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Community Connections

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May 2026





OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL JROTC
HONOR UNIT WITH DISTINCTION
20 YEARS
2006 - 2026
20 YEARS AS AN HONOR UNIT WITH DISTINCTION





Your Voice, Your Schools
Budget Warrant, pages 24-25
School budget meeting Wednesday, May 27, 6:30 PM, Old Town High School cafeteria.

Clockwise from top: Old Town High School JROTC batallion; Superintendent Matthew Cyr presents an award to Brenna Jones at the JROTC Military Ball; columns in Athens, Greece; studying lobsters at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Military Ball



Matt Cyr

To the Citizens of Regional School Unit (RSU) 34:

RSU 34 Board members, at their meeting on May 13, 2026, adopted a budget plan for the 2026-2027 (FY27) year. The budget recommended by the Board totals $26,243,000, compared to the current year's spending budget of $25,070,000 (a 4.68% increase). Through the elimination of more than 8 full-time positions and the cautious use of reserve funds and fund balance, the actual tax impact to communities will be much less, averaging 0% across all three communities.

Meeting Our Fiscal Goals & Strategic Plan

Using the RSU 34 Strategic Plan and feedback provided during public budget development meetings, public listening sessions, and an online survey, the RSU 34 School Board focused on maintaining and growing a strong, comprehensive PK-12th grade program for all of our students while being responsible with community taxation. The same rising costs of goods and services that negatively impact household budgets are also problematic for schools–i.e., electricity, heating, and contracted labor. Additionally, complicating factors, including the ripple effects of minimum wage increases, the competitive labor market, and unfunded mandates such as State FMLA and Earned Paid Leave, have also presented challenges.

To meet our challenging fiscal targets, RSU 34's FY27 budget includes the following staff eliminations: 1 Elementary Assistant Principal, 3 Elementary Classroom Teachers, 1 Elementary Physical Education Ed. Tech., 0.5 Elementary Custodian, 1 Middle School Intervention Ed. Tech., 1 Middle School Federally Funded Ed. Tech., converted Middle School Library from Teacher to Ed. Tech., and 1 High School Art Teacher. It is important to note that between FY23 and FY26, RSU 34 eliminated more than 30 additional positions and closed the Viola Rand School in an effort to "right-size" our staff and resources relative to enrollment. The RSU 34 School Board remains acutely aware of the "tax fatigue" facing our residents due to rising property valuations and significant increases in County tax assessments. These efforts represent a sincere attempt to balance the needs of our schools with the economic realities of our communities.

Facility Projects

The OTES K-2 playground equipment will be replaced with special attention to the addition of adaptive equipment, a shaded structure, and a secure area for our youngest learners. We will also be replacing several sets of interior and exterior doors at OTES. LMS will have just a few summer projects, including asbestos floor tile removal/replacement. OTHS will be a very busy place this summer with significant groundwork on the main entrance/exit loops and adjacent sidewalks. A School Revolving Renovation Fund grant will cover 70% of the cost to renovate the bathrooms and ADA elevator between the music room and the business wing. We will also remove/replace asbestos floor tiles, replace the carpet in the library, and upgrade the OTHS stage with curtains, lighting, and audio equipment.

Looking to the future, we are awaiting recommendations from engineers at WBRC to improve efficiency by transitioning to a three-campus district (OTES, LMS, and OTHS). Inevitably, this would result in the eventual closure of Alton Elementary School (NOTE: NOT now, but quite possibly in the near future). We have engaged Gorrill Palmer engineers to study available parking space and traffic patterns at OTES. The information they provide will help to guide future considerations for improving congestion during morning and afternoon drop-off/pickup times. We are also acquiring estimates for several facility improvement projects at OTHS with the intent of putting together a bond package for RSU 34 residents to consider at a future referendum. Renovation considerations at this time include new windows in the original student wing, window shades for all areas (with the exception of the science wing), steel classroom doors with safety glass in the original student wing, suspended ceilings with LED lighting in the original student wing, and exterior soffit/facia replacement. Our hopes are that such a bond package will cost similar to the expiring science wing bond payment so the net impact on future budgets will be minimal. We will provide more information and opportunities for public input once we have all the information.

Revenue & Community Impact

Funding for the proposed $26,243,000.00 budget will come from multiple sources. We project $2,099,179.57 in tuition revenue, $296,160.00 in reimbursements, interest, and other educational service revenues, and $17,340.53 in adult education subsidy. General Purpose Aid for Education provided by the State of Maine, as calculated using the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding model based on the Governor's proposed budget, will provide $12,977,738.11 (also referred to as 'State subsidy'). To receive this funding from the State of Maine, all towns must raise a 'required local share' through a local property tax.

The required local share is set by the State this year at a historically low 5.645 mils (based on each member community's total property valuation) for the coming year. Using this formula, Alton will be required to raise $334,842.59; Bradley will be required to raise $917,782.91; and Old Town will be required to raise $4,117,086.66. Finally, 'local additional' funds will be assessed to the member communities through the cost-sharing formula developed as part of the RSU's organizational structure, adopted by voters in January of 2008. This local assessment will raise $3,118,302.18 to balance the FY27 budget.

To protect student programming as much as possible, we are utilizing capital and athletic reserve accounts to fund nearly all proposed summer facility projects. We are also shifting the expiring OTHS Science Wing debt service payment to fund an OTES playground replacement project, and several important school safety improvements. In addition to staff reductions and use of reserve accounts, the RSU 34 School Board has elected to use $1,536,918.14 from fund balance to offset the overall tax impact of the FY27 RSU 34 budget. This is an unprecedented and unsustainable level of fund balance usage, but it was deemed necessary to mitigate the impact of property valuations. In summation, the overall tax assessment RSU 34 will be sending to our communities averages a 0.00% increase compared to the current RSU 34 budget school tax assessments. This results in a -6.14% decrease for Alton, -3.23% for Bradley, and a 1.34% increase for Old Town.

Context on Valuations & Next Steps

The State of Maine views RSU 34 as a single district comprising three communities (Alton, Bradley, and Old Town). Individual community responsibility for school funding is driven primarily by student enrollment

RSU34

Respect. Responsibility. Results.

The theme we've chosen for our schools is key to reinforcing the identity of RSU 34. Let's work together to make it a reality—in our schools, in our families, and throughout our community.

RSU34

Our Strategic Plan

The strategic plan is built on four pillars, each with its own vision, rationale, objectives, and action strategies.



and property valuations. Because enrollment changes have remained relatively consistent across the three communities, property valuation has been the primary factor in determining how additional local contributions are delegated. Over the last 4-years, the property valuations used in the ED279 funding report show the following valuation increases:

- Alton: 27.24%
- Bradley: 37.34%
- Old Town: 57.25% (including the 'sudden and severe' adjustment)

Since Old Town's valuation increases have outpaced those in Alton and Bradley, the state's funding formula shifts a greater share of the total (local) budget responsibility to Old Town. Furthermore, because our valuation increases as an RSU has outpaced both county and state averages, the state has reduced its overall contribution to RSU 34 school funding.

We understand that the changes represented in next year's budget are substantial for our staff and families. We also recognize that relying on a sizable amount of fund balance as revenue carries long-term risk while providing necessary short-term relief. Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work to finalize a responsible budget for our students and communities.

The annual school budget meeting for Regional School Unit 34 will be held on Wednesday evening, May 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Town High School Cafeteria. The warrant articles for discussion at this meeting are included in this edition of Community Connections. All are welcome to attend; registered voters in Alton, Bradley, and Old Town may participate.

The current statute requires that the action taken at the annual budget meeting be validated by a referendum. This year, the validation referendum will be held within each of our communities on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. On behalf of the students, staff, and the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit 34, we thank you for your continued support and ask that you vote in support of the 2026 - 2027 budget as presented.

RSU 34 School Calendar 2026-2027

August

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31-IS				

September

M	T	W	TH	F
	1-IS	2	3	4
7-H	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22-ER	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9-IS
12-H	13	14	15	16
19	20-ER	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11-H	12	13
16	17-ER	18	19	20
23	24	25-IS	26-H	27-H
30				

December

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15-ER	16	17	18
21	22	23	24-V	25-H
28-V	29-V	30-V	31-V	

January

M	T	W	TH	F
				1-H
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18-H	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

February

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15-H	16-V	17-V	18-V	19-V
22	23	24	25	26

March

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12-IS
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

April

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19-H	20-V	21-V	22-V	23-V
26	27	28	29	30

May

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18-ER	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31-H				

June

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18-H
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

July

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5-H	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Important Upcoming Dates

- **OTHS 2026 Graduation:** June 5
- **Last day of school:** Pre-K June 10, all others June 15
- **First day of school** for all students: September 2, 2026
- **Staff In-Service Days** (no students): 8/31 & 9/1, 10/9, 11/25, 3/12/27

School Hours

Please be on time, *every day*!

- AES . . . . . 7:40 - 2:10
- OTES. . . . . 7:45 - 2:15
- LMS . . . . . 8:35 - 3:05
- OTHS . . . . . 8:30 - 3:00

IS	In-Service Day--No Students
ER	Early Release Day
H	Holiday--No Students
V	School Vacation Day
	First/Last Day of School
	OTHS Graduation--June 11

• Additional days will be added at the end of the school year to adjust for snow days or unexpected school cancellations.
• Parent-Teacher Conferences are in the fall and scheduled on a building-by-building basis.

RSU 34 Staff Professional Achievements

The arrival of spring is always a special time in our schools. As we begin to wrap up the academic year, we can reflect on the tremendous growth and accomplishments of our students. Their progress—academically, socially, and emotionally—is a direct result of their hard work and the collective efforts of our dedicated staff. We are proud to celebrate these successes together as a school community.

Spring also provides us with an opportunity to recognize the professional achievements of our staff, whose commitment to continuous learning directly benefits our students.

This year, we are especially proud to celebrate our staff members who have completed post-secondary degrees. Their dedication to furthering their knowledge and expertise—while working full-time to support students—is truly commendable. The impact of their learning is already evident in the high-quality support and instruction they provide to students across RSU 34.

Please join us in congratulating:

- Krista Culina (Master's in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
- Nicki Daigle (Ed.S. in Special Education)
- Kerri Dexter (Educational Specialist in Special Education)
- Heather Friedman (M.S. Ed Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction)
- Miranda Mauger (Master's in Special Education)
- Charles Neely (Master's in Educational Leadership)
- Laura Rhoads (Certified Autism Specialist in Applied Behavior Analysis)
- Jasmine Smith (Master's in Special Education)
- Lacie Velasquez (Bachelor's in Elementary Education)
- Allison Woodard (Doctorate in Educational Leadership)

Earning a degree while balancing the demands of a full-time role in education is no small accomplishment. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to our students.

Their achievements not only represent personal milestones but also strengthen our entire school community. Congratulations to each of you on this outstanding accomplishment!

Special Olympics Maine

Leonard Middle School and Old Town High School are getting students involved with the Special Olympics. We have a small group of students competing in the spring games at Hampden Academy on May 20th. We look forward to including students in this opportunity and growing the competition.

All students attending RSU 34 schools have access to our
School-Based Health Center at Old Town Elementary School

Medical and Mental Health Services At School

Even if your child has a primary care provider elsewhere, he/she can receive immediate and on-site medical, and mental health care, ***right in school,*** at RSU 34's School-Based Health Center (SBHC). On-site mental health services are also available J.A. Leonard Middle School and Old Town High School. This is possible through a program with Penobscot Community Health Care (PCHC).

Common Illnesses
- ☑ Asthma
- ☑ Strep Throat
- ☑ Cough, Fever, or Cold
- ☑ Acne or Rashes
- ☑ Vomiting & Diarrhea

Routine Exams
- ☑ Well-Child/Annual Exams
- ☑ Immunizations

Sports Related Concerns
- ☑ Sprains and Strains
- ☑ Stitches
- ☑ Sports Injuries
- ☑ Sports Physical Exams
- ☑ Concussion Management

Mental Health Services
- ☑ Treatment For:
  - *Anxiety*
  - *Depression*
  - *Stress Management*
  - *Changes at School or Home*

At our School-Based Health Center, We Care For ALL of You...

From routine medical exams and common illness treatments, and mental health, our PCHC health professionals are there for your care!

When your child is enrolled at the SBHC, he/she is able to get the care they need *right down the hall.* This saves you time driving to or from appointments, and your child is able to return quickly to class. *This service is even available to students who don't feel well enough to attend school and are absent!*

NOTE: Your child does <u>not</u> need to be a PCHC patient to enroll in this program.

Sign up today! Call (207) 404-8004 with any questions.

More info about PCHC and our School-Based Health Centers is available online at **www.PCHC.com**

This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling $200,000 with 31% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov

RSU 34 Education Foundation Supports New Instruments for Band Program

Our schools are well-known for their excellent band and jazz programs; many students begin an instrument in 4th grade and continue playing through graduation and into adulthood. We are committed to ensuring every child can fully participate in the program regardless of their family's financial situation.



Several years ago, through a generous donation by Wayne and Becky Smith, the RSU 34 Education Foundation started an endowment to support our music programs. That endowment has grown to the point where distributions can begin buying new instruments for our budding musicians, without using the principle. This clarinet is the first instrument funded through that long-term investment, a quality student-grade instrument that will serve one of our musicians well for many years to come.

Next up will be a flute - clarinets, flutes, and tubas are currently in the shortest supply as we work to gradually repair and replace instruments from our aging collection.

If you would like to help build our music endowment to support the program forever, please either email Jon.Doty@rsu34.org or use the Venmo link to make a contribution (write "Music Fund" in the subject line).

We look forward to amazing concerts in the next few weeks!





LMS New Windows

When students left for the summer in 2025, Leonard Middle School got right to work replacing the windows and glass blocks that were original to the nearly 65-year-old building. Finding replacement parts for the original windows has long been a challenge. As one might imagine, since the early '60s we have learned a lot about energy efficiency and the new windows will serve LMS very well for years to come. In addition to energy efficiency and the obvious aesthetic gains, this project enabled addressing water infiltration issues that were beginning to affect the structural steel of the building. Another behind-the-scenes LMS project recently completed was replacement of the roof over the south end of the building (music room, art room, instructional technology, and maintenance shop). Using the strategic plan, RSU 34 is working hard to maintain and improve its facilities so they will continue to serve students well for decades to come.





RSU 34

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration For Fall 2026 Now Open!





Your student is:
Ready for Pre-K if they turn 4
or
Ready for Kindergarten if they turn 5
on or before October 15, 2026.

*Pre-K students who reside in Alton, Bradley and Old Town attend Alton Elementary School for a full-day Pre-K program.
(1/2 day Pre-K is optional upon request--contact us for more details)

*Kindergarten students who reside in Alton, Bradley and Old Town attend Old Town Elementary School for a full-day Kindergarten program.

Ways to Register

- STOP BY OLD TOWN ELEMENTARY OR ALTON ELEMENTARY TO REGISTER YOUR STUDENT
- Visit the RSU 34 Enrollment Site: https://www.rsu34.org/page/rsu-34-enrollment
- SCAN THE CODE TO START THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS ONLINE!

Contact Us With Any Questions
OTES: 827-1544





Maggie Mitchell, Elementary Principal
Michelle Reesman, Elementary Assistant Principal
Allison Woodard, Elementary Assistant Principal

Art Club

In January, a group of third graders from Old Town Elementary participated in an after-school art club hosted by Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Gasaway. This club focused on fiber arts. Students learned about Kumihimo, the Japanese art of creating colorful braided cording, needle felting, wet felting, and crochet. In the second week, we had a local needle felting artist, illustrator, and author, Hillary Dow, join us. Hillary explained her process, showed examples of her work, and students got to needle felt their own bookmarks. Thank you to our PTC for funding the author visit!





Uruguay Uniforms

As part of a unit on schools in Spanish class, 4th-grade students explored what school is like in other countries by trying on school uniforms from Uruguay. This interactive experience helped bring learning to life and gave students a deeper appreciation for different cultures and traditions around the world.













Valentine “Glow Crazy” Dance

Glow sticks, bracelets, great music, sweet treats, and even sweeter friendships! Our Valentine “Glow Crazy” Dance was a blast!! The giggles, glowing smiles, nonstop moves, and happy hearts made it a very special night.



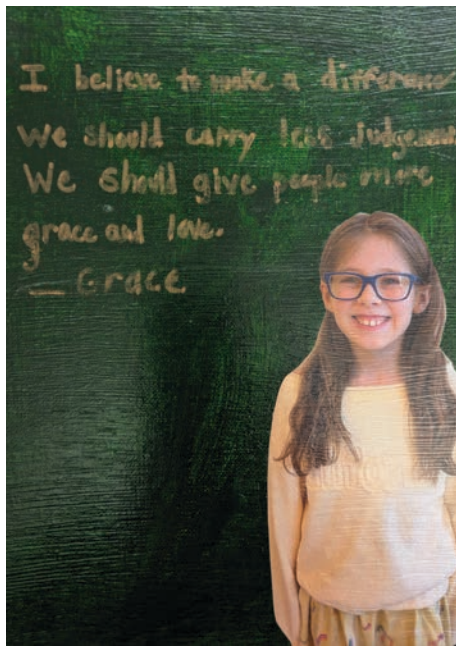


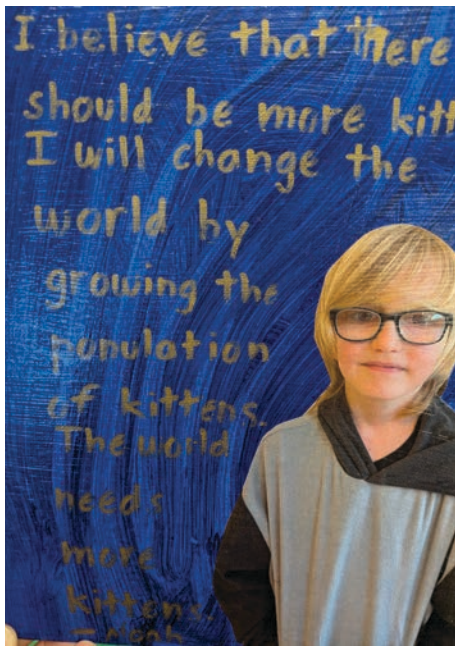


Third Graders Who Tell The Truth

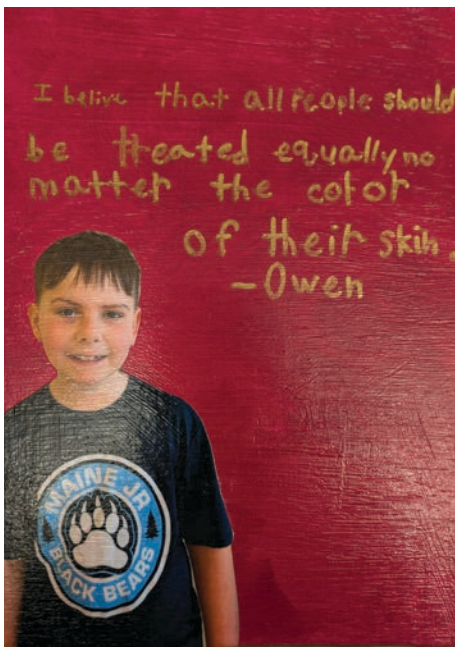
Third graders in Mrs. White's class at OTES were inspired by the portraits lent to RSU34 from the Americans Who Tell The Truth Portrait Gallery. After seeing the portraits that visited OTES in March and learning about those famous change-makers, they came up with ways they will work to change the world and make their community a better place, too. Their ideas are great examples of how young people can change the world!

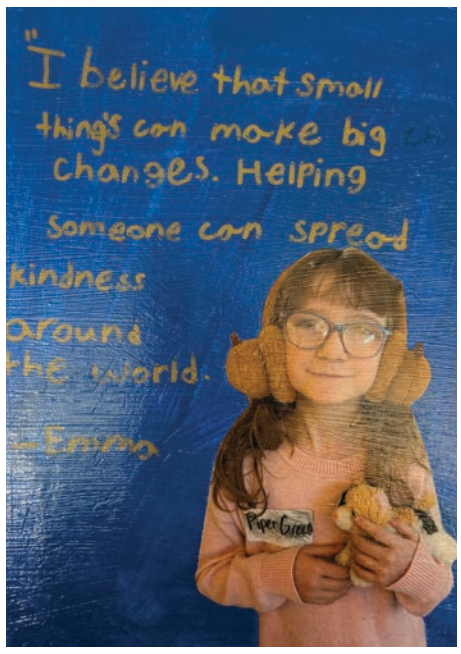


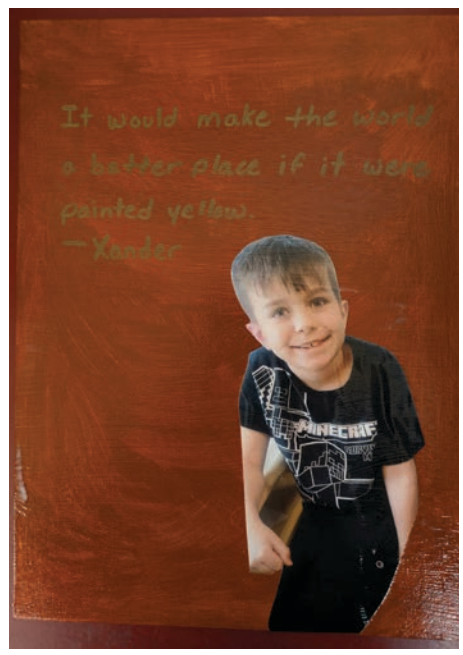


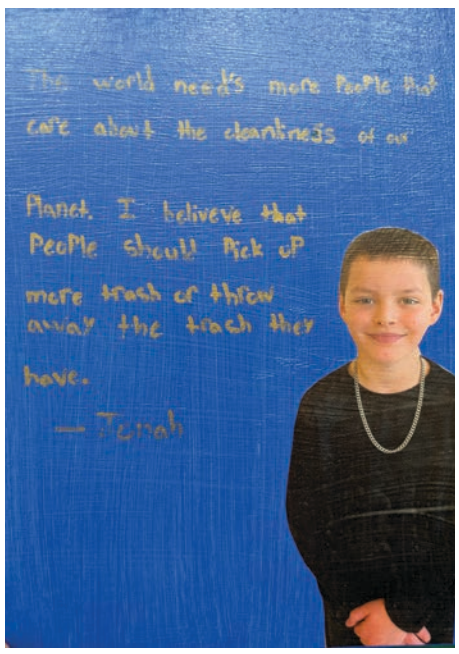


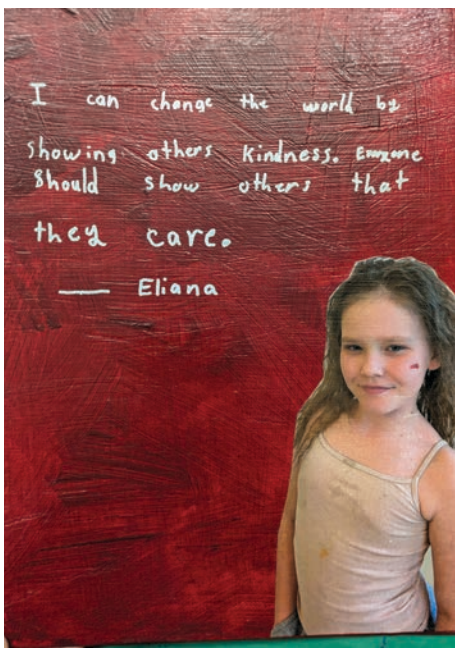


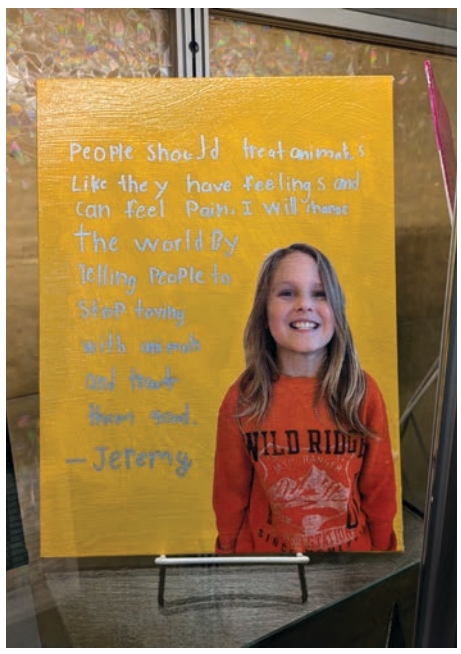


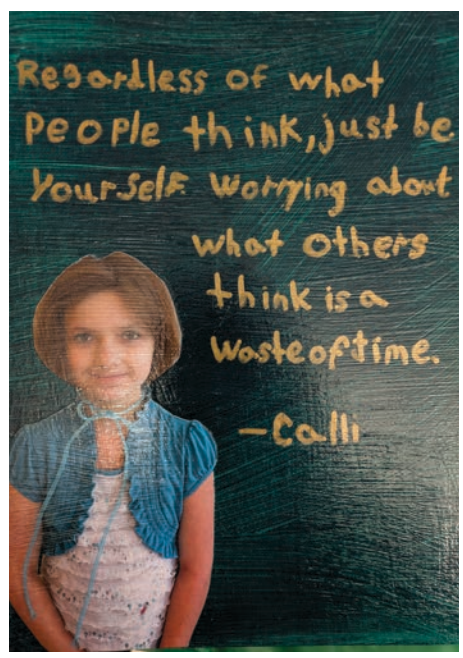


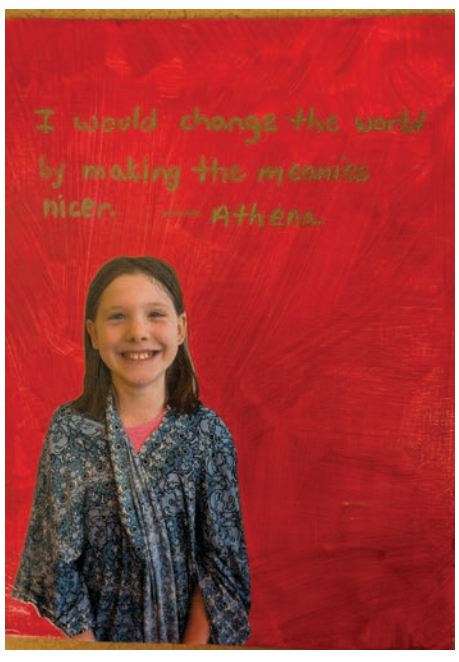


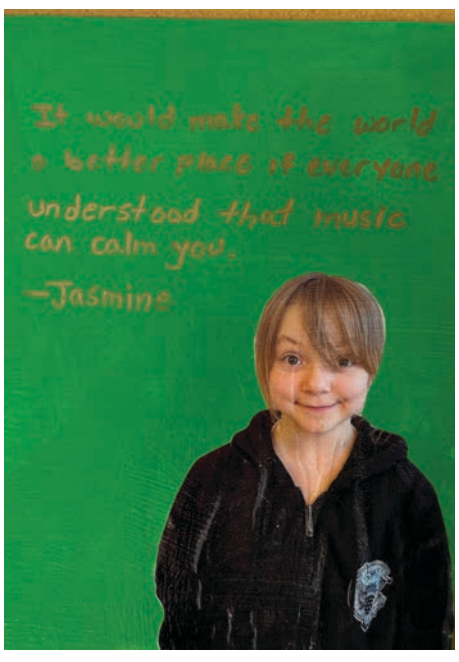


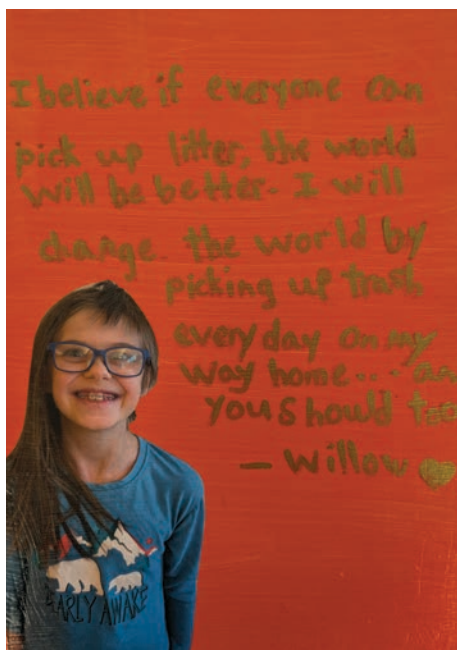














OTES 5th Grader Wins Art Contest

Congratulations to Emma R., a 5th-grade student at OTES, for winning the 2026 Educators for a Multilingual Maine (EMME) Student Artwork Contest for grades K–5!

This year's inspiring theme, "The Future Speaks Many Languages," highlights the importance of multilingualism and cultural connection. Emma's achievement is a wonderful reflection of creativity, talent, and the power of language learning.

We are so proud of you, Emma!



Students Represent OTES at the District 5 Honors Band Festival

11 of our students were selected to participate in the District 5 Intermediate Honors Band Festival on Friday, May 1st, at Penquis Valley High School in Milo. Students worked for months preparing their music for this one-day festival. 100 students from surrounding towns rehearsed for 4 hours before delivering their final performance of the night.

Students performing in the ensemble (row 1 left to right) Zainab Almashkoor, Daniela Aviles-Morillo, Emma Ruimy, Brooklyn Gallant, Gavin Johnson, (row 2) Nora Borja-Buck, Alyssa Jackson, Bailey Curtis, Julia Ehrhard, Diane Barrera, Eva Cross

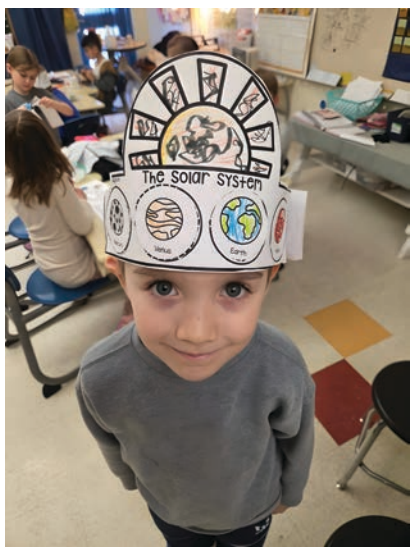


A Stellar Adventure: First Grade Students Discover Space at Planetarium

Old Town Elementary first-grade students recently brought their space studies to life with a visit to the University of Maine Versant Astronomy Center and Maynard Jordan Planetarium. This field trip served as a culminating experience after weeks of learning about space through reading, writing, and hands-on classroom activities.

As part of the unit, students participated in a "space race" in which they worked to read their way through space. They worked to build their reading and writing skills and explored space-themed topics. The planetarium visit allowed students to see their learning come to life through an engaging and immersive experience.

This special trip sparked curiosity and excitement while reinforcing connections between classroom learning and the wider community.




Learning the Frog Life Cycle

Our Kindergarten class welcomed some new friends! The tadpoles have hatched! We have been watching them grow and change each day. It has been a process to keep the tank clean and feed them. The student helper of the day gets to feed them lettuce and tadpole food flakes. We are studying the frogs' life cycle and are anxious for the next stage in their growth.





Pre-K Visits the Versant Power Astronomy Center

Pre-K took a trip to the moon with Elmo and explored constellations and the wonders of our night sky at the Versant Power Astronomy Center!



OTES Spring Production of *Annie KIDS*



Old Town Elementary School proudly presented Annie KIDS this spring, and what a success it was! Our students demonstrated incredible dedication and perseverance, committing to weeks of after-school rehearsals to bring this beloved musical to life. Their hard work truly paid off, as they delivered outstanding performances across all four shows, impressing and inspiring audiences along the way.

This production was made possible through the strong support of our school and community. We sincerely appreciate Principal Maggie Mitchell and Assistant Principals Michelle Reesman and Allison Woodard for their encouragement and commitment to the arts. We also thank Superintendent Matt Cyr and Assistant Superintendent Jon Doty for their continued support of student opportunities. Thanks to Dr. Doty's efforts, the addition of new stage curtains and lighting helped elevate this year's performance.

We are equally grateful to our teachers for their flexibility and support, and to our families for encouraging students throughout the rehearsal process and performances.

A special thank-you goes to Tiffany Palmer for her incredible set design, which transformed the stage into the world of Annie. We also extend our appreciation to Renee St. Peter and Vicki Wilcox, who, after retirement, generously returned to support this production and bring joy to our cast and crew.

Annie KIDS was more than a performance—it was a celebration of teamwork, creativity, and student voice. We are so proud of our students for their commitment, courage, and talent. They truly helped us find the "Tomorrow" in every child.


Annie group looking to side stage


Bailey Curtis


Brooklyn, Emma, Nora

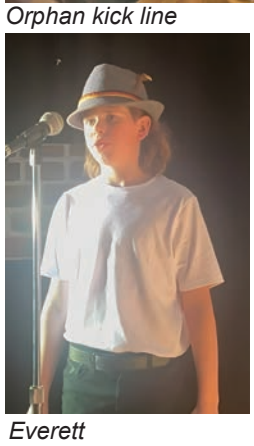

Emma, Miyah, Brooklynn


Group action fist up


Orphan kick line


Madi and Julia


Group expressions


Everett

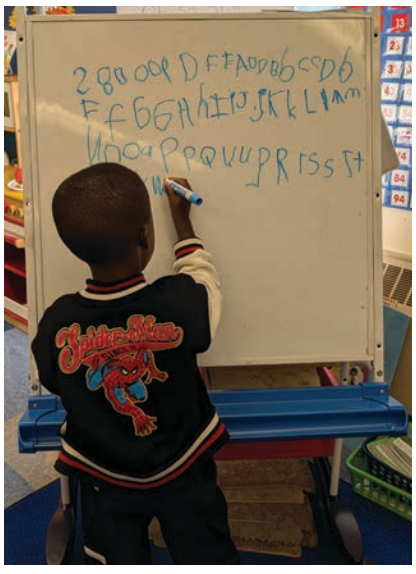

Zainab, Bailey, Sammy


Small group

A Day in Pre-K

Pre-K is in full swing, and learning abounds. A few pictures are sent your way to show a peek into our day. Choice time offers many opportunities to explore individual interests and themed centers. In these pictures, you see writing on the easel, making rhyming hats with Dr. Seuss, investigating push and pull for science, exploring sink-and-float, and making our name puzzles.











Pre-K Week of the Young Child

Celebrating the "Week of the Young Child" brought so much fun. We nourished our healthy bodies with fruit kabobs, made music with recycled materials, showed our artsy side by painting flowers, and learned about architecture with yummy marshmallows and toothpicks. We made windsocks, wind chimes, rain sticks, and kites as well, and finished off the celebration with ice cream sundaes. What a week!











Under the Sea Book Fair

Pre-K students, staff, and families enjoyed the "Under the Sea" Book Fair, including a special family evening event and our pastries, pages, and precious time with grandparents. Students and families enjoyed shopping for books, exploring the live touch tank, participating in STEM activities, painting shells, and playing fun games.



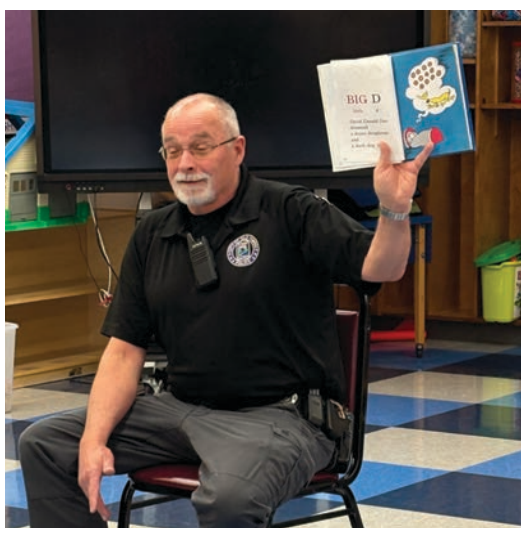




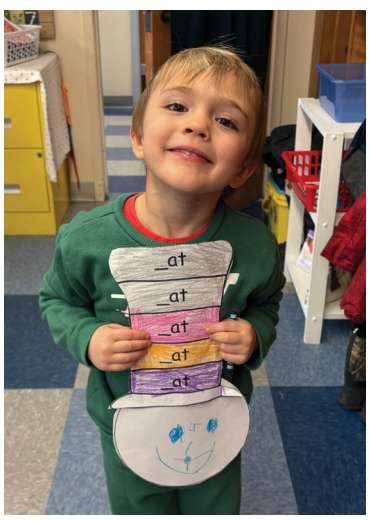


Read Across America

Pre-K students celebrated Read Across America Week with special classroom activities and guest readers.









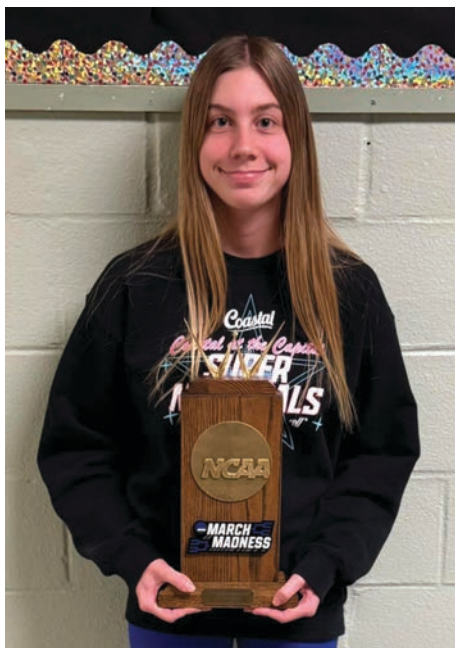
LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Jeanna Tuell, Principal
827-3900



March Madness at LMS: Team Spirit for a Cause

March brought excitement, energy, and a strong sense of community to Leonard Middle School as students and staff participated in our annual March Madness Spirit Day. Hallways were filled with jerseys, team colors, and plenty of friendly debate as everyone proudly represented their favorite basketball teams and sports organizations. Mr. Morin organized our March Madness Bracket challenge, and this annual event continued to help us get through the questionable spring weather. While the day was full of fun and school spirit, the true purpose behind March Madness at LMS goes far beyond the game.



This year, our school community rallied together to support local animal organizations, including the Heart of Maine United Way, NFR of Maine, and the Old Town Animal Orphanage. Through donations and participation, students connected their school spirit with meaningful action—demonstrating what it truly means to Lift Others Up, one of our HOWL PACK Values.

Events like March Madness highlight the power of combining positive school culture with service learning. Students not only enjoy opportunities to express themselves and build connections with peers, but they also gain a deeper understanding of how their contributions—big or small—can make a difference in the lives of others.

Special thank you to Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Griffin for organizing our 3 VS 3 Tournament and getting our students involved in this March Madness celebration. Congratulations to student Olivia Saucier for winning this year's March Madness Bracket.

As we continue through the school year, we look forward to more opportunities to bring people together, celebrate our PACK Pride, and support causes that matter to our community.

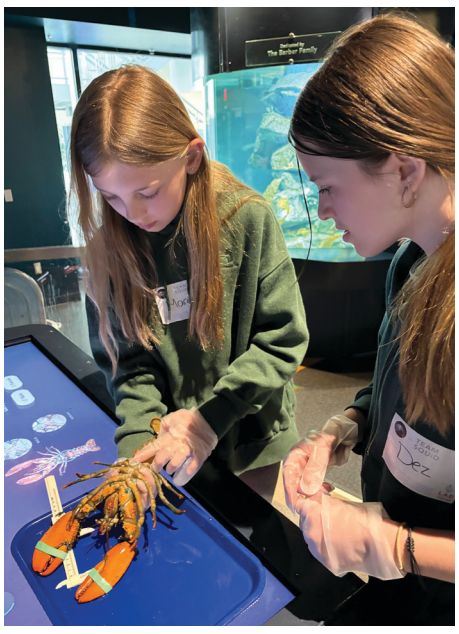
LMS Chorus

The Leonard Middle School Chorus and the Old Town High School Chorus combined for a concert on February 26th at Minsky Auditorium. The concert featured a student emcee and several soloists. All of the selections performed shared the theme of using music to build community and connection.



6th Graders Visit the Gulf of Maine Research Institute

6th graders visited The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) in Portland and participated in their LabVenture. This free hands-on experience allowed the students to collect data and investigate how warming ocean temperatures affect key species, including lobster and black sea bass. The three main questions investigated were: What's happening in the Gulf of Maine? How do we know? Why does it matter? It was an amazing experience for our students.

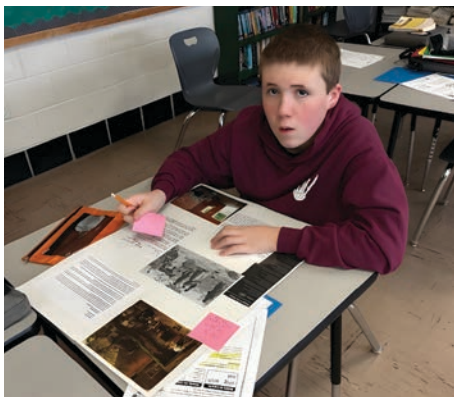






7th Grade Puffin Studies

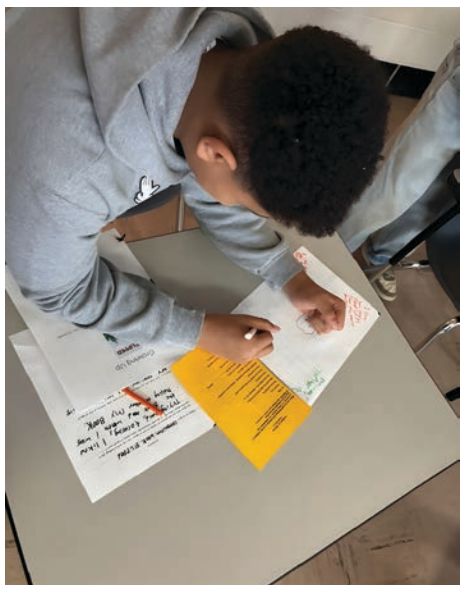
7th-grade Puffin students interact with text sets–curated collections of various resources, including articles, literature, videos, and images–focused on the Atlantic Slave Trade. Engaging with text sets helps students tap into prior knowledge and build interest in the upcoming study; our reading of the award-winning historical fiction book, Trouble Don't Last, by Shelley Pearsall.

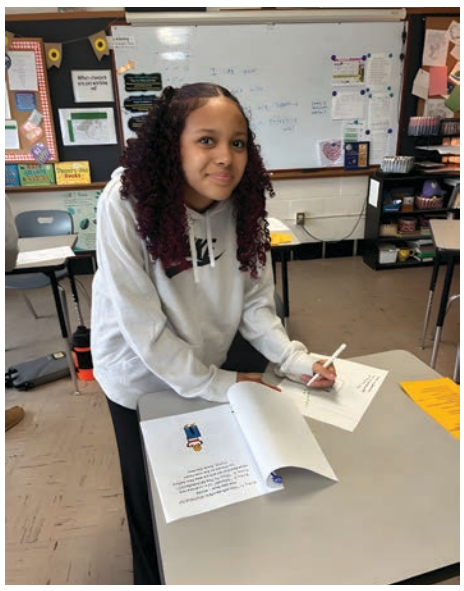


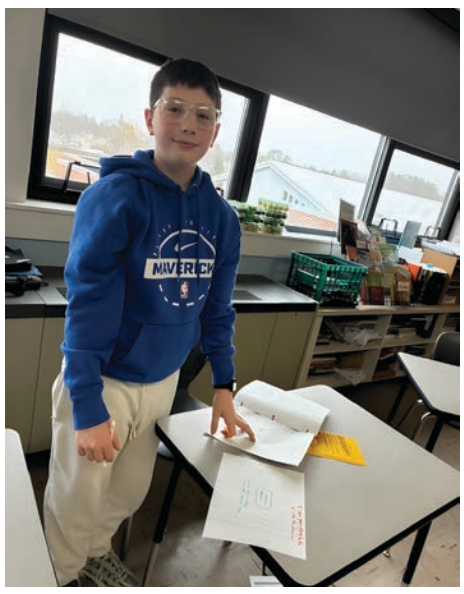


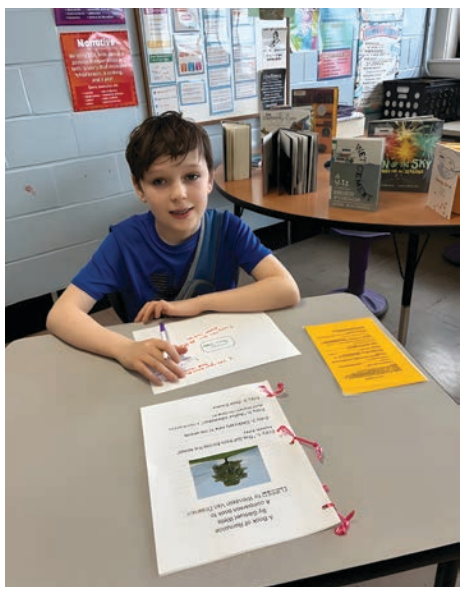
Flipped

Seventh-grade Puffins participated in a Gallery Walk of their created FLIPPED Companion Books. Their work is a response to reading the book FLIPPED by Wendelin Van Draanen. Students have been working on their books for about 3 weeks. Entries in the books include thematic essays, book reviews, artwork, poetry, maps, and more. During the "walk," students quietly perused one another's work, leaving positive comments. It's a great way for students to celebrate their work and learn from each other.









LMS Jazz Band clinic

The LMS Jazz Band spent an afternoon at South Portland Middle School in a clinic with nationally-known composer, teacher, and Old Town native Craig Skeffington. The students also had a chance to partner with the South Portland Middle School Jazz Band, with each school putting on a concert for the other.





8th Graders Learn About Therapy Dogs

During this school year, eighth-grade students at LMS have had the opportunity to participate in weekly electives held every Wednesday. These classes go beyond traditional offerings like gym, art, and world language, and instead provide dynamic, hands-on experiences—ranging from exploring ocean life through a touch tank to learning classic card games. One of the most popular electives has been the therapy dog program in partnership with Pet Partners of Eastern Maine. Students in this class have had meaningful experiences.

Ella Hatch is one student who has been especially vocal about the program's impact on our school community. She shares her perspective below:

In this class we learned about the difference between therapy dogs and emotional support animals, the work that goes on behind the scenes, what it looks like for handlers to care and advocate for their dog, and so much more. Not only did we learn about this work, but we also got to interact with the dog as well. Therapy dogs are very important because they can take the stress off of people, make their bad day into a good day, and at the end of the day they will always be here for you and don't have a voice to judge you. Therefore, they will always be there for you through your ups and downs.









JROTC Celebrates 20 Years as an Honor Unit With Distinction

The Coyote Battalion has maintained the Honor Unit with Distinction designation for 20 consecutive years. This honor is a result of outstanding performance during the triennial accreditation inspection last spring while maintaining a viable program through enrollment, extra-curricular activities, and service-oriented events. The battalion has held this high standard since it was first eligible in 2006. The Cadets, guided by the student leadership and faculty instructors, work tirelessly to provide a quality program to the OTHS community. JROTC is open to all OTHS students. Students can register now to join this tradition of excellence.



Coyote Battalion Commanders

2002-2003 Wesley Hopkins
2003-2004 Nicolas Perkins
2004-2005 Dustin Lemery
2005-2006 Jeffery Dow
2006-2007 Brendan Paradis
2007-2008 Joe Sayers
2008-2009 Brendan Winchenbach
2009-2010 Lucas Bartlett
2010-2011 Dacie Manion
2011-2012 Lee Jackson
2012-2013 Edward Gonella
2013-2014 Jessica Pollard
2014-2015 Clara Trefts
2015-2016 Cameron Sullivan
2016-2017 Alexis Rutherford
2017-2018 Zach Mason
2018-2019 Kyra Armitage
2019-2020 Gracie Sanborn
2020-2021 Garrett Engstrom
2021-2022 Maxwell Chapman
2022-2023 Keara Dutton
2023-2024 Norah Sanborn
2024-2025 Jesse Bouchard
2025-2026 Ian Aldrich

Coyote Battalion Military Ball 2026

The Coyote Battalion hosted its annual Military Ball on March 28th in the MacKenzie Gymnasium. Cadets and their guests were joined by members of local civic and military organizations to celebrate the accomplishments of the battalion throughout the school year, as well as to recognize individual Cadet contributions. In addition to these awards, Austin Beal received a 1860s replica Calvary Saber for his leadership skills demonstrated throughout his four years at OTHS. Ian Aldrich also received a saber as the Outstanding Cadet of the Year.

The American Legion Post 75 JROTC Scholarship Essay Contest gave Cadets the opportunity to submit essays using the prompt "What is the meaning of Americanism?" The committee selected two winners. Each winner received a $1,250 check. In addition, the Sons of the American Legion presented the winners with a $1,250 check. This year's winners were Cadets Cooper Neely and Anna Parsons.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 75 awarded two $700 scholarships. Recipients of this scholarship wrote an essay about "Why is it important for Americans to stay connected to their military and veterans?" Cadets Cooper Neely and Anna Parson earned this award.

Staff Sergeant (SSG) Zach Mason, OTHS Class of 2018, was the evening's speaker. SSG Mason shared insights into his success in the Army and discussed the importance of setting challenging goals and daring to fail.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the Cadet Battalion Commander for the next school year, Ethan Jones. Ethan's involvement in both the battalion and OTHS brings an experienced leadership skillset to the command group. He will assume command on May 12th and will look to continue the 20-year tradition of Honor Unit with Distinction.

List of Awardees

- American Legion Academic Excellence: Walter Thurston III and Brenna Jones
- AMVET's Diligence Award: Anna Parsons
- Association of the United States Army: Austin Beal
- Daughters of the American Revolution: Cooper Neely
- The Daughters of Founders and Patriots: Lily Anderson
- Elks Leadership and Patriotism: Zach Wilson
- Military Officers Association of America, Southern Maine Chapter: Raelyn Knights
- Military Order of the World Wars: Ryleigh Caduto
- National Sojourner's Award: Jack Murphy
- Order of the Daedalians: Ethan Jones
- The Scottish Rite Freemasonry: Jordan Spencer
- Sons of the American Revolution: Aaron Gardner
- Calvin P. Titus Award: Amyah Hursh
- United States Army Recruiting Command: Isaac Hasselbrack

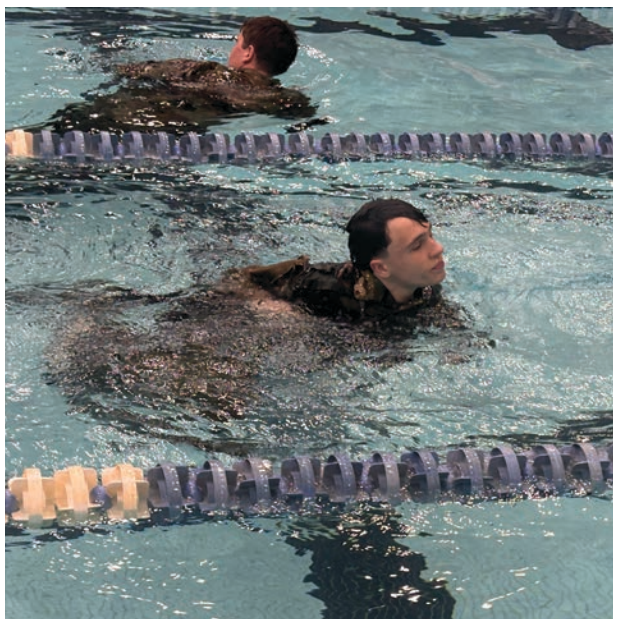
Department of the Army Superior Cadet Awards

- LET I: Lily Anderson
- LET II: Brenna Jones
- LET III: Ethan Jones
- LET IV: Ian Aldrich





JROTC Spring Events

























OTHS Students Spend Apri

by Dakota Wright

Over April break, 63 Old Town High School students and staff went on a transatlantic adventure to two beautiful countries: Greece and Italy. This is the school's second recent trip abroad—the first was the club's debut to England and France in 2024 to learn about WWII. Old Town High School senior and now-seasoned world traveler Ian Aldrich says this was an "amazing experience… really cool to be able to go to all the different places and learn about the history behind where [the group went]." Ian highly recommends the travel club, stating it is a "once-in-a-lifetime experience" to travel with friends, where "you may never be able to have this opportunity to go to these places again."



Greece

Athens, 4/16-17

When the group landed in the morning, they hit the ground running. They immediately visited the Plaka (which means 'Old Town') district, where they witnessed the changing of the guard for Greece's unnamed soldier. They got a look at the Athenian trilogy (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Academy of Athens, and the National Library of Greece), the solid marble Olympic Stadium, and Syntagma Square while touring the city. In their last day of Athens, the group was able to visit the Acropolis, where the well-preserved remnants of the Parthenon still stand over the Grecian city. They learned about the Temple of Athena Nike and were able to visit the Acropolis Museum—home to many ancient ruins and prehistoric artifacts. To round out their first Greek city, the group had an authentic evening on the town, where they got to learn a traditional dance, dress in traditional clothing, and where many plates met their demise — Opa!







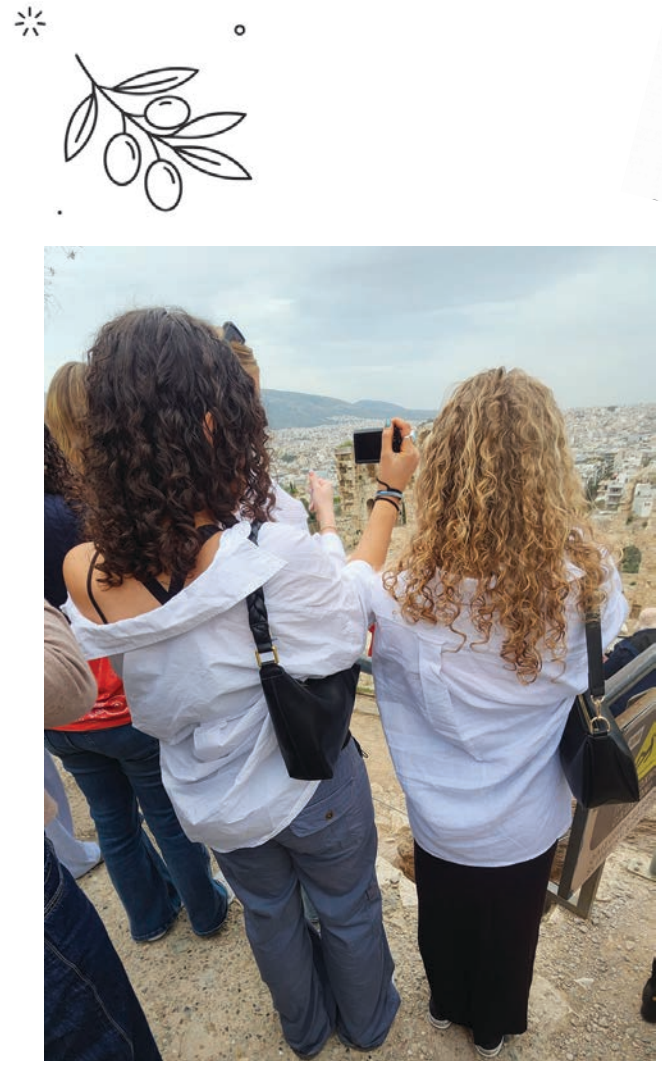






l Break in Greece and Italy















Delphi, 4/18

The next stop for our travelers was the ancient town Delphi, home of the revered oracles. The students took a guided tour to learn about the Temple of Apollo, to see the Delphi Stadium (the highest civilian point in the mountainous city), the majestic Amphitheater, and Delphi's Archaeological Museum. Something the group didn't predict was the amount of fuzzy feline friends they encountered amongst the ruins, as stray cats are very common around Greece. It doesn't take an oracle to see how much fun the group had in Delphi.







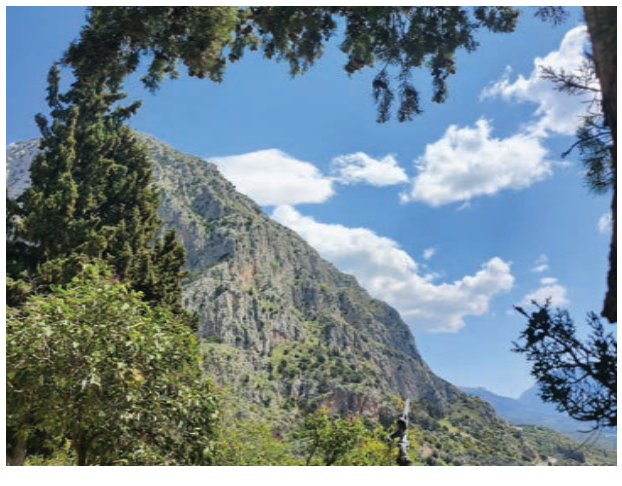






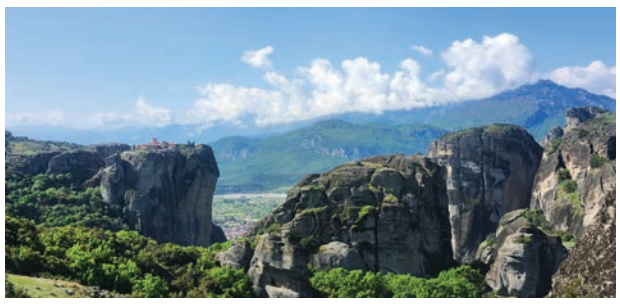






Meteora, 4/19

Our travelers' final Grecian stop was the magical Meteora monasteries. The name of the town means "suspended in the middle of the sky", since buildings were constructed hundreds of feet in the air, on clifftops that overlook miles of lush, green mountains. While there were originally 24 sacred monasteries in the sky, only six remained after World War II. The group was able to tour one of the monasteries, where nuns and civilians alike gather to worship. Once they were on the road again (which, for the record, is quite serpentine and intense when you're riding on a bus), the next stop was the rural village of Metsovo. A charming mountain town, Metsovo was the perfect stop for an authentic Greek bite to eat, and some shopping before the tour's final pitstop in Ioannina City. With full bellies and full hearts, they embarked on a 17-hour trans-Adriatic sea ferry ride.















Italy
Florence, 4/20-21

Our travel group disembarked the overnight ferry in Ancona, Italy, where the second leg of their adventure immediately went underway. The first Italian stop they made was in the dazzling city of Florence. They had experts leading them through the city, learning about the Piazza della Signoria, the Ponte Vecchio, the Basilica of Santa Croce, and the Gates of Paradise. After some time for shopping and maybe a cappuccino or two, some members of the group went to see the iconic David statue - one of Michelangelo's most renowned masterpieces - and many other famous works within the Galleria dell'Accademia (Accademia Gallery). The group also attended a leather workshop to be able to learn about genuine Italian leather and, of course, got to put their knowledge to the test by purchasing only the best quality leather that Italy has to offer.



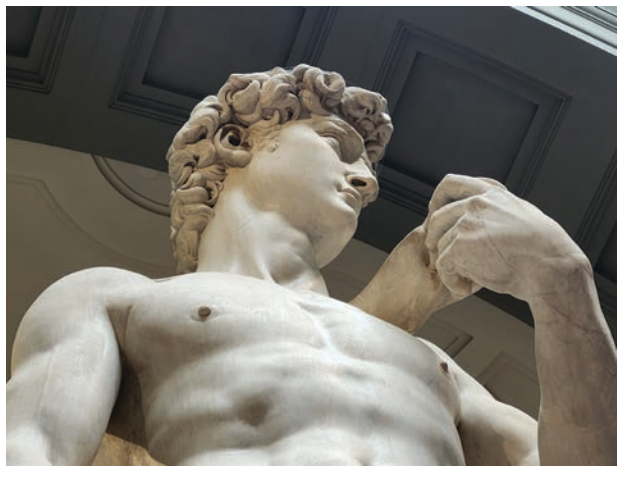












The Vatican, 4/22

One of the final stops was technically in a different country — the Vatican! While the group didn't see Pope Leo XIV in person, they were fortunate to tour the magnificent Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's countless artworks within. Did you know, if you spent 1 minute looking at each piece of art owned by the Vatican, you would spend over 12 years there? Once they left the Sistine Chapel, part of the group visited St. Peter's Basilica, and the others visited the Vatican Museums and shopped near St. Peter's Square.















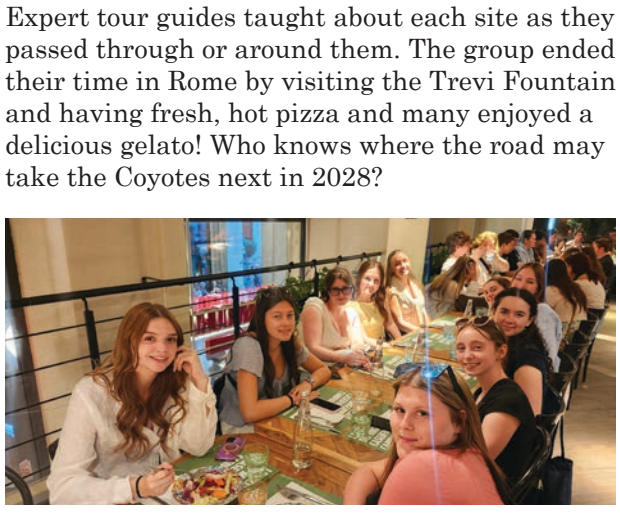


Rome, 4/23

The trip's final stop was, of course, where all roads lead: the great and ancient city of Rome! While here, they got to tour the underground Roman catacombs (don't worry, it was only a small part of the 13.6 miles of subterranean tunnels). Once they emerged from the underground, they visited the Papal St. Paul's Cathedral, where they could see the history of the Popes (from the first to the present) in mosaic portraits, and the burial site of St. Paul, the martyr, as well as where he was imprisoned. After the cathedral, our groups walked to the Colosseum, passing by the ancient Roman forum and Capitoline Hill. Expert tour guides taught about each site as they passed through or around them. The group ended their time in Rome by visiting the Trevi Fountain and having fresh, hot pizza and many enjoyed a delicious gelato! Who knows where the road may take the Coyotes next in 2028?

















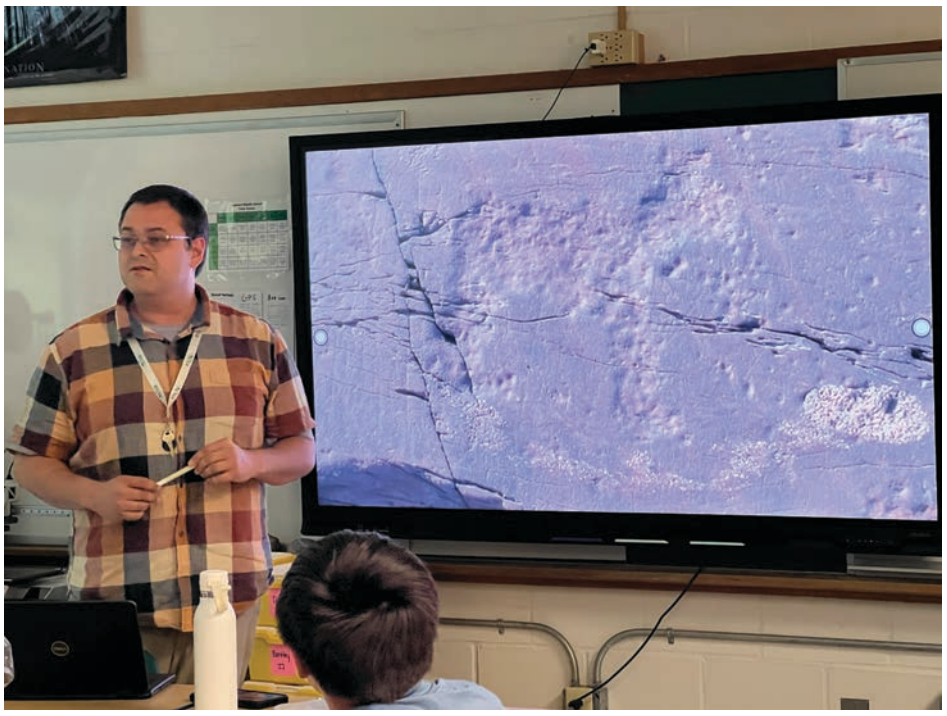
LMS Robotics



The LMS Robotics Teams have completed another successful season! Our two school teams started meeting in August to prepare for the Maine State Competition on Saturday, February 7, 2026, for the FIRST LEGO League Challenge. There were 24 teams from across Maine that met at Spruce Mountain High School in Jay, Maine, for this all-day event.

Every year, FIRST LEGO League releases a new science theme that engages students in doing research, connecting with experts in the field, and solving a real-world problem. This year's theme was called "Unearthed", and students completed research to learn how archeologists solve problems. Our teams met with our own Nick Ranco, a staff member at LMS, to hear about his training as an archaeologist. Students identified issues with vandalism and protecting sites from damage caused by acid rain. Teams created solutions to those problems and presented them to a panel of judges at the competition.

Alongside their research, teams presented their robot designs and competed in the robot game to earn points at the competition. Our 6th-grade team brought home the Rising Star Award trophy! We are very proud of the accomplishments of both teams during this competition season, especially their gracious professionalism with one another.









Saltwater Touch Tank Elective

Leonard Middle School's 8th-grade elective program recently offered students a unique, hands-on learning experience through a Saltwater Touch Tank—and the results were outstanding.

This engaging opportunity was made even more meaningful with the involvement of Ben Segee, a former RSU 34 student, who helped guide weekly lessons and shared his knowledge and passion with our students. His connection to our school community made the experience especially impactful, as students could see a real example of how their own interests can grow into future opportunities.

Throughout the elective, students demonstrated high levels of engagement and curiosity. The touch tank provided a hands-on approach to learning, allowing students to interact directly with marine life while building a deeper understanding of ecosystems, responsibility, and scientific observation.

Beyond the content itself, this experience opened the door for students to explore potential interests and career pathways. Opportunities like this help students begin to think about their future—what excites them, what they enjoy learning about, and how those passions might translate into future jobs or fields of study.

We are proud to offer learning experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom and truly connect students to the world around them. A special thank you to Ben Segee for giving back to our school community and helping inspire the next generation of learners.

Ben Segee is Aquarium Manager and Lead Aquarist at the Bar Harbor Oceanarium and Education Center.



OCEANARIUM AND EDUCATION CENTER
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

OTHS Capstone Exhibition

Old Town High School held its annual Capstone Exhibition on April 8. At this event, students pursuing Diplomas of Extra Distinction in STEM, Humanities, or Honors presented their culminating research to the community.



Pictured, front row from left: Olivia Barthelemy, Chloe Henry, Olivia Paradis, Ruby Whitmore, Olivia Lizzotte, Natalie Fournier. Back row from left: Jackson Graham, Cooper Neely, Reilly Ell, Phoebe Yerxa, Libby Saucier, Karina Dumond, Sophia Morgan, Ava Harvey

The OTHS Library is a Happening Place to Be!

The OTHS library continues to be a happening place. Along with the monthly contests that students have the opportunity to enter, they also have a voice in the selection process of books. With this voice, not only have our Manga and graphic novel sections grown, but our other sections as well. The genre with the biggest circulation goes to mysteries! Students look forward to the deliveries of their much-loved authors and genres.

The library participated in Spirit Week in March with daily contests. Students had the opportunity to answer a daily question about the library and win a prize. There's more than one way to help students learn about the library!

April was National Poetry Month, and the library celebrated with a student poetry contest. The quality of work was outstanding! First place went to Racqel Johnson, second place went to Bailey Webber, and third place went to Harper Oakes. The library also celebrated National Library Week with a daily contest about their favorite books, quotes, and how well they know their librarian!

In May, the library hosted author Jack Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery is the author of From the Holocaust to Maine: Testimonies of the Survivors. Students from Mrs. Turner's World History classes joined Mr. Montgomery in the library for a Q & A. This was followed up by a presentation for the students in the Diplomas of Distinction program. Thank you to Mr. Montgomery for joining us!

None of these events would be possible without the support not only of our school administration but also of our community. How a community supports its library is an indication of how they support education. Our library continues to thrive and grow because of this.



Celebrating National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month, and to celebrate, OTHS Library had its first annual poetry contest! Students had the opportunity to submit their original work to the contest. The judges all agreed that the submissions the library received were absolutely fantastic. They were judged, anonymously, by a panel of judges who had a difficult time choosing who should place. The library is very excited and proud to announce that Racqel Johnson received first place, Bailey Webber received second place, and Harper Oakes received third place. Honorable mention went to Isabelle Bean, Kayden Farmer, Addison Hill, Koston Hurley, Raelyn Knights, Jordan Murray, Lilyanah Sirois, and Annabelle Thacker.

Read the winning poem!

Sixteen Doesn't Come With Keys

People always told me
"Sweet sixteen is a gift"
Like everyone else,
Cars parked in their driveways
Wrapped in ribbons
Reactions on videos.

My sixteen smells like
Grease.
And having to close at night
Counting tips I've made
Just to survive.

My hands don't hold
Car keys
But yet
Wrinkled receipts,
Schedules between
Theater and tennis
And past due homework.

I watch parking lots
Like they're dreams I cannot touch.
Rows of car that belong to kids
Who didn't trade their life
For dollars and bills.
I am so tired of earning things
That others my age
Wake up with.

Tired of hearing
"It'll make you feel better this way"
But my appreciation cannot replace
How it feels to be left
Behind.

While they drive
I am running from
School, to work,
To practice, to rehearsal
To work again.

And yet nobody sees it
Nobody sees how heavy it is
To build your life
At sixteen.
No blueprint, no backup
No
'I've got you!"

Just me
No matter how hard I work
It'll never be enough
To catch up

I'll keep going,
If I stop,
Everything I've built,
Late nights, missed
Chances…
Will collapse into
Nothing.

I can't afford
Nothing.

Not at sixteen.

District 5 Festival

Old Town High School proudly participated in the District 5 High School Honors Festival

Four Old Town High School students were selected to participate in the District 5 Honors Festival, held on January 30th and 31st at Hampden Academy. Students worked hard outside of school to prepare for the upcoming festival. Hundreds of students from surrounding schools spent two days in intensive instruction under the direction of guest conductors of treble choir, mixed choir, and concert band.

Ciera McCash, Lilyanna Quigley, and Rachel Street were selected for treble choir, while Cassandra Sherwood was selected for the mixed choir. Both groups performed a diverse repertoire and delivered a beautiful final performance.





OTHS Jazz Wins 3rd Consecutive GOLD

The Old Town Jazz Band & Jazz Ensemble had a very eventful weekend in March.

On Friday, both Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band received the highest rating (GOLD) Award at the State Jazz Festival. Jazz Ensemble received a score of 98 and the Jazz Band a score of 95. This is the first time in school history that both bands have received a GOLD Award at the State Jazz Festival.

The Dale Huff Outstanding State Jazz Festival Soloist Award for the State Jazz Festival went to Tyler Priest-Trombone

In our division, Old Town received four of the five Outstanding Soloist Trophies.

- Paige Bickmore-Clarinet
- Ray Parker-Trumpet
- Colby Drost-Drums
- Cassie Sherwood-Bass

On Saturday, the Old Town High School Jazz Ensemble won the Clark Terry Jazz Festival held at the University of New Hampshire.

This is the third year in a row that the Old Town Jazz Ensemble has won at this festival.



OTHS Chorus Shines at UMaine SCORE Festival

The Old Town High School Chorus recently joined 200 fellow vocalists for the University of Maine's Secondary Choral OutReach Experience (SCORE). This unique festival offers school choirs the chance to experience the power of a massive 200-piece ensemble with as few barriers as possible.

Students spent the day mastering the Dream Trilogy, composed by Rollo Dilworth and based on the evocative poetry of Langston Hughes.

The ensemble was led by the talented Rebecca DeWan, who guided the students through a day of intensive rehearsal and artistry.

The group participated in a live Zoom session with Dr. Rollo Dilworth himself! He shared his compositional inspirations and took time to answer questions from the high schoolers.

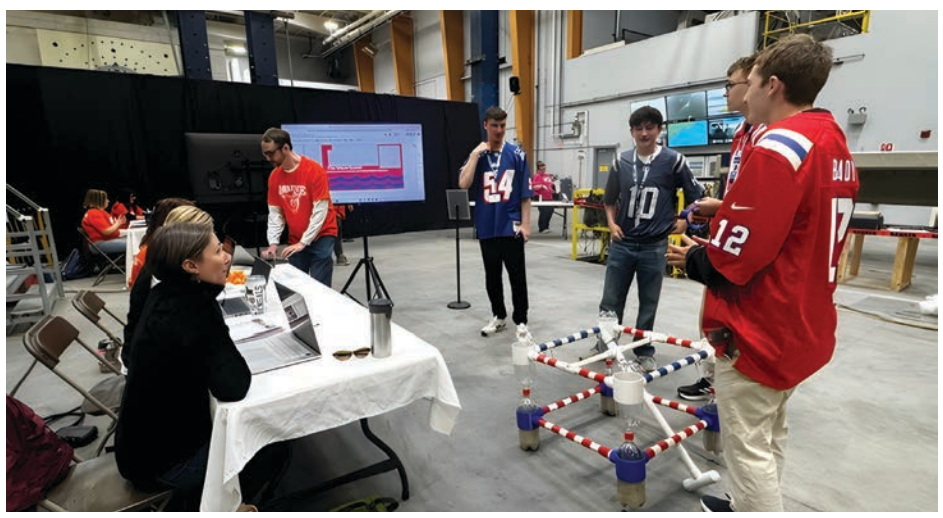
The festival concluded with a series of individual performances, including a piece by our own OTHS Chorus, followed by a breathtaking performance of the Dream Trilogy by the combined 200-voice choir.

We are so proud of our students for representing Old Town with such talent and dedication! Thank you to the University of Maine for providing the music, learning tracks, and a wonderful day of choral connection.



2026 Windstorm Challenge

Two teams from the CTE Exploratory class spent a few months designing, building, and putting together their offshore wind turbine platforms for the Windstorm Challenge at the University of Maine. They took their designs to UMaine's Wind and Wave pool to test them under real conditions to see how stable they were. They then had to present their design to some experts in the field and answer questions about their platform for a chance to win a $60,000 scholarship over four years to work in the Advanced Structures and Composites Center. Last year, the Drake Maye-Flower group finished in 11th place as freshmen, and this year they worked to improve all aspects of their design and came home with 3rd Place. They are already looking forward to next year and getting a scholarship to UMaine.







WARRANT FOR DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING

To Cherie Legassie, resident of Regional School Unit No. 34 in the County of Penobscot and State of Maine:

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of each of the municipalities of Regional School Unit No. 34, namely the City of Old Town and the Towns of Alton and Bradley, in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Regional School Unit No. 34 affairs, to meet at the **Old Town High School** in the City of Old Town on **May 27, 2026** at **6:30 o'clock** in the **evening**, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

Article I: To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article II: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Regular Instruction**.

Explanation: The Regular instruction account includes expenses directly related to classroom teaching and learning such as salaries for teachers, substitutes, para-professionals, classroom instructional equipment, materials, supplies and textbooks. Also included are expenses related to Alternative Education, English as a 2nd Language, and Gifted and Talented / Chapter 104 Programs.

PK-5 Regular Instruction	*$ 3,738,464.79*
6-8 Regular Instruction	*$ 2,191,459.64*
9-12 Regular Instruction	*$ 3,550,268.02*
Alternative Education	*$ 154,251.17*
English as a 2nd Language Instruction	*$ 81,257.44*
Gifted & Talented/Chapter 104 Instruction	*$ 507,715.93*
Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$10,223,416.99**

Article III: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Special Education.**

Explanation: The Special Education accounts include expenses for direct support of Special Education Programs.

K-5 Special Education:	*$2,335,750.61*
6-8 Special Education:	*$1,088,884.57*
9-12 Special Education:	*$1,404,424.78*
Out of District Special Education:	*$1,135,231.05*
Summer School Special Education:	*$ 95,632.36*
Special Education Administration:	*$ 372,401.26*
Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$6,432,324.63**

Article IV: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Career and Technical Education.**

Explanation: The Career and Technical Education account includes all expenses directly related to Career and Technical (Vocational) Education Programs.

United Technologies Center Assessment	*$0.00*
Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$0.00**

Article V: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Other Instruction.**

Explanation: The Other Instruction account includes expenses for After School Program, Summer School, Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular programs.

After School Program K-5	*$ 3,144.30*
After School Program LMS	*$ 8,663.26*
Summer School K-5	*$ 7,777.04*
Summer School LMS	*$ 7,142.54*
After School Program OTHS	*$ 3,144.30*
School OTHS	*$ 19,729.30*
Co-Curricular K-5	*$ 3,229.50*
Co-Curricular / Extra Curricular LMS	*$168,088.79*
Co-Curricular / Extra Curricular OTHS	*$747,827.42*
Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$968,746.45**

Article VI: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Student and Staff Support.**

Explanation: The Student and Staff Support account includes expenses such as guidance, health (school nurses), libraries, staff training, student assessment and instructional technology.

Guidance Services	*$ 659,444.55*
Library Services	*$ 377,680.95*
School Health	*$ 274,643.90*
Curriculum/Staff Training	*$ 324,459.46*
Student Assessment	*$ 111,831.28*
Instructional Technology	*$ 572,219.02*
Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$2,320,279.16**

Article VII: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **System Administration.**

Explanation: The System Administration account includes expenses for the Board of Directors, the Office of the Superintendent and Business Office functions.

Board of Directors	*$ 110,570.00*
Office of the Superintendent	*$ 210,169.03*
Business Office Functions	*$ 287,326.57*
Employee Wellness	*$ 2,800.00*
Community Coordinator	*$ 1,000.00*
Community Connections	*$ 18,173.76*
Branding	*$ 5,000.00*
Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$635,039.36**

Article VIII: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **School Administration.**

Explanation: The School Administration account includes expenses for the direction and management of the individual schools.

Alton Elementary School	*$ 79,820.35*
Old Town Elementary School	*$ 389,404.42*
Leonard Middle School	*$ 368,430.08*
Old Town High School	*$ 440,148.49*
Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$1,277,803.34**

Article IX: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Transportation.**

Explanation: The Transportation account includes expenses for the contracted service for busing of students to and from school each day and special education transportation services.

Transportation Contract (to and from school)	*$604,000.00*
UTC Transportation	*$ 38,000.00*
Special Transportation	*$176,500.00*
Homeless Transportation	*$ 5,500.00*
Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$824.000.00**

Article X: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Facilities Maintenance.**

Explanation: The Facilities Maintenance account includes maintenance of all school buildings, grounds, minor capital renovation/construction projects, insurance, utilities, equipment and supplies.

Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$3,482,520.23**

Article XI: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Debt Service and Other Commitments.**

Explanation: At this time, RSU 34 does not have any debt service or other similar commitments.

Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$0,00**

Article XII: To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **All Other Expenditures.**

Explanation: The All Other Expenditures account includes the local expense for food service operations.

Board of School Directors Recommend:	**$0.00**

Article XIII: To see what sum the RSU will appropriate for that portion of the cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the RSU will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to that portion of the cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 15688 (Recommended amount set forth below):

Town Assessment	E.P.S. Allocation	E.P.S. Amount Raised/RSU
Alton	$ 1,625,467.51	$ 334,842.59
Bradley	$ 2,967,968.87	$ 917,782.91
Old Town	$ 13,675,843.49	$ 4,117,086.66
Total	$ 18,269,279.87	$ 5,369,712.16

Explanation: The Regional School Unit No. 34's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by State law to be the minimum amount that the RSU must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of State dollars.

Article XIV: Shall the RSU raise and appropriate **$ 0** for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state funded school construction projects, or non-state funded portions of school construction projects

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 34

in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12?

Explanation: Non-State funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on long term debt for major capital renovation/construction projects that are not approved for State subsidy.

Board of School Directors Recommend: $ 0

Article XV: Shall the RSU raise and appropriate $0 in additional local funds in support of the food service program?

Board of School Directors Recommend: $ 0.00

Article XVI: To see what sum the RSU will raise and appropriate in additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15671-A (4), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Directors.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the RSU local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment of non-State funded debt service that will help achieve the RSU's budget for educational programs. The RSU Board of Directors gives the following reasons for exceeding the EPS allocation model: The Essential Programs and Services funding model does not fully cover the cost of: 1)special education; 2)regular education; 3)extra-curricular and co-curricular programming; 4)increased oil, electricity and natural gas costs; 5) increased health insurance and benefits costs; 6) technology costs; 7) transportation; and, 8) facility maintenance and upkeep.

Board of School Directors Recommend: $ 3,118,302.18, which exceeds the EPS allocation model by $3,118,302.18.

Article XVII: **Total Budget:** To see what sum the RSU will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, from Regional School Unit No. 34's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for educational purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 15690, the RSU No.34's share of the Vocational Region Programs, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, State subsidy, and other receipts for the support of schools.

Explanation: This is a summary Article. The amount recommended is the gross budget of the RSU. This Article does not provide money unless the other Articles are approved.

Board of School Directors Recommend: $26,164,130.16

Article XVIII: To see if the RSU will appropriate $78,869.84 for adult education and raise $43,470.74 as the local share; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

Explanation: The Adult Education account includes expenses to operate the local Adult Education Program.

Local Adult Education Program $ 78,869.84

Board of School Directors Recommend: $78,869.84

Article XIX: Shall the **Regional Vocational Operating Budget** as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 be approved in the amount of **$6,156,935.40?**

Explanation: Approval of the total Regional Vocational Operating Budget by member units is required. This article is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be either accepted or rejected by the voters.

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Article XX: Shall the **Regional Vocational Adult Education Budget** as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 be approved in the amount of $245,815.00, and shall Regional School Unit No. 34 raise $4,219.16 as its share of the adult education budget for United Technologies Center/Region 4?

Explanation: Approval of the total Regional Vocational Adult Education Operating Budget by member units is required. Regional School Unit No.34's assessment is also included in this article. This article is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be either accepted or rejected by the voters.

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Article XXI: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the RSU Board of Directors be authorized to expend other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Article XXII: Shall the Board of Directors be authorized to transfer up to $500,000 from unallocated balances at the end of the 2025-2026 fis0cal year to the School Capital Reserve Fund, $100,000 to the Schools Athletics Field Reserve Fund, $100,000 to the School Technology Reserve fund, and to expend up to $640,000 from the School Capital Reserve fund and $45,000 from the Athletic Field Reserve fund for the purpose of completion of the following projects:

Estimated Cost:	
OTHS Groundwork/paving/sidewalk Front Loop	$141,000
OTHS Groundwork/paving/sidewalk Back Loop	$ 62,000
OTHS Main Entrance paving/curb	$ 51,200
OTHS Parking Pool area on hill	$ 23,100
OTHS Bathroom Business Wing (SRRF 30%)	$195,000
OTHS Abatement of 4 classrooms (asbestos tile)	$ 12,000
OTHS Floor Tile - 4 classrooms	$ 16,700
OTHS Library Carpet Replacement	$ 20,000
OTHS Stage renovation (Lighting, Curtains, Audio)	$ 97,000
OTHS Staff Door (Including access controls)	$ 22,000
OTHS Concessions groundwork/paving	$ 45,000

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Article XXIII: Shall the RSU authorize the School Board to establish a non-lapsing contingency fund for periods of financial emergency pursuant to section 1482-B(3) of Title 20-A, and to transfer the RSU's unallocated balances in excess of 5% of the prior fiscal year's budget, as determined by the audit, to that fund; and shall the RSU delegate authority to the School Board to expend sums in the contingency fund when the School Board determines by public vote that an emergency need exists, and to transfer sums in the contingency fund to the RSU's general fund for use in school operating budgets approved by the RSU voters?

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Article XXIV: In the event that the RSU receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the Board of Directors be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the Board of Directors and/or increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund approved by the Board of Directors?

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Given under our hands this 13th day of May 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO.34

Hunter Umphrey
Clem LaBree
Rebecca Kennedy
Griffin Dill
Laura Sanborn
Gert Nesin
Matthew Curtis
Christina Lannan
Joanna Preble



Old Town City Manager

Updates to major City projects.

By Bill Mayo, City Manager

The City is continuing to work on some major projects and updates are as follows;

Llewellyn Estes Bridge (Stillwater Bridge) / Center Street

The Llewellyn Estes Bridge project continues to progress. The latest bridge activity is removing the last of the former bridge, then starting construction of the new bridge in the spring/summer of 2026. The temporary bridge was opened for traffic on May 14, 2024. The new bridge construction pilings are in place, and water/sewer force mains are repositioned to the temporary bridge. The new hangars for the water and sewer lines have arrived and will begin to be installed on the new bridge structure. As the project has been extended, costs continue to increase. Latest estimates for the final water and sewer main projects are approximately $500,000 higher for the water main and $400,000 higher for the sewer main than originally estimated for the bridge project. The city had started setting funding aside when this proposal was first announced in 2018, so there should be enough in the sewer reserve to cover the extra cost. The new bridge, if no issues slow down progress, should be completed by the end of 2027 with final groundwork/clean-up in the spring of 2028. The temporary bridge is 575 feet long, with two lanes and a sidewalk separated by a curb with no weight restrictions. There will be an approximate 12' x 70' bump out on the upstream side of the new bridge for viewing and displaying information panels on Llewellyn Estes, Old Town, Penobscot Nation, and the University of Maine. The guard rail system must meet federal crash standards, and the chosen option will be solid concrete with a rail system on top of the concrete wall for pedestrian safety. The highway portion of the project has been completed. The highway portion was the reconstruction of the Bennoch Road / College Avenue and Stillwater Avenue intersections and approaches to the bridge. The project involved new traffic lights, controls, sidewalk replacement, and ADA-compliant crossings at both intersections. Please try to stay aware of the message boards by the bridge, as they will have updates as to delays or traffic flow changes that will happen over the next several years.

Juniper Ridge Landfill Expansion (JRL) / Host Community Benefit Agreement

The Maine DEP considered a public benefit determination for an 11.9 million cubic yard expansion of JRL in the fall of 2024. The process had been approved by Maine DEP and was moving toward the permit stage of the project. Due to appeals/court filings, this process is currently under court review to determine if all relevant factors have been considered by Maine DEP in moving forward with an expansion of JRL. This expansion process will take approximately 3 years (beginning in 2024) to consider the public benefit determination, potential license expansion, and the request's review by the Old Town Planning Board. The Council has contracted with Haley Ward (Engineering Services) to review all applications/plans submitted for the expansion to check compliance and health and safety issues related to the proposed expansion.

Also, the city will enter negotiations with the State and Casella on the host community benefit agreement in June of 2026. This opportunity happened through a legislative bill introduced by State Representative Jim Dill. This is an important first step in changing some of the original agreement from 2005, as the landfill, under State guidance, has gone from a construction demolition debris landfill to accepting many different types and amounts of municipal solid waste and wastewater sludge, which was never supposed to be allowed at this landfill.

City Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Planning Committee began discussing updating the City's comprehensive plan in January 2025. This is a legal requirement that maintains the City's ability to receive State and Federal grants, and the Council will receive public input by holding meetings and reaching out to citizens in the community. This will be approximately a 2-year process, reviewing current ordinances and zoning to ensure the City is in compliance and is adjusting to ever-changing legislative acts in Augusta and Washington. Citizen engagement has begun with public meetings held through May 2026. Also, the City mailed surveys to every address in the City. The information the City is seeking from citizens is available through online surveys, mailings of surveys to all City addresses, and public meetings. Dates, times, and associated information on the Comprehensive Plan Update are posted on the City's website. (https://old-town.org)

Herb Sargent Community Center

This building on Bennoch Road has been vacant for 10 months. The City sent out a request for proposals on possible uses of the facility. The Old Town/Orono YMCA was the organization that took on the project to renovate the building and grounds of this facility. The YMCA will begin renovating the building, baseball/softball field, and tennis courts in the spring/summer of 2026. The YMCA's intent is to begin renovations to the building as soon as possible once the final lease with the city is completed.

4th Street Project

The City continues working with the Old Town Rotary to make trail improvements and enhance the trailhead at the end of 4th Street. This will be a 2-year process and also involve better signage and trail integration with the University of Maine trail system. The city is working on grants and planning additional improvements to the boat launch at the end of 4th Street, to be made alongside the improvements to the trail system, with assistance from Stillwater Environmental Engineering. The city is currently applying for a $75,000 grant to assist with the improvements to this project.

Expanded Archery Season

Old Town has an expanded archery hunting zone that encompasses all of Marsh Island. The consideration of this expanded archery zone began in 2008 and continued through 2010, with hunting via permit through the BLIP program (Bowhunters/Landowners Information Program), which is offered through the Maine Bowhunters Association. After the 2011 hunt, Marsh Island became part of the Bangor Area Expanded Archery Zone. Please go to Maine Inland Fishery and Wildlife's website for all applicable laws relating to expanded archery (https://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting-trapping/hunting/species/deer/expanded-archery/index.html). The 2026 season begins on September 12 and ends on December 12. Marsh Island is unique in the expanded archery zone, as only bow and arrow can be used; crossbows cannot be used to hunt on Marsh Island during the expanded archery season. As with any hunting or fishing trips that are planned, please go to the Maine Inland Fishery and Wildlife's website to be sure all applicable laws are being followed. Also, please visit the City website to review the ordinance governing archery hunting on Marsh Island. This can be found in Chapter 12, Section 12-32.1 Archery Hunting-Marsh Island.


Bill Mayo

Upcoming budget decisions

This is an ongoing process, and it is a challenging year for RSU 34 and the City. To try to mitigate a large tax increase in 2025, the City Council moved forward with a plan to eliminate 12 full-time and 5 part-time positions from the budget. That was a combination of lay-offs and early retirements. This was a 20% reduction in City staff and impacted on operations across all departments. Currently, with the RSU, County, and City budget work to date, the proposed increase to the tax rate, using last year's total city value, the increase would be 3.4%. The Council is still discussing possible changes to lower that percentage.



Old Town City Clerk's Office

Laura Engstrom, City Clerk/Registrar of Voters

As the days grow longer and our community comes alive with summer activity, the City Clerk's Office is here to keep you informed, prepared, and connected.

Election Day – Tuesday, June 9

Location: Elks Lodge, 37 4th St
Hours: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

- State of Maine Primary Election
- RSU 34 School Budget Validation / Referendum
- Official election notices are posted at City Hall and the City website

Marriage Licenses & Ceremonies

Planning a summer wedding? Be sure to apply early to avoid last-minute stress.

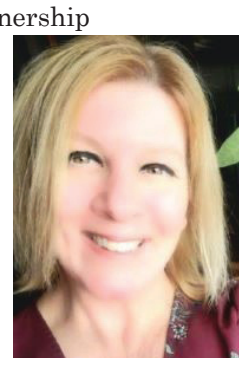
- Marriage licenses are available through the City Clerk's Office
- Civil wedding ceremonies are offered at City Hall
  - Fee: $25 (residents and non-residents)
  - Please call ahead to schedule an appointment

Looking for a scenic location? Reserve one of our City parks for your ceremony. Binette Park features a beautiful gazebo overlooking the Penobscot River.

Starting a Sole Proprietorship in Old Town

If you plan to operate a business in the City of Old Town as a sole proprietor under a name other than your legal name, you are required to register that name with the City Clerk.

- Businesses using an assumed name ("Doing Business As" or DBA) must file an Assumed Name Certificate before conducting business
  - Filing Location: City Clerk's Office
  - Fee: $10
- Requirements: Completed Assumed Name Certificate
  - Establishes a public record of business ownership
  - Authorizes use of the business name within the municipality



Laura Engstrom

For additional information or to obtain required forms, please contact the City Clerk's Office.

Laura Engstrom, City Clerk/Registrar of Voters
Lengstrom@old-town.org
207-827-3965, ext. 122

Old Town Public Works

Greetings, I hope this article finds you all happy and healthy. As the infancy stages of spring begin and we all enjoy the warmth of the sun, I am reminded of just how beautiful the transformation that takes place really is. Blooming flowers, tree buds, the songbirds that sing spring Praises with the frogs being the evening's chorus, many things begin.

Save the date: Spring cleanup will be May 16th, same as last year, at the public works garage, 7 am - 3 pm. Pre-registration is required at the city hall. Our annual household hazardous waste day will be June 13th at the Old Town transfer station from eight to noon.

A brief look back

This past brutally frosty winter, we had thirty-five treatable storm events, ten of which were freezing rain. Early spring snowstorms wreaked havoc on lawns. The crew has been out for the last month repairing that damage, as well as sweeping and picking up winter sand. Line striping began last week; at this point, it is weather-dependent on warm enough temperatures. Our cemetery operations, as far as mowing, have begun in earnest with burials starting Apr 30th. As of this writing, Kirkland Rd., Poplar St., and College Ave are no longer posted. As we move forward into the construction season, there are things I would like to share.

Paving

The department has the following streets and sidewalks scheduled for paving this 2026 season.

Streets: Sixth St (Perkins Ave to Oak St), Lower Lincoln St, Perkins Ave (Fifth St to Brunswick St), High St, Simon Ct, French St, Union St (Bosworth to Hays St), Cliff St, Chapman St, Howard St.

Sidewalks: Sixth St, Fifth St, and Summer St

Streets Paving won the bid and will be performing the paving, public works will be grading the sidewalks for pavement, and completing the loam needed after work is complete.

Playgrounds

The department has also moved forward with playground improvements. Last November, Public Works, councilor Wynn, and a rep from MRC walked the playgrounds and identified features that need updating. We were able to source most replacement features, so the kids should see updates mid-summer if all goes well. The docks are in at Mud Pond and Pushaw Lake, and we are waiting for the river to recede at the Fourth St landing. I will close by saying have a fun, safe summer. If you see public works crews out around town, say "Hi."



Steve Rideout

Best Regards,
Steven

Comfortably Home

making home a safer place to stay

Comfortably Home helps seniors live independently—and safely—in their own homes. Our professionals make minor repairs and basic accessibility and safety improvements at no cost for qualified homeowners.
Our team works with each homeowner to create a customized work plan to meet their needs and preferences. Our services can have a positive impact on health, safety, and peace of mind. The homeowner makes all the decisions and Comfortably Home takes care of the rest—planning, design, materials, and installation.

Our professional team will check, repair, install or replace the following items to improve safety and accessibility.

Safety Checks
Refrigerator coils
Light bulbs
Furnace filter(s)
Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector Replacement

Minor Repairs
Winterizing
Flooring repairs
Storm door installation
Gutter repair
Steps/existing ramp
Minor plumbing & electrical
Custom Work Examples:
- Build Shelf
- Modify cabinet height

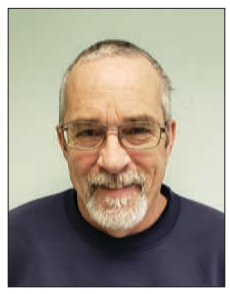
Accessibility Modifications
Grab bars and handrails
Shower wand
Shower seat
Raised toilet seat
Drawer pulls
Doorbell
Lighting
Faucets

To participate in Comfortably Home:

- Be age 55+ or have a disability
- Own the home or live in a home owned by a family member
- Have an annual household income under:
- $60,290 for one, $75,760 for two, $85,230 for three, and $94,700 for four.
- Live in Alton, Bangor, Bradley, Brewer, Carmel, Dedham, Eddington, Glenburn, Greenbush, Greenfield, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Hudson, Milford, Old Town, Orrington, Orono, Stillwater and Veazie.

To learn more about Comfortably Home call The Housing Authority of the City of Old Town at **207-827-6151**

Old Town Pollution Control


David Smith

Spring is a busy time for the staff at the Pollution Control Facility. The winter season took a toll on several of our properties. When the snow melted, it showed just how much. Staff will spend some time cleaning up the Treatment Plant, Compost Site, and the yards of six Pump Stations. Staff also must get the Treatment Plant ready for what we call chlorination season. Also, the Spring Paving season has begun, which means several manhole frames and covers will have to be adjusted to grade.

This past winter was a struggle for our staff. Staff spent a lot of time plowing, shoveling, and salting our properties. Staff tried to be as careful as possible, but some damage to the yard occurred. It was not known how much damage until the snow melted. Some sod will need to be repaired. Staff will spend time repairing the sod and raking the sand and gravel from the lawns of our six Pump Stations. The same will be done at the Treatment Facility and Compost Site.

Staff at the Pollution Control Department are also preparing for what we call chlorination season. This means we are required to add chlorine to the treated wastewater. Chlorination season runs from April 15th until November 1st. To prepare for this, both secondary (final) clarifiers and both chlorine contact chambers need to be pumped out and cleaned. We do this because the cleaner they are, the less chlorine we will need to use. 1,500 gallons of concentrated chlorine were ordered and were delivered in April.

Spring Paving season will start soon. There are roughly 15 manhole frames and covers that need to be addressed in the spring paving scope. Staff will inspect these and determine what needs to be done. Some will need to be replaced. Some will need some work, such as cementing them. Some will need risers, and some won't need much at all. Staff have ordered frames and covers, cement, and riser rings and have them on site. Some manholes scattered through town are also in need of work. Staff plans on working on as many of these manholes as possible.

Pollution Control Staff will also clean some sewer mains. We will use our high-pressure flusher truck to flush over 10,000 feet of sewer lines this Spring.

Just a reminder. Staff have been noticing "flushable" wipes and paper towels in our system. The only way they get into our system is by being flushed. If in doubt, remember: only toilet paper, human waste, and water should be flushed down a toilet. Flushable wipes include baby wipes; all flushable or biodegradable personal wipes, Clorox or similar cleaning wipes; paper towels; and anything that should not be flushed. Even paper napkins and tissues don't break down quickly enough to mitigate risks.

Sincerely,

David Smith, Superintendent
Old Town Pollution Control
(207) 827-3970

Old Town Fire Department

Old Town Fire Rescue Continues Strong Service and Community Engagement


Chief Kyle Milan

As we move further into the spring and summer months, Old Town Fire Rescue remains committed to delivering high-quality emergency services while staying actively connected to the community we serve. So far in 2026, our department is on pace to exceed 2,000 emergency incidents, maintaining a call volume consistent with last year and continuing to meet the needs of our residents with professionalism and dedication.

In addition to emergency response, our members have been actively engaged in training and professional development. With the change in seasons, we have transitioned into more outdoor training, including pumping operations from hydrants and drafting from static water sources such as local rivers. We are also utilizing our ladder truck to conduct regular ladder company training, practicing proper ladder placement and setup. These evolutions allow both newer and experienced firefighters to build confidence and reinforce the importance of positioning the apparatus correctly during emergency operations. These hands-on trainings are critical in preparing our personnel for real-world scenarios across a variety of environments.

We also recently coordinated a regional ice rescue training that brought together seven area departments, strengthening interagency coordination and response capabilities. Building on that success, we are currently planning a summer training focused on high-angle and low-angle rescue operations, which will take place in a wilderness setting at a local mountain. These opportunities not only enhance technical skills but also reinforce the strong partnerships we rely on during complex incidents.

Community involvement continues to be a priority for our department. We are looking forward to participating in upcoming events such as the middle school field day and the high school senior breakfast—both of which are always meaningful opportunities for our members to connect with students and staff. Additionally, we recently launched a new community outreach initiative through our blood pressure clinic program, bringing services directly to local senior and independent-living communities. This program allows us to engage with residents proactively while supporting their overall health and well-being.

Old Town Fire Rescue has also been working to support the future of the fire service. We recently partnered with Eastern Maine Community College to assist with recruitment efforts for their Fire Science program, helping to encourage and develop the next generation of firefighters and paramedics.

Internally, the department continues to make investments in both personnel and equipment. We have recently hired two new members and are actively working to fill additional open positions. In addition, four of our members are currently enrolled in paramedic school and are on track to complete the two-year program this August, further strengthening our ability to provide advanced medical care to the community.

We are also in the process of purchasing equipment through a previously awarded EMS grant, including training mannequins, a drone to support search-and-rescue operations, and other tools designed to enhance our ability to serve the community effectively.

Old Town Police Department

Spring Safety in Old Town


Chief David White

As warmer weather arrives in Old Town, more people are out walking, biking, and enjoying our neighborhoods. With this seasonal change, the Old Town Police Department is increasing its focus on safety, both through visible patrols and behind-the-scenes efforts that often go unnoticed.

What the Police Department is Doing

- ***School Zone & Bus Stop Enforcement:*** Officers are conducting focused patrols during morning and afternoon hours to ensure compliance with school bus laws and to address unsafe conditions and pedestrians in the roadway.
- ***Targeted Traffic Enforcement:*** With increased pedestrian and bicycle activity, officers are monitoring key areas to reduce speeding and improve overall roadway safety.
- ***Directed Patrols***: Community concerns—such as speeding or suspicious activity—are tracked and used to guide where and when officers are deployed.
- ***Ongoing Training***: Officers continue regular training to remain prepared and provide the highest level of service to our community.

How You Can Help

- **Slow down** in neighborhoods and school zones, where children are more active and less predictable.
- **Stop for school buses** with flashing red lights; it's the law and protects our most vulnerable residents.
- **Stay out of the roadway** at bus stops; standing in traffic or blocking lanes creates unnecessary danger.
- **Lock your vehicles** and remove valuables to prevent opportunistic thefts.
- **Report concerns**. If something doesn't seem right, contact us. Your calls help direct our patrol efforts.

Looking for updates, safety tips and more, scan this QR code to follow us on Facebook!

Public safety in Old Town is a shared responsibility. Small actions, like slowing down, staying alert, and looking out for one another, make a significant difference. The Old Town Police Department remains committed to proactive policing and community partnership. Together, we can ensure a safe and enjoyable spring season for everyone.

Chief David White


Downtown Old Town

Old Town Public Library

Cassandra Pool, Director
Old Town Public Library





Cassandra Pool

Spring is finally here! Come visit the library to see what we have to offer, such as Maine State Park passes, Coastal Maine Botanical Garden tickets, Maine Discovery Museum tickets, and Penobscot Theatre tickets, all available to check out with your library card. The Seed Library remains active through the fall. We're accepting seed donations and hosting a plant swap throughout the summer. A community puzzle has been set up in the lobby for patrons to solve, as well as a puzzle swap. The Story Walk in the garden around the library is now available and is updated monthly during Spring, Summer, and Fall, so be sure to stop by and see the new story. Our Library of Things collection is growing! We have adventure bags, ukuleles, Giant Jenga, a 26ft pole saw, kayaks, and several other indoor and outdoor games and things available to check out with your library card. Visit the library for more details.

Our hours of operation are Monday & Tuesday, 10 am-7 pm, Wednesday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm, and Saturday, 10 am-1 pm. Feel free to come in and browse the collection or use our public internet access computers. We are still offering curbside pickup service for those who would prefer it. Utilize our catalog to request items, or give us a call (207-827-3972), and we would be happy to help with your selections.

The children's programming has been very busy in our downstairs meeting rooms. Toddler Time, intended for children ages 1-3, is on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 am. The after-school Club Library will be continuing through the end of the school year and is held from 2:30-4:30 on Wednesdays (3rd–5th grade) and Thursdays (PreK–2nd grade). During the Summer, we will be offering our Brown Bag Reader programs. We are excited to have KindKids Music visit the program again this year. Check our website for more information or contact Ms. Cindy at the library for more details on children's events.

Tuesday Forum Luncheons continue with engaging presentations. In May, we welcome Ron Currie Jr., who will discuss his novel The Savage, Noble Death of Babs Dionne, a dark, witty crime story set in Waterville, Maine, about a drug-running matriarch whose life unravels after a family tragedy, exploring themes of loyalty, identity, and legacy. In June, we welcome Peter Cowin of Hampden, a local beekeeper and content creator who runs a popular YouTube channel and honey business, as he shares insights into bee behavior, hive care, and the importance of pollinators in Maine's ecosystems.

Our book clubs are back in full swing! Join The Blue Argyles Book Club for lively discussions across genres, or solve mysteries in the Whodunnit Book Club, also available via Zoom. Fright Club is now a year-round Horror Book Club where we explore chilling reads, discuss horror films, and occasionally screen movie adaptations together. Perfect for fans of the eerie and suspenseful!

Crafternoons are still going strong with hands-on creative projects each month. In May, try your hand at Book Bedazzling, and in June, build your own Bee Hotel to tie in with our Tuesday Forum theme. Our Take or Make program continues on the second Monday of each month. Join us in person to craft together or take a kit to go! In May, we'll be making Pressed Flower Bookmarks, and in June, we kick off our Retro Camp theme with DIY Shrinky Dink Keychains.

June also marks the start of our Summer Reading Program with a kickoff block party on June 6th. Enjoy tie-dye, goody bags, a magician, and so much more. It's a great way to celebrate the start of summer at the library!



For more information on any of our events, be sure to check our website for more information about what's going on at the Old Town Public Library (old-town.lib.me.us) and follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts for reading recommendations, lists of new items added to our collection, and upcoming programming announcements.

For full details, visit old-town.lib.me.us and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and announcements.
207-827-3972
otpl@old-town.org
http://old-town.lib.me.us



Old Town Museum

The Old Town Museum will open for the 2026 season on May 28. A full season of programs and events is planned, with several highlights.

In June of this year, the Museum will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. The Old Town Museum was originally created by the Old Town City Council as part of the country's Bicentennial and was housed in the water works building on what was then South Fourth Street Extension. We moved to our current location, the former St. Mary's Catholic Church, in 1996 when it was purchased from the Catholic Diocese of Maine by a group of interested Old Town residents who raised funds to buy and repurpose it as a museum. The stained-glass windows and the steeple often lead to the misunderstanding that it is a church rather than a museum.

We invite the public to visit us and view our collection.

In July, the Museum will honor Doris Allen, an Old Town native and the founder of the Children's International Summer Village (CISV), which she began 75 years ago. Peace Through Children was her message, as "children from foreign countries came together to share cultures through living together for a month in a 'village' atmosphere." Many may have participated in one of the Village programs in Old Town or elsewhere in Maine as a child or as a host family. Please share this with family and friends who may no longer live in the area so they can visit the Old Town Museum to share memories and view the many items on display from past events. During the week of July 13 to 19, the Museum will be open each day from 11 am to 3 pm.

Several other interesting programs are planned for the season, and details will be posted on the museum's Facebook account. Our programs usually take place on Thursday nights and include talks and demonstrations.

Last year, we were fortunate to purchase many new display cases, which are now in place and display many of the Museum's collected artifacts. Anniversary events are planned and will include a reception, an open house, a history tour through Old Town, and other events. More information on our Anniversary will appear later on Facebook and our website: theoldtownmuseum.org.

The Old Town Museum is located at 353 Main Street, Old Town, and is open May through October, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11 am to 3 pm. We can also open almost any time throughout the season if a request is made and people are available to accommodate. Please remember that the Museum is wheelchair accessible and there is no admission charge.

The Old Town Museum
353 Main Street
Old Town, ME 04468



Old Town Code Enforcement

The City of Old Town Code Enforcement Office plays an important role in helping residents, contractors, and business owners safely improve and maintain their properties. Our office is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and issuing permits for a wide variety of projects, including building, plumbing, and electrical work. Whether someone is constructing a new home, remodeling a kitchen, replacing a deck, or installing new electrical service, our goal is to help guide projects through the permitting process in a way that is efficient, professional, and helpful to the public.

Spring is one of the busiest times of the year for the Code Enforcement Office. As the weather improves, construction activity throughout the community increases significantly. Much of my time during the spring months is spent reviewing permit applications, answering questions from residents and contractors, and conducting inspections on active construction projects throughout the City. These inspections help ensure that work is being completed safely and in compliance with applicable building codes that are designed to protect homeowners, occupants, and neighboring properties.

This spring has also brought several Shoreland Zoning violation cases that have required a significant amount of coordination and follow-up. Addressing these matters has involved meetings with property owners, representatives from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and professional foresters to develop appropriate reforestation and remediation plans. These efforts are important to protecting water quality, preserving natural shoreline buffers, and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations that help safeguard the community's natural resources for future generations.

A large part of the job also involves working directly with residents who are taking on home improvement projects themselves. Many homeowners are surprised to learn that permits are often required for projects such as decks, additions, electrical upgrades, plumbing work, and other structural improvements.

My office is here to help residents understand the requirements, navigate the process, and complete projects successfully. I understand that codes and regulations can sometimes feel overwhelming, and I strive to be a resource for education and guidance rather than simply enforcement.


Travis Roy

The Code Enforcement Office is committed to supporting safe development, protecting property values, and helping maintain the quality of life that makes Old Town a great place to live and work. Residents are always encouraged to contact the office with questions before beginning a project so we can help point them in the right direction from the start.

Help Decrease the Rat Population on Marsh Island



A major cause of the city's rodent problem is due to the keeping of chickens, as the feed is also a source of food for the rats**.** The feeding of birds and feral animals is another reason for the increase in the rat population. Rats are not picky eaters. They search out any food source available. DO NOT LEAVE OUT ANY FOOD FOR FERAL ANIMALS. Open compost piles are another source of food and shelter for rodents. All composting must utilize an enclosed composting bin. Placing your trash curb-side early and not in required trash cans is yet another reason we are facing this challenge. Please place trash curbside the morning of your collection date and in a trash receptacle.



Old Town Assessing

April J. Buchanan - Assessor

The assessing office is located on the first floor of City Hall, 265 Main St. We welcome visitors with questions/concerns. If you're unable to stop by, please feel free to email me at abuchanan@old-town.org or call at 207-827-3965 ext. 118.

As we move into the warmer months here in Maine, it's a busy time for many—whether it's buying or selling property, making home improvements, or simply enjoying the season. It's also an active time in the assessing world, and I'd like to share a few updates and reminders.

What Does the Assessor's Office Do?

The Assessing Office is responsible for valuing all properties in Old Town fairly and accurately. This helps ensure that property taxes are distributed equitably among all property owners.

To do this, we review property characteristics such as size, condition, and features, and analyze recent sales within Old Town to estimate current market value.

What's Happening This Year?

Old Town's current state-certified assessment ratio is approximately 80%, meaning that, on average, properties are assessed below their full market value.

As part of maintaining fairness and equity across all properties, the Assessing Office will review market activity and make appropriate adjustments prior to the next tax commitment. These adjustments are based on overall market trends—not on individual properties alone—and are intended to keep assessments aligned with current market conditions.

Property owners may see changes in assessed values as part of this process. Our goal is to ensure consistency and fairness across the entire community

Planning Improvements or Buying/Selling?

Spring and summer are popular times for property changes. If you are:

- Building an addition or garage
- Installing a deck, pool, or other improvements
- Buying or selling property

These changes can impact your property record and, in some cases, your assessment. Keeping our records up to date helps ensure accurate and fair valuations.

Property Data Review and Record Accuracy

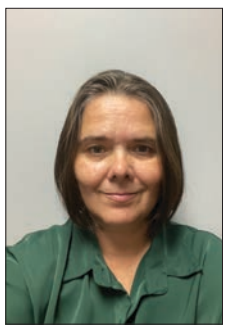
Maintaining accurate property records is an ongoing responsibility. Over time, changes such as renovations or additions can affect property characteristics.

Our office may conduct data reviews using questionnaires, record research, or limited field visits. If you are contacted, it is simply to verify information and ensure our records reflect current conditions.

Why This Matters

Accurate property records help support a fair and equitable tax system for everyone in our community. Whether through exemption participation or by maintaining up-to-date status, these efforts contribute to assessments that are consistent and well-supported.

In addition to property visits, we will also send real estate data verification questionnaires to property owners. These questionnaires provide an opportunity for you to confirm or correct property details and help us maintain accurate assessments.


April Buchanan

You May Qualify for Property Tax Relief

The State of Maine offers several programs that may reduce your property taxes, including:

- Homestead Exemption
- Veterans Exemption
- Blind Exemption
- Property Tax Deferral Program

We actively review records to help identify residents who may qualify. More information is available on the City's website or by contacting our office.

Have Questions?

If you have questions about your property, exemptions, or assessments, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're always happy to help.

Thank you for your continued cooperation—it's a pleasure to serve the residents of Old Town.

Warm regards,
April Buchanan, Assessor

City Finance

Danielle Berube, Finance Director


Danielle Berube

The City website offers citizens the ability to re-register vehicles, pay taxes and sewer fees, purchase hunting and fishing licenses, and re-register ATV, snowmobile, and boat registrations with the online portals.

Upcoming due dates

30-day notices will be mailed in May for any unpaid 2026 tax bills with liens issued in June.**2026**

Waste Water Pollution Billing schedule

Service dates	Due dates
January-March	April 28
April-June	July 28
July-September	October 28
October-December	January 28

General Assistance Office

General Assistance is a service administered by the municipality for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic essential necessities to maintain themselves or their families. The General Assistance office operates by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

General Assistance can be reached by telephone at 827-3991, ext. 107, or by email at otwelfare@old-town.org.

Housing Authority of the City of Old Town

Affordable Family Housing - Now Accepting Applications

Short waiting lists for 2, 3, & 4 bedroom apartments in Old Town located at Meadow Lane, Anderson Lane & Dow IV.

Rent is based on income. Income limits & eligibility requirements apply.

All applicants are selected by date & time of application.

Apply today! 207-827-6151, www.oldtownhousing.net

Equal Housing Opportunity

Old Town Municipal Airport: Dewitt Field



Miles Francis

Seasonal Update

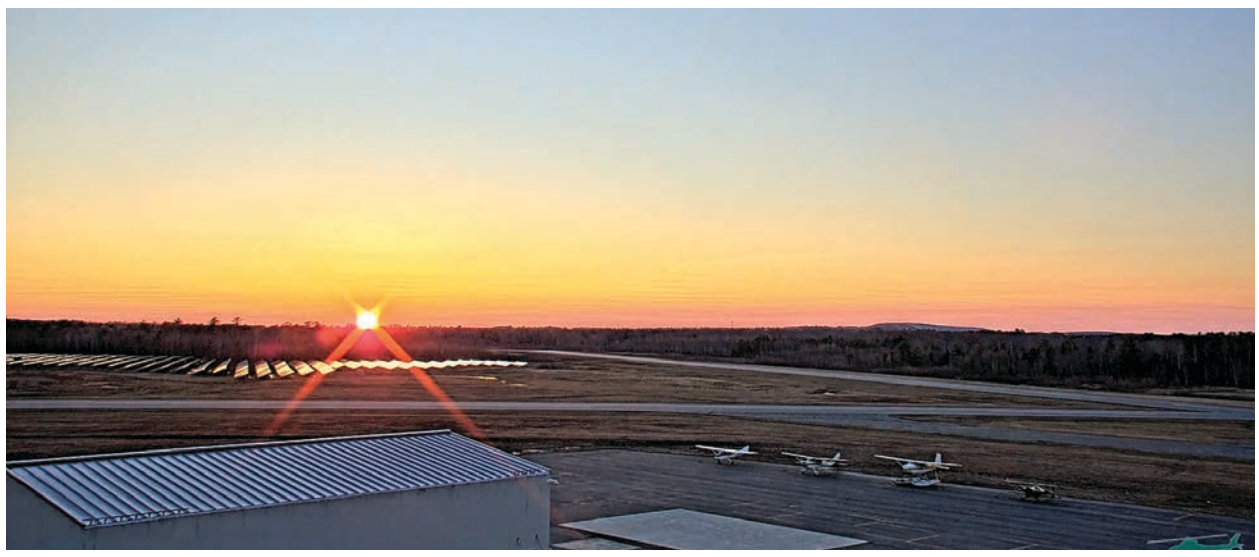
As winter gives way to spring, Old Town Municipal Airport is shifting into seasonal cleanup and preparation for the busy months ahead. Crews are focusing on landscape and grounds cleanup following the winter season, along with routine inspections and maintenance to ensure the airfield is ready for increased activity. We are also addressing runway lighting repairs to correct any winter damage and keep the airport operating safely.

Down at the waterfront, the seasonal fuel trailer has been placed by the river, and docks will be going in shortly in anticipation of increased use. On the airfield side, work continues with planning and coordinating the Taxiway C project, which is part of our ongoing efforts to upgrade and improve airport infrastructure. In addition, new lighting will be installed near the fuel farm to enhance safety and visibility. These projects reflect our continued commitment to maintaining a safe, efficient, and well-kept airport for pilots, tenants, and the broader Old Town community.



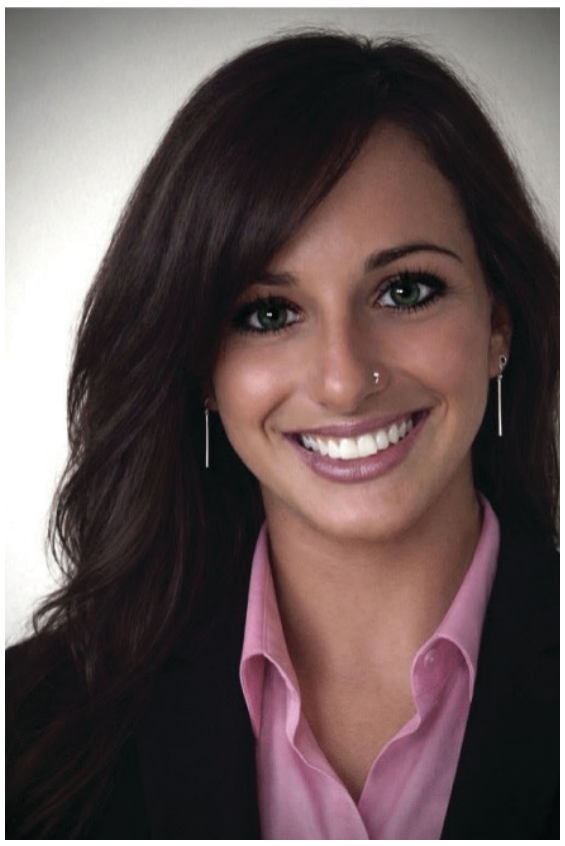






Economic & Community Development

Economic Development Director Appointed



In January of 2026, the City of Old Town hired Amy Collinsworth as their new Economic Development Director. Amy grew up and resides in Millinocket and graduated from Stearns High School in 2007. As the former Katahdin Region Economic Development Director with Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC), she has over 3.5 years of economic development skills, coupled with many other experiences from her previous work. She has a bachelor's degree in New Media from UMaine and an associate's in Computer Aided Drafting and Design from EMCC, with an internship at Disney World in 2010. Amy has worked for credit unions, where she has won State, Regional and National recognition for her marketing campaigns. After that, she worked at a printing facility in Bangor and soon after moved to Bath, Maine, where she was responsible for restructuring and restructuring the entire DDG51 warship design training program for both the national and international homeports for General Dynamics Bath Iron Works. She developed and taught AutoCAD, coordinated and designed interactive training material for LMS quality assurance, and worked in IT in the Lifecycle and Engineering Department. Amy was nominated while at BIW, where she was recognized as 'Women of BIW Mentor Group and Subject Matter Expert'. Amy's hobbies include riding dirtbikes, walking on trails, skydiving, rafting, mowing and tending to her lawn, and spending time with her pets.

Riverfest 2026 Approaching: September 25 – 27, 2026

It's that time of year again! Old Town Riverfest is taking place September 25, 26, and 27, 2026.

Riverfest is back and here to provide the greater Old Town area with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our great and ever-growing community. This year marks a very special cornerstone in Riverfest history as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. We expect this year's festival to be bigger than ever. We have secured the UMaine marching band, fireworks, a great variety of food truck vendors, and so much more.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. We are honored to have you join us for this special year. Contact Amy at acollinsworth@old-town.org.

Downtown Old Town (DTOT)

DTOT continues seeking volunteers! Do you live, work, attend school, own a business or visit Old Town often? Do you have an interest in seeing our downtown develop and grow? If so, please contact Amy at acollinsworth@old-town.org for more information. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month from 3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. at City Hall in the council chambers and on zoom as well. If you would like to join the mailing list, please provide your email for calendar updates and reminders. You can also check out the DTOT website and FB page for updates on what is going on and happening in the downtown district: www.dtotmaine.org.

Ensure your trash is picked up

Use Green OT bags and close the lids!

The city consistently receives calls from residents regarding their trash or recycling not being collected. When this occurs, the city contacts Casella and gives them the address. Within five minutes the city receives a video of that location, on that day, so that we may inform the resident as to why their cans did not get picked up. On very few occasions, it was simply missed. **98% of the time the video reveals that the lids were open.**

There is also a misconception that the city is not enforcing the pay per bag collection service. The city is working diligently to bring every property into conformity. We receive calls from citizens complaining that they are seeing carts with white, orange, and black trash bags. This can be confusing as **apartment buildings with over four units cannot utilize the city service** and must contract with a trash hauler to remove their trash. Some utilize typical dumpsters while others that also contract through Casella have the carts just like the city's service and utilize the side load truck just as the city does. The difference is in the detail. All carts that the city's contract covers have a serial number that begins with OT. All other carts are being paid for through the property owners and do not have to adhere to the pay per bag collection structure.

To ensure your trash is picked up every time, there are a few things you must know:

- **Use pay-per-throw green bags** available at city hall, Walgreens, and Hannaford.
- **Close lids securely**. Don't overload the can so that the lid cannot close
- **Keep space between the cans.** There must be a foot or two between them so that the mechanical arm can grasp the can.
- **Place them in the correct direction** with the handle and wheels toward your yard/home or against the curb (off of the sidewalk if any) in the street.



Trash and recycling collection occurs every week on your service day, either Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.

Holiday Collection Schedule

Visit casella.com/old-town-me for upcoming holiday pick up schedules.

Questions? Please call Casella at 1-800-CASELLA.

STEM Diploma Program



This past year, OTHS students enrolled in the STEM Diploma program had the opportunity to present their research capstones at the Maine State Science Fair. Throughout the year, students have conducted hands-on research exploring topics across a wide variety of disciplines. Ava Harvey conducted research on the presence of microplastics in tidepool organisms and found that every individual contained some microplastic. In total, she counted over 2,200 pieces of microplastic in under 50 individuals. Phoebe Yerxa designed her own claw-grasping arm prosthetic model and created different silicone grip covers to test grip strength. She found that sometimes simple works best, and a solid flat silicone cover can vastly increase grip strength! Ruby Whitmore surveyed Type-1 diabetes and found that, regardless of technological access, patients are able to often hit their desired A1C values but still run into similar hardships like cost and dealing with insurance companies. Isaac Austin surveyed invertebrates in our local waterways and found that all species had microplastics in them. Luckily, he also found species that tend to be associated with more 'high quality' environments held much fewer microplastics than those that can live in more polluted systems. Cooper Neely used computer software to simulate how different wing designs can handle turbulent airflow, with the hope of finding the best way to manufacture drones for use in high-wind events. He found that elliptical wings outperform the standard tapered wing across all wind speeds, but it then raised the question, "Do the performance improvements justify the much greater building costs?" Sophia Morgan collaborated with the University of Maine and tested how extreme environmental conditions can degrade wood-plastic composite building materials. She found that harsh UV exposure can lessen the overall strength of these building materials. The group did an amazing job presenting, and three students even had the honor of receiving full-tuition scholarships to the University of Maine, Orono.

