



ST. GEORGE NEWSLETTER

September 2026

St. George Cell Service Update August 2026

What prompted this effort

All users experience areas of poor or nonexistent cell service in some areas on the peninsula. This is particularly dangerous during emergencies, when individuals are unable to call 911. Select Board Chair Jane Conrad & St. George Community Development Corporation Board President Rob Kelley agreed to collect information to provide to cell service providers in hope that we could improve coverage.

What was done

125 residents provided information about their cell service experience and about a dozen businesses, non-profits and governmental officials (fire, ambulance, harbor master) wrote letters regarding their cell service difficulties. Ms. Conrad provided this information to Verizon and T-Mobile (which merged with U.S. Cellular), spoke with representatives of both companies and Ms. Conrad and IT professional John Maltais drove around problem areas on the peninsula with the representative of T-Mobile to compare service available on Verizon vs. T-Mobile service.

Town Manager Brandon Leppanen submitted a request to Verizon regarding the possibility of erecting a tower in Port Clyde. (There is currently only one tower in St. George, in the village of Tenants Harbor near the transfer station and water district property.) We have heard nothing from Verizon since our request.

What was learned

Having only one cell tower on the peninsula, combined with our geology, topography, and tree cover makes cell service a challenge on the peninsula. It became clear that, at the present time, service in our area is markedly better for T-Mobile users than other providers. We were told that this is due to the fact that if a tower is unavailable, T-Mobile service switches automatically to satellite service or an analog radio spectrum, providing their customers with more signals.

Most of us who have Verizon service have very poor or no service on the Port Clyde Landing or at the lighthouse, whereas T-Mobile worked consistently in those areas. In the drive-around with a representative of T-Mobile, his phone lost service for only a few seconds on only a few occasions, whereas Ms. Conrad and Mr. Maltais, both of whom have Verizon service, had little service in Port Clyde, some areas in Tenants Harbor, and on the riverside of the peninsula near Wiley's Corner.

Verizon did recently upgrade service at the Tenants Harbor tower, but residents have noticed little improvement.

(Cont. on page 5)

TOWN CALENDAR

September 2026

- Sep 2nd** Joint St. George/So. Thomaston Resilience Committee IO Team meeting, South Thomaston Town Office, 4pm
- Sep 2nd** Cemetery Committee, downstairs mtg room, 4:30pm
- Sep 3rd** Conservation Commission, downstairs, 4pm
- Sep 7th** Town Office closed, Labor Day
- Sep 8th** Parks & Rec Committee, upstairs, 6pm
- Sep 8th** Planning Board, downstairs, 7pm
- Sep 9th** Open Space Committee, downstairs, 4pm
- Sep 14th** Select Board, downstairs, 6pm
- Sep 15th** Staff meeting, town office opens 9:30am
- Sep 22nd** Planning Board, downstairs, 7pm
- Sep 23rd** Open Space Committee, downstairs, 4pm
- Sep 28th** Select Board, downstairs, 6pm

Meeting dates/times subject to change; please see our website for the most up-to-date info

Town website: www.stgeorgemaine.com

Town Facebook: www.facebook.com/TownofSaintGeorge

School website: www.stgeorgemsu.org

Parks & Recreation News

Seniors - Our next luncheon is September 8th and we will be having chop suey!

Youth - Soccer season is among us! Soccer registration can be found on the town's website. Go to the Parks & Recreation Department page and click the link on the left labeled 'Youth Sports Registration'. If you are interested in volunteering your time as a coach, assistant, or referee please contact the Parks & Rec Director!

Community - The Parks & Recreation Boosters have purchased 2 new basketball hoops for Collins Park in Port Clyde. Go down and take advantage of this amazing park in your backyard. Play basketball, tetherball, football, use the swings, sidewalk chalk and much more! You can also head to the Kayak Rack located beyond the Jackson Memorial Library. Park and walk towards the outdoor gardens beyond the library, walk the trail and take a left. You can't miss it!

The St. George Fire Department trains at 6pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday. They have "truck checks" at 6pm on the 4th Wednesday. The second Wednesday of the month is their business meeting at 7pm. All events are at the Tenants Harbor Fire Station.

TOWN INFORMATION

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

Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

Transfer Station: 372-6451

Hours: Tue through Sat 8am-4pm

Select Board

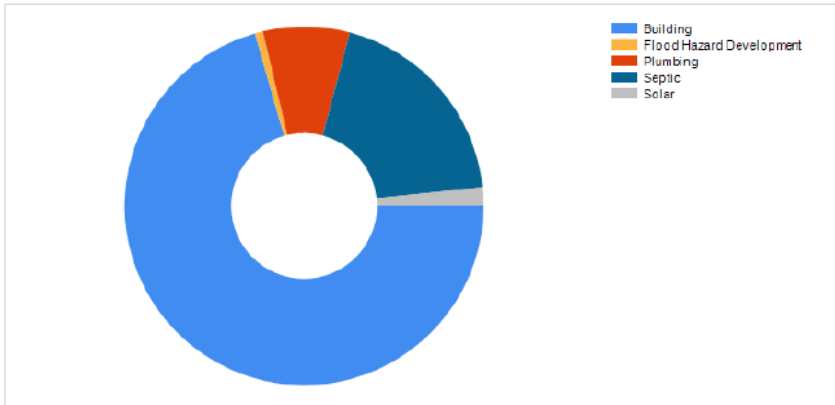
Bryan Morse	b.morse@stgeorgemaine.org
Tammy Willey	t.willey@stgeorgemaine.org
Steve Cartwright	s.cartwright@stgeorgemaine.org
Jane Conrad	j.conrad@stgeorgemaine.org
Randy Elwell	r.elwell@stgeorgemaine.org

Permit Type Report

Permit Date
07/01/2026 to 07/31/2026

Description	Fees	Payments	Permits
Building	\$3,890.50	3,510.50	19
Flood Hazard Development	\$40.00	20.00	2
Plumbing	\$430.00	340.00	6
Septic	\$1,060.00	1,060.00	4
Solar	\$91.50	41.50	3
Total	\$5,512.00	4,972.00	34

Fees Breakdown



The St. George Planning Department would like to keep our residents informed regarding building, plumbing, and septic permits that have been approved by our CEO/LPI Terry Brackett.

Each month in the newsletter, we will post a chart reflecting the type of permit, the fees, and the payment amounts. As always, the public may request to look at any application that has come into the office, or an approved permit.

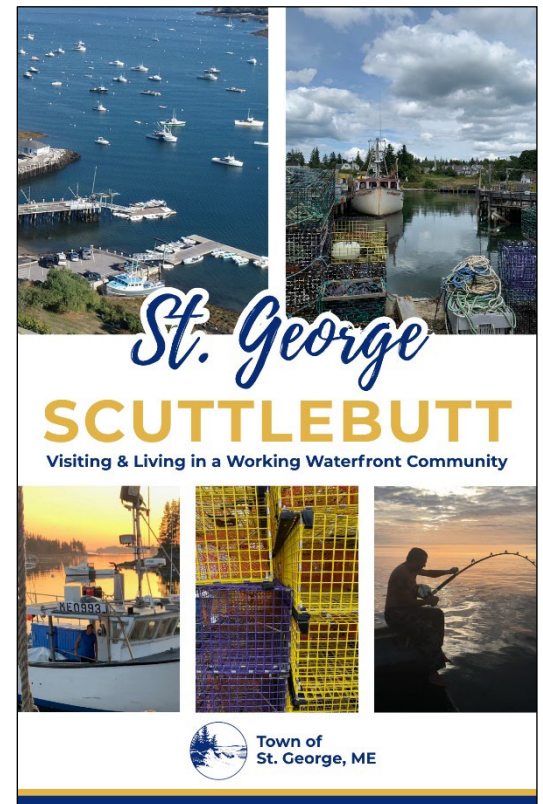
Have you ever wanted to learn more about our local working waterfront? Check out the St. George Scuttlebutt! This little booklet is packed with information and photos about local fishing, clamming, aquaculture, the long history of our working waterfront, and how you can help support its future.

If you want to learn about...

- The annual value of local lobster & clam harvests
- The number of aquaculture leases in St. George
- New ideas for cooking with seafood
- When the Port Clyde sardine factory closed
- What a working waterfront covenant is
- How you can help protect water quality
- Tips for kayaking around fishing boats

...and more, then grab a free copy from the town office, or check it out online by clicking [here](#).

Special thanks to the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association and the Herring Gut Coastal Science Center for contributing time, expertise, and funding to make this happen!



What's happening with the roads?

~Suzy Ellis, Resilience Committee Chair

On June 25 there was a very well attended public meeting to discuss options for Cold Storage and Factory Roads in Port Clyde as presented by our grant-funded consultants at Sebago Technics and FB Environmental. Many, many opinions were expressed and questions were asked and many were answered. Plans were available to review the options. These plans are still available at the town office. A survey was generated and forty some people responded.

On August 4, the resilience committee for the town of St. George met to discuss the meeting, the survey, and how to proceed. Members of the public were, again, good enough to attend. We discussed the need for a cost analysis of what “do nothing” actually means. We have re-named this option the “pay as we go” plan as repairs after large storms certainly don’t cost “nothing.” We will be generating a best guess for the frequency of storms similar to January 2024 and extrapolate a cost based on what the 2024 cost was. This will help us recognize a tipping point where the cost of increasing repairs outweighs the cost of remediation.



We discussed a fifth option for Factory Road of moving the roadway somewhat toward the land side, but still within the town owned right of way, and after much discussion we got to a tentative decision that doing nothing on Factory Road might well be the correct answer. The protective barrier built on the shore after the 2025 storms will last for the foreseeable future and the roadway itself has clearance from high tide events. Remember that this is a tentative decision.

Regarding Cold Storage Road there is no good or simple remediation to be had. Doing nothing has cost in safety and dollars to local businesses and residents. Raising the road enough to be easily eligible for grant funding will have impacts on the neighborhood that we couldn’t consider at this point. In designing a possible building for the Port Clyde General Store space Gartley and Dorsky developed schematics that are available for our use. We asked Sebago to look at those plans and develop an option that raised Cold Storage Road as much as possible without catastrophic impact on the neighborhood. They have agreed to create a new option for our review.

There is much work still to do and we may well decide to put off any work on these roads and bring Drift Inn and Marshall Point Roads to the fore for design and remediation work. We are a town surrounded by water. It is what makes it so lovely to live here. It’s also a continuing challenge.

(Ed. Note: The recordings of the two road meetings are available on the town’s YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@TownofSt.GeorgeMaine>)

(Cont. from page 1)

Cell Service boosters/mini-towers

Colby recently installed Verizon FemtoCell towers in the Seaside Inn and Squid Ink building which boosts Verizon cell service to up to 40 phones per building. Cost? Approximately \$1,500 each. <https://www.verizon.com/support/4g-lte-network-extender-enterprise-basics/> There are similar devices that boost the signals of multiple providers and smaller devices for homes that boost fewer phones (e.g. \$175 device that boosts 6 lines). Nichole Price of Colby reports that during busy periods, the system shows that it is supporting the full 80 phone lines.

Some residents have tried cell service boosters, but noted that these do not work if there are no bars of service to boost. Here is some general information about signal boosters:

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/best-cell-phone-signal-boosters> <https://www.waveform.com/collections/boosters>

Local tech companies may be able to help homeowners evaluate such options, e.g.,

<https://hi-te.com/home>

What the town, residents & businesses can do to improve their cell service

The town will continue to explore the erection of another tower in St. George. However, whether or not a private company feels it is in their financial interest to do so is beyond our control. The town will also explore ways to improve radio communication or improve cell service in emergency vehicles. (There are mobile devices that can be placed on top of ambulances or fire trucks which will dramatically improve the cell service of any phone and carrier used in that vehicle.)

Residents and businesses have the following options:

- Changing carriers to a service that provides better coverage;
- Consider a signal booster/extender;
- Add a second SIM card to your phone from a service that provides better service (individuals who wish maximum coverage can have 2 SIM cards from 2 different carriers in one phone, obviously this will cost more);
- Be aware that newer phones have better reception than older phones since they have greater capacity to receive signals;
- Update the software and reboot (on/off) your phone regularly;
- Use wi-fi calling in places where that is available;
- If cell service is not reliable at your home, maintain a landline or wi-fi.
- Also, customers who had U.S. Cellular service now through T-Mobile may still be able to improve their service by making some modifications to their phones & service. If this applies to you, talk to T-Mobile.

Finally, it is important to note that cell service providers routinely work to upgrade service. The findings shared here are true today but could change at any time.

Update

After providing this report to the Select Board, Ms. Conrad forwarded it to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. David Bresnahan of the Maine Connectivity Authority then reached out and plans to come to St. George to discuss our cell coverage since the State is doing an analysis of coverage challenges.

<https://www.maineconnectivity.org/cellular-plan>

We will continue to update the community as we share our experience with State officials and learn more.

Submitted by Jane Conrad, Board Chair

To the Residents and Neighbors of Port Clyde,

My name is Paul Ureneck, and I am the project lead overseeing the redevelopment of the former Port Clyde General Store property. Nichole Price, Inaugural Director of the Center for Resilience and Economic Impact, is my colleague hired June 1, 2026 and is developing a vision for the programming to occur in this space.

Together, we continue to learn from you all the gravity of what was lost in the tragic September 2023 fire. The General Store was more than a building; it was the heart of our village and a vital piece of Port Clyde's history. As we move forward, we do so with immense respect for that legacy and are exploring meaningful ways to honor and celebrate the site's rich history in design elements.

Communication

We are committed to providing regular quarterly progress updates in this newsletter, moving forward. We also invite the community to engage with Center programming at the Speaker Series hosted on Wednesdays at the Barn Café from 5-6:30pm, next scheduled on August 12 & 19. This year's series is focused on the Resilient Table, and we offer discussion, beverages, and nibbles from Pt Clyde and regional food service businesses and supporters. We will continue to be present and accessible at town select board meetings and community events, as well.

Ownership and vision

Following the transfer of ownership in November 2025, Colby College and the Northlight Foundation- led by long time Port Clyde residents Dan and Sheryl Tishman- have been working diligently to craft a plan that balances historical significance with a sustainable future.

Supporting the working waterfront

We recognize that Port Clyde's identity is tied to the water. A primary goal of this redevelopment is to ensure that the "working" aspect of the waterfront remains intact.

- **The wharf, fuel pumps, and harbor moorings:** We have contracted Lyman Morse to operate the wharf, fuel, and moorings. Dock attendants are on duty 7 days a week from 8am to 5pm for fueling needs. Mooring reservations can be made through dockwa.com.
- **Local favorites:** We are pleased to share that the Squid Ink Café continues to operate under its current ownership. Additionally, The Barn (adjacent to the Seaside Inn) Café and Art Gallery and the Dip Net food truck are both open and will continue to be operated this summer through construction and under its current manager, Lexi Zable.
- **Construction activity:** Wright-Ryan respectfully minimizes loud activity during normal operating hours while also working around the tides. We have engaged a traffic safety engineer to assist us with pedestrian and vehicular safety during construction.

The path forward: timeline

Our tentative schedule focuses on stabilizing the marine infrastructure before moving to the upland construction. We are also beginning the process of identifying a restaurant operator and will use a standard request for proposal (RFP) process to evaluate candidates.

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Phase	Description	Estimated Timing
Design Phase I	Designing a structure on the site of the former general store, which will house a restaurant at the street level and office of the Center for Resilience and Economic Impact, including gathering and collaborative space open to the community, above.	Completed
Marine Work	Commencement of wharf replacement and preliminary site work.to enable sea wall construction	Commenced
Restaurant Operator RFP	Completion of RFP process	October 2026
Phase I Completion	Completion of marine-related, site stabilization work and building foundation.	November 2026
Design Phase II	Continued design for the new structure.	Through 2026
Building Construction	Commencement of the main building construction.	Early Spring 2027

We are committed to keeping the lines of communication open as this project evolves. We look forward to being good neighbors and contributing to the continued resilience of the Port Clyde community.

Sincerely,

Paul Ureneck

Assistant VP for Real Estate Development and
Operations Colby College
pureneck@colby.edu

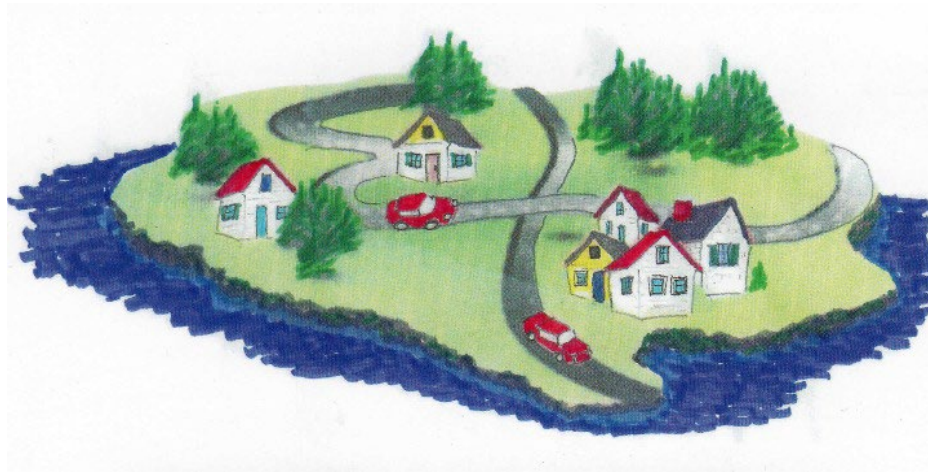
Nichole Price

Inaugural Director, Center for Resilience and Economic
Impact
Colby College
nnprice@colby.edu

Crab or Shrimp Roll Sales

Eureka Masonic Lodge, 4 Watts Avenue, Tenants Harbor, will host its final Crab or Shrimp Roll sale of the season on Wednesday, September 2nd. For the price of \$15, treat yourself to either a crab or shrimp roll on a toasted bun, a bag of potato chips, a homemade dessert and a bottle of water. This is curbside pick-up and starts at 11:30 until sold out. We look forward to serving you and we thank you for your support in 2026. Proceeds contribute to our community outreach programs.





It's Been Quite A Summer

The weather has been wonderful and we have been busy. We have provided over 45 rides. And, in coordination with the St George Community Development Corp., we have participated in the summer kids meals program, helping to deliver healthy meals to kids in St. George.

As we approach a new school year, remember that if you or a loved one needs a ride to an appointment, shopping or even a fun event, we are here. Please be sure to give us 24 to 48 hours notice.

For a ride or for information about volunteering or being a driver, call the number below.

Call 207-691-7069 to get all the details

Fingers Crossed for a wonderful Indian Summer

Help Wanted: Paramedic



The Town of St. George is seeking a full-time Paramedic to join our EMS department. This is an opportunity to work in a small, community-focused department providing emergency medical services, ALS intercepts, and mutual aid to surrounding communities. We are looking for a paramedic who values high-quality patient care, teamwork, professionalism, and being an active part of the community.

For more information, please see the job listing here: <https://aptg.co/L6rCcQ>

Update Regarding the Town of Saint George Town-wide Revaluation

Previously scheduled to be effective for the 2027 tax commitment, the town-wide property tax revaluation has been postponed and is now projected to be effective for the 2028 tax commitment. On-site property inspections are expected to begin in fall 2026 and will continue throughout 2027. More information will be provided and a public information session will be scheduled before property inspections begin this fall. Please stay tuned for updates. If you have questions or concerns about the revaluation, please contact the Assessors' Agent, Jacky Binette, at j.binette@stgeorgemaine.com or the Town Manager, Brandon Leppenan, at bleppanen@stgeorgemaine.com

Conservation Commission News September 2026

Trails



Walking from Ft. Point on a warm summer day
In a forest of ash, I encountered a woodcock
With mottled feathers and long straight bill
Strutting its stuff on the cedar boardwalk

Come walk this universal access trail
Step lightly with your shoe
Be extra quiet and keep eyes wide
And you may see a woodcock, too

*Poem by J. Meyer
Photo credit J. Ohler*

Fort Point Ash Tree Preservation

This woodcock is enjoying the Fort Point Trail and getting some good exercise while keeping track of the comings and goings on the trail. To maintain the character of the trail, which is heavily populated with ash trees, the Town is collaborating with the Maine Forest Service (MFS) to preserve the largest and healthiest trees close to the trail. The MFS has already taken the first step in treating some of the trees and shortly our certified contractor will be treating additional trees. This proactive approach in the battle against the invasive Emerald Ash Borer will help maintain the character of the trail and keep it open for all users.

Labor Day Weekend Community Pancake Breakfast

Eureka Masonic Lodge, 4 Watts Avenue, Tenants Harbor, will host its annual Labor Day Weekend Community Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, 5 September from 7:30 – 9:30. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, donuts, coffee and orange juice. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Eat in or take away. We look forward to serving you. Proceeds contribute to our community outreach programs.





Come meet the St. George Fire Department!

Are you looking for ways to meet new people and help your community?

Come visit the St. George Fire Department and the
St. George Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Association!

We train or meet every Wednesday evening at the Tenants Harbor station.

Whether you are looking for hands-on skills and trainings or are interested in
administrative & fund-raising experience, we have a place for you.

We are planning events for the year, including trainings, BBQs, and our traditional St.
George Days lobster dinner & the Labor Day lobster stew.



No experience necessary.

Come check it out!



Email firedept@stgeorgemaine.com for more information.



Tara's Tips

- Tax bills have been sent; the first payment due-date is September 30th. Interest begins accruing October 1st.
- Moved recently? Please make sure we have your new address.

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