



SELECT BOARD / TOWN MANAGER- We are announcing a housing survey for Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor as an ongoing study aimed at understanding workforce housing shortages. We are working with Camoin Associates to gain insight into the local housing market and create future planning initiatives. The survey seeks input from residents and will be available for at least a month. Participants will be able to access the questionnaire online as well as paper surveys at local libraries and town offices. When it becomes available, residents can expect to see it announced in the local newspaper and social media. We encourage all residents to participate in this important initiative to help create a comprehensive understanding of housing needs in our area. Your input will play a pivotal role in shaping priorities for housing in our communities.

Budget season is due to begin this month. During this time, department heads will meet with select board members and budget members to review options for the 2024/25 fiscal year. Residents are encouraged to attend meetings. *Please see town calendar of meetings on the back side.

Second payment of property taxes are due March 31, 2024. Since this day falls on a Sunday, payments will be accepted (or postmarked) without penalty on Monday, April 1, 2024.

Special thanks to Dwight Rodgers for volunteering to be our moderator at a recent special town meeting!

Please take note of the new signs that were replaced in the villages of South Gouldsboro and Birch Harbor, compliments of labor by Joe Depasquale. Thank you!

Reminder: Motorcycle registrations will be expiring at the end of March. Vehicle re-registrations may be done at the Town Office or online at <https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>. We still send out monthly registration reminder postcards. If you receive one and no longer have the vehicle or trailer, please call us to let us know so we can remove it from our system. If you would rather have the reminder emailed, please call us so we can update our records or email bmitchell@gouldsborotown.com.

GOULDSBORO POLICE DEPT- Just a reminder that the frost heaves have reappeared (most of us know where the really bad ones are each year). Please be mindful and careful. If you have not yet registered your dog, it is now past due. Please stop in to the Gouldsboro Town Office to register your dog(s). Current rabies vaccination paperwork, is required. If your dog has passed away, please call the Gouldsboro Town Office, at 963-5589 so staff can update our records.

ELECTIONS- The State of Maine Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Polls will be open from 8AM to 8PM at the Gouldsboro Rec. Center, 679 Pond Road Gouldsboro. Please remember Unenrolled, Democratic, and Republican enrollments are the ONLY parties that can vote in the Primary Election. There are no referendum questions on this election ballot.

Nomination papers for the Town Municipal Election will be available Monday, March 4, 2024. **Terms to expire:** two Select Board seats, (3year terms), one Planning Board seat (3year term), and one RSU 24 School Board Representative (3year year term). Papers must be returned to the Town Office no later than 1PM on April 12, 2024.

DORCAS LIBRARY- March is filled with new reads and activities at Dorcas: Join us for Qigong every Monday at 9AM. The writers will meet with Merry on Thursday, March 7th at 1PM. Knitting with Cyndi will be on Thursday, March 14th at 2PM. Interactive story hour with Liz will be on Thursday, March 14th and 28th at 10:15AM. On Thursday, March 28th at 1PM we welcome Heather Siri Temple for her 4th Herbal & Plant wisdom class. Don't miss it!

SCHOODIC FOOD PANTRY - The Gouldsboro Select Board has given us the go ahead to move forward with our plan for expansion. The funds for the addition to our current building will be raised through an ongoing effort to secure donations and grants. The additional space will allow safer delivery access, a storage area to support bulk purchasing and larger deliveries, as well as more space to accommodate our growing number of patrons.

Thank you to everyone who has shopped and donated the pantry items from last month's list. Keeping our shelves filled is an ongoing challenge, and we appreciate your help!

VETS COMMITTEE- Did you know the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services is a great resource for Veterans? Their website has a comprehensive guide, and it can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/docs/MBVS-Resource-Guide.pdf>. Also, if anyone in the Schoodic Peninsula knows of a veteran who is in need of emergent assistance, please pass the who and what information along to the Gouldsboro Town Office and they will pass it on to the GVC. We will resume our monthly meetings on April 2, 2024 at 1PM at the Gouldsboro Town Office.

CODE ENFORCEMENT- All new sheds and out buildings NEED a town permit.

Following the January storms, many residents have been inquiring about Shoreline Stabilization. If you are looking to have shoreline repair work completed, the most important step is to contact the DEP Bangor Office **BEFORE** beginning any permitting process. Due to the unique nature of each property, DEP has suggested that all inquiries regarding this type of work be directed to the Bangor Regional office (this office covers our area). The DEP staff can clarify what actions you may need to take for your individual property. They can best determine the type of permit your property/situation requires. Maine DEP 106 Hogan Road, Bangor, Maine 04401. (207)941-4570 or (888)769-1137.

CODE ENFORCEMENT- New building permits issued		
NAME	ADDRESS	PROJECT TYPE
Winter Harbor Lobster Co-op	Intersection Route 1 + Route 186	Sign
Mark Osborne	174 Route One	Radio Tower

RSU 24- The tank has been mounted and secured and the pump house is in the construction phase, all positive signs in completing the domestic water cistern project for the new school. We are in the process of planning for the softball and baseball field dugouts, scoreboards, and the necessary fencing for the playing fields at the new school. We will not know for a number of months whether we will be able to play spring sports on campus. Let's keep our fingers crossed! The formal review of the budget by the Budget and Finance Committee has started. They have reviewed the individual school budgets and had a chance to ask questions and get clarification on the various facets of the school budgets. The remaining budget workshops will take place on Tuesday evenings and the following dates remain at the time that I am writing this update: February 27th (**please note that this meeting will take place at Sumner**), March 12th and 26th, and April 9th. These meetings start at 6:30PM. At the February 27th meeting, we will present District-wide Education Programs (Special Education, ELL, Gifted and Talented, Instructional Technology, etc.) to the committee. At the March 12th meeting, we will present the Education Support Services (Health, Facilities Operation and Maintenance, Transportation, Curriculum, System Administration, Debt Service, and Tuition) budgets to the Committee. The materials to be discussed will be posted on the RSU Business and Finance Webpage (prior to each meeting), found under the Departments tab of the rsu24.org website. On February 10th at Sumner, the Sumner Sports Boosters hosted the Scott Jellison Basketball Tournament. The tournament had our junior varsity girls' and boys' teams hosting teams from neighboring communities, twelve different teams utilizing both of our gymnasiums. It was awesome to have so many people in the school enjoying our new facility while supporting their local team. The tournament raised close to \$10,000 for the Boosters Club to support our student-athletes. A huge thank you to Boosters Jenna Shorey, Lucille Null, Michelle Smith, Ellysea Bryant, Ginny Dennison, Cindy Crowley and the many parents and community members who donated time or food to the event. We are lucky to have such strong support for our students! If you have any interest in learning about and/or supporting the Sumner Sports Boosters, please feel free to contact Lucille Null at lnull@rsu24.org. Again, thanks to all of those who made the day a success.

CALENDAR OF TOWN EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR MARCH

MARCH 4 th	MONDAY	COASTAL RESILIENCE @ TOWN OFFICE	5PM
MARCH 5 th	TUESDAY	PLANNING BOARD @ TOWN OFFICE	6PM
MARCH 7 th	THURSDAY	*SELECT BOARD/BUDGET COMMITTEE@ TOWN OFFICE	5PM
MARCH 13 th	WEDNESDAY	*BUDGET MEETING @ TOWN OFFICE	5PM
MARCH 14 th	THURSDAY	SELECT BOARD @ TOWN OFFICE	5PM
MARCH 19 th	TUESDAY	PLANNING BOARD @ TOWN OFFICE	6PM
MARCH 20 th	WEDNESDAY	*BUDGET MEETING @ TOWN OFFICE	5PM
MARCH 28 th	THURSDAY	SELECT BOARD @ TOWN OFFICE	5PM

***Budget meetings are subject to change. Please call for confirmation.**

Our Town Office hours are Mon +Wed 8AM - 4PM, Tues 8AM - 5PM, Thurs 8AM - 6PM and Friday 8AM - 1PM.