

Town of Trenton
59 Oak Point Road
Trenton, ME 04605

Phone: 207-667-7207

E-mail: townoffice@trentonme.com

Fax: 207-667-0543

Web: trentonme.com



December 2022 Trenton Newsletter

Issue 2

Published by the Trenton Town Office
59 Oak Point Road, Trenton, Maine 04605

Town Office Happenings – The Nov. 8th election kept the office staff bustling. Many residents voted by absentee ballot. Our staff did a tremendous job in providing that service and in keeping accurate records. A total 836 votes were cast, nearly as many as in most presidential elections. Many thanks to those who assisted with voting and keeping lines to a minimum.

We are nearly halfway through our 2022/2023 fiscal year. Our budget for the year is \$5,838,538, with \$888,835 yet to be collected from taxpayers. Our expenses are currently just under 36% of that budget, which is right on track for the year.

The town office well was tested for PFAS during the first round of tests. We are pleased to report that the result was negative. Those first 50 households that tested, should have received results by now. The accompanying paperwork appeared a bit overwhelming, but after reading it a couple of times, it became easier to understand.

Visit trentonme.com, or our Facebook page, Town of Trenton Maine, to stay up to date with community information. Stop into the Town Office or call 207-667-7207 for assistance.

Trenton Volunteer Fire Department – Each year the Trenton Volunteer Fire Department teaches fire prevention and safety at the Trenton Elementary School. We did this in October and hope your student(s) shared these prevention messages and tips.

Did you know: ...that home heating is the number two cause of home fires? ... that half of all home heating fires are reported in the months of December, January, and February? ...that portable electric space heaters cause two in five deaths in space heater fires?

Keeping our homes warm in winter is a priority for all of us. Heating costs have risen significantly, and we expect many will consider using alternate heating appliances and space heaters.

Please consider this advice from the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA):

- Keep all flammables at least three feet from heating equipment like a furnace, fireplace, wood, or pellet stove.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fireplaces, wood, and pellet stoves.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop escaping sparks.
- Ashes must cool before going into a metal container. Keep the container at least 10 feet away from your home or other buildings.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified pro install stationary space heaters, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have a qualified pro clean and inspect heating equipment and chimneys annually.

Follow Electric or Portable Heater Safety:

- Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least three feet away from flammable items and people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.

Space heaters should be off and unplugged when you exit the room or go to sleep. Even with best prevention strategies, fires happen! Having early warning devices in the home is critical to safety. Test your Smoke, Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Gas Alarms monthly. Change batteries when you change clocks for daylight savings. Prepare and practice home escape planning in case of a fire, CO, or gas emergency. Have a family meeting place, and with friends and family visiting for the holidays, always share this information with them as well. **Always remember to call 911 if you have an emergency.** If you have other, non-emergency questions, please contact the Fire Department at 669-4131 or email at: firedepartment@trentonme.com. Wishing all a safe and warm holiday season! Steve Heckman, Fire Chief.

Trenton Elementary School – Trenton Elementary School (TES) is off to a great start! In October we had Open House and Parent Teacher Conferences. It was wonderful to have families back in the building to showcase student work. We also had the Trenton Fire Department teach our students about fire safety. Thank you to the volunteers who made Fire Safety Day possible with the fire extinguisher demonstrations and safety presentations.

Our afterschool garden club participants are enjoying harvesting from our greenhouse. Miss Rachael will work with students in the greenhouse and cafeteria through the winter. The Tower Garden will be turned on in December and students will harvest for our salad bar and for the Trenton Community Cupboard. The cupboard has seen some changes with the Bar Harbor

Food Pantry (BHFP), offering new systems and options for Trenton residents. The school will continue to partner with the BHFP to help provide food for our local community.

On November 10th, we invited local veterans to lunch with our students. We had a wonderful turnout of about 15 local veterans. Seventh and 8th graders were able to meet with a several, prior to lunch. They heard stories and asked questions about the military and the veteran's experiences. We are so grateful to the veterans who joined us!

Our winter concert will be Monday, December 19th at 5:30 pm. We hope you will join us in the gym to celebrate how much our young musicians have grown since September. To stay up to date with all that is happening at Trenton Elementary, please go to our Facebook page: Trenton Timberwolves, or our school website: trentones.org. Crystal DaGraca, Principal

Trenton Parks and Recreation – Your Trenton Parks and Recreation Department has been busy! We have joined with Barbara Acosta to fulfill the actions promised in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors Monarch Pledge: 1. Raise awareness of the declining Monarch species and their need for habitat. 2. Engage with garden groups and urge milkweed and nectar-producing plantings. 3. Identify mowing revisions and increase such plantings. 4. Engage with gardening leaders/partners to support Monarch conservation. 5. Facilitate/support milkweed seed collection and propagation. 6. Add/maintain native milkweed/nectar producing plants in community gardens. Parks and Rec has helped create two new community pollinator gardens: one behind our school and one behind our Town Office Fire Pond. Thanks to those who helped these efforts! We expect approval for our 2023 pledges.

With Friends of Acadia (FOA) and the volunteers who helped Parks and Rec maintain the Trenton Community Trail. This will be a continuing joint effort. Parks and Rec, our Road Safety Committee, FOA, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust are discussing creating more Trenton hiking trails! Please let us know if you would like to have a trail to walk, jog or bicycle on in your area! Parks and Rec has created a Youth Sports Program (YSP) for kids in grades K-5! The YSP is FREE to enroll. Our highly successful Soccer season recently ended. Thanks to the parents who helped during practices and games! High school students can earn Community Service Hours by helping at practices. Contact us for more information. Our Basketball season is Dec 2 - Feb 10. Kids in grades K-5 can play basketball in our YSP. Practice is Fridays after school to 5pm, through Feb 10th, with Saturday games/drills. Currently, the YSP only includes Soccer and Basketball.

What other sports/activities would you like to see in our community for ALL ages? What other social groups? Send us your suggestions. Parks and Rec is working toward an annual Trenton Day. Send us your input and ideas. We may create fun groups like a book club, stitching club, coffee club, game nights, etc. Let's get out of our houses and chill with friends again! We'd love to know your interests! Contact Trenton Parks and Rec with your ideas, concerns, or membership and volunteerism!!! Our Monthly meetings are public, always at 5 pm, the 3rd Wednesday, in our Town Office. Look for Facebook posts in our public group: Trenton Parks and Rec Bulletin Board. Email us at TrentonParksAndRecDept@gmail.com, or call me at 610-9555.

Chip Roskom - Chair, Trenton Parks and Rec Department

Code Enforcement Officer -- Permits in quarter July 1 – October 31, 2022

Building permits – 19	Value of permits – 5,546,570	Dwelling units – 3
Plumbing permits – 18	Residential solar projects – 3	

Winter weather can bring a higher risk of house fires, hypothermia, frostbite, and carbon monoxide poisoning. **NEVER** use a generator inside a home, basement, shed, or garage. Keep portable generators outside away from windows and as far from your home as possible. Carbon monoxide poisoning from generators does happen. To retain as much heat in your home as possible, especially during power outages, close blinds/curtains, close off unused rooms, and stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors. Be sure to plug only one heat-producing appliance in at a time. Never use a gas stovetop for heat. If your power is out in extreme winter weather, contact your local office of emergency to find a warming center. For a helpful guide to winter home safety: <https://www.safehome.org/home-safety/winter-home-safety-guide/>

Home Energy Assistance Program: HEAP is a federally funded program that helps with home heating bills, based on household income and size. The Emergency Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) may provide emergency fuel deliveries between November 1st and March 31st each year. For assistance, contact: Downeast Community Partners, 248 Bucksport Rd, Ellsworth, ME 04605, Tel. (HEAP) 207-664-2424 or 207-546-7544 or 1-800-828-7544 (from 8:00-12 noon).

Angela M Chamberlain, CFPE I, Code Enforcement Officer, 207-288-3329

Solid Waste Committee -- Trenton is lucky in that not all that we discard is trash. Recycling for Trenton's residents in the form of zero sort is available at Eastern Maine Recycling (EMR) in Southwest Harbor. Our waste, which is managed by the Municipal Review Committee (MRC), Ellsworth, is being sent to both the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC), in Orrington, and Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town. Due to labor and facility problems, our trash is currently being burned or sent to a land fill. MRC received a non-refundable deposit from a company wanting to reopen the Hampden facility next year. This will solve our waste dilemma.

Mike Gilmartin, Chairperson

PFAS Free Trenton – We are a group of Trenton residents who want to ensure clean, PFAS free water in our town. Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are “forever chemicals” that are resistant to breaking down, and linked to health effects including certain cancers, lowered immune response, high cholesterol, decreased birth weights, and thyroid dysfunction. PFAS are used in thousands of products such as fire-fighting foams, water and stain resistant products, non-stick cookware, food packaging and even make-up.

In 2017, a water test conducted at Trenton Elementary School showed significant levels of these Highly Fluorinated PFAS chemicals. The school has installed a water remediation system, but other wells in the community might also have these chemicals present. Trenton is offering free water testing for PFAS using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The first round of this testing was in October. Fifty additional wells will be tested in early December. You must complete a survey to be considered for this free water test. Find the survey at:

<https://forms.gle/3Rqwu4ymZLaKuu2Z6>. Email us at pfasfreetrenton@gmail.com if you prefer to have the live link sent to you. The survey will help prioritize testing in case there are more requests than funds available. Test results will be shared with the Town of Trenton and the Department of Environmental Protection to determine the scope of PFAS contamination. Fill out a survey, even after December, as we hope to have more funds available for more tests. For more information PFAS, about well testing, or to join our group, you can email us at pfasfreetrenton@gmail.com or call me at 207-460-1243. Christina Heiniger, Spokesperson

About this Newsletter – If you would prefer to receive this publication via email, please send your name, physical address, and email address to: Trentonnewsletter@gmail.com.

