• Only 5 days until Spring!
• Spring Road Posting – March 1 through May 1
• Select Board meeting changed from March 12th to March 16th at 6:00 pm
• Happy St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th.
• The bell of The United Parish Congregational Church in Harrison will be rung at Noon on Sunday, March 15th in remembrance of that historic day, 200 years ago, when the Colony of Maine seceded from Massachusetts to become a state.

In consideration of the safety of the vulnerable populations within our community, we encourage people to use on-line services for renewal of registrations (car, trailer, boat, ATV), pay taxes, get fishing licenses, etc. links can be found through our town website www.harrisonmaine.org.

Maine Fun Facts:
Famous People from Maine: Milton Bradley - Board game manufacturer including Candyland and Scrabble

If you have town related business, or information on events you would like included in the update, please email the information to newsletters@harrisonmaine.org.

From the Desk of the Town Manager ~ Tim Pellerin

- The Select Board meeting is changed from March 12th to Monday, March 16th at 6 pm

We are working on the 2020-21 Budget. There are many pieces and components that come into play with the total budget including: school tax, county tax, property valuation as well as the municipal operating budget. Also calculated separately is the capital roads repair and capital repairs and replacement for major equipment and buildings. The 2020-21 proposed budget is up roughly around 5%. This is an estimate based on the operational budget, capital reserve and capital roads. We have not received any information from the school about their budget and won’t until probably late March or early April.

The biggest increase is in the operations budget is benefits and wages for the employees. The major components for this increase was the increase in minimum wage, the cost of living increase, insurance and replacing employee staff positions that had been previously reduced.

The current proposed budget if the school assessment is close to what we estimated would come in around 5.4% or about $400,000 on a $7,400,000 municipal budget. What that would mean to the average taxpayer would be $.55/thousand increase. This would mean on a $150,000 home you would see $123 a year increase. On a $200,000 home it would be an increase of $164 a year. On $300,000 it would be $246 a year increase. On $400,000 it would be a $328 a year increase.
The budget process is still in the early stages and we are waiting for a lot of pieces to come together. The largest is obviously the school tax budget that will have the greatest impact to the municipal budget. If the school budget come in less than anticipated the budget would go down. If it comes in higher then it will go up.

The other factors that will have an effect on the budget is property valuation which we won’t have until late May or early June.

Rest assured that we are working diligently to keep the taxes as low as possible with the understanding that we cannot control the School or County Budgets. Please stay tuned we will be publishing dates for public hearings on the Budget once we have more solid numbers. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns don’t hesitate to contact me to discuss the budget and/or budget process. Thank you for your continued support and have a good weekend.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Tips for Flu & COVID-19 from CDC - a little common sense and common courtesy go a long way.

- Practice Good Hygiene (Wash hands often)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Stay home if not feeling well**
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Risk is currently low unless you have traveled or been around someone who has traveled and has symptoms.
- Stay away from large crowds if possible.

If you have a concern, or question please call the office or stop by and meet with me.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**From the Town Clerk ~**

**Just a reminder** – Just about everything you normally come into the clerk’s office to do can be done online. The link to Online Payments on our website will allow you to pay taxes, register cars, boats, ATV’s and more. You can even order vital records. Not sure, give a us call and we can help you over the phone.

Also, be aware the annual town meeting will be by secret ballot. This means you can order an absentee ballot instead of coming to the polling place. This may become very helpful in the months ahead with more and more people being required to stay at home and not congregate.

**Nomination Papers** – Will be available beginning Monday March 2nd for the June 9th municipal election. Open positions include 2 Selectmen, 1 Planning Board, 1 Appeals Board. Nomination papers are due back to the Clerk’s Office by 4:00 pm, April 10th.

**HOW DO I HAVE INPUT ON THE WARRANT ARTICLES?**
There will be public hearings to explain questions, provide budget information and allow input before the warrant is finalized. That information will also be posted on the website under the Clerks tab for everyone to access. We are currently working on a town meeting guide to provide information for the questions which will appear on the ballot. I expect the guide to be available following the Selectmen meeting on Monday March 16th at 6pm. Stay tuned for further updates.

**NEW THIS YEAR!**
In the past, Harrison has held a bifurcated Town Meeting. This means we hold secret ballot elections for elected positions on the 2nd Tuesday of June and Town Meeting on the following Wednesday. Over the last
decade or so, the Board of Selectmen has put ordinances and major questions (like the road bond in 2016) on
the ballot because a larger number of people were attending the voting place as opposed to attending town
meeting.

Last year, voters agreed to move the Wednesday night Town Meeting to the ballot so all warrant articles will be
voted on June 9, 2020 at the polls. The polls will be open from 7am – 8pm in the meeting room at the town
office.

The past few years have seen an increase in requests to vote absentee for the Town Meeting portion of the
warrant. By moving to a secret ballot, we can now offer absentee voting for all the business questions the
legislative body (registered voters) has a decision in making. Voters will be able to order or pick up a ballot
from the clerk’s office and take it home to complete. (Absentees are available 30 days prior to the election.)

Central Maine Power (CMP) hired contractors to cut trees/brush on rights-of-ways. The same rights-of-way
will selectively be treated with herbicides. See letter at end of update to see how to request a Landowner’s
Maintenance Agreement with CMP.

Fire & Rescue Responses ~

-Highway 12 - 911 - Non-Emergency Sheriff Dept. - 893-2810

HARRISON FIRE/RESCUE CALL RESPONSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NATURE OF THE CALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-11-20</td>
<td>EMS call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-12-20</td>
<td>EMS call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-12-20</td>
<td>EMS call</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the Transfer Station ~

We got to sit down with Tim (Town Manager) and go over next years proposed budget and then
present it to the Selectman. Costs continue to rise. The one area we could improve is the amount that
we put in recycling. If we could increase our recycling rate we could save money. Currently trash
tipping fees cost $73 a ton where recycles only cost $35. Every ton we recycle we save $38. We sent
517 tons of trash and 91 tons of recycles to Ecomaine last year. That gives a recycling rate of only
17%. We think we can do better. We will be trying to increase our percentage of recycling as one of
our goals for the upcoming year.

Now to more pleasant thoughts!!! Spring is not far away and I am looking to spruce up some areas on
town property. I am looking for perennial plants and shrubs anyone would like to donate. Spring is a
good time to divide many plants and if anyone has some extras they would be willing to share please
stop by the transfer station and let me know or email me at transferst@harrisonmaine.org. Spread the
word!!!!

A reminder to please use care when entering the transfer station. Snow removal occurs even on
non-snow days. Please give the equipment operators plenty of room and be sure they know you
are there before proceeding around them.
From Public Works ~

WINTER PARKING BAN - Is in effect from November 15, 2019 to April 15, 2020 parking on all public streets, roads and parking lots is prohibited during snowstorms. Vehicles will be towed at owner’s expense. This is being done to facilitate the plowing of snow.

Spring Road Posting – March 1 through May 1
Road crews start posting March 1st but they will remove the posting as soon as the roads can handle the weight. Depending on the year it can be removed before May 1.

NOTICE
DO NOT ENTER the Public Works/Town Garage facility.

Harrison Rec Dept~ For more information contact Kayla at 583-2241 or klaird@harrisonmaine.org

There have been a lot of questions in regards to Rec events still happening due to the Coronavirus. At this time we will continue to follow the CDC recommendations and will taking extra precautions cleaning wise. Our spring sport season for baseball, softball and tball will still be happening as of now! Registrations will closed on Friday, March 27th. You can complete your registration online or at the Harrison Town Office. With the snow melting this quickly we shouldn’t have to worry too much about inside practices. We do ask that if you or your child are sick, have a cough or runny nose that you not attend until you are feeling better! Wash your hands and don’t spread your germs!

Mad Science called Brixology! Next Wednesday the 18th we will have our last Mad Science meeting for Brixology. We are excited to have a Spring session with Mad Science called Secret Agent. This program focuses on forensics, learning to read fingerprints, counterfeit money and more! The cost is $75 for residents and $100 for nonresidents. This program will begin in April on Wednesday’s from 2:45-3:45 at the Community Room. Registrations can be completed online or at the Harrison Town Office.

Our next Senior Luncheon will be Tuesday, April 7th as long as the Coronavirus allows that. We will keep everyone updated as it gets closer.

Adult Pickle Ball – Saturdays – 10:45am – 4pm - At the Harrison Elementary School.

Boston Red Sox trip set for Saturday, May 2nd. The Red Sox will be taking on the Rangers for a 1:05 pm start time. I will be posting more details this coming week and taking registrations so stay tuned! See Flyer at the end of the Update.

Summer Rec registrations are still open to residents and nonresidents. Registration are available online or at the Town Office. $100 deposit required when signing up. Please keep in mind registration will stay open until it is full. Field trips are filling up fast and please remember, your child will not be added to the list unless the trip has been paid for in full.

Swimming lessons are also open to the public! Forms can be found at the Harrison Town Office. $25 for residents and $40 for nonresidents.

Registrations for baseball, softball and t-ball are now open! We will be scheduling open gym days for players to come in and start playing inside until we start our outdoor season. Registration is
available online or at the Town Office. We are also looking for a coach for our T-ball team. Please contact Kayla if you are interested!

**Harrison Village Library ~**

In consideration of the safety of the vulnerable populations within our community, the Board of Trustees has decided to temporarily suspend all library programs through the end of the month. This includes Storytime, ArtWednesday, and the After School Book Club. At this time, we plan to keep library hours and access to materials the same. Please view our Facebook page, the calendar on our website (www.harrison.lib.me.us), or call the library (583-2970) for the most up-to-date information.

**Recurring Events ~**

**HARRISON FOOD BANK – Tuesdays – 1:30pm to 6:30pm**
Located at the Ronald G. St. John VFW Post 9328 located at 176 Waterford Road in Harrison, mailing address: PO Box 112, Harrison, ME 04040 Telephone 207-647-3384

**Upcoming Events ~**

**Lakeside Grange #63 is Collecting for Yard Sale.** Please call Opal @ 595-0925 for Drop off time. Please No TV’s, mattresses, AC’s or copiers…We will take most anything else.

The bell of The United Parish Congregational Church in Harrison will be rung at noon on Sunday, March 15th in remembrance of that historic day, 200 years ago, when the Colony of Maine seceded from Massachusetts to become a state.

**Harrison Earth Day Community Clean Up ~ Saturday, April 25th 10 am – Noon w/lunch after! At the Fire Station. See Flyer at end of update.**

**Harrison Lions Club is sponsoring a BLOOD DRIVE ~**

**Monday, March 16th – 1:00pm – 6:00 pm** at the Harrison Community United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison & N. Bridgton.

Please call 1-800-RED-CROS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter HarrisonME to schedule an appointment.