

ST. GEORGE NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Spring is here, really!!!



As folks start to get out and about, there are a lot of ride needs. Don't forget a Neighbor to Neighbor volunteer, who is probably someone you know, is waiting to give you a ride to doctors, physical therapy, shopping, or even lunch with a friend. In addition, we can drop you off at the Dash bus in Rockland.

<https://unitedmidcoastcharities.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ROCKLAND-DASH-Schedule-May-01.pdf>

Our service is available for **ALL residents of St. George,
No matter age or income level.**

Please call our new dispatcher, Charlie and schedule a ride.

Call 691-7069 to get all the details

TOWN CALENDAR

Town website: www.stgeorgemaine.com

School website: www.stgeorgemsu.org

April 2023

April 3 P&R Meeting 6 PM
April 6 Conservation Commission 4 PM
April 10 Select Board 7 PM
April 11 Senior Luncheon – In person 11:30
Planning Board 7 PM
April 17 Patriots Day – Town Office Closed
April 24 Select Board 7 PM
April 25 Planning Board 7 PM

The St. George Fire Department meets every Wednesday
at 7:00 pm at the Tenants Harbor Fire Station.

Parks & Recreation News

NEXT SENIOR LUNCHEON

April 11– Back in Person!

**11:30 Luncheon, followed by music from St.
George School musicians!**

Next Luncheon – May 9

Spring Recreation News

**Little League, Farm League and T-ball are
coming soon. If you have not registered
your child, please do so on the town
website. Registration deadline is April 7.**

P&R News: to get regular recreation news,
sign up for our email list on the town website

TOWN INFORMATION

Town Office: 372-6363 **Fax:** 372-8954

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm

Transfer Station: 372-6451

Hours: Tue through Sat 8-4

Select Board & Assessors

Richard Bates, Chair	372-6904
Randy Elwell	372-0602
Steve Cartwright	372-6534
Wayne Sawyer	372-6489
Van Thompson	372-8000

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Message from Superintendent:

Dear Families,

As I mentioned in a [letter earlier this month](#), we are facing a very difficult budget next year. The School Board held public Budget Workshops on March 1, 8, and 15, as we worked to find ways to reduce the budget without negatively impacting students. In the end, we made reductions of over \$400,000, however, we are still anticipating a significant increase in the budget and the school's portion of the local assessment.

Several factors are contributing to the increase in next year's budget; an overview of these factors is available on our [website](#).

The most significant factor impacting the 2023-24 budget is the **increase in the number of students with severe behavioral, social-emotional, and mental health needs, which has resulted in much higher special education costs**. Four years ago, we established specialized programs to provide intensive services for students with severe needs. Those programs reduced the need to pay tuition for our K-8 students to attend programs in other districts (out-of-district placements can cost more than \$100,000 per student per year) and helped avoid significant increases in special education costs *saving the district hundreds of thousands of dollars*. However, the number of students with severe needs has continued to grow and we've had to add staff and services to meet those needs.

Districts across our region are seeing major increases in their special education costs as they work to meet the growing needs of students. This was a major topic of discussion at the Change for MidCoast Students event that took place in January. The event was covered in the [PenBay Pilot](#) and [Village Soup](#). You can listen to a recording of the event [here](#).

Additional factors impacting next year's budget include a loss of \$250,000 in state subsidy, rising high school tuition rates, absorbing the cost of the PreK Program that was largely funded through a grant this year, and an anticipated jump in health insurance premiums.

We will continue to work on the budget looking for ways to reduce costs. The School Board will meet on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. to vote on the proposed budget for 2023/24 School Year. If you have questions about the budget, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. I'm also happy to attend meetings of community groups that would like to discuss the school's budget, programming, and vision for the future.

Thank you for all you do to support our students, staff, and school community.

Sincerely,

Mike Felton, Superintendent
m.felton@stgeorgemsu.org
207.542.6394

Proposal to make Ambulance Service a Town department to be voted on

In addition to electing local officials on Monday May 8, 2023, voters will be deciding whether to make the Ambulance Service a department of the Town of St. George. The Town Charter requires a referendum vote to create any new department. Although the Town has contributed funding to the ambulance for many years, the actual emergency services have been provided through an independent nonprofit association. As other communities have also seen, the cost and complexity of providing these services has increased significantly in recent years. Last fall, the Fire and Ambulance Association requested that the Select Board consider making the ambulance a formal department of the Town.

Under the proposal, residents of St. George will not notice any changes in ambulance operations. The current Emergency Medical Services leadership and staff will remain in place. Insurance coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid will still pay a portion of the cost of providing emergency services. These set fees cannot cover the full price of ambulance services, so the balance is already being made up by the Town. That will continue unchanged.

The St. George Fire and Ambulance Association will continue to exist and will focus its efforts on supporting public safety through education and fundraising. As proposed, the daily operation of Emergency Medical Services would be overseen by the Town Manager and Select Board.

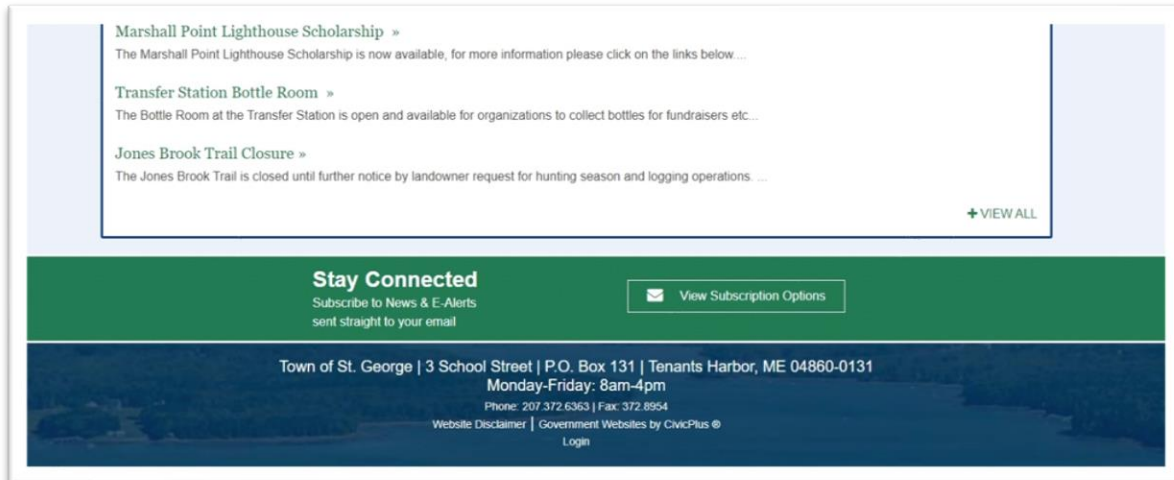
Voting on the establishment of the Emergency Medical Services Department will take place at the Town Office from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on May 8th. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Office beginning April 7, 2023.



Tech Tips by Bill Batty

This monthly newsletter is a great way to get a quick overview on what is going on in the town. But if you would like even more info, it is easily and readily available to you in your email. Would you like to receive an email with the planning board's agenda? Perhaps the minutes from the selectboard meeting? How about info on what was discussed at the recent town meeting about absorbing the ambulance service? In this article I will walk you through exactly how to do it.

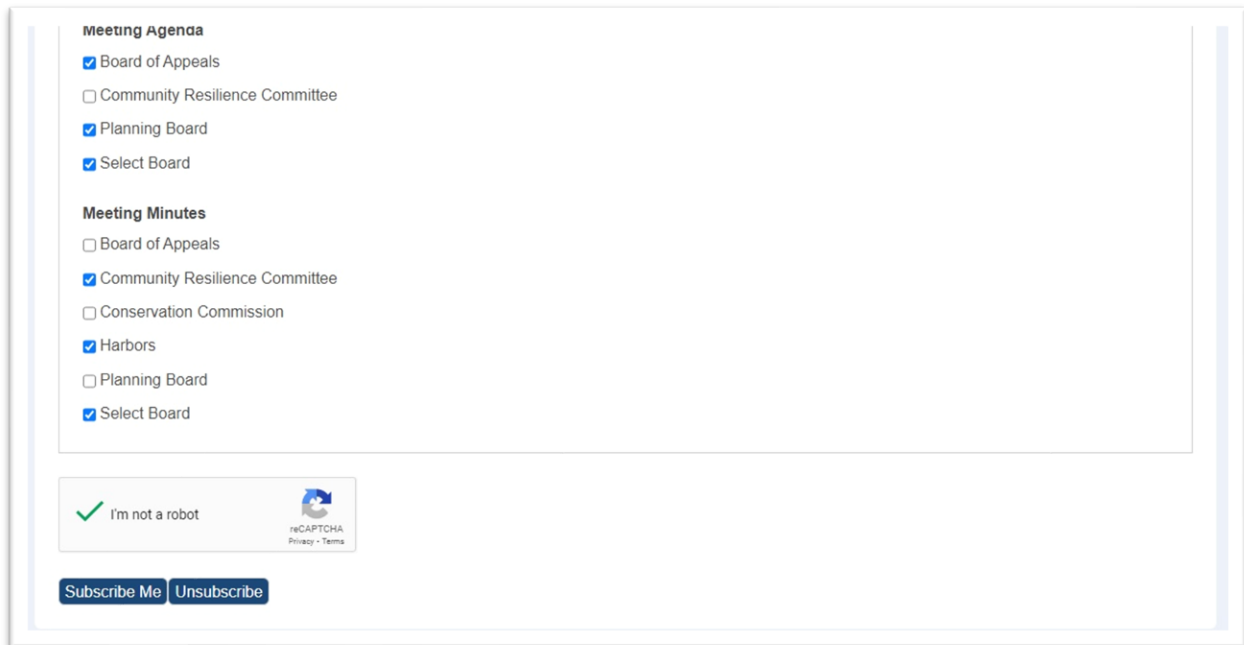
First, go to the town's website at www.stgeorgeme.com. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page, and you will see this:



See the “Stay Connected” section? Click the “View Subscription Options” button to the right. Once you are on the next page you will see where to enter your email address. Type your email address in each of those boxes.

A screenshot of the 'Subscribe' page on the Town of St. George website. The page has a light blue header with a 'Home' link and a green share icon. The main heading is 'Subscribe'. Below it are two text input fields, both containing the placeholder text 'putyouremailhere@gmail.com', labeled 'Your Email' and 'Confirm Email'. Below these is a section titled 'Select one or more lists from the section below' with a list of checkboxes: 'Urgent Alert', 'Board of Appeals', 'Parks & Recreation', 'Select Board', and 'St. George Alerts'. The 'Urgent Alert' checkbox is checked.

You will then see a bunch of categories. Put a check mark in the box next to the information you wish to receive. Do you want notifications from the Harbor Master? Click the appropriate box. Would you like the board of appeals minutes? Click that box. Select all the options you would like to receive. Then scroll to the bottom of the page, and you will see:



The screenshot shows a web form for selecting subscription options. It is divided into two main sections: "Meeting Agenda" and "Meeting Minutes".

Meeting Agenda

- ☒ Board of Appeals
- ☐ Community Resilience Committee
- ☒ Planning Board
- ☒ Select Board

Meeting Minutes

- ☐ Board of Appeals
- ☒ Community Resilience Committee
- ☐ Conservation Commission
- ☒ Harbors
- ☐ Planning Board
- ☒ Select Board

Below the checkboxes is a reCAPTCHA widget with a green checkmark and the text "I'm not a robot". To the right of the reCAPTCHA is a small logo for "reCAPTCHA" with links for "Privacy" and "Terms".

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Subscribe Me" and "Unsubscribe".

Make sure you check the "I am not a robot" box then click the "Subscribe Me" button. Then, as the appropriate documents/news is made available, you will get it sent directly to your email.



TOWN OFFICE REMINDERS

Property Taxes were due March 31. Interest begins to accrue April 1st

Mooring fees double beginning May 1

April 17 is Patriots Day – Town Office is closed

Looking ahead...

Town voting for Select Board, School Board and Town Ordinances May 8

Town Meeting May 9



**Town of St George
PO Box 131
Tenants Harbor, ME.
04860**