

# Summer Residents Association

Spring Edition 2021  
Town of Mount Desert  
A Publication of the Residents  
of the Town of Mount Desert

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Summer Residents Association Members,

Spring Greetings! MDI is waking up and unbelievably, Memorial Day weekend is already around the corner. While masks and distancing will still be the standard for another summer at most businesses in town; hopefully vaccinations will bring some normalcy. It will be nice to come out of hibernation and see everyone!

To recap our 2020 season: Our fundraiser was a great success and we raised and distributed over one million dollars to 59 businesses to keep our community afloat through last summer's crisis. We received many heartfelt thanks and I wanted to say another big thank you for the generosity you showed. It was truly amazing that we could make such an impact and protect our island.

The news about town is that 2021 is going to be bustling. Merchants are reporting a busier than usual spring and if anyone knows of a house with a free week to rent, please raise your hand! The island is sold out of hotel rooms and seasonal rentals. While this is great news, there is a labor shortage again so patience will be key as businesses in town try to provide services with bare bones staff. If you have a college student that may want to pitch in and join the labor force in town, please reach out. If you are lucky enough to have a housekeeper, show your gratitude because they are as valuable as Bitcoin!

The pandemic has only highlighted what we have been seeing in town over the last few years: a labor shortage due to a short-term and long-term housing deficit. This is something the SRA would like to turn its attention to in 2021 and I welcome your input.

We are also excited about the news from the medical center in town so be sure to read the update attached. Spoiler: they will be offering services this summer and hope to be re-opening in 2022!

You may have noticed the slight change in our membership renewal protocol. Moving to an online platform has streamlined the renewal process and as an added bonus has been an effective reminder for those with lapsed memberships to renew. We reinstated 58 lapsed members! Another goal this year is to focus on increasing our membership. If you have any names to add to our list of nominees for membership, please send them to [tracey@123neh.com](mailto:tracey@123neh.com)

For those of you have indicated a preference for paper copies, we will accommodate that as well. Please find your renewal materials enclosed.

We have set the date for our annual summer meetings for July 21 at 5pm and August 18 at 5pm and will send more details about how to attend soon.

Read on to keep your finger on the pulse of MDI and thank you for commitment to the Summer Residents Association!

Maggie Hays

President

### **Durlin Lunt, Town Manager**

Greetings to the members of the Summer Residents Association from the Town of Mount Desert. We look forward to a busy summer that may not be completely normal but will more closely approximate the experiences of summer past.

Covid rules are changing weekly, if not daily. While we are all excited for the loosening of the restrictions, please be respectful as masks will still be required at most establishments on the island.

### **Board of Directors 2021**

**Maggie Hays, President**  
**Bill Roberts, Vice President**  
**Gary Madeira, Secretary/ Treasurer**  
**John Boynton, Nominating Chair**  
**Matthew Baird**  
**Jim Green**  
**Ned Nalle**  
**Chris Reece**

### **Contact**

**The Summer Residents Association**  
**PO Box 142**  
**Northeast Harbor, ME 04662**

We held our Annual Town Meeting May 4. The property tax commitment will be at its usual time (first week in July) and your tax bills should be mailed by mid-July. This will reduce much of the stress that we experienced last year when we were unable to hold Town Meeting until mid-August.

Perhaps the biggest municipal news concerns the Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service. This venerable organization which has served the Town of Mount Desert since 1936 will cease operations in January 2023. Preparations are underway for the Mount Desert Fire Department to assume emergency Medical Services. Staffing for both fire and EMS will be twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. Fire/EMS crews will be housed in both Northeast Harbor and Somesville to be sure that coverage is provided on both sides of Somes Sound.

Here is hoping for a happy and productive summer season.

**Tony Smith, Public Works Director**  
**The Main Street Project Delay**

In order to complete the project efficiently and at the costs agreed on, all the contractors must work together and in order. As a result of not being able to secure the final two property easements, Versant Power Company's progress was stalled which ground the contractor's, RF Jordan, progress to a halt. The delay comes down to the location of the new poles and the placement of the needed conduits to reduce the wires crossing the street. The buried wires, in conduits, will take the place of having to install overhead wires from east to west and will improve the viewshed when looking along Main Street. This change from overhead to underground service wires was a very important part of the overall project the voters approved at the May 2018 town meeting. Working with our engineers, Haley Ward, formerly CES, we have identified an alternative to pole and wire locations that will not require Versant to obtain the last two outstanding easements. We have verbal approval of the changes and are awaiting written confirmation from them before we move forward.

I anticipate Jordan mobilizing back to Town to continue work this coming Fall (2021). In a best-case scenario, the work will include the sidewalks on the eastside of Main Street, some sidewalk work on the west side of the street, the one pop-out park, completing work on the island mentioned above, installing conduits and wires from the east to the west side of Main Street, other landscaping and placing the base layer of pavement in Main Street. They would then return in the spring of 2022 to place the surface pavement in Main Street, finish any landscaping that was left from the previous fall and address minor punch list items.

In other news, I have had several people contact me about the large puddle that forms against the curb outside the post office and ask why the project didn't include taking care of the puddle. It does. The contractor sets the schedule, and they haven't gotten to that side of the street yet. In the meantime, for that location and one

at the intersection of Kimball Lane and Main Street, temporary measures will be taken to drain the areas moving forward. When all curbing is set, all sidewalks are built, and the final elevations and slopes of the roadway are constructed, the "gutter lines" will drain properly.

**The Route 198 Project**  
The last 810-feet of Route 198 located pretty much between its intersection with each end of the Butler Road has been completed. This marks the completion of the reconstruction of approximately two miles of roadway accomplished by the State of Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Town. The overall cost of the work was just under \$2.2 million paid for based on a 50%-50% cost-share with the DOT or, \$1.1 million per each of us. The town opted for this over another patch job repair and years more of waiting for a true fix. The roadway is now much safer for vehicle, bicycling and pedestrian traffic.

**Katrine Osterberg, A Climate to Thrive**  
**Garbage and recycling update**

We've had a setback with our move towards a more efficient and earth friendly approach to processing our garbage and recycling on the island. With the closing of the Fiberright processing center in Hamden, our only option is to return to traditional methods of waste disposal and our garbage is being sent to the incinerator / landfill in Orrington for the next year at least. We are all hoping the Fiberright plant will reopen with new owners after 2022. We have to pass on equally disappointing news regarding recycling: the Coastal Center in Ellsworth closed last May and since the recycling market crashed there are no plans to reopen at the moment. The only recycling option at the moment is CLYNK at Hannaford. You can register for CLYNK bags and bring them to Hannaford on your own.

A Note: While many of the businesses in town have made a true effort to convert much of their plastic use to compostables, the latest research is showing that the exact conditions for these products to break down are almost never met. They have been determined to be an environmental problem in the long run. As #1 and #2

plastic can be successfully recycled, you may see our businesses in town switching back to them and aluminum as they are the more responsible choices.

**Mount Desert 365, Kathy Miller,**  
**Executive Director**

We - Mount Desert 365 - and the Maine Seacoast Mission have moved into our new location at 6 Old Firehouse Lane and are settling into our new spaces. The two apartments here have been leased, bringing two new families to NEH. Landscaping around the site is underway and we hope to have much of it done by Memorial Day.

We have entered into a partnership with Island Housing Trust to make an existing NEH home available to a new year-round owner. MD365 has purchased the property and, with IHT's oversight, will be selling it to a new family at an affordable price, with covenants to keep it affordable in the future.

We continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce and several Town committees to support sustainability and economic development efforts, and most importantly expanded broadband. That committee is creating plans for a series of public engagement meetings, surveys, high speed test sites, and more to steer the Town towards the development of fiber-to-the-home connections to bring everyone who wants it into the world of accessible, affordable, reliable and future-proof internet connectivity.

We are also working with local businesses to develop business support programs around their needs, focusing on skill development, access to resources, and local networking. We plan to start programs in the fall - after an expected busy summer season - in the conference room at our new building, sharing the space with the community. And we hope to hold the Business Boot Camp Program again this year if health/pandemic conditions allow for in-person participation. That event would take place in the fall.

Finally, we are developing plans for year-round housing on our property on the corner of Neighborhood Rd and Manchester. We are on the agenda for the introductory sketch plan review on May 26 before the Planning Board. We will have much more to share at that time.

Please reach out to us at 207-276-0555 or [community@mountdesert365.org](mailto:community@mountdesert365.org) for more information.

**Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce, Micki Sumpter, Executive Director and Lisa Parsons, President**

We spent a very busy fall and winter focusing on helping local businesses wade through the myriad of repercussions from the pandemic. We met individually with local businesses to help them look at their business models with a fresh eye. We found owners willing to make changes and we helped guide them to available resources and aid. Our business community is looking forward to a busy season but is also concerned with the labor shortage coming at the same time a record-breaking influx of visitors is anticipated.

Some of the projects we are currently working on:

-We have proposed the Mail Boat add additional trips to the island to accommodate more visitors.

-We are working with some private transportation companies to offer discounted van rides around the island to offset the absence of the Island Explorer routes this year.

-We continue to offer support to our fisherman and their continued struggle with new bills in the legislature.

-We are helping to research the Broadband project and multiple housing projects.

-We've been working with Tony Smith on some beautification projects, including updating the way finding signs in town.

-We are putting together a Contractors Resource Guide that will be available at the Chamber for members looking for help with various projects.

-Finally, with a sponsorship from the Cross Agency and BHBT, we are putting together relocation / welcome bags for new renters and homeowners on the island.

**Neighborhood House, Anne-Marie Hart Executive Director**

The Neighborhood House staff and volunteers eagerly chugged along with an

array of programs during the fall, winter and early spring. Despite the pandemic, our goal was to continue with as normal a schedule as possible. Our motto was "We will do as much as we can, as best as we can, as safely as we can." We very effectively rolled out programs with a few health and safety measures in place such as limited number of participants, pre-registration and record keeping of all class participants for potential contact tracing.

-As school returned for in person learning in the fall, the Youth Club after school program resumed.

-The Trick-or-Treat Truck, co-sponsored with the Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce, hit the road on Halloween. Gus the Bus was decked out and staff visited each village in the town of Mount Desert to hand out pre-packaged treats with a six foot "candy claw".

-Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates and Silver Sneakers classes were offered in the Great Hall during the fall/winter.

-The Community Café, one of our most popular programs which regularly draws 150 people for lunch, switched to the "Carry Out Community Café" and went to a strictly take-out model. We had 14 business sponsors sign on for the season and our numbers continued to hover around 150 participants.

Our typical space for summer camp is not available to us for the 2021 season. We will build upon what we did for the summer of 2020, which was stand-alone, a la carte programs for children out of The Neighborhood House. We are excited to offer kids yoga, dance, art, cooking projects and a hiking club. We will also operate the municipal swimming pool next to the elementary school this summer after being closed last year due to COVID.

Though we will not be holding our usual "Bash at the Boatyard" fundraiser this summer, we will be offering a "Bash in a Bag" event on July 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be designed after our Carry Out Community Café. Boxed dinners will be available for pick-up from 5pm to 6:30pm at The Neighborhood House. We're pleased to be able to have seasonal residents experience a Café which typically only happens in the off-season.

We're very much looking forward to our annual Bike Parade & Ice Cream Social

on July 29<sup>th</sup> after having to limit it to just a drive thru ice cream social last summer.

The Mount Desert Festival of Chamber Music will revive their concert season for the coming summer. Other usual events will resume as well, including Garden Club of Mount Desert meetings, blood drives, memorial services and the like.

We believe the presence and programs of The Neighborhood House truly improve the quality of life for all throughout our town and on MDI and we will continue to offer as much as we can, adhering to state guidelines, as we begin returning to pre-pandemic norms.

**Cara McDonough, PR Specialist Jackson Laboratories**

Addressing housing issues is one of our biggest priorities for 2021. We have a new housing project in the works with a completion estimate of August 2022. Located on Route 3 and Schooner Head Road and comprised of 2 sustainably designed buildings with 12 apartments each (4 of which are ADA compliant); we are planning to offer 24 units for employees. We have allotted 36 parking spaces and added a storage building so residents can have place for bikes, kayaks etc.

\*For those receiving a digital version of this update, the design is attached.

**Rob Levin, Director of Communications College of the Atlantic**

College of the Atlantic is excited to be a part of the year-round Northeast Harbor community! We broke ground on our multi-use building at 141 Main Street on April 27, and the concrete footers were going in by mid-May. The three-story building, which will match the character of its Main Street neighbors, will include apartments for up to 15 students, a faculty/staff apartment, and street-level retail space. The building is due to be complete in June 2022, but there is much work to be done between now and then, including securing seven additional parking spaces off the property. We are grateful for our partnership with MD365 on this project and looking forward to expanding and strengthening our connections in the Mount Desert community.

**Acadia National Park Notes**  
**Rebecca Cole-Will, Chief of Resource Management**

\*The Island Explorer will not run its route into Northeast Harbor this year. Due to the impact of the pandemic only selected routes will operate in 2021. Please see the Island Explorer website for detailed information: [www.exploreacadia.com](http://www.exploreacadia.com)

**Vehicle Reservations Required for Cadillac Summit Road**

Acadia is among the top ten most popular national parks in the United States, with more than 3.5 million visits a year. Visitation has surged almost 60 percent in a decade, leading to severe crowding at many park destinations. In 2019, the National Park Service completed a five-year process to approve a comprehensive **Transportation Plan** that may take a decade or longer to implement fully. Actions are decided with an adaptive management strategy that continually monitors, evaluates, and refines solutions toward best possible outcomes.

-Vehicle reservations are required for Cadillac Summit Road from **May 26 through October 19**. Vehicle reservations are not required for any other areas of the park, or for visitors who enter the area by foot, bike, or taxi. Cadillac is not served by the Island Explorer bus system.

-Vehicle reservations cost \$6 and are sold online in advance at **Recreation.gov**. They are not available for purchase at the park.

-Thirty percent of vehicle reservations are made available 90 days ahead of each date. The remaining 70 percent are released at 10 am ET two days ahead.

-Please print or save a digital copy of the vehicle reservation with the confirmation code, which will be scanned to verify the reservation. Connectivity is unreliable in the park.

-Visitors must have a park entrance pass to enter the park in addition to purchasing a vehicle reservation for Cadillac Summit Road. Park entrance passes are available at the park or online at **Recreation.gov**.

-Sunrise reservations have a two-hour entry window. Daytime reservations have a 30-minute entry window.

-Vehicle reservations provide a timed entry, but do not require a departure time. Reservations do not permit re-entry

-Vehicle reservations are per vehicle, not per person. Motorcycles, motor scooters, and mopeds are considered vehicles, and a vehicle reservation is required for each.

-Vehicle reservations do not assign a specific parking space. Parking is prohibited outside of designated spaces. Parking is available at the summit and Blue Hill Overlook, which is 1/4-mile before the summit.

-Please cancel your reservation if you are unable to use it. Vehicle reservations may be changed at no cost to another time and/or date prior to the time and date of the reservation.

- There is no Island Explorer bus service on the Cadillac Summit Road. Sunrise times range from 4:45 am in mid-June to 6:15 am in mid-October.

**Island Housing Trust, Marla O'Byrne Executive Director**

I want to begin with thanks to the SRA for its leadership in raising funds last year to help MDI's businesses navigate the necessary adaptations to Covid-19. Your leadership inspired so many, and demonstrated how important residents are – no matter the length of time physically here – to the resilience of our island communities.

As seen by the support for the SRA's campaign, the year focused many of us on what mattered to us most – and for many what was important was to support those who support all of us on Mount Desert Island. Over the past year, IHT's work included:

-Purchased, and resold with covenants, a house owned by the Acadia Corporation. Thirteen Wildwood Road provided seasonal housing for the Acadia Corp. for many years. When they were ready to sell the house, Acadia Corp. offered it to IHT at a bargain price, for us to sell to a year-round household. We sold the house this winter, with covenants to ensure that it remains affordable to MDI workers

earning an average income, who will make it their primary residence.

-Created a partnership with Mount Desert 365 to purchase a house in Northeast Harbor, which will be sold to a year-round household at a lower, more affordable price. Through this partnership, IHT made a loan of \$275,000 to MD365 to complete their purchase of the property, in order to give the eligible buyers time to complete their financing. When the property sells, MD365 will retain ownership of the underlying land, and sell the house and other improvements to the buyers with covenants and a 99-year lease on the land. This shared equity model is one way to reduce the cost of the house for workforce buyers. IHT will oversee the land lease and covenants.

-Facilitated the sale of three homes under covenants: one house in Mount Desert's Ripples Hill neighborhood, one in Somesville, and another in Bernard. These homes sold at prices affordable to average earners on MDI because of the covenants placed on the properties: three new housing opportunities and confirmation that the covenants work to keep our houses attainable to MDI's workforce.

-Worked with several homeowners to refinance their mortgages, to take advantage of lowered interest rates or to make needed improvements on their homes.

-Surveyed our members to understand the potential support for our work, to help us plan how to ramp up our efforts.

-Kicked off the final permitting process for Jones Marsh, a new year-round neighborhood at the head of the island that will consist of ten homes. The Jones Marsh property was acquired through a partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 2018. The new neighborhood is planned to include six single-family homes and two duplexes, the latter intended to provide lower-priced homeownership opportunities.

And there was so much more that happened, quietly and behind the scenes. I look forward to reporting to the SRA members as IHT's work continues to grow and provide more year-round housing opportunities on MDI. In the meantime, thank you for your support last year – as an organization supporting MDI's businesses, and as individuals supporting IHT and MDI's communities.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Oka Hutchins, Public Affairs  
Mount Desert Island Hospital  
(207)460-3610  
[oka.hutchins@mdihospital.org](mailto:oka.hutchins@mdihospital.org)

**Mount Desert Island Hospital to Resume Services at the Northeast Harbor Medical Clinic in 2022**

**Northeast Harbor, Maine – May 14, 2021** – Mount Desert Island Hospital is working with the Northeast Harbor Medical Clinic to re-establish medical services in the Northeast Harbor community. With the impact of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, the hospital was not able to staff the clinic for the 2020 season. Renovations are now underway at the clinic with a target completion date at the close of 2021. Following renovation, services are expected to resume in 2022.

“Mount Desert Island Hospital has been privileged to staff the Northeast Harbor Clinic for more than 50 years, and we look forward to resuming operations in 2022,” said Christina J. Maguire, MDI Hospital President/CEO. “While renovations are in progress, we remain committed to providing the Northeast Harbor community with medical care at our health centers in Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor and Trenton.”

MDI Hospital will continue to be a resource for the medical needs of the Northeast Harbor community. For your convenience, please find a list of available MDI Hospital Health Centers and Clinic services below.

**MDI Hospital Health Centers & Clinics**

Cadillac Family Practice  
322 Main Street  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609  
Phone: 207-288-5119

Community Dental Center  
4 Community Lane  
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679  
Phone: 207-244-2888

Community Health Center  
16 Community Lane  
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679  
Phone: 207-244-5630

Cooper Gilmore Health Center  
17 Hancock Street  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609  
Phone: 207-288-5024

Lisa Stewart Women’s Health Center  
330 Main Street  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609  
Phone: 207-288-8100

MDI Behavioral Health Center  
322 Main Street  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609  
Phone: 207-288-8604

MDI General Surgery  
17 Hancock Street  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609  
Phone: 207-288-5024

MDI Orthopedics and Urology  
10 Wayman Lane  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609  
Phone: 207-288-0242

Trenton Health Center  
394 Bar Harbor Road  
Trenton, Maine 04605  
Phone: 207-667-5899

The Weekend Care Clinic  
17 Hancock Street  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609  
Phone: 207-801-5077

## **We are open for business 2021!**

**Clinicians practicing at the Town of MDI Medical Center at 6 Kimball Rd., Northeast Harbor, ME 04662**

### **Martha Bucklin LCSW, CADAC**

*Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor*

Experienced therapist who works with individuals of all ages to provide assessment and treatment of mental health disorders in a supportive and therapeutic environment which offers clients the opportunity to define their goals for treatment and work toward accomplishing those goals. Coordination with Psychiatric and/or Primary Care Providers provided as appropriate.

Insurances accepted includes Medicare, MaineCare and most private health insurances. Appointments required, for additional information, contact by telephone 207-276-8222 or email [martha@martha.bucklin.com](mailto:martha@martha.bucklin.com) and for website: <http://marthabucklin.com>. Currently unable to accept new clients.

### **Jessie Greenbaum, LMT, Nationally Board-Certified in Massage and Bodywork**

Techniques include: Therapeutic Clinical Massage, Lymph Drainage Techniques, Myofascial release, Cranio-Sacral Therapy.

Appointments by phone only. 207-266-5981 Able to bill for motor vehicle accidents (MVA) and for Worker's Compensation in Maine

Further information can be found at: [jessiegreenbaum.ncbcertified.com](http://jessiegreenbaum.ncbcertified.com).

### **Michael Heniser D.O.**

**Lotus Medical and Aesthetics** is proud to make available full spectrum, year- round Primary Medical Care and Medical Aesthetics to the residents of Northeast Harbor and Town of MDI. We offer a variety of services including Primary and Urgent Care needs, as well as, a large array of Medical Aesthetic procedures including Botox, Fillers, PRP, Plasma Pen and so much more.

We are available by appointment and for urgent care needs as they arise. You can go to our website to schedule an appointment: [www.lotusmedicaesthesia.com](http://www.lotusmedicaesthesia.com).

For urgent care needs, call us at 207-276-8120. Telemedicine appointments are also available upon request. We look forward to the opportunity to care for you and your family.

### **Teresa L. King, LCPC**

*Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor*

The primary focus of the practice is for adults, adolescents and children to work on issues such as: depression - grief and loss - stress management -anxiety -relational conflicts -victimizations issues relating to adjustment after illness, accidents or major life experiences that have negatively impacted quality of life.

Using a cognitive/behavioral approach individuals learn techniques to address issues that are negatively effecting their lives and/or relationships. The goal is to assist clients in strengthening their current coping mechanisms, or to assist them us discovering more appropriate skills if their current skills are no longer effective. Some insurance plans are accepted including MaineCare.

Appointments required by calling 1-207-276-4266 or emailing [tking.leclair@myfairpoint.net](mailto:tking.leclair@myfairpoint.net). for more information.





Summer Residents Association

TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT

P.O. Box 142  
Northeast Harbor, ME 04662