

Town Department Heads

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

State Representative:
Caleb.Ness@legislature.maine.gov

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*

Here, in America, we are spoiled by relatively inexpensive gasoline and open roads, but places like Europe where gasoline is considerably more expensive, efficient mobility is an important consideration of roadway design it seems as though more thought plays a role. Europe is also a considerably older society and they've had to design and build roads within the limitations of existing infrastructure. It should be easier here, with the exception of inner cities, but we accept that which is comfortable so we continue to travel roads that may benefit from easy improvements.

Something we are starting to increasingly see here, are traffic circles or roundabouts or what we called rotaries when I was a kid. I think the definition is specified by the diameter of the curve or something like that, however, the concept remains, regardless of what it's called. England and France make extensive use of these roadway intersections. The efficiency of a roundabout is due to traffic constantly moving. I know, with enough traffic volume and congestion this point is moot but enough traffic volume can stop a four lane highway in both directions. Where a roundabout shines, is during normal traffic volume when the flow continues without excessive delay. The rules are simple; traffic in the circle has the right-of-way and traffic entering the circle must yield. We have a couple of these locally and there was concern when they were being designed. They use more real estate than a conventional 4-way intersection. What if drivers don't yield? They seemed confusing and uncontrolled but no more so than any other traffic control sign. There are far more positives to a traffic circle, including lower cost to build and maintain, no traffic lights to install and calibrate, the efficiency and environmental impact of less stopping and idling, sometimes for no reason at all, when no opposing traffic presents itself. Traffic circles are also safer as long as everyone plays by the rules. Entering a circle demands slowing as opposed to the potential to speed straight through a 4-way intersection. The Federal Highway Administration, as part of a safety focus initiative, states that about half of all severe crashes in the U.S. are intersection related and specifically names roundabouts as demonstrating great potential for reducing crashes. A study in Maryland of nine restricted crossing intersections showed a reduction of 46% for total crashes, 42% for injury crashes, and a whopping 70% for fatal crashes. Now that we've all mastered roundabouts, try to imagine replacing them with stop lights and how frustrating West Side Road would be then. Imagine how easy traffic would flow if there was a traffic circle in place of a light at conventional intersections.

There is a technique that requires no infrastructure modifications and it's used heavily in Germany. It's so efficient, in fact, that it's the law over there and violators are subject to fines, just like breaking any other traffic law. That's saying something when the country that allows unlimited speed on most of the autobahn regulates the way you merge. I'm talking about the zipper system, which in German is a really long word, but in theory is the way two lanes come together. In practice, the driver in the ending lane of a highway, for example, drives as far down that lane as possible before merging into the ongoing travel lane. This happens consecutively with every other car merging at the last opportunity much like the teeth of a zipper closing. This method is so efficient it increases merging capacity by 15% to 20% and decreases congestion by as much as 40%. And more efficient traffic flow reduces accidents since everyone is traveling at the same speed. By waiting until the last moment to merge all available roadway is utilized and by everyone cooperating it ensures that no one will be blocked out of the travel lane in spite or anger. The most difficult part of this system to learn, is to let others ahead in line. I've stated this before and I know it's hard to wrap your mind around but it's not a sign of weakness to let someone get ahead of you. Here in the U.S., there is an underlying sense of being cheated or disrespected when someone cuts in the traffic line ahead and some drivers go to great lengths to weave and block the ending lane to keep others behind. Once we all realize that everyone benefits from more efficient traffic flow it might be easier to tolerate. Admittedly this is an adjustment from our current system of merging as soon as we see the notice of the lane ending and we think of that clear but closing lane as something to avoid, to be polite and get in line sooner rather than later, but in doing this we forgo the capacity that the empty lane offers.

Simple adjustments to known traffic systems and methods can help keep the traffic flowing and traffic isn't going away anytime soon.



FRYEBURG TOWN MATTERS
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Congratulations to Jason and Doreen Wentworth on Their Recent Purchase of Thurston’s Garage in Lovell!

You may know Jason and Doreen as the owners and operators of AJ Blacktop Sealcoating in Lovell.They both are very rooted in their Maine community. Jason is a local boy and graduate of Fryeburg Academy, class of 1990. Doreen grew up in Bridgton and graduate in 1989 from Lakes Region High School. They met in 2004 when Jason’s mom moved into Doreen’s neighborhood and by 2006 they were married. Jason was working as a Well Driller at the time but soon purchased an 18 wheeler and started long hauls. Three years into it he longed to be home with his family so he sold the truck and started AJ’s Blacktop Sealcoating. “We sealcoat, fill cracks, and line-stripe existing paved driveways,” explains Doreen. “It’s been a wonderful 15 years of business in the area and we plan to continue our services.”

In February Jason heard that Thurston’s Garage in Lovell might become available for sale. Owner, Bruce Thurston, had been talking about possibly retiring but it was a struggle. He and his wife Pat had purchased the automotive shop in 1968 and the decision to step away was not an easy one. After 55 years of serving their community their biggest concern was the continued care of their customers. Whoever took over their garage would have to possess the same strong ethics and love and respect of the community.



Bruce & Pat, Jason & Doreen

Bruce had known Jason since he was a child growing up in Lovell. Jason and Bruce's son, Bryce, were friends and Jason could often be found hanging around the garage and even working in the shop doing odd jobs for Bruce when he was a young boy. Jason’s love for all things mechanical came naturally growing up with two brothers and a dad who were all mechanics. Bruce saw alot of himself in Jason so when Jason and Doreen approached him with the idea of purchasing the garage it delighted the Thurstons. They knew that the Wentworth’s would continue the same level of respect and service to the local community. So without hesitation the Wentworths got the nod and the handshake from the Thurston's and the deal was sealed and the wrench was passed.

It all happened that quickly! The Thurston's retired on March 17th and ended the era of Thurston’s Garage. With dreams in hand, the Wentworths open the doors to the new automobile shop - **Wentworths 302 Auto Shop** - on April 3rd. They plan to host a grand opening in the near future but right now, with two businesses to run, their focus is on continued great services to their customers. Doreen with her background in finances will be handling the office with hours Monday through Friday from 7AM to 5PM. Jason and his brother Jeremy will be mechanics on duty from 8AM to 4:30PM. They are currently looking to hire yet another mechanic as well.

The Wentworth’s have great plans for the future including revamping part of their building to include a Pizza/ Sub Shop. Be sure to contact them for your auto needs and to wish them well.

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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. There are also positions available on the Appeals Board, Budget Committee, Parks, Open Space and Beautification Committee, and the Bicycle, Walkways and Trails Committee. Most of these committees meet just once per month, only taking up a few hours of time, and involvement is appreciated!

Town meeting elections will take place on June 6th at the David & Doris Hastings Community Center, with the open Town Meeting being held on June 8th at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds. Please put those dates on your calendar.

The Public Works Department has their work cut out for them once the snow melts this spring. There is a tremendous amount of limbs and downed trees that they will be needing to clean up at the town cemeteries, town parks, and along roadsides. We will also be evaluating trees that are overhanging the roads and sidewalks. If you have specific concerns, please report those to the town office, otherwise know that we will doing our best to get things cleaned up.

I encourage you to please reach out with any questions or comments that you might have.

Eastern Slope Regional Airport by Eric Meltzer

Technology is an amazing thing and thanks to a program funded by the FAA and with the cooperation of Lifeflight of Maine your local airport now has remote cameras and weather information available online. Lifeflight got involved as these cameras are a real time view of the airport and its surrounding conditions including critical information like visibility and ceiling or cloud cover, important information when making decisions about something as important as a potential life-saving flight mission. Thanks to Dave, our operations director, for seizing on this opportunity and getting this program implemented here in Fryeburg. To access the cameras go to this link: weathercams.faa.gov/map.

All airports with cameras will be depicted on the map so go to our geographic region and look for KIZG, the Eastern Slope Regional Airport identifier and click on it. If you allow the site access to your location it will bring you to the area or if you want to go directly to the cameras, the longer website address is weathercams.faa.gov/map/-72.82369,42.80575,-65.32003,45.15326/airport/IZG/details/camera.

Current weather information is also listed in a METAR format which is an international aviation weather reporting format. There are several websites that can explain how to decode this information for you if you're interested. In addition, you can click on any other airport with a green circle around an airplane icon to see cameras at other airports.



Happy Happy
Spring to All

Fryeburg Public Library by Maryann Eastman

Book Group will be April 12 at 10 am in the Weston Room. Our book for discussion will be Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please contact us so we can add you to our email list and to receive the Zoom information. We provide a Zoom link for those who are unable to attend in person.



Book Sale is going slowly but moving along...For those of you who wish to donate books, please remember that we have no storage space at the Library, so please donate only one box or bag of books at a time. We ask that there be no textbooks, encyclopedias or magazines, and that books are in good shape and of recent issue (no earlier than 2016 copywrite date). Please allow the Library Staff to look items over when you bring them, as we cannot accept all items. We may ask you to donate or dispose of certain items on your own. Book prices are \$1 for hardcovers, and dvd's, 50 cents for paperbacks. We do have a lot of great children's books in the book sale. We anticipate that items will be constantly changing, so be sure to come in often!

I met with several local librarians to discuss the Summer reading program, the upcoming Scavenger Hunt, and other events. I will be able to share more information with you as we develop these events.

Coming up Next:

- Adult Education will be offering the following FREE class: To sign up call or email to register: 207-627-4291- adulter@lakeregionschools.org Class is an hour long and computers/devices will be provided for those who need them.
Topic: Learning About Devices - Monday, April 3 at 9:30
- Felting Class, Saturday April 29 10 am to noon in Weston Room, please call library to sign up, as seating is limited. Offered through NDEC/Adult Ed, all materials provided. Free Class

If you have a topic that you want to talk about, or a hobby that you think others might enjoy, please contact Maryann Eastman at the Library. We want to hear from you!

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
- 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

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Fryeburg Water District by Nora Schwarz • www.fryeburgwaterdistrict.org

FWD was legislatively established in 2007. The District's Charter defines rights, authority, and direct responsibility to the residents of a specific geographical area.

Drought, pollution, development, and population stressors are straining water resources worldwide. Our community needs to create systems to manage these and future challenges to a safe and adequate water supply. Having a local board of elected trustees provides a forum for citizens to voice concerns, and express ideas and proposals to protect our most precious local resource.

Maine is seeing increased water privatization with profits going to shareholders. The Fryeburg Water Co. and Maine Water Co. are local examples. Shareholders and executives make private decisions in closed meetings about water resources. Publicly owned systems are not profit driven, thereby can deliver at a lower cost, and revenues can be reinvested in improvements to the infrastructure.

The FWD citizen elected board is a transparent board with community accountability and input into the protection of our water. Meetings are on second Monday of each month at American Legion at 6PM and are open to the public. Please join us on 4/10!
• **Trustee Nomination Papers are due 4/10/23.** • **Flatbread Fundraiser 5/16/23**

Lake Region & Fryeburg Area Adult Education by Michelle Gayne

Our adult education program is a partner with the National Digital Equity Center whose mission is to provide communities at all levels the expertise needed to mobilize broadband technologies through digital inclusion, literacy efforts, education, resource planning, funding research, infrastructure leveraging and stakeholder engagement.


Adult Education
Learning for Work and Life
1881 Roosevelt Trail,
Naples, ME 04055
Main Office: 207-627-4291
Direct Line: 207-647-5135
Fax #: 207-693-3003

Join us for these upcoming workshops which will be held at Fryeburg Public Library. All you need to do is register and the workshops are free! To register, call 207-647-5138 or visit this link.
https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/class_location/fryeburg-public-library/

Learn About Devices:
Monday, April 3rd, 2023 - 9:30 - 10:30am

Devices connected to the internet have become a part of our everyday life. In this class you will learn about the wide variety of devices, from the servers that receive, store and transmit our data, all the way to tablets, smartphones and wearable devices.

Applying for the Affordable Connectivity Program
Wednesday, May 10th, 2023 - 2:00 - 3:00pm

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that was put in place to help low-income families pay for the cost of connecting to broadband internet access. In this class we will look at qualifying for and applying for the benefit, and what you can expect from Internet Service Providers.

Identifying Fraud & Scams
Monday, May 15, 2023 - 2:30 - 3:30pm

Learn more about the different types of internet fraud and scams, the dos and don'ts of protecting yourself online and what to do if you have experienced online fraud or abuse.

These workshops are free for residents of the State of Maine. \$50 fee for non-residents. To register, call 207-647-5138.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET by Terry Lochhead, ESRB Communication

Tiny Town May Showcase Our Internet Future

Look at the tiny town of Vienna, Maine if you want to see what the future might look like in the rural towns of Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden. That's because Vienna won a broadband grant of almost \$2.3 million from the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) to build a fiber network. The town expects to pay the remaining cost without raising taxes.


"It means I get to work from home," said Katie Church, who lives in Vienna. Church works for a nonprofit organization which brings together its employees with online Zoom meetings. To participate currently Church has to supplement her internet access with a hotspot on her cell phone because her DSL internet keeps cutting out.

In August, the seven Western Maine towns intend to apply as a coalition for one of the highly competitive MCA grants. The coalition, called Eastern Slopes Regional Broadband (ESRB), aims to make reliable high speed internet accessible at competitive prices to all homes and businesses in the seven towns. ESRB Town Leads are currently reviewing proposals from qualified internet service providers (ISP's) which will help identify options for the communities.

The cost of Vienna's fiber network is expected to exceed the amount of its grant by about \$300,000. Town officials say that cost can be covered by the town's reserve funds, or by a bond which can be repaid by broadband subscriptions.

At a recent town meeting, Vienna residents voted to form a broadband utility district (BUD) to control the cost of subscriptions and assure reliable customer service. Using the BUD structure, the town will appoint directors to an overseeing Board and that Board will contract with an ISP to do installation, repair, billing, and collections.

"More Than Just A Picture" by Joe Shaw



The Basin Pond in the White Mtn National Forest.

The Basin Pond is a popular camping and sightseeing destination that offers hiking and boating activities.

Photographed with a Nikon D500 with a 12-24mm. f/4 lens in 2022.

Joe Shaw Photography

FRYEBURG RESCUE by Eric Meltzer

Did you know Fryeburg Rescue has an Auxiliary? We do, and we're looking for some people to help us out. This is a volunteer support opportunity that helps us with community outreach, fundraising activities, and large scale situations where we can count on the help of community members.

This does not require emergency trauma or medical care although it could be a pathway to EMS if you so desire and a way to learn more about Rescue's mission and operations. If you're interested or want to know more contact: Donese Oliver 207-256-3027, Penny Parmenter 207-890-8073, or Pam Douglass 207-595-8687.

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There have been several alarming stories the past few days about how Juniper Ridge Landfill, owned by the State and managed by Casella Waste Systems, Inc., is refusing to accept sludge from several wastewater treatment facilities, putting our municipalities in an untenable situation. The cause, according to Casella, is because the company is no longer allowed to use bulky waste from out of state to stabilize the landfill. Instead of innovating coming up with solutions, Casella has decided to hold our communities hostage by charging our water and sewer districts much higher rates for transportation and disposal.

I believe Maine's government acted responsibly by enacting LD 1911 to stop future contamination of farmland and drinking water by banning the land application of PFAS-laden sludge. We also enacted LD 1639 to save limited State-owned landfill space for Mainers by halting the disposal of construction debris from out of state. During the committee hearings on these bills last session – bills that Casella claims are responsible for the lack of stability at Juniper Ridge Landfill – I repeatedly asked for information from Casella about their business practices and financials. This is information Maine taxpayers have a right to know about the landfill they own.

In 2004, Casella entered into a 30-year contract with the State's General Services Administration to operate this landfill. Our right to know did not end with the signing of this contract. Policymakers can't make good decisions if relevant information is kept from them. As the consequences of widespread PFAS contamination have become clearer, the financial underpinnings of our solid waste policies have become murkier. Casella refused to provide critical information to the committee then; and the company is no more forthcoming today.

Are the dramatic rate increases Casella is imposing on municipalities justified? What is the actual cost of using alternative bulking materials to ensure landfill stability compared to what Casella is paid to take construction and demolition debris from out of state? What is a fair rate for Casella to charge municipalities to manage sludge? Right now, communities are in a take-it-or-leave-it situation. Casella's business is essentially a public utility; but the PUC does not regulate them and they have not volunteered to share financial information the PUC would routinely require.


Landfill management is complex and important. Casella services around 36 sewer treatment facilities in the state out of the roughly 41 that are licensed to manage biosolids. That puts Casella in a huge position of power over the majority of our wastewater treatment facilities here in Maine and across New England. There are no other storage options for those facilities. It's a danger for one company to have a monopoly over goods and services with no price competition and it limits options for customers. Without competition, a company has no reason to look for different solutions. Casella claims that the increase in sludge and decrease in out-of-state bulky waste has caused instability in the landfill. There are other available options to ensure landfill stability but Casella has no reason to look for alternatives when they know that Maine's treatment facilities have little choice but to kowtow to their demands and increased fees.

Casella is a billion-dollar corporation. In addition to being paid to manage Juniper Ridge Landfill, it makes money from multiple landfills it owns across the region. It is long past time for the State to take a good, hard look at the iron grip Casella has on Maine's waste options. So far, Casella appears unwilling to work together with municipalities and the DEP to find solutions other than increasing fees and trying to overturn legislation that protects Mainers' health and safety.

Without competition or effective financial oversight, the market doesn't function as intended. Mainers deserve better.

If I may be of help to you with an issue with state government, please feel free to call me at 207-287-1505 or email me at Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov.

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



Work continues on the biennial (2-yr) budget. Governor Mills began the process when she submitted a \$10.3 billion budget proposal to the Legislature back in February. Appropriations Committee has held public hearings and received budget recommendations from all legislative committees.

That process has traditionally involved both political parties in order to win broad-based approval. This is accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate before the bill goes to the Governor. That way, the budget has support from representatives from all areas of the state.

Budget writers discovered that a law, passed in 2005, limits spending growth after the state has achieved the required 55% state share of K-12 education passed by Maine voters in 2004. Under that law, the growth of the state budget is limited to \$9.8 billion.

December 2022 Revenue Forecast projected a growth in General Fund revenues for the upcoming biennium to \$10.5 billion, an increase of \$1.9 billion from the current biennial budget. This level of projected revenue means that Maine doesn't have to cut any existing programs and leaves the state in a position to return money to taxpayers via permanent tax reductions, while remaining under the statutory budget cap limit. I favor reducing taxes while we have the opportunity. That would help ease the burden on Maine citizens and families struggling with higher prices. I do not believe that government should get larger as family budgets get smaller.

I remain hopeful that, as you read this, we are well on our way toward a bipartisan agreement on a budget that serves everyone's needs by covering existing programs and allowing people to keep more of their hard-earned money.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the Legislature. Please let me know if there are bills or issues of concern to you. Please contact me for assistance or if you have questions or concerns involving state agencies.

Understanding Medicare by Bert Weiss • 603-986-5650

After March 31st, Medicare Annual and open enrollment periods are over. So, you need a special enrollment period to sign up for a new plan. There are several of these that could be available to you.

- Anybody turning 65. You have 3 months before and 3 months after your birthday to call Social Security and get your Part B started. When you have your Medicare card that includes both Part A and Part B start dates call myself or another licensed agent and you can get a plan started.
- People retiring from work and currently on group plans. You too need to call Social Security and get a Part B start date. Then you are eligible to start a plan on your own. When you have the card call myself or another licensed agent. Likewise if you lose a plan from work, for any reason, you may be eligible. I am aware that many teachers will be retiring in June and will lose their insurance. Now is the time to prepare for that.
- Low income and get help called a Low Income Subsidy, you are eligible to start a plan. Depending on what level of subsidy you get, there are several different plans available. If you are on full Medicare and Medicaid, there are plans with rich benefits designed just for your situation. You lose no Medicaid benefits, and you gain another set of benefits. Call to see what is available.
- If you just moved in to a new county, you have a special enrollment period.
- If you have been on Social Security Disability for 24 months you are eligible.
- And lastly, anybody can start a Medicare Advantage plan, with or without Prescription coverage, at any time, if the plan has a 5 star rating. Plans always start on the first day of the following month. There is a plan available especially designed for Veterans who get Prescription benefits from the VA. You lose no Veterans benefits and get a list of more benefits that can be quite generous. Call me if you have questions or needs.

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