Hope & Kindness are not cancelled…be strong and stay healthy.

- Happy May Day!
- Full Moon on Thursday, May 7, 2020 is known as the Flower Full Moon.
- Town Buildings are closed to public.
- 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.

Maine Fun Facts: Maine is a top producer of potatoes and broccoli.

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, the town buildings are still closed but planning to reopen by the end of May. You can still conduct business on-line. Please remember you still need to pay your taxes which can be done on-line or by mail. Car, boat and trailer re-registrations can also be done on-line. Thank You for your patience and cooperation.

- We are monitoring the situation daily and are in Contact with the Governor’s office, the Maine CDC & Maine Emergency Management Agency for guidance on how to proceed as we are preparing to re-open. We will be making some changes to keep both the public and employees as safe as possible. 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.

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 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 home. 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 of Harrison is looking to open to the public, for regular business hours, the end of May. We are currently in the process of sending our reopening plan to the State and setting up our space to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please be advised when we do open, we will be using the meeting room door as our entrance for the public. This is not the door most are used to using so please pay attention to signage. We ask everyone to please follow the markings on the floor to safeguard safe distancing for everyone.

Anyone needing assistance from the code or assessing office is requested to call and set up an appointment. The number is 583-0923. If you don’t have an appointment you will need to wait in line to reach the clerk’s counter in order to get assistance.

We are also working on the details for the recreation program for the summer. More information will be provided as those details are finalized.

Please stay tuned to the newsletter for updates and/or visit our website for updates as we have them. We are working hard to keep our information on our website current and keep you up to date on what is happening here in Harrison.

The Town Office is still 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. 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. 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.

Town meeting and elections have been postponed until July 14th.

VOTE HEALTHY – VOTE ABSENTEE!
This is the first-year town meeting is by secret ballot. There are 31 questions plus candidate seats to vote on. This can take time. Voting from the comfort of your recliner, on your schedule, lets you take as long as you need.

There will also be a school ballot, a State candidate ballot and a referendum ballot.

For your safety and the safety of all the election workers you can still vote and have your vote count with no health worries.

It's easy to receive an absentee ballot. Order online here or call the town office at 583-2241 ext. 2 or 6 and we will mail the ballot to you.

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Fire & Rescue Responses ~

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

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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!!!!

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From Public Works ~

Roads are no longer posted.

NOTICE

DO NOT ENTER the Public Works/Town Garage facility.

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

It has been a very busy time as we start learning the new guidelines that were rolled out that are effective today. I am actively working on plans to get Recreation events up and running again.
I have had a few families reach out in regards to baseball and softball. At this time the Andy Valley League is still planning to play a shortened season starting in June IF possible. Though this is a very exciting thought, there are many factors that we will need to take into consideration. During this phase (2), it would allow for groups of less than 50 to gather. Though that number seems high, we have to remember that there will be anywhere from 20-35 players and coaches between two teams then you must add in the umpires and fans. We would exceed this number rather fast. The inability to police such numbers at a sporting event will be near impossible. At this time we will continue to keep the seasons suspended and will be releasing a definite answer in the coming weeks.

Let’s talk about Summer Rec! We will continue to take registrations online but will not require a payment as of now. We are scheduled to start Summer Rec on June 22nd. This is during the 2nd phase which is no more than 50 people. With that being said, we are working on very specific guidelines that we will be following to ensure that groups are split up and have less than 50 at all times. We are fortunate to have a lot of space to help make this possible. We are looking into an electronic program that will allow parents to sign their children in and out of Rec using their phones which will help decrease face to face interactions. We will also be taking children’s temperature twice a day and anyone one (staff or camper) that has any symptoms or fever will be asked to stay home for at least 14 days.

RADR gates are now open for those that enjoy walking the around the fields or just taking in the gorgeous views!

A reminder that if you are going to the park and using any playground equipment that you know that we are not sanitizing or cleaning that area. If you have been sick or showing any symptoms of illness please stay home and off any equipment.

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.

Historical Society - The potluck dinner and Show and Tell program at the Historical Society Farmhouse on Wednesday evening, May 6, 2020 has been cancelled.