

TOWN OF GREENBUSH NEWSLETTER

August 2023
Volume 139



PO BOX 230/132 Military Rd
Greenbush Maine, 04418
Phone: 826-2050 FAX: 826-2190
Hours: Monday - Wednesday 7:30-4:30
Thursday 11:00-6:30
Friday CLOSED

Town of Greenbush
PO Box 230
Greenbush, ME 04418



Old Home Day
September, 9, 2023



Come join the Fun!
7:30AM – Free Breakfast at the Town Hall
10:00AM – Parade on Military Road

Congratulations to Charlie Adams – 2023 recipient of the
Home Town Hero Award

The Hometown Hero Award is presented to individuals and/or organizations that have made a significant and measurable contribution to preserve and or improve their community.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THE PARADE, PLEASE CALL JANIS MADDEN @ (207) 827-4504 or KATHY ASTLE @ (207) 827-9195

REMINDER: THE LANDFILL IS OPEN ON OLD HOME DAY. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY AND TAKE AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE DURING PARADE ON MILITARY RD

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BACK TO SCHOOL – AUGUST 30, 2023

Back to School is just around the corner. For the SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS, please be mindful of kids walking to & from school and ALWAYS STOP for buses as they pick-up & drop-off. Have a wonderful school year!!!

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CEMETERIES

All burials and stone settings must be coordinated with the Town Office. Please remove any old flowers and dispose of them correctly. Please respect the property of others by not throwing trash & debris over the fence.

Town Office will be closed for the upcoming holidays:

Monday, September 4, 2023 Labor Day

Monday, October 9, 2023 Indigenous Peoples Day

Friday, November 10, 2023 Veterans Day

Thursday, November 23, 2023 Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 24, 2023 Thanksgiving Friday

Monday, December 25, 2023 Christmas Day



VEHICLE REGISTRATION UPDATES:

If you are registering a new vehicle or a complicated registration, please come in **ONE HOUR PRIOR TO CLOSING.** Any new residents must bring their prior registration upon renewal.

Tips to registering and re-registering smoothly:

1. **New registrations:** Bring blue title application, bill of sale with proof that sales tax was paid, mileage, and insurance card with effective date of the day you are registering or before.
2. **Bill of sale needs to include the following:** Date of transaction, VIN number, year, make, model, mileage, seller information, with seller address, printed name legible, signature, buyer's name, signature, the amount that you are paying.
3. **Transferring a registration:** Bring prior registration you are transferring, blue title application, bill of sale, mileage, and proof of insurance.
4. **Re-registration:** Mileage, insurance card with effective date of the day you are registering or prior day.

THE LANDFILL

Please break down all mattresses, and place the materials in bags for curbside pickup. Any metal frames can go to the Landfill. If unable to break down a \$20.00 fee will be charged. Please do not bag up your items, attendants need to see what is being disposed of. Do not bring any items that can be picked up curbside, no household trash will be accepted. We will not be accepting Oil this year. Landfill stickers are now available at the Town Office or the Town Landfill. Sticker fee is \$5.00. *****PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OUTSIDE THE LANDFILL GATE*****

September 9th

October 14th – Last Day the Landfill will be open



The Town Office now accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover Cards
****A 2.5% charge will be added to all transactions with a minimum fee of \$1.00.****



NEWS FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

The Code Enforcement Officer is in the office Monday's from 8:30-4:30.

- Building permit minimum \$20.00, .20 cents a square foot for unconditioned space (not heated or cooled) .30 cents a square foot for conditioned space. Please note that **you need permits for anything being built**, whether a chicken coup, or a house you need a permit with a sketch, and dimensions. If you have any questions, please call the Town Office. We also have these permits on the Town's Website along with a checklist to refer to.
- Electrical permit is \$25.00
- Plumbing permit - new sites require routine site plan for septic systems cost varies \$100.00 plus. Internal plumbing fees are \$10.00 a fixture.

The State of Maine has an Automobile Graveyard (no more than 2 unregistered / uninspected vehicles allowed in your yard). There is a fair number of Recreational Vehicles (campers) in town. Many people use these seasonally and take care of the waste water by dumping at a licensed facility. **These campers cannot be occupied for more than 180 days a year and must show proof, with a receipt of the facility that disposed their waste water to the Local Plumber Inspector.**

Code Enforcement Note: I am always willing to work with people when I see progress being made. I have also been known to follow through with legal action, if the situation warrants. Thank you in advance for your efforts in helping to clean up your yard.



CURBSIDE PICKUP

Curbside pickup is scheduled on Friday's. The rubbish service requests that you have your household trash put out by 7 AM to ensure pick up. If you need to put trash out Thursday evening, PLEASE make sure you have animal-proof containers to avoid having critters, whether wild or domestic, strewing trash around the neighborhood. The rubbish service workers are not responsible for cleaning up any scattered trash.

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News from the Tax Assessors Office

LD 290 "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" has been repealed by the State Legislature.

This program, enacted in August 2022, was repealed by the Maine Legislature on July 6, 2023. This popular program had allowed Maine Seniors 65 & older who owned a permanent residence for at least 10 years and were receiving (or eligible for) a homestead exemption, to freeze taxes at the previous years level regardless of income.

The repeal of this program means there will be no application process and no need to follow-up with the Assessing Department in August, as previously thought. Although the program has been repealed, your application that was filed in 2022 will still be administered this year for the upcoming 2023 Tax Commitment. Approved applicants will only be responsible for the "frozen" property tax bill amount -this amount will be equal to the tax amount the owner was billed last year, unless their new billed amount would be lower, in which case they'd owe the lower of the two amounts.

It is important to note that these are STATE PROGRAMS and while the Town plays a role in the administration of them, the TOWN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE for the policy objectives of these initiatives. Any questions or concerns owners have regarding this program should be directed to your legislative representative. To find your representative, please visit: <https://legislature.maine.gov/senate/>

On a Positive Note...Two existing State programs benefitting low-income Seniors to be expanded. This will help lower-income seniors avoid higher property taxes and remain in their home.

1. The Property Tax Fairness Credit – currently allows eligible Mainers to take a \$1,500 credit, has increased to \$2,000; it also loosens limits on the program in a way that allows the benefits remain constant for a Mainer whose spouse passes away. NOTE: This program is not administered by the Town. To claim this credit, you must file Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC/STFC for the tax year during which the property tax or rent was paid. For help, call 1-207-624-9784. www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/income-tax-credits/property-tax-fairness.
2. The State Property Tax Deferral Program - a lifeline loan program that covers the annual property tax bills of Maine Seniors age 65 and older who cannot afford to pay them on their own, has been expanded. It doubles the income limit on the program to \$80,000 and also raises asset limits. Taxes must be paid back when the home is sold or becomes part of an estate. NOTE: This program is administered by the State; however, applications must be filed with The Tax Assessor's Office between January 1st – April 1st each year. Applications are forwarded to the Maine Revenue Service who review and make the determination for acceptance and approval. Questions? Refer to Maine Revenue Services, Property Tax Division 1-207-624-5600 or Prop.tax@maine.gov. For more info visit: www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tas-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/deferral-program



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Thank You

Thank you to all who donated to the VEDA MADDEN FLAG FUND.
A special thank you to Charlie Adams for his generous donation to the flag fund!

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Join us at the
GREENBUSH
Farmers Market




September 23rd
October 21st

9 a m - 12 p m
Michael Stevens
Memorial Park
10 Aloha Drive
Greenbush, ME

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Just a reminder, the town right-of-way is 33 ft from the center of the road. With winter just around the corner, please have vehicles/personal property pushed back and out of the town right-of-way for plowing.

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G & G TRAILBLAZERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

1678 GREENFIELD RD GREENFIELD TWP, ME 04418

MEETINGS 1ST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH, OCTOBER – APRIL.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE CLUBHOUSE FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TO FIND OUT WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH YOUR LOCAL SNOWMOBILE CLUB.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL (207) 827-9195



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PENOBSCOT REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Our center takes a very large number of 911 misdials, hang ups and open lines. Mistakes happen and we know it but our dispatchers have to confirm whether each call is an emergency or not. Help us help you. If you accidentally dial please stay on the line and answer our quick simple questions. We have also included some tips to help shut off automatic dial features which cause a lot of these false 911 calls.

HAS YOUR PHONE EVER DIALED 911 WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE?

Did you know there is a feature on your phone to shut that off?!

LET US WALK YOU THROUGH HOW TO SHUT OFF THE AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY CALL FEATURE FOR IPHONE AND ANDROID!



iPhone

- 1) Open the **Settings App**
- 2) Scroll down until you see **"Emergency SOS"**
- 3) If you want to disable your phone's ability to automatically call 911 when you press the power button 5 times, turn off **"call with side button"** by swiping the button to the left
- 4) If you want to disable your phone's ability to automatically call 911 when you hold the Volume and Power buttons, turn off **"Auto Call"** by swiping the button to the left.



Android

- 1) Open **Settings**
- 2) Select **Safety & Emergency** on a device running Android 12 or newer, and Advanced Settings on Android 11 or older.
- 3) Tap **Emergency SOS**
- 4) Toggle Off **Use Emergency SOS**



UPCOMING ELECTION DATE

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 8AM -8PM @ GREENBUSH TOWN HALL



FIND THE HIDDEN FALL LEAF IN THIS MONTHS NEWLETTER



THIS NEWSLETTER CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR TOWN WEBSITE AT:

TOWNOFGREENBUSHMAINE.ORG

****IF YOU PREFER TO VIEW OUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE, REACH OUT TO TOWN OFFICE AND WE CAN REMOVE YOUR NAME OFF THE MAILING LIST****