

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*

I spend a lot of time driving, usually racking up about 30,000 miles a year around New England, or what I consider locally. Further drives usually involve my family and those trips take us to Florida or Ohio and most points in between. In years past, a trek out to Texas to visit my brother wasn't unheard of, but more recently the eastern half of the United States is enough, when the goal is a destination rather than a journey. I recently discussed the history of national and interstate highways and how they changed the landscape of America. As these roads have aged and the U.S. population has grown, many of the oldest roads are inadequate to handle the volume of traffic that they regularly see.

The number of vehicles on the road have increased steadily, but the capability of vehicles has improved as well. Cars are safer, faster, more efficient and comfortable than ever but unfortunately, as many settle into their steel, mobile cocoons, courtesy and kindness has been displaced by anonymity and narcissism, the likes which we see daily on the internet. We can reverse this trend. It's not a sign of weakness to let a faster driver get ahead of you or allow another car to merge in front of you. If enough people adopt safe and reasonable driving habits traffic might even flow more smoothly.

It boggles my mind when 4 lanes of traffic in the same direction stops for no other reason than volume then accelerates only to slow and stop again. I've seen accidents and very near misses caused by drivers behaving badly. Let's review the rules of the road; the far right lane is meant for entering and exiting a limited access highway. Merge on, accelerate, move over to a travel lane or slow down, get in the right lane, and exit the highway. Center lanes are travel lanes used for, you guessed it, traveling. The far left lane, and this is the one that seems to confuse people, is a passing lane. It's used for passing slower traffic. It's not used for traveling or texting or blocking or pacing. The idea is to accelerate, get into the left lane, pass the vehicle in front of you, then get back into your travel lane. It all seems so simple and fluid and I'm sure in the future, perhaps after it no longer matters to me, self driving vehicles will make use of these rules and streamline traffic flows.

I'm not naive and although I don't profess to understand human nature, I can at least see how it affects driving styles. Maybe it's the fight or flight response, but no one wants to be passed no matter how slow they are going. Being passed while stopped in traffic is surely a sign of disrespect. Cars at the side of the road, or worse strobe lights, are like a siren song to drivers who then slow and gawk regardless of the event or non event. Anyone who has spent time seething behind the wheel over delays completely out of their control or worse, at the hands of an inconsiderate or selfish driver, knows full well that we're all one unused turn signal or high beam flash away from all out road rage.

I'm not advocating for driver-less cars, although they are coming whether we're ready or not. Just consider how smoothly traffic would flow if every vehicle followed the rules, stayed focused on driving, and emotions didn't enter the equation. If we could eliminate the practice of getting on the highway, left turn signal already flashing, and merging all the way over into the far left lane to travel with traffic that would leave that lane open for passing as intended. If someone is passing you on the right, you're in the wrong place. If you're going the same speed as adjacent lanes you're in the wrong place. If the far right lane traffic is traveling faster than you, you're in the wrong place. Consider that the dangerous driver you just cursed at might be fine if they weren't so frustrated from following and trying to get around you. Playing games that could cause or lead to an accident is simply wrong. You are not the highway patrol and it's not your place to block or pace traffic. Yes, I get it, you're driving at the speed limit and no one should be passing you and yet, there they go. So what? Let them go. If someone is driving erratically or speeding dangerously, pull over safely and contact law enforcement and report them. Toll booths are another good place to ask for help if you feel threatened or endangered. If it's too inconvenient to stop and do the right thing, maybe your motivations are misplaced.

I apologize if this column sounded like too much of a rant. I actually dialed it back quite a bit from the numerous examples I've witnessed and experienced recently. Ask yourself, would you act like that if your name and phone number were on your car and visible to everyone? We're all just trying to get there, wherever that is, so take a deep breath and drive.



FRYEBURG TOWN MATTERS

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HOMETOWN BOY - JOE SHAW - A LOCAL TALENT!

Joe Shaw was born and raised on a small farm in North Fryeburg, a home to his family for several generations. Life on the farm is where he started developing his love of animals and nature. He recalls at an early age that his mom bought him his first camera. From that day forward he was hooked on viewing the world through his len, not realizing that this passion would lead to a successful career in photography and journalism one day.



Joe graduated from Fryeburg Academy in 2011 and went on to major in Marine Science at Southern Maine Community College. With the love of photography still tugging at him he decided to enroll in the New York Institute of Photography for photo-journalism in 2020, followed by a Professional Photography Program in 2021.

Joe was driven by his enthusiasm and love of the camera and his strong desire to make his passion his career. In 2017, while still advancing his education, Joe overcame his fear of uncertainty and self-doubt and jumped in with both feet, creating his company, Joe’s Wildlife Photography.



Once out of school Joe started to build his connections and showcase his talents by moving to Portland to work as a Photo Journalist for a small monthly paper while also moonlighting for a local photo lab. Most recently Joe returned to his roots in Fryeburg to focus and broaden his own business now known as Joe Shaw Photography. This lead to the creation and production of his three books. The first being “It’s a Baby Fox”. This 55 page book includes many beautiful photos of a fox family living at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds. His second book was the result of a childhood infatuation with alligators. He made several trips to Florida in search of alligators to photograph and study for his book “Ancient Predator: The American Alligator”. Most recently, with a background in Marine Science and his intrigue of all the shapes, colors, and characteristic of sea shells, he penned his third book called “Seashells”. This book not only featured shells from all over the United States but also included his photos of shells from other countries. All three of these books became an outlet for his love of photography and his desire to educate and inspire through the magic of his lens.

Though Joe’s specialty is wildlife his talents with photography reaches into all areas and keeps him in demand for weddings, special events, family portraits, and product lines. His talents will amaze you no matter what your photo needs might be.

To learn more about Joe Shaw Photography (AKA Joe’s Wildlife Photography) join him at the Fryeburg Library for his special slide show and book signing on March 21st from 3-5PM or google Joe’s Wildlife Photography and find him on Facebook and Youtube. Website: joeswildlifephotography.com/home

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Fryeburg Town Managers Report - by Katie Haley

Nomination papers 2 Select Board positions (3-year term) and 2 MSAD #72 School Board positions (3-year term) will be available at the Fryeburg Town Office on Monday February 27th, 2023 and will be due back at the Fryeburg Town Office by Monday April 10th 2023.

The Municipal Complex Building Committee continues to meet. The Committee has adopted the following Building Program Statement: The future municipal complex will be designed to be energy efficient and low-maintenance, with future departmental/town growth in mind to ensure that the building meets the towns needs for many years to come. This will all be done with an underlying goal to minimize impacts to tax payers as much as possible and for the final building to be a source of pride for the Townspeople.

The Committee will soon be releasing a Request for Proposal for Professional Design Services and we hope to have a consultant selected within the next couple of months. The consultant will be tasked with completing a site assessment, making recommendation on facility space needs and creating a conceptual design of the Municipal Complex.

Expect to see the standard seasonal road postings any time. This is done annually as the temperatures rise in the spring to prevent damage to our roads. All town roads in Fryeburg will be posted to vehicles registered for a gross weight of 23,000 lbs. or more until April 15, 2020 dependent upon the weather. All heavy vehicles are required to attain a permit to operate on a posted road in Fryeburg regardless of temperature. Regular delivery route trucks are exempt (Oil trucks, Propane Gas Trucks, Trash Haulers, Municipal Vehicles and other necessary vehicles).

As always, please reach out with any questions or comments you might have.

Fryeburg Academy Becomes the First FFA Chapter Member in Western Maine

Fryeburg Academy announced that it has joined the National Future Farmers of America Organization (FFA) this year. It's an initiative to grow its agricultural programming. "After several months of research, it was important to me to bring FFA to Fryeburg because it will open up more opportunities for our students involved in agriculture education here," says Jennifer Solter-Jones, FA's science instructor and school farm manager. Jennifer feels FFA directly ties into what the Academy's programs are trying to do with leadership development, new learning opportunities, and community service, making it a natural fit for them to have their own chapter.

Interesting Facts: The National FFA Organization is the largest student-run organization in the country, with over 850,823 FFA members aged 12-21, in 8,995 chapters and all 50 states, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Jennifer sees opportunities locally as well as nationally by being a part of FFA because of their wide reach within the organization. These opportunities would not be limited to just gaining great leadership skills or agricultural knowledge, but would also offer possibilities for state and nationally travel opportunities and scholarships. Equally important bringing FFA to FA would open the doors to meeting and making new friends while impacting and making a difference within the community.

The Academy is one of the first schools in the area to start an FFA chapter. They plan to host state FFA officers for a leadership workshop this year and Jennifer looks forward to working with the students to build the FA chapter membership and involvement in the coming year.

Fryeburg Public Library by Maryann Eastman

Your community library has been very active and we are very excited with the growth of events and presentations as well as services we have to offer to the community.



- March 8 Book Group meets at 10am in Weston room to discuss What Jonah Knew by Barbara Graham. All are welcome, books available at Circulation Desk to borrow.
- March 12...remember to set your clock ahead 1 hour for daylight savings time
- Tuesday March 21 from 3 to 5 pm: Joe Shaw, local photographer, who specializes in wildlife and outside adventure, will be giving a presentation on his 3 published books. Books will be available for purchase. Please call the library to reserve your seat, as space is limited. (Note this date was changed from Feb to March, due to schedule conflicts).

- Adult Education** will be offering the following FREE classes: please contact the following to sign up: 207-627-4291- adulted@lakeregionschools.org (each class is an hour long and computers/devices will be provided for those who need them)
- Email Basics - Monday, March 20 at 1:30 part one
 - Email Basics –Tuesday, March 21 at 1:30 part two
 - Learning About Devices - Monday, April 3 at 9:30
 - Applying for The Affordable Connectivity Program - Wednesday, May 10 at 2:00
 - Identifying Fraud & Scams - Monday, May 15th at 2:30

On-Going Events:

Story time: every Saturday at 10 am, designed for ages 3 to 5, but older siblings are welcome to attend.
Anime Club meets Fridays 3:30 to 4:30 pm in Weston Room, may not meet during February vacation
Puzzle Club: Meets 1st Wednesday 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 Saturday of the month in Weston Room
Book Group meets on 2nd Wednesday of each month in Weston Room.
Adult Education: Fridays from 8 am to 3 pm

Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9 am to 4 pm
Tuesdays, Fridays: Noon to 6 pm
Saturday: 9 am to Noon

Eastern Slope Regional Airport by Eric Meltzer

I hear it all the time; flying is expensive! It can be, but like any other pursuit there are many levels of involvement. Some people spend their money on snowmobiles, Have you priced a new snow machine lately? Add a trailer and riding gear and even a tow vehicle, and flying becomes competitive. And how much riding can you do in the winter? A few weekends, maybe? Motorcycles could be considered a pricey pastime but you get three seasons out of riding one with the proper gear and you can travel places. Flying is a year round activity and getting in the air can range from a powered parachute, to an ultra-light, to homebuilt, and production aircraft. Some require a "license" and some don't, but training is always advised. You can fly for fun or to a destination which is also fun! A four hour drive to Bar Harbor turns into an hour flight in a small plane. Want to check out Martha's Vineyard, or Nantucket? You can get there from here quicker than a ferry ride, about an hour and a half. Want to head up to Rangely? Be there in a half hour. Moosehead? Under an hour. Add a floatplane rating and lakes become airports. Like Dr. Seuss said, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!"

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Fryeburg Water District by Nora Schwarz

The Fryeburg Water District invites the community to join them for their next public meeting which will be held at the American Legion Building on Bradley Street on Monday March 13, 2022 @ 6:00 pm.

Elections for two Trustees are slated for June and we are looking for a few good people to participate in the process of communicating with and representing the needs of the residents of the Fryeburg Water District as they relate to the health and sustainability of the water they are entitled to. If this sounds like you or someone you may know please let us know; nomination papers will be available on Monday February 27th.

We encourage everyone to visit our website www.fryeburgwaterdistrict.org and contact us there or via email directly to fryeburgwaterdistrict@gmail.com.

 **Daylight Savings -
Spring Ahead on March 12th**


**Go Green -
St Patrick's Day on March 17th**

 **Hurray for Us!
We made it through another Maine Winter -
Celebrate the beginning of Spring - March 20th**

Lake Region & Fryeburg Area Adult Education by Michelle Gayne

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- College Success class: A blended learning 1 college credit class that will focus on essential skills a successful college student needs – time management, decision making strategies, financial literacy and academic readiness. Required for SMCC and CMCC – take with us and it's FREE. March 1st - April 12th (Offered in Naples and online)
- ACCUPLACER prep: Work with an instructor on skills to prepare you to successfully take your ACCUPLACER placement tests in order to enroll in college level classes. We offer classes in College Prep Reading & Writing and College Prep Math.

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<https://lakeregion-fryeburg.maineadulted.org/classes/categories/financial-aid/adulted@lakeregionschools.org>

HIGH SPEED INTERNET by Terry Lochhead, ESRB Communication

During late March into April, Eastern Slopes Regional Broadband (ESRB) expects to reach an important milestone in the lengthy journey to making high speed internet available at a competitive price in Fryeburg and six other Western Maine towns.* At that time, ESRB will offer specific recommendations to help the towns make informed decisions about their internet future.

Last November, the group called for proposals from internet service providers (ISP's) to demonstrate how the towns could establish a broadband network to serve all permanent and seasonable residents, visitors, and businesses with competitively priced, reliable, internet service of at least 100/100 Mbps, now and in the future.

ESRB's recommendations will be based on proposals submitted by ISP's in December. Since then, the proposals have been reviewed and analyzed by representatives of the seven towns, as well as ESRB's consultant, Mission Broadband. Mission Broadband provides objective telecommunications advice.

The transition to a world based on the internet is important for the future of rural areas hoping to retain businesses and young families. It only takes a quick look at the past to appreciate the opportunities made possible by ESRB's goal of 100/100 Mbps. In the old days, a skilled telegraph operator could send a message at about 5 bits of data per second (5 bps) - about five dots or dashes.

When landline telephones became popular, they transmitted the human voice at about 52,000 bits of data per second. These days, a video conference call on Zoom with your doctor or your business partners can require you to upload 4 million bits per second, or 4 Megabits (Mbps). That's like sending 2,000 pages of print per second. That's more bandwidth than many Western Maine homes have.

If you download a movie from Netflix, it requires even more speed - up to 25 Mbps to get clear images. If you have a student taking an online class at the same time that a parent needs to be in an online training for work, many homes in our area would not have the required bandwidth or hundreds of dollars needed to pay for it.

Judging from the past, the internet speed we use now may well become inadequate in the future, and unaffordable, so ESRB is planning for that day with 100/100 Mbps at a competitive price with subsidies for moderate income families.

* Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden are members of the ESRB coalition.

FRYEBURG RESCUE by Eric Meltzer

Winter got off to a slow start, but recent weekends have seen plenty of recreational outdoor activities from snowmobiling to snowshoeing. We've been making good use of our side-by-side UTV mounted on tracks to access and transport patients from various trails. These small but capable machines have found a number of uses with fire and rescue departments, and nearly all of the public safety departments in our area now utilize them in different roles. Any off-road situation will require extra time to respond to so it's important to call 911 for help as soon as possible in an emergency. If a patient is capable of getting to a road crossing on their own, with help, or on a machine, or anytime the situation changes for better or worse let the dispatcher know so we can respond accordingly. In addition to a potential trauma or medical emergency, exposure is a concern during the winter. Remember to call without delay, we can always turn around or alter our response to a changing situation. Stay safe out there!

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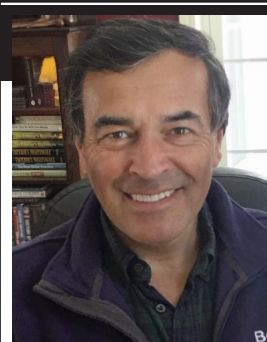


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Beginning Action on the State Budget

Governor Mills gave her televised address on her state budget proposal before a joint session of the Maine Legislature on Valentine's Day. Since then, the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs (on which I serve a Senate Republican Lead) has been holding public hearings each day, reviewing the budget line by painstaking line.

The budget itself is a bill before the Legislature, LD 258, which like an other such measure is reviewed in committee, likely amended, and then sent to the House and Senate for voting. A difference is that this bill is very, very long. My copy, several hundred pages, sits in a thick binder at my committee seat. As I listen to testimony and pose questions, I flip through it and make lots of notes.

Another difference is that the budget bill proposes to spend a record \$10,200,000,000 dollars – that's \$10.2 billion – and allocate another \$300 million to designated purposes, much to the separate Highway Fund to fix our roads and bridges. (There is a separate transportation budget that is reviewed by another committee.)

Some of the Governor's proposed spending includes:

- Maintaining 55 Percent Education Funding: \$101 million to continue meeting the State's obligation to pay 55 percent of local education costs.
- Funding Free School Meals: \$58 million to fully fund universal free meals for students in public schools and for publicly funded students in approved private schools.
- Expanding Pre-K: \$10.5 million to make pre-kindergarten more available.
- Strengthening Child Care: \$7.8 million to fully fund the salary supplements for child care workers enacted previously, ensuring that caregivers of young children continue to receive increased pay.
- Continuing Free Community College: \$15 million to continue providing up to two years of free community college for all students from the high school graduating classes of 2024 and 2025.
- Supporting People with Disabilities: \$84 million in state (\$27 million) and federal funds to improve access to services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Improving the Child Welfare System: Nearly \$15 million for foster care and adoption assistance and funding to support increased reimbursement rates to foster families and services that help caregivers of young children to build skills to respond to children's social and emotional needs.
- Investment in Transportation: \$400 million for the Maine Department of Transportation to repair Maine's multimodal infrastructure system, potentially matching up to \$1 billion in federal funds under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Pay Off Hospital Bond: Utilizes \$26.8 million from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund to pay off in advance the outstanding debt for the hospital bond and transitions future revenues to the Highway Fund.
- Maintaining 5 Percent Revenue Sharing: Maintains 5 percent Municipal Revenue Sharing, continuing to meet the State's obligation to Maine municipalities.
- Enhancing Property Tax Relief: Nearly \$17 million to increase by three percent State reimbursement to municipalities under the Homestead Exemption.
- Combating Climate Change: \$3 million for climate-focused grants, technical assistance, and incentive programs.
- Fighting PFAS: Approximately \$6 million in state and federal funds across multiple departments to detect and mitigate the impact of PFAS.

Thanks to a resurging economy propped up by trillions of dollars of federal spending, state revenues are at eye-popping, record levels. In fact, levels are so high that the Governor is proposing eliminating a spending cap that has been in place for 18 years.

continued on next page

This spending cap limitation has been in place since then-Governor Baldacci signed LD 1 in 2005, which also established the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund – known better as the state's "Rainy Day Fund" – which itself now stands at nearly \$1 billion.

Under the spending cap, the budget should be between \$9 billion and \$9.8 billion under statute, depending upon which baseline you use. The cap works to limit spending growth to 3.78% in keeping with personal income growth for Mainers last year.

If you attend town meetings, you may know that municipalities and school districts have also been under this spending cap all along regardless of the state has met its 55% share of school costs. (The last Legislature approved the first budget since 2005 that met that target voted by Mainers years ago.) That's why municipal budgets are always around 3 or 4 percent.

As always, please feel free to contact me at Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov or 207-287-1505 if I may be of assistance.

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



Legislature is close to halfway through its' schedule... but not halfway through its work!

The 131st Legislature is nearly halfway through its' First Regular Session. Legislative work and session days become more intense in the days and months leading up to the statutory adjournment of June 21, 2023. As a new member, I have learned a lot about the process and the issues of concern to Brownfield, Fryeburg, Lovell, Hiram, and Porter.

In addition to my work on the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, I have introduced bills promoting public, firefighter, and school safety. I have also co-sponsored Joint Resolutions recognizing Teen Dating and Violence Prevention and commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

In addition to considering over 2,200 pieces of legislation (public hearings, work session, committee recommendations and floor debate), the most important task of the Legislature is to adopt a Biennial Budget for the next two years. I appreciated hearing Governor Mills give her State of the Budget speech on Valentine's Day. The Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs is holding hearings on her \$10.3 billion proposed budget.

I have no doubt that there are good proposals in her budget that I can support, especially those that address pressing state problems and protect our most vulnerable citizens. I am, however, very concerned that the state budget has grown at an unprecedented rate over the last couple of years. The fact that Maine has over-collected more than \$1.5 billion in tax revenues from taxpayers and then sent checks back also concerns me.

I believe that the current state revenue projections and the historic size of the budget stabilization fund (aka 'Rainy Day Fund') create a situation where the Legislature can and should lower taxes. This would allow people, struggling to pay bills, to keep more of their hard-earned money. Government should not be getting larger while family budgets get smaller.

Please let me know if there are bills or issues of concern to you. 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.



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