• Happy April!
• Hope is not cancelled...we will get through this: be strong and stay healthy.
• Transfer Station is closed on Monday, April 20, 2020 for Patriots Day!
• Road Posting will be lifted by Monday, April 20th
• Town Buildings are closed.
• Transfer Station is still open with regular hours but please observe social distancing and do not enter the buildings.

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.

Stay strong Friendly Village, take care of yourself, wash your hands and stay home! We will be putting this all behind us before we know it. (borrowed from Kayla)

Maine Fun Facts: Maine’s coastline has so many deep harbors it could provide anchorage for all the Navy fleets in the world.

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

- In consideration of the safety of the vulnerable populations within our community and due to the Governor's and CDC stay at home order, until further notice, we closed all town buildings until May 1st. You can still conduct business on-line. The Transfer Station is still open regular hours. Thank You for your patience and cooperation.

- We are monitoring the situation daily and are in Contact with Maine CDC & Maine Emergency Management Agency for daily updates and guidance. As this disaster progresses, know that we are monitoring the conditions and will put out the information as accurately & quickly as we get it. It is important for all of you to remain calm, not panic and follow State & Federal guidelines.

- Please take a moment and be sure to check on your neighbors and friends and watch out for each other. If you know someone who needs help or are not sure how to help them, please call us for guidance and/or assistance. We know that these are uncertain times and if you have any questions or concerns please contact us.

- Let’s all be respectful and courteous to each other. Things will get better. Please stay safe. We will get through this as a Town and a family.

Town Municipal Budget: Information
Hi, just thought I would update you on the Municipal Budget as of right now. Before this epidemic really hit we had an increase of 4% on the budget, but due to these uncertain times and by making changes to our warrant we have brought the Town’s portion down to a 0% increase for the Town’s Municipal Budget. Any tax increase will come from the School budget increase. I am uncertain at this time what the school budget will be and have expressed my concerns to our school board representatives and to the Superintendent about a small increase (the Superintendent is still talking 5-10% increase). Our school Board Representatives have made their voices heard, but we will need your support when it comes time to vote on the School Budget. This means that any increase in taxes will be coming from the School Budget.
The Town Meeting has been changed to **July 14, 2020**. It is by secret ballot voting from 8 am to 8 pm. Please consider getting Absentee Ballots.

- We are having a problem with dog owners allowing their pets to defecate on Main Street and in Crystal Lake Park. Please be respectful and clean up after your pets. We will be enforcing this with fines up to $250 according to our Dog Ordinance (see on-line). We do not want to have to install cameras and/or have to close the park to dogs so please pick up after your pets. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support and have a good weekend.

**Federal Safety Guidelines:**
Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE and LOCAL Authorities**.

**IF YOU FEEL SICK** stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

**IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK**, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

**IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE** for the coronavirus, keep the entire household. Do not go to work. Do not go to schools. Contact your medical provider.

**IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON**, stay home and away from other people.

**IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION** that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

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**From the Town Clerk ~**

The Town Office is on limited staff and providing services as possible. **We understand that business needs to be conducted and the best way to reach us is through email. Our emails can be located here.**

Many of the transactions can be done online at [www.harrisonmaine.org](http://www.harrisonmaine.org). In the right corner is a link to Online Payments.

Car registrations - if it is a new vehicle purchased from a dealer, keep your temporary plates. You have 30 days from the time the state of emergency has been lifted to get it registered. If it is a private sale please email the clerk [here](mailto:clerk).

Boat registrations can be done online. If you have a new boat please email me. 2019 sticker expiration has been extended until the end of April 2020 if you can't do it online.

Property Tax payments can be placed in the drop box located in the front of the Town Office or paid online.

If you must speak with someone you may call the office and leave a message, someone will return your call within 48 hours.

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.
MEETINGS ARE GOING VIRTUAL
Due to the State of Emergency we are currently in, the Legislature has provided allowances for official meetings to continue through phone and virtual means. We will be using the program Go To Meeting. This will provide us with an audio recording to be listened to later as a transcript of the meeting. These will be posted on our website like we post other audio and minutes so anyone can listen or read them at a later time. If you wish to attend a meeting while the meeting is happening, the log in information will be located on our website. You can log in through a computer or a smartphone.

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 ~

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

HARRISON FIRE/RESCUE CALL RESPONSES

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From the Transfer Station ~

We are no longer accepting Cash at the Transfer Station...You may use a check or credit cards only. Please do not enter the buildings and practice social distancing.

The Transfer Station is still open with regular hours at this time but please observe social distancing and do not enter the buildings. This is for the safety and protection of our employees and the public.

Spring weather 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!!!!

From Public Works ~

We will be lifting Spring Road Posting on Monday, April 20, 2020

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

It has been a big adjustment not being able to see all your faces over the last month. I want you all to know how very important you are to me and that I miss you all more than you know! I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy! If you need any help, please don’t hesitate to reach out! Be sure to check in with your friends, family and neighbors. A reminder that kindness, love, compassion and respect are very contagious, so let’s help spread those to one another.

During this difficult and scary time for families, there have been many online opportunities to help kids to stay active! Anyone that uses BeachBody on Demand, they have unlocked all children workouts! Disney has videos of several rides that kiddos can watch and pretend as though they are on the ride themselves. Many gyms and workout classes have turned to free live streaming workouts!

Let’s not forget our great outdoors! We’ve had some rainy days but try to get outside and enjoy the sunshine when we have it Vitamin D does the body SO good! Go for a walk or run. Let the kids ride their bikes or how about a scavenger hunt! If you have some creative and fun ideas share them on our Harrison Rec Facebook page! Let’s stay connected and stay positive! We can do this!

We will still be accepting registrations online for spring sports and Spring session of Mad Science. Click the link below for online registration.

https://campscui.active.com/orgs/HarrisonMaineRecreation?orglink=camps-registration

We will also be welcoming back Team Long Run for another season of Run Club once we are cleared for activities. For now, here is an outdoor video that is great for kiddos that need to get out some energy and get fresh air! Thank you Team Long Run for making these videos especially in this time of need!  https://www.videos.teamlongrun.org

Stay strong Friendly Village, take care of yourself, wash your hands and stay home! We will be putting this all behind us before we know it.

Thank you for your understanding and we are anxious to be back to regular activities in the near future!

Harrison Village Library ~

The Harrison Village Library is closed to the public until further notice. Please keep your borrowed materials at home until the library reopens, and please do not donate any books at this time. For more information on electronic resources available during our closure, please visit our website at www.harrison.lib.me.us Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for virtual activities and the most recent updates, and for questions, please email Kathleen at kkramer@harrison.lib.me.us

Recurring Events ~

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

Upcoming Events ~

Lakeside Grange #63 Yard Sale is cancelled until further notice.
Share Facts About COVID-19

FACT 1

Diverse populations can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop hate by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT 2

The risk of getting COVID-19 in the US is currently low.

Some people who live in or have recently traveled to places where many people have gotten sick with COVID-19 may be infected by health officials to prevent the health of others in the community.

FACT 3

Someone who has not traveled or been exposed to someone with COVID-19 has not been infected with COVID-19.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 website.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/Covid19

FACT 4

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms
- Stay home if you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19

FACT 5

There are simple things you can do to help yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then wash your hands immediately.

Central Maine Power

Reliable electric delivery service for your community

January 14, 2020

TOWN CLERK

Town of Harrison

P.O. Box 300

Harrison, ME 04040

Dear Town Clerk:

We work year-round to reduce tree-related outages and deliver the reliable service you depend on. An important part of our Tree Care program is to prevent outages along transmission lines. In 2020, we will be carrying out this work in your community.

The purpose is to remove and discourage the growth of trees and bushes around power lines which travel the countryside away from highways. This work is considered essential work and is considered non-essential during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work will be carried out by trained and certified tree care professionals.

Additions to the tree care program will be carried out on a case-by-case basis, depending on the specific conditions of the property and the surrounding environment.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Irish
Manager, Vegetation Management