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# The Town of Woolwich, Maine Newsletter

Woolwich Communications Committee

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# The Town of Woolwich, Maine

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018



## Voters weigh in at Town Meeting April 28

Woolwich residents get their say on Town affairs on Saturday April 28. In addition to regular expenses needed to run the Town, voters will be asked to weigh in on such issues as a new LED informational sign on Route 1 to replace the old one that was a victim of the October wind storm, a new washing machine for



the Woolwich Fire Department, and a road discontinuance.

The Town's annual Spirit of America winner will be announced and honored at the beginning of the Meeting.

The detailed Town Warrant will be available after April 16 but drafts can be viewed in the Town Office during regular office hours or by contact-

ing one of the selectboard members. The Annual Town Report will also be available soon at the Town Office.

Town Meeting will be held at the Woolwich Central School. Doors will open at 8 am, and the meeting begins promptly at 9 am. Residents may also register to vote.

This year, child care will be available, provided by Woolwich Recreation.

## Pedestrian Tunnel receives face lift, student art work

The Woolwich pedestrian tunnel in the town's center got a much-needed facelift recently thanks to the assistance of the Sheriff's Department and community service volunteers. The tunnel, which passes under Route 1 and is adjacent to the Woolwich Veterans Memorial monument at Tanner Square, had been vandalized with graffiti and was a cause of concern for the local citizens and businesses in the area.

Selectboard member Allison Hepler reached

out to the Woolwich Central School art teacher, Laura Devin, and she's been working with students to paint artwork on this blank "canvas" spring.

They are in the process of designing and painting a children's mural. (See photo.) More details will be available as Spring warms up so stayed tuned for dates the community can come and help paint the background for the mural. There will be several Saturday opportunities for the community to get involved. According to Devin, the children will then be printing and sign-



ing their hands on the trees in the mural to create the leaves.

This art project was made possible due to the efforts of the Woolwich Selectboard. Chair David King coordinated with the Sagadahoc Sheriff's Department to use the Two Bridges Regional Jail's community service personnel to repaint the interior walls. For further security, the Selectboard had the lighting repaired and installed security cameras on both sides of the tunnel, with the help of Selectman Jason Shaw.

### Calendar of Events

- ~
- Dates TBD
- Community painting  
Woolwich pedestrian tunnel
- ~
- Saturday, April 7 5-8 pm  
8th grade Auction  
Woolwich Central School
- ~
- Saturday, April 21 all day  
World Fish Migration Day  
Nequasset Park
- ~
- Saturday, April 28 9 am  
TOWN MEETING  
Woolwich Central School
- ~
- Saturday, April 28  
Hazardous Household Waste  
Bath landfill  
(registration required)
- ~
- Saturday, May 5  
Town Clean-up  
Stay tuned!
- ~
- Monday, May 28 7 pm  
Town Memorial Day event  
Location TBD
- ~
- Sunday, June 3 12-4  
Museum open!  
Woolwich Historical Society
- ~
- Tuesday, June 12 8 am-8 pm  
ELECTION DAY  
Woolwich Central School
- ~
- Wednesday, June 13 9 am  
Woolwich skiff launching  
Nequasset Park

**Town Office Hours**  
**Monday & Tuesday 9-5**  
**Wednesday 9-6**  
**Thursday 9-4**  
**Friday 9-3:30**

# New positions, new faces at Town Office

**Katharine “Katie” Johnston** is the Town of Woolwich’s newest Town Administrator. Katie returned to Maine after working most recently for



the Town of Natick, Massachusetts as the Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector.

Returning to her home state where she missed family and friends, Johnston is originally from Gorham, Maine where she worked for five years as the Assistant Finance Director after graduating from the University of Maine.

Last year, Johnston was initially hired as the Town’s Tax Collector/Deputy Clerk, and was promoted a few months ago.

Also new to the Town Office this year are two more new faces: Town Clerk Chelsea Lane and Tax Collector Kim Dalton.

Tax Collector **Kim Dalton** is the newest member of the staff. Previously employed as the Tax Collector for Gardiner and Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector of Monmouth, she has also worked for the Maine State Police performing finger print analysis.



As Woolwich’s Tax Collector, Deputy Clerk, and Deputy Registrar of Voters, Dalton generates tax bills, files liens, processes tax payments, and assists with processing vehicle registrations, dog licenses, vital records, and elections.

A resident of Monmouth, she has three children and enjoys ice fishing, camping, and the ocean.

Town Clerk **Chelsea Lane** grew up in Georgetown, attended Morse High School, and now lives in Bath. She’s spent the past decade working in the banking sector, most recently in the Bath Savings lending department. Her duties as

Town Clerk include dog registrations, vital rec-

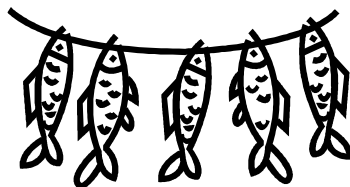


ords, and running elections as Registrar of Voters—and in that capacity, Lane wishes to remind everyone that June 12 is the Primary and Referendum Election.

Woolwich residents likely know her mother Betsy Lane, who has worked as the Woolwich Central School secretary for a number of years. Chelsea is an avid reader, amateur knitter, and life-long Red Sox fan.

## World Fish Migration Day highlights imminent arrival of Woolwich alewives

The annual World Fish Migration Day will be held at the Nequasset Fish ladder this year on April 21. While plans are not yet finalized, be prepared for a day of bird watching and photog-



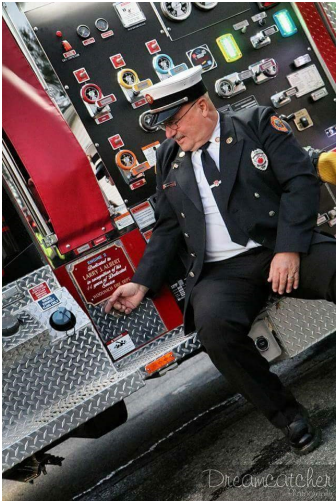
raphy, history and biology, boat tours, and a variety of children’s activities.

It’s probably too early for alewives to be heading up the ladder, but the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust promises a day of excitement and anticipation for the annual fish run.





## WOOLWICH FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT NEWS: Fire Department dedication, fire and ice training



LEFT: The newest Woolwich Fire Department truck was dedicated to long-time firefighter Larry Albert, pictured far left.

BELOW: Cold water training at Nequasset Park.



LEFT & BELOW:  
Training with the  
new fire truck's  
compressed foam  
system.





# Town solar panels are power producers

Solar panels to power the Town's municipal electricity officially went online on December 29. The 80-panel array, installed by ReVision Energy, is on the grounds of the former landfill, and was approved by voters at last April's Town Meeting. The system is financed through a power purchase agreement between ReVision and the Town. The agreement arranges for the Town to purchase the system outright in seven years, at a reduced purchase price of about \$48,000. Systems like these are expected to last about 40 years.

The Town conducted a dedication ceremony in

early January and while the ground was covered with several inches of snow, the panels were



clear and, with the sun was out, they were already producing power.

As of March 31, the system has produced 255.5 Kwh of solar electricity. A monitor has been installed at the Town Office and anyone can read the progress at this link (which will also be posted on the Town website

soon):

<http://revisionenergy.solarlog-web.net/20467.html>

This URL has a lot of handy features, showing daily, monthly, and annual readings of the solar output. You can really see the difference, for instance, between January and March in terms of hours of solar gain.

Another possibility for the landfill land is a community solar farm. A bill in this year's state legislature would, if it becomes law, lift the cap on the number of investors in a single solar system from 9 to 50. This would make it more affordable for groups of residents to "install" solar energy through a community solar program.



## Students discover wooden boatbuilding traditions

For more than a decade, a select group of Woolwich Central School seventh- and eighth-graders are chosen each year to participate in the Discovery Boatbuilding program at Maine Maritime Museum. This program has been supported each year by Woolwich voters at Town Meeting.

Over the course of the school year, the students spend one day of each week working in the museum's Boatshop, beginning first to build three-legged stools, toolboxes, and half-hull models, then working up to constructing two Yankee Tender

skiffs which are launched at the year's end. All the while, these students learn important lessons about tool safety, mathematics, history, engineering, and teamwork.

Everyone is welcome to celebrate these student's work at the launch ceremony on Wednesday, June 13 at 9:00 am at the Nequasset Park Boat Launch.



## Woolwich joins state-wide community clean up on May 5



Last year the Legislature overwhelmingly enacted a law establishing the first Saturday in May as an annual Maine Community Litter Clean-up Day.

The Woolwich SWRC accepted responsibility for publicizing and coordinating Woolwich's efforts in Maine's First Annual Community Litter Clean-up Day, May 5th, 2018.

Fred Kahl will coordinate announcing this to the Town through a town-wide mailing and information in the local newspapers. The Committee is taking the liberty of offering free, orange litter bags to all volunteers.

Town staff will be handing out a 5-bag roll to volunteers who come to the office during the week between Town Meeting and Clean-up Day.



## Getting down to business – and more – at the Patten Free Library

**by Lesley Dolinger, Director**

When you imagine what goes on at Patten Free Library, beyond what's on the shelves, you will most likely think of our popular children's programs and story hours, our book groups, our adult concerts, programs, and movie nights, our poetry readings, our knitting group, or even some of our new teen events, like the annual writing contest and art show. These are core programs and services that the community returns for year after year. However, you may not know about the invaluable and cost-free technology resources and assistance provided in our Reference Room.

On a recent morning this February, as a nor'easter bore down on midcoast Maine, the reference room was abuzz. The majority of the 10 public terminals were in constant use -- patrons rushing to get something printed or sent off before the storm. One patron was taking an on-line Algebra test. Five or six people have needed help with the copier, because state-of-the-art copiers can now scan, save, email, and fax documents, as well as accept print jobs wirelessly from a laptop! All this was happening in the first hour of the day.

On a daily basis, our reference staff assists patrons with simple but necessary technology-driven tasks: logging on to the computer, formatting and printing documents and photos, emails, and tax forms; locating books and resources on our shelves; requesting materials from across the state through inter-library loan. With our assistance, technology helps patrons locate and borrow hard-to-find materials from all over the country -- everything from

obscure films to old car maintenance manuals. Every day we field at least 10 to 15 other reference questions about any number of topics, from how to file an injunction to how to apply for a rental or property tax rebate to how to find articles on the history of crazy quilts.

Reference librarians help patrons with more challenging transitions in an increasingly digital world. We help people get important tax or financial information to banks, colleges, mortgage, or insurance companies

with our copier, or help them fill out and submit forms online. We show people how to de-bug their smart phones,

and how to use their iPads and Kindles (and not just to read eBooks! Did you know you can print a document from your iPhone in the library? We help area students and professionals working toward career advancement by proctoring written exams in the Library or by helping them access and navigate online courses and tests. We help people draft resumes and fill out online employment applications. Even after patrons get jobs, they seek help navigating employer computer portals, whether it is to submit verification documents or to access and print pay stubs. We regularly help patrons conduct their business, whether by helping them post an advertisement on Craigslist, or create an Airbnb listing or business Facebook page, or to design and print handbills, or even to help upload photos of rescue animals.

If a task requires more than a brief reference transaction, patrons can get one-on-one assistance through our Book-A-Librarian program. Over the years, I have taught people to use a laptop, to create and use email and Facebook accounts, to create slide show travelogues, and to find and use on-line ESL resources to gain proficiency in English.

A year ago I worked with a patron with breast cancer. She came to us every three months for the year prior to her surgery, overwhelmed by the task of trying to send her latest mammograms from Maine Medical Center (given to her on a DVD) to a distant doctor she was consulting about her treatment. We learned side-by-side how to accomplish this, in a process that took over an hour each time there were new images to send. When I asked her permission to share this story, she agreed enthusiastically, saying that the Library's assistance was "without a doubt the highest quality and most important support regarding my personal health (and) welfare."

Helping people navigate the constantly changing technology of the world is an often-overlooked and under-valued core function of libraries like Patten. Last year, the Reference Desk handled over 6,300 inquiries; almost 19,000 people logged in to use our public terminals. Technology assistance is a core service of all libraries, and integral to the library's future.



*Instruction Librarian Roberta Jordan with a patron.*

### Send your ideas for future articles to us!

#### E-mail:

administrator@woolwich.us OR  
aheplerwoolwich@gmail.com

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