

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

Fryeburg Business Association:
www.FindItInFryeburg.com

WANT TO ADVERTISE?

Side Bar Ad (2.5” x 1.75”)
\$25 a month \$125 for 6
Side Bar Ad (2.5” x 4”)
\$50 a month - \$250 for 6
(subject to space availability)

If you have something you would like to share please email: Donnawbe@gmail.com for consideration

Deadline is the 20th of each month

AUTO FACTS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW *By Eric Meltzer*

Car batteries have been around as long as the electric starter and even longer for operating lights. They have evolved from 6 volts to 12 volts and amperage has increased to power electric starters that have to turn over ever higher performing, higher compression engines. The primary purpose of the car battery is to start the engine and provide electrical power when the engine is not running.

Modern vehicles require a constant flow of electricity to power things like engine control and management units, info-tainment systems, stereo presets, clock, and other power accessories. There are a myriad of relays that require power like delayed lighting controls. The constant draw of power is very low and with normal use won't kill a battery and this amperage usage is calculated when the vehicle manufacturer specifies the battery size. A properly configured and operating electrical system won't be hampered by minor accessory power draw.

The most common battery in a car, that is the battery used to start the engine, as opposed to a hybrid battery like those found in a Prius or a fully electric car like a Tesla, is a lead-acid battery. Invented by Gaston Planté in 1859, it would be another 26 years before the car would even be invented. Lead-acid batteries consist of lead plates and separate plates of lead dioxide, all submerged in an electrolyte solution of sulfuric acid and water. The result is a chemical reaction that releases electrons that flow through conductors and produce electricity.

Variations on the car battery include “Maintenance Free” which are just a sealed battery case that doesn't allow periodic addition of water. The downside is that they may be more life-limited depending on conditions that I'll go into shortly. A recent improvement to auto batteries is one which submerges the plates in a gel solution rather than liquid. This has the advantage of preventing spills if the battery is tipped or the case is compromised although the average vehicle doesn't require such protections and the increased cost limits their target market.

The common thought regarding battery life in New England is that cold kills a battery and while extreme temperatures don't help, heat is actually the harshest environment to a battery. That electrolyte solution of sulfuric acid and water I mentioned earlier is mostly water and will evaporate when subjected to heat. This upsets the chemical composition causes oxidation and leaves deposits on the plates in the battery. Additionally, plate growth, plate buckling, and corrosion are exacerbated by heat and contribute to premature aging. All this is happening to your car battery while you're sitting by the river or sipping a cool beverage on the porch. Now fast forward to early December when the snow flakes are blowing in the wind, the last warm days of fall are behind us, and you're sitting behind the wheel of your dead car, staring at a dim or dark dashboard while your breath crystallizes on the frigid windshield and your wondering how your battery could be dead when it was working yesterday? Well, your battery has been slowly deteriorating all summer in the heat and now that your car is cold soaked, oil and fluids are thick, and electrical demands are high as your starter is trying to turn all that molasses-like lubrication, your battery has given up the ghost. Heat kills batteries but around here, they fail in the cold. In fact, the average life of a battery in hot climates is three years. The average life of a battery in New England is almost twice as long thanks to our season changing temperatures.

There are alternatives to the surprise of a dead battery. Abnormally slow cranking, especially on a cold day, is a good indication that your battery is going bad. Your favorite auto shop, mechanic, and many auto parts stores should be able to load-test your battery to give you a good picture of it's health. This simulates the effort your battery would put forth while trying to start your car or run all those accessories like the blower motor, lights, and wipers. Dead cells and unacceptable output can be diagnosed and the battery replaced before you find out the hard way. Similarly, your charging system can be assessed to be sure a new battery is what you need.

Modern vehicles with their complex electrical systems are dependent on the flow of electrons and the battery is the heart of the system.



FRYEBURG TOWN MATTERS

Privately owned & published by Business Enhancements. All rights reserved.

Due to the varied sources for information, Town Matters may be subject to errors from time to time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and strive for accuracy. Thank you for your understanding and feedback.

To download a copy of past or current Town Matters log onto www.Finditinfryeburg.com, Open “directory” and click on the Fryeburg Town Matters membership page

Vol 21 • Issue 02 • Editor: Donna Woodward - 207-441-8170 - donnawbe@gmail.com • May 2023

A Vision and Hard Work Becomes A Reality



Two Caps Services became a reality in 2016 starting as a vision by Alina Eastman; a vision to inspire growth, promote freedom of choice, build confidence and independence for members and families with disabilities. TCS provides direct support to individuals with disabilities to assist in building skills for independence. This program is small and mighty but committed to making a difference in the lives of these families and their communities. Alina’s vision came from her own struggles to maintain needed services for her children.

Over the past 7 years TCS has gone through many changes to adapt to the needs of those they dedicate themselves to. They now serve individuals with disabilities through children’s behavioral health, peer mentors, career planning, vocational assessments, parental support, supported employment, and adult community support program.

Most recently TCS added Special Olympics to their offerings when interest was expressed by members of their adult community support program. Noting an absence of an adult Special Olympics Team in the local area and with a lot of encouragement and support from parents, local high school team Head of Delegation Kathy Dunham, and Special Olympics Maine, a team became yet another reality for TCS. In the past year their athletes participated in track & field, bowling, skiing/snowshoeing and basketball. This year they plan to expand the sports offered and team membership. If you have never been to a Special Olympics event you should definitely do so! The track and field regional meet will be held on May 23rd at Fryeburg Academy from 9AM to 12PM. Come out and support the teams.



TCS have been blessed in connecting with community members to join as coaches and volunteers throughout the year. The athletes enjoy this a great deal and it is very beneficial to have a coach that is passionate and knowledgeable about the specific sport. This greatly helps the athlete develop skills and improve performance. Jason Rankin of Fryeburg joined the efforts this past winter as basketball coach. Silas Eastman of North Fryeburg also joined to coach track and field this spring.

TCS would love your involvement. Whether it be coaching, sharing a hobby, a skill, a passion, a business, being a volunteer, or a fan in the stands please reach out. As the are a small team and are so rural, the opportunities to practice and/or scrimmage with others are limited so they love to connect with the community. It’s guaranteed to be fun and rewarding for you!

For more information about any of TCS programming, Special Olympics team, or fundraisers please reach out to Alina Eastman, Founder and Director of Two Caps Services at 207-890-7995 or twocapsvoc@gmail.com. You can also follow them on Facebook.

Correction: In last months cover story it was referenced that the new name of Thurston’s Garage was “Wentworth's 302 Auto” and it should have been “Wentworth's 925 Auto”. We apologize for this error.

PALMER'S
HEATING & SHEET METAL

Air Conditioning • Hot Water • Hot Air
SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATION

Oil Burner Service

95 Smith St, Fryeburg, ME 04037
 Shop: 207-935-2703
 Cell: 207-256-0030

FRYEBURG
DENTAL CENTER
 MICHAEL HARPER DMD

44 Portland Street • Suite 1
 Fryeburg, Maine 04037
 207-935-3133
 www.fryeburgdentalcare.com
 AAID Dental Implants Certified

THE
Oxford
 HOUSE INN

A Country Inn & Gourmet Restaurant
Serving dinner

Tues-Thurs 5-8:30pm and Fri/Sat 5-9pm
 935-3442 or 800-261-7206
 548 Main St., Fryeburg, ME 04037
 www.oxfordhouseinn.com
 ****ME Sunday Telegram 2010

PINKHAM
REAL ESTATE
 EST. 1963

2558 White Mountain Hwy
 North Conway NH 03860
 Emily Kubichko, Fryeburg Resident
 Licensed Realtor in ME & NH
 Emily@PinkhamRealEstate.com
 C: 603-662-4455 O: 603-356-5425

R.T.D. Excavation

- Septics
- Driveways
- Foundations
- Skid Steer Work
- Camp Road Grading
- Shore land zone certified
- Stone, loam, gravel, etc
- Lot Clearing

Richard • 207-890-3721 • Fryeburg

Fryeburg Town Managers Report - by Katie Haley

I hope everyone is enjoying their spring; it is nice to see the grass greening up and flowers blooming.

The town boards and committees have been busy over the last few months; the Planning Board has been contemplating a Short-Term Rental Ordinance, the Budget Committee was meeting weekly to work on the 2024 fiscal year budget, the Appeals Board heard an Administrative Appeal and the Conservation Committee, Parks Open Space Beatification Committee, and Bicycle Walkways and Trails Committees are all busy planning summer projects.

Each of the boards and committees mentioned have open positions. Most of these committees meet just once per month, only taking up a few hours of time, and involvement is appreciated! Please reach out if interested in serving.

The Municipal Complex Building Committee has also been hard at work; they issued a Request for Proposal for Design Services for the proposed municipal complex and have been vetting the firms that responded. Once a firm is chosen, then the first steps of analyzing the chosen site and designing the actual building will begin. There will be opportunities for the public to be involved in that process and your input will be encouraged.

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.

Please feel free to reach out with questions or comments that you might have.

Eastern Slope Regional Airport by Eric Meltzer

Spring has finally arrived and with it comes renewed activity at the airport. Like many activities, sport and recreational flying sees an uptick in the warmer months with some area pilots returning from their winter homes and others, like open cockpit flying machines, are more friendly in temperate climates. Some year-round aviators will be removing the skis from their aircraft and installing floats or wheels or both, if they have amphibious capabilities. It's always fun to observe the traffic at IZG and we have a nice picnic area with tables in the shade of the pine trees close to the terminal building. Lyman Drive that leads to the airport is conveniently located near the end of the rec trail. If you're biking or walking in the area, continue down the road about a mile to the airport or take a drive over and stop in for a visit.

Our friends and neighbors from the Canadian Air Force 413 Transport and Rescue Squadron arrive April 30th for training in the White Mountains. You may be familiar with their big yellow AgustaWestland CH-149 Cormorant helicopter flying around the valley and based at IZG for 1 week during their stay in the area. Come say hello!

An aerobatic camp will be arriving at IZG for practice and coaching on May 24-26. They'll be practicing in the area of the airport and should be fun to watch!

23rd Annual Valley Pride Day Clean-up
Sat. May 6th

Fryeburg Sign- Up and Supplies:
 American Legion Hall on Bradley Street
 from 8:30 - 10:30AM

Litter Pick up until Noon -
 Celebration BBQ at Hampton Inn
 in North Conway from Noon - 2PM

FMI: rmellady1@yahoo.com
 or follow on facebook


Fryeburg Public Library by Maryann Eastman - 207-935-2731

May 10th Adult Ed class- Applying for Connectivity, Weston Room 2 pm, sign up by calling NDEC at 207-627-4291 or adulted@lakeregionschools.org Free Class

Book Group discussion on May 10 at 10 am Weston Room. The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris

Library will be closed on May 29 to observe Memorial Day

Hours: Mon, Wed Thurs: 9 - 4 Tues, Fri: Noon - 6
 Sat: 9 - Noon Sun: Closed



Spring Tea Hosted by Fryeburg Historical Society

Sat, May 20th from 1 -3PM
 at
 Col. Samuel Osgood House
 83 Portland St, Fryeburg

\$15 per guest

Refreshments:
 Scones, tea sandwiches and sweet treats served at Victorian Tea Parties

Reservations are appreciated but not required
 To make a reservation email
 Info@FryeburgHistorical.org or call 207 256-3001 and leave a message.




The Gibson Center's Annual Fundraising Event on May 11th at the Majestic Theater in Conway.

Come help raise the roof celebrating the immeasurable contributions made by our Valley Seniors while raising the funds needed to support Meals on Wheels, transportation and services for the homebound. This is how we support the work of the Age-Friendly Community.

On stage, renowned radio host Laura Knoy, founder of NHPR's The Exchange, will interview musician and actress Mary Bastoni, judge and criminal mediator, Peter Fauver, coach and mentor Bernie Livingston and Ms. Valley and Jen's Friends Board member Barbara Theriault. These are just 4 of the many older adults who represent the prominent and hilarious actors, musicians, announcers, moderators, philanthropists, mentors, creators, organizers and supporters, ready to pass on to younger generations the culture and values that have always made the Valley strong. This will be a very special night to remember.

Attendees will enjoy hors d'oeuvres by chef Dave Blodgett, a cash bar, and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Gibson Center. Doors open at 5:45, and the program begins at 7. Go to www.conwaymajestic.com to purchase tickets online.

Curt's Car Care
 Curtis Smith
 414 West Fryeburg Rd, Fryeburg, ME

*-Servicing all makes and models
 electrical & mechanical repairs-*

207-890-5446
 curtsarcare@hotmail.com




Bertglass Benefits - Bert Weiss

62 Province Brook Rd, Chatham, NH 03813
603-986-5650
 bert@bertglassbenefits.com

*Helping you with the complexities of healthcare.
 Specializing in Medicare Insurance, Health Insurance, Employee Benefits, Employer Self Insurance, Life Insurance, Long Term Care, Income Planning and Final Expense*

HASTINGS LAW OFFICE, P.A.
 Celebrating 175 Years

1847 2022

**376 Main Street
 P.O. Box 290
 Fryeburg, ME 04037**

**207-935-2061
 www.hastings-law.com**

479 Main St
 Fryeburg



**Dr. N. Scott Ferguson
 OPTOMETRIST
 935-3307**

THE STOW CORNER STORE
 "A Western Maine Destination"
 590 Stow Rd, Route 113 • Stow, ME

Take a scenic ride in the country.
 Enjoy a great home cooked meal, snack or simply stop for an ice cream and relaxation!

**Open
 for Breakfast, lunch, and dinner**

(207) 697-2255

FIELD ELECTRIC

Residential - Commercial Generators - Solar

218 Lovell Rd (Rte 5), Fryeburg, 04037

Office/Fax (207) 256-3048
Generators (207) 256-3239

AJ's

BLACKTOP SEAL COATING

Sealcoating • Rubberized Crackfilling • Line Striping • Lawn Mowing
 Property Maintenance • Snow Plowing and sanding

207-925-8022
 Residential Commercial • Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured

Bliss & Associates, Inc.
 Land Surveying • Site Evaluation
 Land Use Planning

E. Jonathan Bliss PO Box 113
 PLS# 1299 Lovell, ME 04051
 LSE# 225 blissinc@fairpoint.net

207-925-1468

Burke QUARRY, LLC.

PREMIUM AGGREGATES

BURKE PAK - 3/4 LEDGE PAK
 SCREENED LOAM
 WASHED CRUSHED STONE
 STUMP GRINDINGS
 EROSION CONTROL MIX

WE DELIVER



603-356-5432
 www.burkequarry.com
 M-F 6:30am - 4:00pm
 Sat 6:30am - 12:00pm

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

- The Fryeburg Water District welcomes citizens to join them for the Monthly Monday Meeting which will be held on Monday May 15th at 6PM @ American Legion
Please note this is the 3rd Monday of May (rather than the usual 2nd).
- Support the Fryeburg Water District's Dine to Donate @ FlatBread Company, Tues May 16, 2023 4-8PM, Local Prize(s) Raffle & 50/50 Raffle
- Elections: Tues June 6th 8AM-8PM @ David & Doris Hastings Community Center
- Town Meeting: Thursday June 8th 6-8PM
- FMI: www.fryeburgwaterdistrict.org fryeburgwaterdistrict@gmail.com

Fryeburg Recreation Center by Mackenzie Buzzell • www.fryeburgrec.com

All of our spring sports will be in full swing with games starting in May. We have posted our sign-ups for our summer rec program, those sign-ups can be found on our website (www.fryeburgrec.com) or facebook (Fryeburg Rec) page. We will be posting information soon on a basketball camp that will be offered the week of June 19th. Keep a lookout on our facebook page and website for more details and a sign-up form.

PLANT SALE on the opening day of the Fryeburg Flea Market on Sunday, May 28th. at the Fryeburg Fair Grounds on Rt 5 in Fryeburg. Locally grown perennials, annuals from Kimball's Greenhouse in Waterford, food table, and white elephant sale all to benefit the Saco Valley Garden Club.

We'll be at the Exp 1 building across from the Main Entrance from 9AM - noon.
 Sorry: We are not able to accept credit cards.

Lake Region & Fryeburg Area Adult Education by Michelle Gayne

Did you know that the Lake Region & Fryeburg Area Adult Education offers academic programming year-round?

- High school completion (HiSET pathway and diploma pathway) in Naples & Fryeburg. Start anytime!!
- Take a career assessment and learn about employment opportunities in our community
- Resume and cover letter writing assistance
- College access (application assistance, financial aid assistance, & more)!

Don't miss out on the Free College Scholarship! If you graduated high school between 2020 – 2023, enroll now and receive free tuition at any of Maine's seven community colleges. Here at Lake Region & Fryeburg Area Adult Education, we can help get you prepared to apply and attend one of Maine's community colleges.

Interested in teaching an enrichment course to our communities? Get in touch with Micah Peterson to learn more about teaching something that you have a passion for! We are always looking for new class ideas and dedicated, passionate instructors. See what we can do for you! Get in touch with us today!

Call: 207-627-4291, Email: adulted@lakeregionschools.org
 Find us Facebook by searching Lake Region & Fryeburg Area Adult Ed

ESTD 1994

DENMARK ARTS CENTER

50 West Main Street, Denmark, Maine

info@denmarkarts.org
 www.denmarkarts.org
 207-452-2412

YOUR FOUR SEASON FARM STAND & GIFT SHOP



48 River St, Fryeburg • 935-2567

Understanding Medicare by Bert Weiss • 603-986-5650

Are you a senior, getting health insurance at work, and considering retiring? Ending your plan from work triggers a special enrollment period allowing you to start a Medicare insurance plan, on your own. There are many options, and no cookie cutter answers. Everybody has a different set of needs. My suggestion is to work with a licensed agent to guide you in making your choices.

Are you a senior, paying a lot for your health insurance from work? You ought to investigate and compare the potential costs if you go on your own. Every situation can be different, so you must be careful about making this decision. It usually can't be reversed.

There are many ways to go about researching your choices. You can go on Medicare.gov, plug in your prescriptions and doctors and compare plans. You can seek help from unlicensed advisors. You can call a number on the telephone you see on TV, or you can contact a company directly. My advice is to seek a licensed, appointed, and certified local insurance agent who represents a wide range of companies. That way, you can choose the best plan for you, not best for a guy on TV. The choices are mind boggling and licensed agents like myself are used to unraveling the details. We are allowed to give advice, while others are not. An agent can help you solve problems down the road. TV guys will not.

If you get VA prescription benefits and are on Medicare, ask about your options. There are several. You lose no VA benefits and can get a list of more benefits.

If you are on Medicare and Medicaid, the same is true. You don't lose Medicaid benefits but you may be eligible for many more.

FRYEBURG RESCUE by Eric Meltzer

EMS Week takes place annually in May. Authorized in 1974 by then-president Ford, EMS Week recognizes EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation's communities.

This year's EMS Week will begin on May 21, 2023 and in cooperation with the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT) and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) the focus of this first day will be Health, Wellness, and Resilience. In celebration this year, Fryeburg Rescue will be holding an open house from 10am - 2pm on Sunday May, 21, 2023. Come by and say hello, learn about opportunities in EMS and with our Auxiliary, and get your kids fitted for a new bicycle helmet. This year at the open house we'll be, once again, continuing our popular bicycle helmet giveaway. Thanks to some generous sponsors we'll be offering free bicycle helmets to anyone who needs one.

This is a community outreach program that we proudly offered for many years but had to suspend due to the Covid pandemic, however, we're pleased to be able to offer this again for the safety and benefit of our community.


"More Than Just A Picture" by Joe Shaw



"Pulling horse from the 2022 Oxford County Fair. Photographed with a Nikon D500.

"I can make a general in five minutes, but a good horse is hard to replace." - Abraham Lincoln.

D's Pizza, Pasta, & Subs



113 Bridgton Rd,
 Route 302
 Fryeburg, ME

207.935.4447
www.dspizza.com

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

FRYEBURG MOTORS

Complete Automotive Sales & Services
 26 Portland Street • Fryeburg, ME 04037

Call or text: 207-321-1148
 Phone or fax: 207-256-8102
 fryeburgmotors@gmail.com
 www.fryeburgmotors.com

Poland Spring®
 100% Natural Spring Water
 from carefully selected springs in Maine



www.PolandSpring.com

McSherry's NURSERY



2599 E Main St
 Center Conway
 603-447-5442
 open daily 8-5



mcnsy@roadrunner.com
 www.mcsherrysnurseries.com

NICOLE FITZGERALD
 REALTOR®

C. 781.308.3188
 O. 603.447.2117
 Nicole@TheCBLife.com
 TheCBLife.com

"Nicole knows...Real Estate"


 COLDWELL BANKER
 LIFESTYLES

Each office independently owned & operated

**KEN KARPOWICH
PLUMBING**
repairs • installation • remodeling

 Master Plumber - ME & NH
Free Estimates
Fully Insured
Over 30 years Experience

Tel: 800-356-0315 or 207-925-1423


WATSON INC.
EXCAVATION
SNOW PLOWING • SITE WORK • SEPTIC SYSTEMS
SAND • LOAM • GRAVEL

207-935-3444
Fryeburg, Maine

**K&W
AGGREGATES
LLC**

Gravel & Stone Products
Frost Mountain Quarry, Rt 113 Brownfield

We Offer....
3/4" Crushed Stone • 1-1/2" Crushed Stone
Ledge Pack Stone Dust • Bank Run Gravel
Processed Gravel • 3/4" Crushed Gravel
1-1/2" Crushed Gravel
Screened Loam • Screened Sand
3/4" Reclaimed Asphalt • Erosion Control Mix

Full Product List and Pricing At:
kandwaggregates.com

207-452-8888



Pit Hours: 6:30am - 4:30pm
Office Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Please Call For Delivery


**FROST MOUNTAIN
YURTS**


A backcountry experience without having to go too far back!

BROWNFIELD, MAINE
Explore us on frostmountainyurts.com

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

Seeking a Solution to the Child Care Crisis in Maine

 Leaders in both parties in the Maine Senate proposed multiple bills to solve our child care crisis. As the co-chair of the Legislature's Children's Caucus, I am cosponsoring several of these bills in order to investigate the root causes of this problem facing so many families and examining solutions.

The state has lost roughly 25% of all providers since 2008. Rural areas such as Oxford, Washington, and Androscoggin counties have each lost at least 30% of all providers over that time, while Waldo, York, Lincoln, Knox and Hancock have lost more than half since 2008.

While child care capacity in Maine has grown slightly compared to February 2020, these slots are concentrated in fewer providers and within more expensive center-based care. Instead of a broader array of options, the market has consolidated into fewer, larger firms that can withstand the regulatory burden imposed by the state.

One of the bills I am cosponsoring was introduced by Democratic Senate President Troy Jackson. It follows on the subsidy of child care facilities providing \$200 per month per employee for child care facilities, doubling that amount. But it also creates a path to understand the critical question: why does the market fail to make child care available to Maine families on a competitive basis?

During a press briefing on Tuesday, Senate Republicans discussed the challenge that working parents in Maine are having in accessing affordable child care. Over the last 15 years, Maine's family child care industry has been decimated by unworkable regulations, tight labor markets and COVID-19.

According to Sen. James Libby, the relationship between quality child care and a healthy workforce is inseparable since it contributes to higher productivity and wages. He said access to child care for working parents contributes directly to a growing economy and less poverty. He also spoke about the high costs parents must endure to have child care, which can run \$14,000 per year if they can find child care at all.

Sen. Lisa Keim, Assistant Republican Leader, said the lack of child care has hit rural areas disproportionately hard, especially for new or expecting parents who work and must call a child care provider months in advance to try to get on a waiting list. Holding up a thick stack of paper, she said the 57-page booklet contained all of the policies a family child care provider must adhere to for licensing in Maine.

She said the state has effectively increased costs and regulations so much for family-care providers that it has forced providers out of the industry. That has steadily eroded capacity in rural areas for over a decade and only made worse during the pandemic.

For Sen. Marianne Moore, who serves on the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee, the bill she submitted promises to bring some comprehensive reform to several key areas that will increase access to affordable child care. In addition to increasing subsidies to the 75th percentile of local market rates, which can vary widely from Portland and Calais to Fort Kent, her bill will also increase the level of children who can be supervised without having to obtain a state license.

Sen. Moore said the final part of her bill establishes an independent board to handle disputes between child care providers or applicants and the DHHS. The board would also hear appeals of license or certification suspensions or revocations, denials of applications, disputes between facilities and the department concerning rule compliance, and denials of alternative compliance requests.

I will be seeking a bipartisan solution to this problem plaguing Maine working families. I would be pleased to hear your own thoughts about this issue. Please feel free to write me at Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov or call at 207-287-1505.

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

Legislature passes a budget with no tax relief, then adjourns

 State government takes in too much money from individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. Our government continues to grow while working people have less money to cover rising bills. In January it cost an additional \$625 a month more than January of last year for an average Maine household to live in Maine. That is \$7,500 more a year.

Maine is the third highest tax burdened state by income in the country. In the last year, the state over-collected \$1.5 billion from taxpayers, then returned part of it in the form of \$850 and \$450 relief checks. My position is that, rather than returning money that should not have been taken in the first place, we need structural tax relief to help people every year.

I ran for office to fix problems, and work cooperatively with others to make things better for the people back home. That is why I am extremely disappointed that the ruling party refused a request for \$200 million in tax relief targeted toward low- to middle income earners. The Republican proposal I supported represents 2% of a \$10.3 billion budget that is expected to grow even larger when new revenue forecast projections come out later this month.

To avoid working with legislative Republicans, Democrats passed a one-party budget, then pretended that the Legislature had finished its work in March, not June 24, the statutory end date. Having "finished its work," the Governor then called the Legislature back into Special Session. We are now in that "Special Session" completing our work without a specific end date.

While I am disappointed that elected representatives of over 450 Maine municipalities representing 600,000 people were excluded from making a bipartisan budget, I will not stop trying to find a way to let struggling Mainers keep more of their money. I do not care who gets the credit, I want results that will help the people back home.

In better news, however, I have been able to do some exciting things over the last month that I believe can help many people. First, I was able to present a bill that would ensure MaineCare has to give a 60 day notice if someone is to be terminated. Current rules are set to a 15 day notice. Also, I presented a bill that would aim to keep our volunteer firefighters safer, by allowing them to have larger light arrays on the personal vehicles they use when responding to calls.

Lastly, I wanted to mention the fact that I have been receiving lots of input about the proposed "Rail to Trail" initiative. Currently, I'm gathering input and information to hopefully make the best decision for our community. I apologize for not getting back to everyone, but I want you to know that I hear your thoughts and concerns, and appreciate your input!

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you in the Maine House. Please let me know if there are bills or issues of concern to you, or if you have questions involving state agencies. I can be reached at Caleb.Ness@legislature.maine.gov.

Remember Mother on Mother's Day - Sunday, May 14th



 **BEAN GROUP PLATINUM COLLECTION**

Distinctive Properties. Exceptional Service.

"Carol is an amazing and dedicated professional. We have utilized her services multiple times and she is sold every property we have listed with her. She's available to her clients day and night and is a pleasure to work with."

Carol Chaffee, REALTOR®

 **Cell: 207.240.1641**
Office: 800-450-7784
www.carolchaffee.com

Serving Western Maine & New Hampshire Lakes & Mountains

 Bringing People Home.®

**FRYEBURG
KITCHEN & MARKET**
EST. 2021

2 Jockey Cap Lane

Fryeburg's Newest Restaurant & Lounge
Open Tues - Sat11am - 9pm

Find menu & entertainment on facebook
207 256-3089

 **Chalmers
INSURANCE GROUP**

Family owned & operated est. 1857

Personal | Business | Benefits

800-360-3000
ChalmersInsuranceGroup.com

KEZAR REALTY



*Lakefront Homes, Residential Properties
Building Lots & Acreage*

Valerie Tripp
925-1500 Visit: KezarRealty.com
224 Main St, Lovell, ME 04051