

ST. GEORGE NEWSLETTER

August 2023

Conservation Commission

Fort Point Trail Rehabilitation Project

The Fort Point trail remains CLOSED during the construction phase of the project. This closure is out of concern for the safety of visitors.

Latest News: The commission has been working for several months to expand the Universal Access trail to include State property at the point. We are happy to announce that the State has recently funded an additional \$45,000 for this portion of the trail. Due to the historic nature of Fort St. Georges the first activity before proceeding with trail construction was to conduct an archaeological investigation to ensure that no artifacts are disturbed.



On July 10th & 11th two archaeologists from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission assisted by 14 local volunteers and commission members conducted the investigation. The investigation included digging 30 test holes (20"x20" sq. and 12" to 36" deep) spaced equally along the proposed trail route and sifting the material looking for artifacts. No significant artifacts were found in the top 6" allowing the trail construction is proceeding as planned.

1 Digging & sifting for artifacts

Project Progress: The bridge has been completed and the full length of the town property trail section has been cleared. The next phase of construction consists of installing drainage stone and surface material, starting at the "Point" and working back to the trail head. With the addition of the trail loop around the point the project is now expected to extend into late fall.



TOWN CALENDAR

Town website: www.stgeorgemaine.com

School website: www.stgeorgemsu.org

August 2023

Aug 3 Conservation Commission 4 PM
Aug 7 Select Board 7 PM
Aug 8 St. George MSU Makerspace Building
Referendum Polls open 4 – 8 PM
Aug 10 Planning Board 7 PM
Aug 21 Select Board 7 PM
Aug 22 Planning Board 7 PM

Parks & Recreation News

NEXT SENIOR LUNCHEON

Sep 12 – Bean Suppah! 11:30

Next Luncheon – October 10

Summer Recreation News

**Look for announcements regarding
registration for 2023-24 youth sports
beginning in August**

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

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

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

Van Thompson, Chair	372-8000
Randy Elwell	372-0602
Steve Cartwright	372-6534
Jane Conrad	372-6621
Wendy Carr	372-0645

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CTE/Makerspace Referendum Vote
Tuesday, August 8
4:00-8:00 pm. @ the Town Office

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, August 8, at the Town Office between 4-8 p.m. so we can move forward with the CTE/Makerspace Building Project. We need voter approval to spend up to \$3.5 million to construct the new CTE/Makerspace Building, **which will be 100% funded by donations and grants.** Our estimates indicate that the building project will cost less than \$3.5 million, however, just to be safe, we're asking for authorization to expend more than the estimated amount.

Again, this vote will **only authorize us to expend money raised through donations and grants** on construction of the new building.

The CTE/Makerspace Building Project is a partnership between St. George MSU and Mid-Coast School of Technology to construct a PreK–8th grade Career Technical Education (CTE)/Makerspace building. The new building will include a **shop space for boatbuilding, woodworking, and metalwork** as well as a **Makerspace with 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC routers, robotics, and sewing machines.** The new building will not only serve students, but also the larger community through adult education courses, community “Open Shop” times, and partnerships with local businesses & entrepreneurs.



Renderings of the CTE/Makerspace Building. The picture on the lower left shows St. George School in the background.

Our goals are to:

1. Bring **trades, technology, and innovation back to the heart of public education;**
2. Allow **ALL students to engage in hands-on/minds-on projects** and develop the technical, creative thinking, and social-emotional skills to meet existing labor force needs and create **the businesses and industries of the future;** and
3. **Strengthen the local economy** by providing CTE programs for students and adults.

This project is **rooted in the history and hearts of our community**, which include generations of builders, entrepreneurs, artists, and innovators. The **Lilius Gilchrist Grace Institute** provided St. George students with training in carpentry, metalwork, and the culinary arts for more than 70 years, and the more recent **Makerspace Initiative & STEAM Program** allows students to create using 3D printers, laser cutters, robotics, and design software.



In 1939 the Grace family appropriated additional funds to establish a Manual Training Department, which would include Metal Working, for the boys of the town. Two buildings were erected close by the original structure. Mr. Forrest A. Wall built these buildings and was elected to serve as the first instructor of Manual Arts. The shop is equipped with power and hand tools of every description. Both farmers and fishermen have made use of this building to their own carpentry and metal work during these many years. Mr. Raymond King has been in charge of this department since 1949.

Excerpts from the 1952 St. George High School Yearbook courtesy of John Falla and the St. George Historical Society.

The **28 businesses sponsoring the project** have donated more than \$50,000. Local businesses are also assisting with the design of the building and program development. We want to work with local businesses to expand learning opportunities for our students. Last year, 1st graders built wooden toolboxes with help from local contractor Chris Leavitt and 7th graders visited Fisher Engineering's manufacturing plant in Rockland.



Local contractor Chris Leavitt helps Ms. Thompson's 1st grade class build wooden toolboxes.

[News Center Maine](#) filmed the class as part of a story on the [CTE/Makerspace Project](#).



7th graders visiting Fisher Engineering as part of their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) class.



First graders working on their wooden toolboxes.

With a “Yes” vote at the August 8 referendum, you’ll help us continue our work **to provide ALL students**, PreK-12th grade, with access to hands-on, minds-on, technical learning. We plan to begin construction in the spring of 2024 and hope to open the CTE/Makerspace Building for students and the community during the 2024-25 school year.

With your help, we’ll get the job done for our kids and community.

Sincerely,

Mike Felton, St. George MSU Superintendent

m.felton@stgeorgemsu.org

207.542.6394

Learn more at

www.stgeorgemsu.org/page/cte-makerspace-building

St George Newsletter August 2023

DONATE online at www.stgeorgemsu.org or write a check to “St. George School Fund” with “CTE/Makerspace Building” in the memo line. Checks can be sent to St. George MSU, Attention: Mike Felton, PO Box 153, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860.

Donate Now

BUY-A-BRICK Fundraiser: Purchase a personalized, engraved brick that will be part of the CTE/Makerspace Building at <https://www.stgeorgemsu.org/page/buy-a-brick>.



BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS: Business Sponsors are recognized on our website and in the new building. Contact Superintendent Mike Felton (m.felton@stgeorgemsu.org; 542.6394) for details.



Maine Bean Lobster President John Petersdorf and Vice President Dan Falla accept the Business Friend of the Year Award at the MSMA Fall Conference for Maine Superintendents and school board members.

Advice on Choosing a Laptop (Town Tech Tip)

Hard to believe back-to-school time is approaching, eh? With as much rain as we've had it has hardly felt like we have had any summer at all. And yet the calendar says school starts in four weeks! Maybe you are headed back to college. Perhaps you are taking a few classes in the evenings. Maybe you have a grandchild matriculating at your alma mater, and you want to make sure they have a good laptop for all those papers they will be writing. This article will help you determine what the right laptop is for you!

My first question for someone looking to buy a laptop would be: Does it have to be mobile? If you answer "No, it will just be at my desk," I would tell you to buy a desktop computer. Desktop computers—dollar for dollar—are more powerful, more flexible, easier to upgrade, and easier and cheaper to repair. The only advantage a laptop has over a desktop is its mobility; and if it does not have to move, there is no good reason to opt for a laptop. Perhaps though you travel a lot, or are a seasonal resident. Being able to move your computer quickly and easily is the primary reason for having a laptop. Since this is a back-to-school article, it would make sense that a student will need a portable solution.

After determining that you do in fact need mobility, my next question would be: What operating system are you most familiar with? That is, do you want a Mac or a Windows laptop? (Or maybe you'd consider a Chromebook? If so, see last month's article!) I tell people "Macs are the Lexus' of the computer world. They are well built, extremely reliable, and hold their value well. They are also expensive to purchase and expensive to repair." Go into your Mac purchase knowing that. I am a big fan of refurbished computers, and my Apple purchases have all been refurbs. A Windows laptop will give you more options. All Mac laptops are manufactured by Apple, so you must buy what they have available. Windows will be available on Dell, Lenovo, HP, Acer, Asus, and on and on. And because multiple Windows laptop companies are vying for your business, competition will tend to drive their prices DOWN. A Mac laptop *starts at about \$1000*. A similar thousand dollars would get you a very well-appointed Windows laptop.

The operating system choice can be somewhat determined by how the laptop will be used. Are you going to use the computer to run Quickbooks? You want a PC. Are you a student in college for architecture or CAD? Again, probably a Windows laptop—and a powerful one! Perhaps you are going to study art or music; traditionally, the Mac operating system has proved popular in those fields. If you are selecting a laptop for college, it might be wise to see if the college has a suggested laptop with minimum recommended requirements.

Now that we know what operating system you want, I would ask you what size screen do you need? Laptop screens, like TVs and projector screens, are measured diagonally from corner to corner. Smaller screens have the advantage of being extremely portable. My old Macbook Air had an 11" screen. That computer was so light and handy, I took it almost everywhere. My current Macbook has a 13" screen, and though it too is handy to carry, I miss my little 11". For a student who will be moving their laptop from class to class, smaller and lighter is better. The 15.6" screen is the most popular size. With the bigger size you will get more screen real estate, and probably more connections and features—like more USB ports, multiple video outputs, things like that. The big 17.3" screen is nice for people who maybe don't see as well as they used to. It wasn't very many years ago a 17" monitor was used with a desktop, so there's lots of viewable area on a 17.3" screen. That big screen means a bigger overall size, though. They also tend to be heavier. If you are not moving your laptop frequently, the bigger size is nice. If you will be moving the laptop a lot though, consider something towards the smaller end of the spectrum.

With those major questions out of the way, we can focus on some smaller concerns. Do you need a backlit keyboard? Do you need a number keypad (sometimes called a 10-key keyboard)? If you need the number keypad, you will have to shop for laptops 15.6" and bigger. Smaller laptops don't have room for the 10 keys. Do you need a DVD drive? Most laptops *don't* include them anymore. If you need one built in, again you will need to look at 15.6" or bigger. (Probably though you will need to invest in an external USB DVD drive--\$25-35.) Will you be doing video editing or gaming, or CAD/CAM or other extensive video work? Look for a laptop with discrete video processing. If that is your need, be prepared to spend some cash, as laptops that can do that high end work are expensive.

I hope these tips will help you shop for just the right laptop. If you know whether you want a Mac or a Windows machine, and what size screen you need, then you have the biggest considerations covered.

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