necessary. Our students are given laptops in middle school, but they can't use them effectively at home.

Small businesses have trouble hosting websites even though 97% of Americans search for local products and services online. Small businesses need robust connectivity and web presence. *

Seniors can use zoom calls to avoid isolation by staying in touch with grandchildren and health providers. Telehealth reduces hospital admissions by 25% and overall length of stay by 59%*

Have you tried buying or selling a home lately? It's hard to do without using the internet. On the other hand, access to high-speed internet can increase home values by an average of 3.1% *

If you'd like to find out more, visit esrbroadband.org , ask your local librarian to help you visit the website, or watch for paper information in the future.

* Broadband USA website

Blessings and good health to all in the New Year!

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Fryeburg Water District Trustees invite the Public to our January Meeting
Monday January 9, 2023
7:00 PM (PLEASE NOTE TIME)
at
The American Legion Building on Bradley Street, Fryeburg, ME 04037

Understanding Medicare by Bert Weiss • 603-986-5650

Special election periods for Medicare Advantage

Open Enrollment Period is January 1 - March 31. During this period anybody currently on a Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan is allowed to make one change. You can change plans within a company, or change companies. If you called a number on TV, and they talked you in to a plan that isn't a good fit for you, you are allowed to make a single change.

Five Star plans have such high ratings that you are allowed, once a year, to enroll in a 5 star plan at anytime. It is quite difficult to earn 5 stars. There have to be few complaints and few people leaving the plan. There are 5 star plans in Maine and New Hampshire available. Ask a licensed agent what is available to you.

Special needs plans for anybody who gets a Low Income Subsidy, is eligible to enroll or change once a quarter.

My advice is to ask a local licensed, appointed, and certified Medicare insurance agent, (like myself) to see what you qualify for.

As we are all well aware of, the last couple of years have been quite a challenge. I hope that my articles and information has helped navigate your needs with healthcare coverage. I know how mind boggling some of the details can be but my job is to guide you so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. The cost to you is zero but the benefits to you might change the way you manage your healthcare needs and give you more coverage for little to no additional costs to you. It doesn't hurt to take a look and see if you have the right coverage plan for you and your special needs. Call today!

May 2023 bring you good health, happiness, and a wonderful New Year!

FRYEBURG RESCUE by Eric Meltzer

It's been another busy year at Rescue. We consistently cover more than 1000 calls for service per year and we strive to evolve to meet the needs of our community. As we shop for the best value in a new ambulance to maintain the readiness of our fleet it's important to note the improvements we've made for our providers and patients alike. Our two newest ambulances are equipped with power load systems that lift, load, and lock the stretcher in place in the ambulance. This system effectively reduces strain on our providers as well as offers a more secure system of loading and unloading patients for transport. Our third ambulance will have this system installed when it becomes available from our supplier and will be transferred to our newest unit as part of its specifications. In addition, all of our ambulances are equipped with a Lucas device which is a portable machine that provides CPR compressions when activated. Since Maine EMS recently recognized and approved the benefit of this device we have raised the money to have them available.

It's no secret that Maine struggles to fill vacancies in public safety but we're fortunate to have a strong roster of qualified and licensed providers and we're working to ensure a stable future. We've reactivated our junior rescue program that will give the next generation of EMS providers a chance to experience and learn about working in the field of emergency medicine. As we continue to grow and adapt to the changing needs of our community we recognize the enthusiasm and abilities of our younger providers and appreciate their willingness to step up into the roles of our older members who may become less active over time. The future of Fryeburg Rescue is strong and, as always, we thank you for your continued trust and support.

Here's to a safe and healthy 2023.

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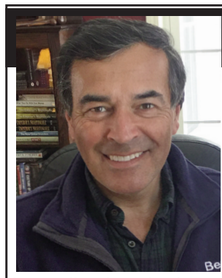

Senator Rick Bennett District 19
Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov

Your New Maine Legislature Starts Work

I was honored to take my seat to represent you in the Maine Senate when the 131st Maine Legislature was sworn in on December 7th. Governor Mills will be sworn in for her second term on January 4th.

Our opening day was unprecedented. We were immediately asked to spend nearly $500 million on LD 1, the emergency heating assistance bill, without a public hearing and an opportunity for public comment.

I had some important questions about this bill, that would send $450 checks to 91% of Mainers, including couples making up to $200,000 per year. One of my greatest concerns was that the $398 million in direct checks was not simply spending surplus state tax money; it also included redirecting about $160 million in federal funds that is allocated for nursing facilities, services for the developmentally disabled and those with brain injuries and mental health needs. There are many Maine families in crisis because of the chronic underfunding of these services and the low pay of the direct support professionals that make it impossible to fill these critical and challenging jobs.

Because of this, along with a lack of accountability and transparency that would come from a public hearing so we can understand the true impacts of this legislation, I voted against the proposal on opening day and the bill failed of enactment in the Maine Senate.

I have heard from many of the people I represent who believe that the emergency relief ought to be targeted to those in need. So, I immediately went to work across the aisle with my colleague Sen. Nicole Grohoski (D-Ellsworth), and we proposed an amendment that would target the help, make sure that funds are available for all people with a heating emergency, and preserve the federal funds for the other critical needs facing Maine families.

Our proposed amendment
- Targeted meaningful relief on a sliding scale to people facing a high energy burden.
- Left the federal Medicaid money untouched to serve chronic funding shortfalls in needed programs.
- Reduced total cost of checks by 50% to $200M.
- Provided up to $1,200 per family in funds to those in need who are not eligible for check program or don't qualify for LIHEAP, and
- Encouraged energy efficiency through information and incentives for long-term benefit.

Happily, as of this writing, legislative leaders have called a public hearing for December 21st, and I plan to offer our amendment at that time. Following the hearing, there should be work session where the bill might be modified and improved, and then sent to the House and Senate for consideration and enactment. I hope by the time you read this, the bill is passed and help is flowing to those in need.

It's an honor to serve as your State Senator. If I may ever be of help, please feel free to email me at Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov or call me at 207-287-1505.

May your New Year bring you the blessings of family, friends, prosperity, and good health!

District 82 Rep Caleb Ness
caleb.ness@legislature.maine.gov

High energy costs will need to be addressed when the Legislature reconvenes

On December 7th members of the 131st Legislature raised their right hand and swore an oath to uphold the Constitution. I will do my best to represent everyone, regardless of political party or persuasion.

The first legislative day is usually confined to ceremonial duties, organization of the House, and the election of Maine's constitutional officers (Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, and Secretary of State). Legislation is usually not considered on day one. However that was not the case this year. The Governor submitted emergency energy legislation for consideration. It passed the House (125-16), but failed in the Senate. I am hopeful the legislature will find a solution that will assist our friends and neighbors who are struggling to heat their homes and pay bills.

In addition to short term relief, we also need to take a hard look at state energy policies that are contributing to high electric, oil, and gas prices. Everyone needs a seat at the table and a willingness to consider all options, not just the ones favored by lobbyists. I look forward to seeing significant legislation that can be acted upon to bring down prices in the long-term.

We need small businesses, nonprofits, and community serving organizations throughout the state to recover and prosper going forward. We need a climate that will encourage our young people and retirees to stay here. We need career opportunities, lower taxes for all, and appropriate safety nets for those in need of our assistance.

I will work hard and cooperatively with other members of the 131st Legislature over the next two years. Working together we can move Maine forward in 2023.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you in the Maine House. If there is anything I can do to assist you, or if you have questions or concerns involving state agencies, please contact me at Caleb.Ness@legislature.maine.gov.

Happy New Year to all. I sincerely hope this update finds everyone warm and well!

Lake Region & Fryeburg Area Adult Education *by Michelle Gayne*

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