

Summer Residents Association

Spring 2014

A Publication of the Summer Residents of the Town Mount Desert

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

After a long hard winter for many of us around the country, we are finally reawakening to spring and once again planning our annual trip to Mt. Desert Island. Before we know it, Northeast Harbor will be bustling with activity. New activity. Many changes have occurred over the winter. It seems that all store fronts on Main Street will be up and running this summer. This is good news for all the many local and summer residents who have been working hard together for so long on the revitalization process.

Some specific changes will be described in following articles by Jackie Hewett, Economic Development Consultant, who has worked endless hours on creating the new signage and the newly formed Events Committee which will provide everyone with fun, on going activities and events over the summer months.

John Boynton has submitted an article with new information on construction of the old Apothecary.

Ham Clark is providing you with a report on The Revitalization Steering Committee's activities. I would like to comment at this point that the SRA and the Steering Committee are most appreciative of the time spent by Sam Shaw who recently retired from the Steering Committee. Sam was a pioneering driver behind RE-Store

Northeast Harbor. Well before the Urban Land Institute and other efforts regarding restoration and revitalization were coordinated Sam was trying to help. We are grateful for Sam's vision and dedication to the committee and especially, his dedication to Northeast Harbor.

I will attempt to list some of the changes here so you will be up to speed on many of the new, exciting ventures.

- Randy Merchant has purchased the Holmes Store . The store will be operating this summer.
- We have new store called STUFF started by Robin Graves and Agnes Peele. Stuff will be selling colorful women's clothing and gifts for the home.
- Full Belly Deli has been purchased , the owner is reported to be looking for someone to operate it but the word is it will be open.
- Maine Gifts from the Sea will be filling the Local Color space.
- The Office space next to the architectural firm at the end of Main Street is going to be occupied by Asian Art. The former location was the Asticou Inn.

I am sure by now you have received your membership dues notice. Please take time to renew your dues. Please also consider a donation to the SRA so we can continue to build up reserves for the future.

The Board so appreciates your support.

Happy Summer everyone,
Kathe McCoy, president

SRA Board of Directors

Kathe Gates McCoy, President
Jan Russell, Vice President & Nominating
Charles Merriman, Treasurer
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Jamie Clark
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Rick Wheeler
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SRA Mission Statement

The mission of the Summer Residents Association of the Town of Mount Desert is to provide an effective means of communication between the summer residents and the Town leadership on issues that concern the current and future well-being of the Town. The Steering committee (Board of Directors) seeks to represent and to keep them informed of, and involved in, the Town planning process on current and future issues.

The Summer Residents Association seeks to be the timely and constructive voice of the summer residents with Town government working closely with Town leaders to preserve and protect the unique character, culture, environment and quality of life in the Town of Mount Desert.

The Role of TMD Economic Steering Committee

As many SRA members are aware, this committee was formed soon after the Urban Land Institute's Technical Assistance Panel (ULI-TAP) delivered its set of recommendations to the Town of Mount Desert's Board of

Selectmen in the Summer of 2012. The objective from the beginning has been to drive implementation of these recommendations through a broad based partnership between the Town Government, the Town's merchant, and both year-round and summer residents. As we reported last year, this Committee was the impetus behind the hiring of Jackie Hewitt as an Economic Development Consultant for the Town.

While Jackie has been "on the job" for less than 9 months, she has made a huge difference in gaining broad-based support for implementing many of these ULI-TAP recommendations. At the May TMD Annual Meeting, the Town approved a second year of funding for Jackie's work, which will continue into the fall of 2015. The SRA again matched the Town funding for this effort.

Sitting on this Committee are Kathe McCoy and Ham Clark from the SRA, Martha Dudman and Matt Harte from the TMD Selectboard, Town Manager Durlin Lunt, and Nancy Ho, the owner of the Kimball Shop. The Committee meets regularly each month with Jackie Hewitt to support and guide the work the Economic Development for the Town. Shown below are the 2014 objectives.

Mount Desert Economic Development Effort -- Year Two Plans

1. Continue to work with existing business community to improve fiscal performance
2. Work to attract new businesses of all types to the villages of Mount Desert
3. Continue to work with Island wide tourism services to ensure all the vil-

lages of Mount Desert are included in their daily offerings

4. Provide support and guidance to the Event Committee to bring high quality, successful events to town
5. Continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce to increase membership and improve joint marketing and services
6. Work with the Town and the Chamber of Commerce to update their web-sites and online presence
7. Work with town government, local citizens, and the business community to create a "brand" for the villages of Mount Desert
8. Help create a Northeast Harbor Downtown Development Plan to direct the future of Main Street
9. Continue to seek out funding public and private funding sources for town projects

Economic Development Up-date 5/15/14

Happy Spring from the economic development office. This winter has been a fun and productive time planning initiatives to revitalize the village of Northeast Harbor. Many thanks to the Economic Development Steering Committee (Kathe McCoy, Durlin Lunt, Martha Dudman, Hamilton Clark, Matt Hart and Sam Shaw) who have provided tremendous support and advise over these months. They have been invaluable guides. Some of the initiatives we have been working on include:

1. Creation of a Town of Mount Desert Event Committee

Last fall, the Town of Mount Desert Board of Selectmen authorized the creation of a town events committee. The mission of this committee is to identify and develop community events, projects, activities, and programs which are of mutual interest to both visitors and residents of the Town of Mount Desert and which strengthen the town by fos-

tering economic vitality in the town's villages and which increase community involvement and a sense of place.

Since its creation, the committee, which has 11 members including Mary Lea Bayne, Kay Graves, Kelly Brown, Meg Ashur, Steve Ashley, Brook Miner, Suzie James, Sue Kroft, Lili Pew, Gina Platt and Cyndi Schmidt, has been meeting regularly to work on creating new events and identifying methods to market existing ones. Our schedule for this summer is an ambitious one and includes:

- Weekly movie nights during July and August. Each Thursday night beginning at sunset a free, "family friendly" movie will be shown on the village green. Audience members will be invited to bring their own chair or blanket, enjoy a picnic supper before the show or eat in one of Northeast Harbor's local restaurants and mingle with family and friends.

- A visit by the tall ship Lynx. On July 17th the Lynx will arrive in Northeast Harbor for a four-day stay. This replica, War of 1812 Privateer, is a living museum that travels around the country educating young and old alike about this often misunderstood war. While in Northeast Harbor, the Lynx will offer tours of the vessel in the morning and afternoon sails, including an opportunity to fire its cannons.

- An antique car show. On August 16th, the Event Committee will host the Town of Mount Desert Antique Car Show in Northeast Harbor. This event will occur on the village green from 10am till 4pm and will include cars from the Seal Harbor Antique Car Museum, the Mid Maine Sports Car Club and many local participants. The museum will offer antique car rides during the day and the event will culminate with a vehicle parade through town.

- Finally, the committee is working on compiling and advertising a list of every community event planned for this summer. This list will be distributed in rack

card format, posted on the Chamber of Commerce website and in the visitor center and distributed through several other island wide networks. They will also be producing and displaying temporary event signs to notify residents and visitors of current events and writing press releases about up-coming events and programs.

2. Installation of Visitor Information Signage

Since fall, I have been working with the town, the Northeast Harbor business community and representatives of the Summer Residents Association to plan and fund a visitor information signage program. This program will improve existing signage near the visitor center and will provide village directory signs in the harbor and along Main Street. These signs will help tourists and others unfamiliar with the village of Northeast Harbor to find village shops, restaurants, points of interest, government and medical offices and commercial services. This program was fully funded by the business community and the SRA and could not have been accomplished without the tremendous cooperative efforts of town leaders, business owners and the SRA. This effort required not just design and fundraising efforts but an amendment to the Land Use Ordinance (which required a special town meeting). Thank you to all those involved. These signs will be up soon.

3. Other Business Support and Development Activities

Other activities and initiatives that we have been working on to improve the economic climate for village businesses include:

- Twice daily visits by Oli's Trolley. Beginning June 1st, Oli's Trolley will begin bringing visitors into the village to shop and eat. The first trip will arrive at 11:45am and the second will arrive at 3:45pm. Through a cooperative effort of the town and the chamber, a parking space for the trolley was found and the chamber is creating a special incentive

package for trolley patrons.

- An updated and expanded website for the Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce. This winter the local chamber contracted with Coastal Computers in Somesville to update and improve its website. This overhaul of the existing site will permit it to operate in all formats and be fully interactive. Everyone is very excited about the expanded services and options it will provide.

- Five Thursday night Artist openings will be presented by several local galleries to advertise and support the artistic community in town and on the island. These events will be from 5 to 7pm and each will feature a new exhibit by one or more local artists. These events will precede movie nights and will give people lots of reasons to come into town and enjoy an evening out.

- The installation of historic maritime prints in the Yachtsmen's building. In an effort to provide information about Northeast Harbor's long maritime history and to create more life and vitality in the harbor area, Willy Granston donated his time and effort to finding and installing some truly great photographs of Northeast Harbor's maritime past. We hope this is the first phase in creating additional interesting and inviting displays in this area.

- The creation of a Northeast Harbor rack card that lists area businesses and provides a great map showing where everything is. This card will be available in the information center and at other tourist centers on and off the island.

4. Business update

As many of you know there has been some good and bad news recently concerning area businesses. We were all very sad to see both the Holmes store and the Full Belli Deli close this past fall, but I am pleased to tell you that both businesses will re-open this summer under new ownership. In addition, four new businesses will join the village this summer: Stuff, Artemis

Gallery, Mrs. Brown's, and Maine Gifts from the Sea. In addition, Local Color has relocated to the space next to the Full Belli Deli, and The Romantic Room and Star Gallery have expanded into the building at the corner of Main Street and Neighborhood Road. This new location will be called The Gallery and Showroom at One Rockend Road. Unfortunately, the project at 123 Main Street has been delayed due to structural issues with the building but the two businesses planned for this site should be open late this year or early next year

I would be remiss to end this report without thanking the countless wonderful people I have met over the past months. I have been amazed with your sense of community and commitment to the village of Northeast Harbor. Your help and ideas have been essential to my efforts and I want to thank everyone for taking the time to talk with me and for giving me your generous feedback.

Jackie Hewett

Economic Development Consultant

Town of Mount Desert

MAIN STREET GETTOGETHER

COME CELEBRATE SUMMER!

**AT THE TENT ON MAIN
STREET**

**JUNE 14TH
5:30 TO 7:30**

**Hosted by
The Summer Resident
Association**

**Regrets only :
k.gatesmccoy@zirkel.us**