

Cumberland, Maine

ANNUAL REPORT - FY2020-2021



STAY CONNECTED!

Stay in the loop about all things Cumberland by connecting with all of our communication channels! We are continuously working hard to communicate effectively and efficiently with all of the residents in our community. Subscribe for our weekly e-newsletter, The Cumberland Crier here:

<https://www.cumberlandmaine.com/cumberlandcrier>



[www.facebook.com/
CumberlandME](https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandME)



[www.instagram.com/
CumberlandMaine](https://www.instagram.com/CumberlandMaine)



[www.twitter.com/
CumberlandMaine](https://www.twitter.com/CumberlandMaine)

Front Cover by Brian Allison

Back Cover by Emma Shumadine

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION 4

OFFICIALS & ADMINISTRATION

Town Council
Town Manager
Clerk's Office
Finance

LAND USE AND PLANNING

Assessing
Code Enforcement
Planning
Planning Board
Board of Adjustment & Appeals
Housing Authority

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Police Department
Fire & Emergency Management
Public Services
 Public Works
 Parks Department
 Val Halla
 Community Recreation
 Prince Memorial Library

COMMITTEES

Bicentennial Committee
Lands & Conservation Commission

LETTERS TO CITIZENS

MSAD51 Superintendent's Report
Letter from the Governor
Senatorial Report
Congressional Report
Legislative Report

IN DEDICATION & MEMORY OF

Phil Chase



“Phil gave of himself in so many ways, and he did it with pride, integrity, honor, love and a genuine sense of commitment. He gave to his country, he gave to his state, he gave to his town, he gave to his friends, he gave, last but certainly not least, to his cherished family.”

This year, Cumberland lost a dedicated friend and community member, Philip A. Chase.

Philip A. Chase was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 18, 1927, the son of Kenneth and Marjorie Chase. He moved to Cumberland a year later. He was educated in the Cumberland schools and was a graduate of Greely Institute, later graduating from Wentworth Institute in Boston, specializing in Industrial Electronics. He enlisted in the Navy during World War II and served 3 years as a Fire Controlman working with radar and gun control aboard the USS North Carolina. He was in the Naval Reserve and was recalled back into the Navy where he served 18 months in Korea aboard the aircraft carrier USS Antietam.

He married Evelyn L. Chatto of South Brooksville, ME on June 30, 1950. He was employed for 32 years by Dielectric Communications as an Electronic Technician in the production test department and later as the Manufacturing Manager. He retired in 1984. He also worked for the Public Works Department in Cumberland and Storey Brothers Excavation.

Phil was a life member of the Cumberland Fire Department. He served as Chief for 3 years and created the first full-time Dispatching office. He was a charter member of the Rescue Unit and held various memberships in regional fire associations. He was a reserve officer in the Cumberland Police Department for 11 years. He served as a trustee for the Cumberland Cemetery Association and on the executive board for the Alumni Association of Greely Institute. He chaired the effort to construct the Cumberland Public Works Garage. He maintained the flag pole in the town square, raising and lowering the flag daily for many years. He was part of a group that planted the evergreen tree that has been lighted during the Christmas season. Phil installed the lights and lit the tree every year until it got too large for one person to handle!

Phil enjoyed camping and took many family trips to various places. He planted a large garden each spring and lovingly tended it throughout the summer. His wife of 59 years, Evelyn, passed in 2010. He later married Marjorie Bragdon of Portland, ME. Phil and Marjorie celebrated their 94th birthdays together in 2020. His passing is a great loss to all who knew him and to the community he served.

From Carolyn Small, Curator, Cumberland Historical Society

Philip Arno Chase: to me that name means “giving”. Phil gave of himself in so many ways, and he did it with pride, integrity, honor, love and a genuine sense of commitment. He gave to his country, he gave to his state, he gave to his town, he gave to his friends, he gave, last but certainly not least, to his cherished family. Collaborating with Prince Memorial Library Director, Thomas Bennett, he gave of his time and knowledge of the history of the town by lending his vast collection of Cumberland photos to be scanned. Through the Cumberland Historical Society, for the Bicentennial Celebration of Cumberland, he gave an interview about living here, and it is captured digitally with 19 others. It is memorable. If you’ve not seen it, treat yourself.

Phil grew up in the house that his great-great grandfather, Josiah Morse, built, and later on, with his beloved Evelyn in hand, moved into that same home. There they stayed together until her health declined to the point where he could no longer adequately care for her. After her passing, he met and consequently married Marjorie, bringing her into that home. They stayed together there until her health went down the same unfortunate path that Evelyn’s did. He did his best to be the loving caretaker for both of these dear ladies, but it left him wondering why he had to travel that road twice. He never lost faith, though.

His graduation from Greely Institute in 1945 was a bit out of the ordinary. He, along with Dick Sweetser, was called to service in World War II. Both were due to leave Cumberland before their actual graduation ceremony. Mr. Crandall, Principal at the time, initiated an accelerated program for them in order for them to be awarded their diplomas. At graduation, his mother, Marjorie, and Dick’s mother, Phyllis, walked across the stage at Gyger Gym to proudly accept their sons’ diplomas.

On a visit to the Cumberland Historical Society one Monday morning, he joined the group of us who were working there. He sat and began unfolding his limitless knowledge of local history. Alluding to his rascally side, he also told us some stories of pranks and hijinks that he and friends were involved in. Too many to recount here! His favorite trick was to put marbles in your boots when you weren’t looking.

He was usually a fairly even-tempered sort of fellow, not given often to outbursts of anger, but there was one time when he did erupt. He had planted some fruit trees in his back yard and patiently waited a few years for the trees to bear fruit. Upon discovering the ripened pears on the trees, he planned to start picking them the next day. Much to his surprise that morning, he found that there was no fruit left that morning. He was livid! Who would dare to sneak into his back yard and steal his prized pears? A few days later, his neighbor, Harold Small, was sputtering about the deer that had munched a large vee-shape in the hedges at the front of his house. The light then dawned on Phil; it was not local fruit filching felons who had made off with the sweet delectable produce, but Bambi and his bandit gang! Mother Nature won that battle!

When the Cumberland Historical Society building was moved from Blanchard Road to behind Prince Memorial Library, Phil had a front-row seat watching those perilous relocation proceedings from the thicket of trees between his house and the Library. It was a problematic move getting the building, an 1853 brick structure, into the driveway, as it was a sharp turn from Main Street, and a slight uphill slant to boot. It took a while before the movers could determine how best to get the job done without having a disaster on their hands!

There were a lot people there watching, including Channel 8 TV, so a calamity would not be good publicity for the movers. The crowd waited apprehensively while decisions were being made, and I noticed Phil sitting there observing intently. I approached the Channel 8 TV guy, and told him that Phil had attended that school. Mr. Channel 8 TV guy, with camera in hand, promptly walked over to Phil for an interview. His final question to Phil was “So, what do you think of all this?” Phil’s reply? “Well, I wish they’d done this seventy years ago. I wouldn’t have had to walk so far to school!” Is that a Phil Chase classic or what?!

So, I say to his family, this was a man much loved, respected, admired and valued. He will be missed by many. Rest in peace, Philip Arno Chase, rest in peace.

From Chief Dan Small, Cumberland Fire Department

Phil was an active member of the Cumberland Fire Department for more than three decades and served as the Chief of Department from 1966 to 1969. Chief Chase was a resident of the Town of Cumberland all of his life and was a 1945 graduate of Greely Institute. Although he graduated from Greely his mother had to accept his diploma because he departed early to serve in the Navy during World War II. After World War II he remained in the Navy reserves but was returned to active duty during the Korean War.

While he helped make many improvements to our department, one of his biggest accomplishments was initiating full-time dispatching services for both Cumberland and North Yarmouth.



TOWN COUNCIL



Back Row (L-R): Ronald Copp, Allison Foster, George Turner, and Michael Edes

Front Row (L-R): Shirley Storey-King, Thomas Gruber, and Robert Vail

Cumberland is governed by a seven-member, elected Town Council who meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month to conduct town business. The Council delegates responsibility in carrying out its mission to the Town Manager and his staff. To contact the Town Council, please email towncouncil@cumberlandmaine.com. The following residents served on the FY2020—2021 Town Council.

Thomas Gruber, Chair	<i>At-Large — 2023</i>	tgruber@cumberlandmaine.com	781-4613
Robert Vail, Vice Chair	<i>At-Large — 2022</i>	rvail@cumberlandmaine.com	838-4753
Ronald Copp	<i>West — 2024</i>	rcopp@cumberlandmaine.com	829-4191
Allison Foster	<i>Center — 2023</i>	afoster@cumberlandmaine.com	
Michael Edes	<i>At-Large — 2022</i>	medes@cumberlandmaine.com	831-5197
Shirley Storey-King, Chair	<i>At-Large — 2024</i>	sstorey-king@cumberlandmaine.com	415-1128
George Turner	<i>Foreside — 2021</i>	gturner@cumberlandmaine.com	329-4495

TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR

I'd like to thank all my fellow Town Councilors and Town Staff for a challenging 2021 Fiscal Year which ended on June 30, 2021. It was a good year fiscally, but we really had planned for the worst and hoped for the best! We budgeted conservatively and it paid off.

Overall, the Town exceeded budget revenues by 25%. Expenses were pretty close to budget...only 1% off

We had to suspend the majority of our capital improvements, personnel expenses, and other expenses because of the pandemic.

Even when trends started to shift in a positive direction, we left the approved budget intact to avoid any "false positive" signs along a very unpredictable year. This was not a good year to follow a trend line since a pandemic was something none of us had experienced.

There have been several new councilors who have joined the finance committee and have done a very admirable job. I feel strongly, we are in good hands!

It has been my pleasure to serve the citizens of this community this past year as the Chairman of the Town Council and Finance Committee. This past year is a true example of "It takes a Village" and I'm very happy we have the best Village in Maine!



Thomas Gruber
Town Council Chair



Photo by Eliza Porter

TOWN MANAGER

To the Honorable Town Council & Citizens of the Town of Cumberland:

The fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020, and ending on June 30, 2021, was a year like no other. We were operating with reduced staff, a frozen budget, all while in the middle of a global pandemic. It was very challenging, and required flexibility and fluidity by our employees, but they continued to provide excellent service at every level in every department.

Our Town Council continued to hold in-person meetings and continued working through these challenging times. The year highlighted some of the following projects and programming:

- New trail standards from the Lands & Conservation Commission (LCC) that applied to all Town properties.
- A Climate Action Plan (from the LCC) to help lower our carbon footprint as a Town and encourage all to actively participate in changing their habits.
- Our Senior Tax Assistance Program provided rebates to nearly 200 seniors!
- We adopted a Residential Solar Ordinance that helped locate these types of solar facilities and mitigate some of the visual impacts.
- We leased two electric cars, at no cost, for 3 years through a program offered by Efficiency Maine.
- Our 2000 ladder truck was sold to our neighbors in Windham for \$42,000 after the arrival of our new 2021 100' platform fire truck.
- The Town replaced our 2003 street sweeper with a new mechanical sweeper.
- The Town Council hired Maine Intercultural Communication Consultants to develop a training program for Department Heads and Town Councilors to better understand our cultural differences and biases.

In closing, I'd like to thank our amazing Cumberland Team, including full-time, part-time and volunteers, who made it through a difficult year and continued to serve this community with a positive attitude. At times it was difficult, but no one ever gave up, even when many other towns packed it in, we never turned off the lights! This will always be the best community in the State of Maine.

Respectfully Submitted,



William R. Shane, P.E.
Town Manager

wshane@cumberlandmaine.com



CLERK'S OFFICE

The Town Clerk is the keeper of the public record and the major reference resource for the past as well as the present. This year is a very special year for the Town of Cumberland as it is our 200th birthday!! Our Bicentennial is a very special celebration for the Town, and we have many special events planned. The Town Clerk's Office has a very important role in the history of the Town. Some of our oldest records are the Cumberland Overseers of the Poor. Our vault also contains birth, death, and marriage records from 1821 to 2021. The Clerk's Office works every year on restoring at least one volume of the Town's historical records with a professional records restoration company, so that the Town will have these vitally important documents preserved for years to come.

On the 9th day of April, 1821, the very first Town Meeting for the newly founded Town of Cumberland, Maine, was held at the Congregational Meeting House. They chose the first Town Officers, formed a committee to meet with a committee from North Yarmouth to make a division of the poor and the property to be divided between the two Towns. Mr. James Prince was voted in as Town Clerk for the year. Messers David Prince, William Buxton, and Beza Blanchard were all sworn in as the first Selectmen. Captain Ephraim Sturdivant was elected as treasurer for the town.

The first Gubernatorial election in the Town of Cumberland was held on Monday, September 10, 1821. On November 1, 1824, the inhabitants of the Town of Cumberland gave in their votes for on Elector of President and Vice President of the United States for this district, and two Electors for the State at Large; and the same were received, sorted, counted, and declared in open Town Meeting by the Selectmen who presided, and in the presence of the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerks Office is responsible for all elections, both State and local, held within the community; records and issues marriage, hunting, fishing, dog, Non-Profit Temporary Victular's licenses, cemetery deeds and burial permits; and issues certified copies of marriage, birth, and death records. Vital Records are now controlled by the State of Maine's Electronic Birth, Death, and Marriage Systems. The Town Clerk's office also registers all motor vehicles for the residents of our town and processes all tax payments as well as tax lien processing. We continue to try to make the registration process more convenient by



Tammy O'Donnell
Town Clerk/Deputy Tax
Collector



Abbey Lombard
Assistant Clerk



Whitney Miller
Assistant Clerk/
Motor Vehicle Agent



Deb Rand
Assistant Clerk

offering as many online services as possible. The Town of Cumberland is such a compassionate and caring community, our residents continue to show their compassion by reaching out to help during the communities most difficult and trying times. The Community Food Pantry has now been in operation for several years and continues to grow to serve our community and surrounding towns. The Community Food Pantry is located at Town Hall in the back of the building. We are so thankful to have so many kind volunteers who truly care about our community members.

The Town of Cumberland contracts with Opportunity Alliance for our General Assistance program. A representative is here in the Town Office every Wednesday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk's Office staff is an amazing, dedicated group of ladies. The office runs very smoothly because of these ladies, and I am very thankful. Throughout the State, there are still offices that are by appointment only. We were one of the first offices in the State to open completely, and safely, and we have continued to make all adjustments necessary for both our staff and the public. Our staff consists of Ms. Abbey Lombard, who has been with us for 3 ½ years, as well as Ms. Whitney Miller, who has been with us for two years. Ms. Deb Rand has just left our office to join the Fire Department as their Administrative Office Manager and we will miss her very much.



Election Clerks during the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election at Greely High School.

TOWN CLERK

VITAL RECORDS:

Births — 78
Deaths — 71
Marriages — 50

LICENSES:

Hunting & Fishing Licenses — 219
Boat Registrations — 544
Snowmobile Registrations — 196
ATV Registrations — 115
Dog Licenses — 1,527

ELECTIONS

Elections are a very big part of the Town Clerk's office. Maintaining the transparency and integrity of our elections is of the utmost importance. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers to work during our elections and we encourage anyone who is interested in working during our elections, to contact the Town Clerk's office at 829-5559. This year, with the General Election in November of 2020, we had a record number of absentee ballots. Absentee ballot requests began in July and did not end until October of 2020. It was a very, very busy time with all the staff and extra temporary help working long hours and weekends to get the ballots processed. The whole crew did an amazing job. They were very thorough, very detailed, and we made it through one of the busiest elections, during a pandemic with smiles and sense of gratefulness. Our election workers are the best, they go through training prior to every election and are so helpful. Our Election Workers are very eager to assist all our voters in any way necessary. The election results for the fiscal year 2021, are as follows:

General Election, November 3, 2020

President of the United States

Biden, Joseph	4,074
De La Fuente, Roque "Rocky"	7
Hawkins, Howard	33
Jorgensen, Jo	87
Trump, Donald J.	1,800
Boddie, President R. (Declared Write-In)	0
Charles, Mark R. (Declared Write-In)	1
Hoe fling, Tom (Declared Write-In)	0
Mitchell, M.D. (Declared Write-In)	0
Wells, Kasey J. (Declared Write-In)	0
Blank	85

United States Senator

Collins, Susan Margaret	2,538
Gideon, Sara I.	3,222
Linn, Max Patrick	35

Savage, Lisa	247
Bond, Tiffany L. (Declared Write-In)	2
Engelman, Ian Kenton (Declared Write-In)	0
Fogg, Douglas E. (Declared Write-In)	1
Blank	42

Representative To Congress (District 1)

Allen, Jay T.	2,090
Pingree, Chellie M.	3,858
Farrand, Nancy C. (Declared Write-In)	0
Leavitt, Ian Arthur (Declared Write-In)	1
Blank	138

State Senator (District 25)

Breen, Catherine E.	3,719
White, Jennifer L.	2,190
Blank	178

Representative To the Legislature (District 45)

Moriarty, Stephen W.	3,763
Timmons, Michael J.	2,122
Blank	202

Register of Probate

Daniels, Nadeen M.	4,595
Blank	1,492

Municipal & M.S.A.D.#51 Budget Validation Referendum Election-June 8, 2021

Cumberland Town Councilor At-Large (Vote for One)-

Storey-King, Shirley	1,572
Blank	488

Cumberland Town Councilor Cumberland Foreside (Vote for One)-

Segrist, Mark	1,356
Turner, George	634
Blank	70

Cumberland Town Councilor West Cumberland (Vote for One)-

Copp, Ronald Jr.	1,400
Blank	660

M.S.A.D. #51 Board of Directors (Vote for Two)-

Barry, Hannah -	784
Dougherty, Adam -	498
Maksymowicz, Ann -	915
Record, Jason -	822
Suresh, Vijayarani -	777
Blanks -	324

M.S.A.D. #51 Budget Validation Referendum

Article 1: School Budget. Shall Maine School Administrative District No. 51 appropriate the sum of \$41,846,284.98 and raise the sum of \$29,022,476.42 for the 2021-2022 school budget? School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

Yes	1,271
No	727
Blank	60

Article 2: District Reserve Fund. Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer \$300,000.00 from unallocated balances to the District’s Capital Reserve Fund for renovations and other minor capital costs, and to expend \$300,000.00 from said reserve fund for those purposes? School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

Yes	1,452
No	568
Blank	38

Article 3: Contingency Fund for COVID and Other Emergencies. Shall the District authorize the School Board to establish and to transfer \$350,000.00 from unallocated balances to a non-lapsing contingency fund for emergency expenditures during the COVID-19 emergency or other periods of financial emergency pursuant to section 1482-B(3) of Title 20-A and to expend up to \$350,000.00 from the contingency fund for COVID-19 related expenditures not included in the operating budget; and shall the District delegate authority to the School Board to expend sums in the contingency fund during other periods of financial emergency when the School Board determines by public vote that an emergency need exists and delegate authority to transfer sums in the contingency fund back to the RSU’s general fund for use in school operating budgets approved by RSU voters? School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.

Yes	1,301
No	533
Blank	224



Photo by Samantha Holley (Broad Cove Reserve)



Helen Dibartolomeo
Finance Director



Beth Lougee
Senior Accountant



Jessica Dwyer
Accounting Clerk

The Finance Department is responsible for administering and reporting financial information for the Town of Cumberland. Finance also analyzes and manages the Town's cash flow needs and investments. We work in partnership with departments to prepare the annual budget, manage insurance, debt and bond issuances, and collaborate with Human Resources to administer employee benefits. The Town's financials are audited annually by an independent CPA firm and a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is prepared, which has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal years 1993 through 2020.

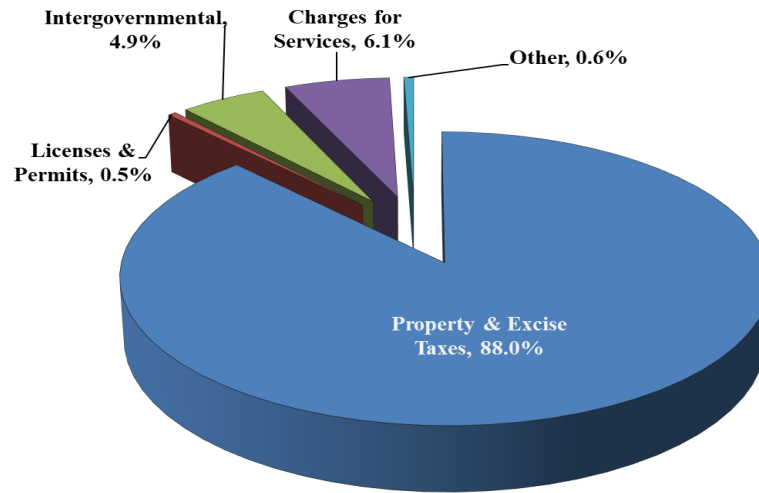
The following information is presented as it relates to the audited financial results for fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 (FY2020). For additional financial information about the Town of Cumberland, please visit us online at <https://www.cumberlandmaine.com/finance>.

Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Overview

Following the trend of the past few years, the Town received significantly higher than budgeted revenues, and incurred higher than budgeted expenses. The excess revenues more than offset the expenses, resulting in an unbudgeted surplus.

	<i>Results for FY Ended June 30, 2020</i>		
	Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Revenues	\$ 31,143,296	\$ 31,405,601	\$ 262,305
General Fund Expenditures	10,935,597	10,878,238	(57,359)
County Tax	910,761	910,761	-
MSAD #51 Assessment	18,937,757	18,937,757	-
General Fund Unbudgeted Surplus	\$ 359,181	\$ 678,845	\$ 319,664

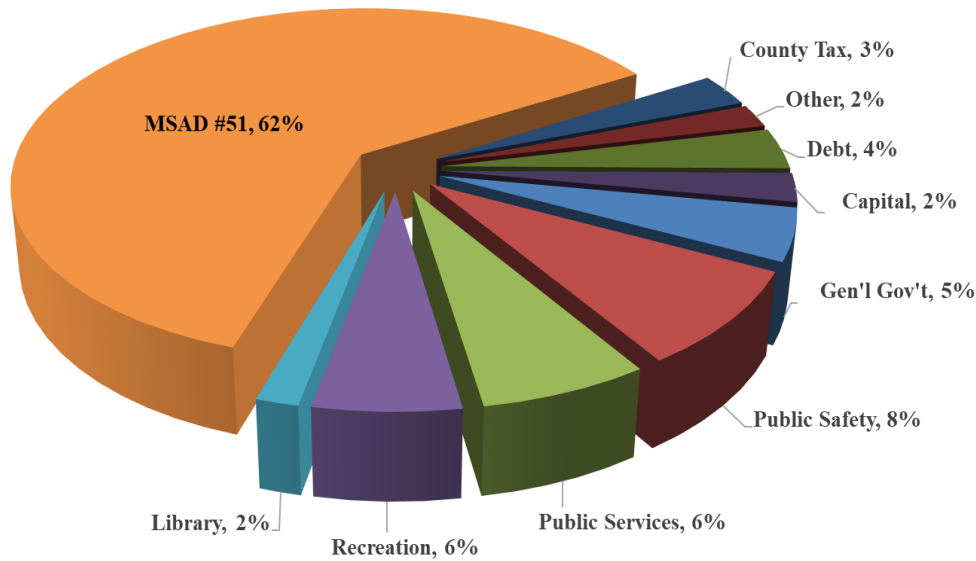
General Fund Revenues—FY 2020



In fiscal year 2020, actual revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$0.3 million as taxes, intergovernmental, and other revenues exceeded expectations. Licenses and permits were slightly less than anticipated. The recreation program was \$0.3 million under budget. This shortfall was due to the department closing services starting March 2020 as a result of the COVID pandemic. The closing affected the two most popular programs in the Recreation department, the After-school Program and Summer Camp. Overall, despite the shortcomings from the shutdown, the Town's total revenue collections were 101 percent of budget and 2.7 percent higher than prior year's collection.



General Fund Expenditures—FY 2020



Expenditures were \$57,359 under budget. The primary areas that contributed to meeting budget were public safety, public services, recreation, and health and public assistance. Because the pandemic affected the community during this fiscal year, the Town Manager amended changes to purchasing practices that included management review of previously approved budgeted items for purchase. Also because of the “Stay at Home” order issued by the Governor, there were fewer public facilities requiring services/maintenance from the Town, as well as reduced services by the Recreation program and Val Halla Golf Course.

	<i>Revenues for FY Ended June 30, 2020</i>		
	Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Tax Revenues	\$ 27,408,647	\$ 27,626,892	\$ 218,245
Licenses & Permits	154,974	148,276	(6,698)
Intergovernmental Revenues	1,362,598	1,551,714	189,116
Other Revenues	599,409	726,261	126,852
Police Department	29,739	41,975	12,236
Fire Department	18,700	16,452	(2,248)
Public Services	30,592	31,610	1,018
Val Halla	616,021	617,986	1,965
Recreation	918,116	640,263	(277,853)
Library	4,500	4,172	(328)
Total Revenues	\$ 31,143,296	\$ 31,405,601	\$ 262,305

	<i>Expenditures for FY Ended June 30, 2020</i>		
	Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
General Administration	\$ 1,340,186	\$ 1,429,081	\$ 88,895
Public Safety	2,630,742	2,603,229	(27,513)
Public Services	2,127,425	2,015,823	(111,602)
Val Halla	761,933	766,095	4,162
Recreation	1,048,508	980,304	(68,204)
Library	497,303	510,580	13,277
Health & Public assistance	139,668	103,567	(36,101)
Other Expenses	281,047	293,387	12,340
Controllable Expenses	8,826,812	8,702,066	(124,746)
Debt Service	1,074,324	1,132,723	58,399
Insurance	238,400	247,388	8,988
Capital Imp. Plan	796,061	796,061	-
Fixed Expenses	2,108,785	2,176,172	67,387
TOWN BUDGET	10,935,597	10,878,238	(57,359)
MSAD #51 Assessment	18,937,757	18,937,757	-
County Tax	910,761	910,761	-
Total Expenses	\$ 30,784,115	\$ 30,726,756	\$ (57,359)

Property Taxes

Property Valuations:

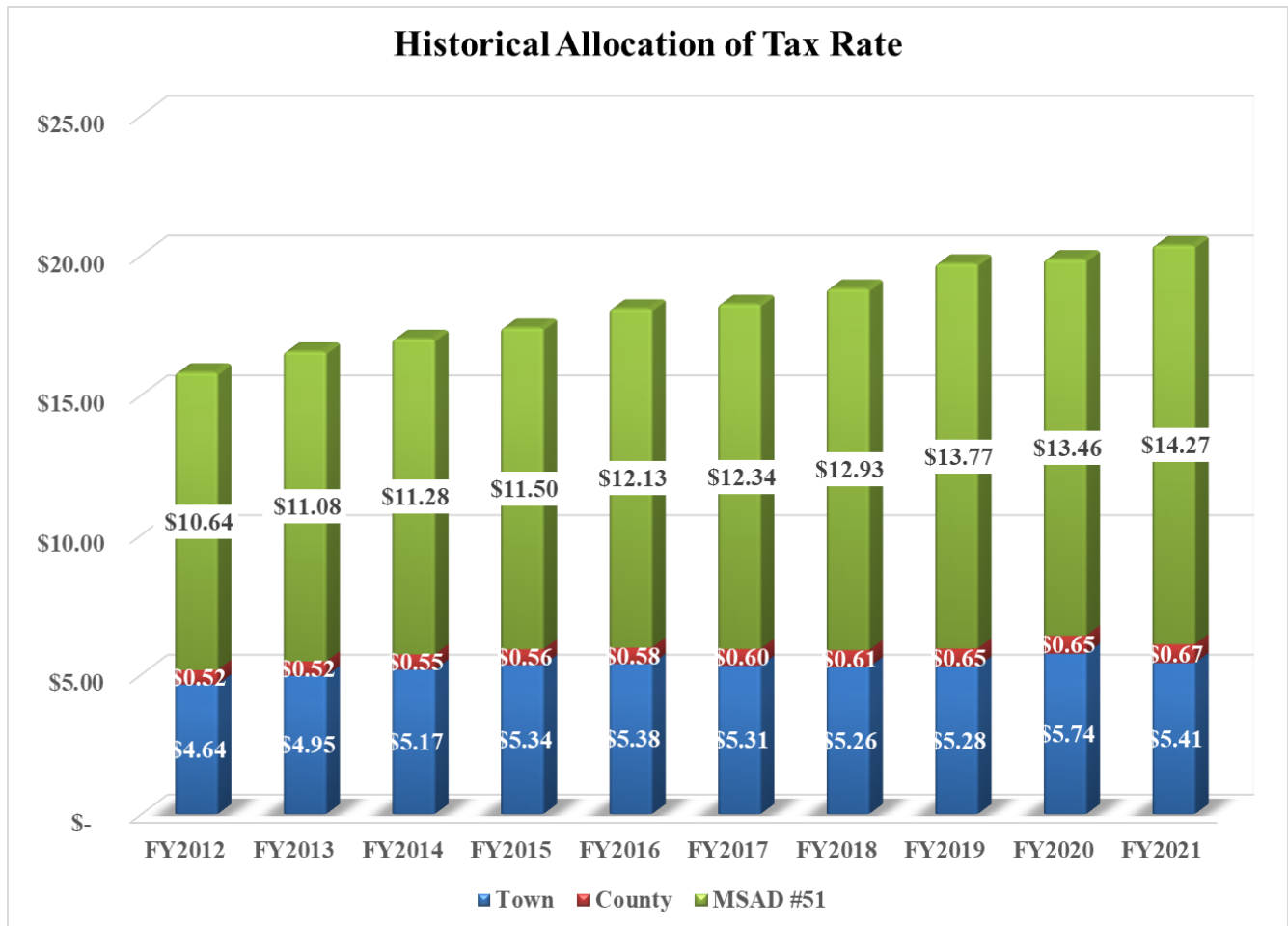
	1921	FY2020	FY2021	<i>Annual Change</i>		<i>10 Year Change</i>		<i>100 Year Change</i>	
Taxable Real Estate	\$1,084,504	\$1,382,622,600	\$1,397,764,200	\$15,141,600		\$256,500,200		\$1,396,679,696	
Personal Property	227,440	14,404,000	14,630,100	\$226,100		\$2,463,100		\$14,402,660	
Total Taxable Property	\$1,311,944	\$1,397,026,600	\$1,412,394,300	\$15,367,700	1.1%	\$258,963,300	22.5%	\$1,411,082,356	107556.6%

Property Tax Rate Distribution:

	1921	FY2020	FY2021	<i>Annual Change</i>		<i>10 Year Change</i>		<i>100 Year Change</i>	
Town		\$5.74	\$5.41	-\$0.33	-5.7%	\$0.87	19.2%		
County		0.65	0.67	0.02	3.1%	0.15	28.8%		
MSAD #51		13.46	14.27	0.81	6.0%	4.03	39.4%		
Total Tax Rate	\$27.00	\$19.85	\$20.35	\$0.50	2.5%	\$5.05	33.0%	-\$6.65	-24.6%

FINANCE

Local property taxes are the Town's primary source of revenue. The total tax rate for 2020-21 fiscal year was \$20.35, an increase of \$0.50 or 2.5 percent, over the prior year. The Town's portion of the tax rate decreased 5.7 percent or \$0.33 per \$1,000 of property value to maintain a flat budget for fiscal year 2021. This decision was made by the Town's Council based on the uncertainty of the global pandemic and how it would affect Cumberland's residents.



If you have any questions or need additional financial information, we would be happy to assist you. You can contact the Finance Department at 207-829-2205, or via email at financeoffice@cumberlandmaine.com.

Photo by Whitney Miller



ASSESSING

The 2021 assessed valuation of \$1,440,797,850.00 resulted in a tax rate of \$20.55 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the 2022 fiscal year. The twenty-cent increase represented a .98% increase over the fiscal year 2021 rate. The \$28,176,550.00 increase was the result of land divisions, new construction, additions and new personal property. The appropriation amount to be raised through taxation is \$29,608,891.00. The County tax is \$963,505.00; MSAD 51 is \$20,792,086.00; and the Municipal appropriation is \$7,853,300.00.

	2019	2020	2021
Land	\$ 557,104,500	\$ 561,815,300	\$ 566,025,800
Buildings	\$ 825,518,100	\$ 836,174,900	\$ 860,317,450
Personal Property	\$ 14,404,000	\$ 14,631,100	\$ 14,454,600
Total	\$1,397,026,600	\$1,412,621,300	\$1,440,797,850

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY (100 YEARS AGO)

In 1921 the total value of the Town of Cumberland was \$1,311,944.00, of which \$1,084,504.00 was real estate. The remaining \$227,440.00 was attributable to personal property which consisted of horses & mules, cows, swine, oxen & bulls, sheep, bank stock, small boats, logs and lumber, automobiles, musical instruments, furniture and a few other items of personal property. Additionally, there was a Poll tax of \$3.00 for every adult. The total tax amount raised was \$36,462.99 and the tax rate was \$27.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The amount appropriated for schools was \$8,600.00, State Tax \$6,939.69, County Tax \$1,891.69, with the remaining \$19,031.61 for Municipal budget items. In 1921 the Town raised \$300.00 for the Centennial Celebration. By contrast, the Town budgeted approximately \$60,000 total over the past couple of years for this year's Bicentennial Celebration.

REVALUATION

State law requires municipalities to assess property at a minimum of 70% of fair market value and with the current market conditions, the Cumberland assessment ratio has dropped below the 70% threshold. The Town is planning a revaluation of all property beginning during June of 2022 with an implementation for the August 2023 commitment. Further information will be provided this fall and winter regarding the revaluation process and again in the spring of 2023. The goal of the revaluation will be to bring all assessments to between 95% and 100% of fair market value. Although all property values will increase, typically 1/3 see an increase in taxes, 1/3 decrease, and 1/3 remain approximately the same. The determining factor is where the assessment level of individual properties is in relation

to the average assessment ratio. Property owners will have an opportunity to review and, if necessary, have an informal hearing prior to the commitment.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

The Homestead exemption is a \$25,000 reduction in assessed value available for resident homeowners that have owned the homestead property for twelve months prior to the date of application. The Veteran's and Veteran's widow/widower exemption is available for veteran's that are residents of the State of Maine that have reached the age of 62, or are 100% disabled, that served during a federally recognized war period. The veteran's exemption is a \$6,000 reduction in the assessed value. Lastly, there is a \$4,000.00 exemption for resident property owners that are legally blind. Exemptions are required by law to be adjusted by the certified assessment ratio. The Fiscal Year 2022 exemption amounts are:

Homestead Exemption — \$23,750.00

Veterans Exemption — \$5,700.00

Blind Exemption — \$3,800.00

All exemption applications must be filed prior to April 1st and are available through the Assessor's office or from the Town website at www.cumberlandmaine.com. or the State of Maine website at www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/appsformspubs.htm.

Taxpayers that have questions regarding assessments may contact the Assessor's office at (207)-829-2204 or email at jbrushwein@cumberlandmaine.com.



John Brushwein, CMA
Tax Assessor

The Code Enforcement department had a record setting year for the number of permits and inspections completed. I want to thank all those who worked extra hard during these strange and unusual times we worked in with COVID-19.

Special thanks to Christina who during this past year completed her 5th year Anniversary with the Town of Cumberland congratulations!

We also need to acknowledge the extra efforts of Richard Wentworth - Electrical Compliance Inspector he shares his inspection time with both Cumberland and Yarmouth. We are lucky to have his many years of experience.



William Longley
*Code Enforcement Officer/
Building & Plumbing Inspector*

During this past year the Town also celebrated its Bicentennial and while a hundred years ago the Town did not issue or review buildings or new construction with the adoption of State of Maine building and energy codes the homes today should be safer and more energy efficient. Many new homes today have extras that did not exist a hundred years ago, like solar generators, heat pumps, pools, or many of the other things we now issue permits for and inspect as part of our daily routine. Times have certainly changed some for the better and some still to be determined.

Please feel free to contact this office with any questions about zoning, building, electrical, plumbing, shoreland zoning, flood plain, or any other question that you might have that could be answered by me or my staff.

We currently administer the State of Maine adopted Building code IRC-2015 edition, and all the MUBEC approved codes. In the future these will all change to a newer version such as the recent adoption for July 2021 of the International Energy Code – IECC 2015 edition and the July 2021 adoption of the National Electric Code NEC-2020. These new codes all have new requirements that will cost more for new construction.

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals meets as needed and hears requests for Variances, Special Exceptions, and Interpretations of decisions of the Building Inspector or others per the Town of Cumberland Zoning Ordinance.

It has been an exciting year and with COVID-19 now starting to be defeated with nearly 70% of those who can be vaccinated I believe this next year will end all those required zoom meetings and we will be back to a more normal life.

Type of Construction	# of Permits	Construction Costs	Permit Costs
ADU' Garage	1	\$175,000.00	\$473.60
Addition	73	\$3,770,274.62	\$26,784.48
Barn	2	\$149,000.00	\$600.00
Commercial	16	\$5,204,894.00	\$3,544.80
Conversion - Duplex	1	\$150,000.00	\$383.90
Deck	38	\$285,477.00	\$1,181.00
Demolition	11	\$ -	\$300.00
Fence	4	\$13,000.00	\$100.00
Foundation	2	\$52,000.00	\$828.40
Garage	8	\$605,500.00	\$2,081.10
Garage with Add	1	\$85,000.00	\$398.80
Garage with ADU	3	\$690,000.00	\$1,730.80
House	45	\$20,946,678.54	\$54,059.55
House- Condo	4	\$440,000.00	\$2,668.40
Miscellaneous	1	\$7,000.00	\$50.00
Mobile Home	1	\$63,908.18	\$352.00
Pool	15	\$954,820.00	\$1,500.00
Porches	1	\$16,000.00	\$75.00
Renovation	64	\$1,563,756.34	\$22,092.60
Shed	40	\$232,837.93	\$1,193.20
Shoreland	7	\$116,200.00	\$1,050.00
Solar arrays	30	\$820,064.95	\$11,041.42
TOTALS	368	\$36,341,411.54	\$132,489.05

	# of Permits	Permit Costs
Electrical Permits	411	\$33,106
Plumbing Permits	248	\$34,716
Total Fees		\$200,312

PLANNING

Cumberland is currently served by a part-time planning director and a part-time administrative assistant. The Planning Department is responsible for the following:

- ◆ Providing comprehensive reviews of development proposals requiring Planning Board approval, including subdivisions and site plans;
- ◆ Assisting the Planning Board in its review of residential and commercial development proposals;
- ◆ Providing staff support to various Town Council appointed committees
- ◆ Review and approval of small projects not requiring Planning Board review in order to expedite processing and reduce costs for applicants.
- ◆ Providing research and technical assistance to the Planning Board, Town Manager, Town Council, departments, and residents;
- ◆ Drafting ordinance changes and developing policies for Planning Board and Council consideration;
- ◆ Serving as a liaison for developers, the Planning Board, residents and regulatory agencies;
- ◆ Assisting residents and developers with questions about land use and the various review processes.
- ◆ Maintaining and implementing the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

If you have any questions regarding land use issues in the community, please contact me at 829-2206 or email to cnixon@cumberlandmaine.com.



Carla Nixon
Town Planner



Photo by Vicki Ferentz

PLANNING BOARD



***Top Row:** Paul Auclair, Amanda Berticelli, and Jason Record*

***Bottom Row:** Josh Saunders, Lorraine Rardin, Bill Kenny, and Ann Sawchuck*

It is the responsibility of the Cumberland Planning Board to review projects related to land use in the community for conformance with local ordinances and the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Board also provides recommendations to the Town Council on policy decisions relating to land use and capital improvement planning.

The seven members of the Planning Board are appointed by the Town Council to serve 3-year terms. Board Members who served from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 were: Paul Auclair, Chairman, Jason Record, Vice Chairman, Lee Buffinton, Bill Kenny, Steve Moriarty, Joshua Saunders and Ann Sawchuck.

Town Council liaisons were Thomas Gruber and George Turner. Board Members who served from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 were: Paul Auclair, Chairman, Jason Record, Vice Chairman, Amanda Berticelli (FMLY Billing), Bill Kenny, Lorraine Rardin, Joshua Saunders and Ann Sawchuck. Town Council liaisons were Thomas Gruber and Robert Vail.

The Planning Board held nine regular meetings and four workshops during the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and completed reviews as shown below:

Minor Staff Site Plan Reviews:

- Cumberland Farmers Club @ 175 Blanchard Rd. (Fairgrounds) for an open structure to contain a historic sawmill.
- Eric Verrill @ 72 Range Rd. for a farm stand.

- Fat Guys Concessions @ US Route 100 next to Caddy Shack Ice Cream for a temporary mobile food booth.
- Adam & Kelly Copp @ 210 Gray Rd. for a change of use from an auto repair garage to a registered medical caregiver facility.
- Mill Run Condos @ Faraday Dr. for placement of a storage shed.
- Springbrook Farm @ 168 Greely Rd. for an addition to the store with an open porch on the side.
- Stone Coast Music, LLC @ 52 Tuttle Rd. to provide music lessons.
- Evergreen Cannabis @ 222 Gray Rd. for a registered medical caregiver facility use.
- Maplewood, LLC @ 99 Woody Creek Ln. for a seasonal farm stand
- 524 Gray Rd., LLC @ 212 Gray Rd. for a registered medical caregiver facility use.
- MSAD # 51 @ 353 Tuttle Rd. to expand to ten portable classrooms.
- Mark & Anne Read @ 48 Blanchard Rd. for a shed and parking area for farm use.
- Otelco, Inc @ 218 Foreside Rd. to add a fiber optic switching cabinet.

Major Staff Site Plan Reviews: None.

Planning Board Site Plan Reviews:

- Town of Cumberland-Val Halla Golf & Recreation @ 60 Val Halla Rd. for construction of an equipment storage building.
- Storey Brothers Gravel Pit @ 48 Goose Pond Rd. for renewal of an Annual Renewable Special Permit for operation of the gravel pit.
- Green SIP Construction, Inc. @ Mill Run Subdivision condominium lot #3 @ 2 Faraday Dr. for a professional office building.
- Ryan Peters/Lakeside Concrete Cutting and Abatement Professionals @ Cumberland Foreside/Heritage Village subdivision lot #3 on US Route 1 for a new building.

Site Plan Amendments:

- 199 Middle Rd., LLC @ 191 Middle Rd. for construction of a second boat storage building.

Site Plan Extensions: None

Major Subdivision Reviews:

OceanView at Cumberland Crossing phase two @ 228 Greely Rd. for 52 senior housing units and 1 community building.

- Blanchard Oaks @ 365 Blanchard Rd. Ext. for 13 house lots.

Minor Subdivision Reviews:

- Copp Commercial Subdivision for four lots @ 166 Gray Rd.

Subdivision Revisions:

- Andrew Hagerty @ 5 Emerald Dr. to add one building containing three residential units.

Ordinance Amendments/Recommendations to Town Council:

- Zoning change request @ 222 Gray Rd. from Michael Record to change from the VCC zone to the VMDR zone.
- Amendment to Site Plan Review Ordinance Chapter 229.10.H re: exterior lighting.
- Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Chapter 315.21.B.12 to increase the number of children allowed in daycare centers and nursery schools to 28.
- Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Chapter 315.2 & .4 re: agriculture.
- Amendment to Town Ordinances to increase all abutter notification ranges to 500’.
- Zoning change request @ 222 Gray Rd. from Michael Record and Andrew Hagerty for a portion of the lot to change from the VCC zone to the VOC₁ zone.
- Amendment to Site Plan Review Ordinance Chapter 229 re: agriculture.
- Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Chapter 315.76.C to require the Historical Society to be notified upon issuance of a demolition permit.
- Amendment to Subdivision Ordinance Chapter 250.3 & .25.17.A regarding sketch plan review.
- Amendment to Site Plan Ordinance Chapter 229.2.C.3 to correct the chart.
- Amendments to Zoning Ordinance Chapter 315.6, .7, .8, .9, & .21 to increase the number of children allowed in daycare centers and nursery schools to 50.

I would like to thank each member of the Planning Board for their participation throughout the year.

The work of the Planning Board is greatly assisted by Christina Silberman who is the Administrative Assistant to the Planner, Code Officer and Assessor. The Planning Board also appreciates the input of the Town’s department heads who provide guidance on a variety of public safety and infrastructure issues.

Paul Auclair, Chair
Cumberland Planning Board



BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

The Board held one meeting during the fiscal year 2021.

Variance	_____	0
Special Exceptions	_____	0
Back Lot Reduction	_____	0
Special Permits	_____	0
Expansion of non-conforming use	_____	0
Interpretation Appeal	_____	1 — May 2021
Reconsideration of Interpretation Appeal	_____	0

Matthew Manahan
Chair



Photo by Mary Federle (Twin Brook)

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Cumberland Housing Authority is governed by an eight-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Town Council. The responsibility of the Board of Directors is to oversee the management of the 30 age-restricted (55+) rental units at Cumberland Meadows Senior Housing which are located adjacent to the MSAD #51 Middle School.

Due to the Covid pandemic, this past year presented many challenges in how service to our residents was provided starting with COVID screening questions for people requesting maintenance assistance within their unit. The Senior Shopping Support Program was available for all Cumberland senior citizens. The program was derived from Property Manager Jonathan Carpenter's concern for the safety of the senior housing residents during the pandemic. This shopping assistance program was instituted quickly by a handful of Town staff. A call for volunteer shoppers was sent out via the *Cumberland Crier* and the Town received an amazing response. Volunteers shopped for groceries weekly for seniors needing assistance. Requests for prescription deliveries were handled by Town staff. The program ran successfully for 57 weeks ending in April of 2021 and was greatly appreciated by all who participated.

The units are a mix of one and two bedrooms, and they feature an attractive, one-story floor plan with attached garages. The Housing Authority offers 3 subsidized units to those who meet eligibility requirements. Since their development in 1992, the units have been at full occupancy with lengthy waiting lists.

The Housing Authority meets several times throughout the year. Current Housing Authority members are: Bill Hansen, (Chair), Meredith Burgess, Norman Maze, Connie Bingham, Sally Pierce, William Stiles, Cara Biddings and Janene Gorham. Town Council Liaisons are Tom Gruber and Bob Vail.

Jonathan Carpenter, who provides maintenance for all the town buildings, also takes excellent care of the units and the Cumberland Meadows residents. We are fortunate to have such a talented, kind and dedicated employee in this important role.

Christina Silberman serves as the administrative assistant to the Housing Authority in addition to supporting the Planning, Codes and Assessing departments. Christina does a wonderful job handling the many day-to-day calls for service, processing of rent and rental agreements, utility checks and other clerical work. Her kind and positive demeanor is appreciated by our senior housing residents and co-workers alike.

If you would like more information on Cumberland Meadows, please call 829-2206.

Carla Nixon
Executive Director



L to R: Officer Joseph Burke, Sergeant Antonio Ridge, Officer Jacob Lachance, Captain David Young, Officer Matthew Merriman, Chief Charles Rumsey, Officer Scott Hendee, Sergeant Thomas Burgess, Officer Ryan Pynchon, School Resource Officer Kirk Mazuzan, Detective Benjamin Burnes, Animal Control Officer Bobby Silcott

It's incredibly hard to believe that we are more than halfway through 2021 as I prepare this submission for inclusion in our Town's Annual Report. The past year has brought about many changes to the way we deliver services to you, but I could not be prouder of the accomplishments of our team.

As we celebrate Cumberland's bicentennial, it's appropriate to look through the lens of history to consider what changes have occurred with respect to policing in our community.

Transportation: In 1821, the internal combustion engine had recently been invented, but there were no motorized vehicles. Any law enforcement officer providing assistance in Cumberland would have been traveling on horseback. Today, police fleet vehicles are truly mobile offices for our public servants. Hybrid engines are commonplace, and there are departments in the USA that are experimenting with electric vehicles for patrol work. Cumberland, which has 4 fully marked "front line" cruisers, has deployed two Hybrid Ford Explorers. These cruisers get excellent gas mileage (approximately 24 mpg vs. 17 mpg) and can idle much more efficiently than a gas-only engine. Our cruisers carry video systems, computer systems, medical gear, radars, radios, and our most important resource of all: the brave officers who stand vigilant and ready to respond to your calls, every minute of every day.

Communication: When Cumberland became a town, the invention of the telephone was still 55 years away. Messages were passed through word of mouth, or the written word. Now, we leverage technology to communicate immediately through text, phone, and social media. If we need to shut Route

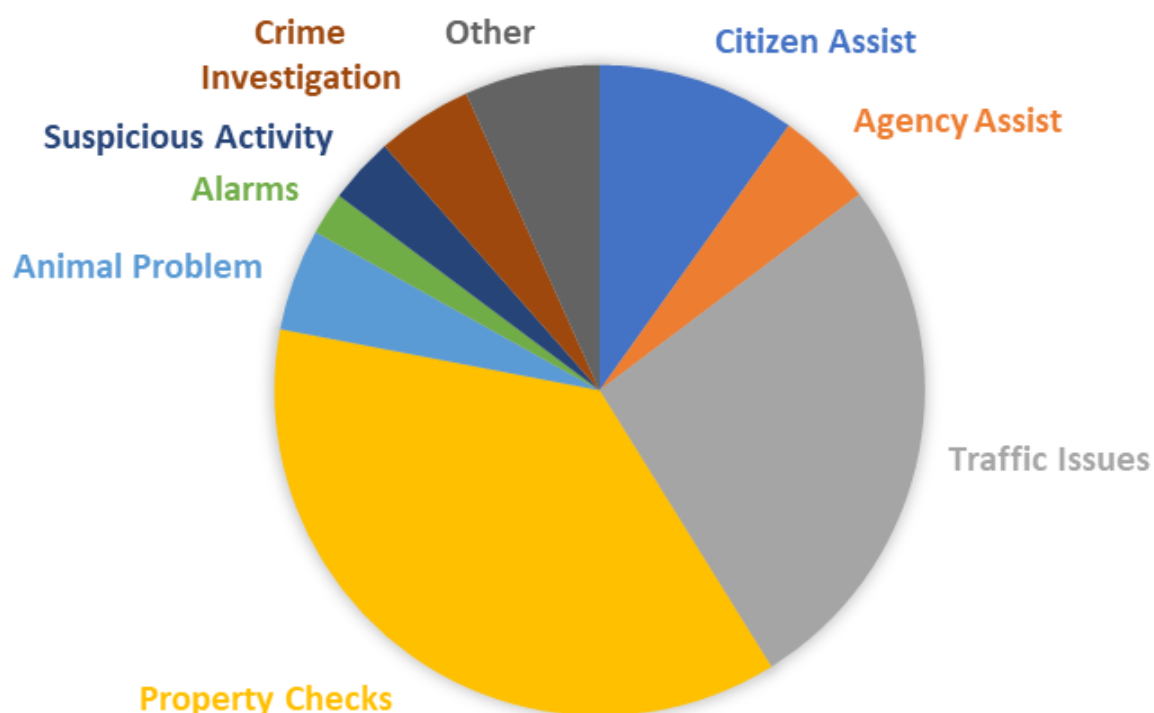


1 down due to a crash, Maine DOT can remotely program signs along the Interstate to warn motorists. Our community participates in CodeRED, a communication system which allows us to notify you via your land line or mobile phone in the event of a natural or manmade emergency. You can sign up here: <https://www.cumberlandmaine.com/police-department/pages/codered>.

Law Enforcement: Cumberland first fielded its own Police Department in 1954, a full 133 years after we became a town. Prior to 1954, investigations into crime would have been handled by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office (serving since 1760), the Maine State Police (serving since 1921), or a Town Constable. According to CCSO historical records, the Sheriff serving our county in 1821 was Joseph Foxcroft. Records from the 1873 Cumberland Town Meeting indicate that we had a constable named William Blanchard. In 2021, we are an independent police department of 12 sworn officers, and two civilian support staff.

Returning to the present day, it is appropriate to pause and reflect on the effects of COVID-19. It was a scary time in the spring of 2020 as we learned about the incredibly contagious virus which was sickening millions across the globe. In a very short period, police leaders were consulting with each other and health experts to learn how to best keep our officers and the community safe. Like many folks, masking and social distancing became normal. Unlike many folks, we continued to circulate in the town, monitoring traffic to ensure safe operation and responding to calls (although in a modified fashion). As a

CALLS FOR SERVICE, FY 20/21



team, we were successful in keeping ourselves healthy and in keeping the number of quarantines due to exposure to a bare minimum. Every member of the agency stepped up to help ensure our continued efficiency and readiness. As we begin to consider “post pandemic life,” I can tell you that I am truly humbled to work with such a dedicated team.

In the previous fiscal year, CPD handled a total of 8793 calls for service, which included a total of 94 arrests or criminal summonses, 1002 traffic warnings, and 106 traffic citations. I anticipate that when the Uniform Crime Reporting numbers are released for this year, we will find that Cumberland continues its enviable position as one of Maine’s safest towns. We are committed to our department vision, “To be the premier law enforcement agency protecting America’s safest town.” We will continue to work toward that goal by living our shared values:

Dedication - Respect- Integrity - Vigilance - Excellence - Nobility

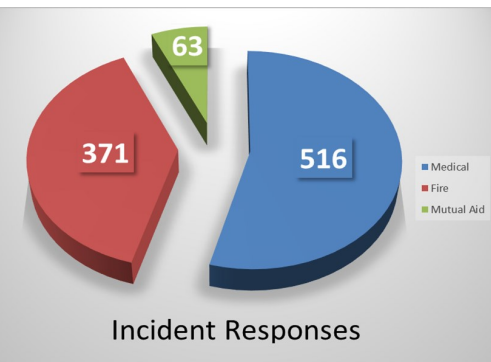


Charles Rumsey
Chief of Police



FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

I am pleased to submit the annual report for the Cumberland Fire Department for the fiscal year of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Over this period of time we responded to 950 incidents. The call-company, high school Explorers, college fire/EMS live-in students, per-diems and full-time members of the department have worked tirelessly to serve our community and our mutual aid departments. Our commitment to training and responding to emergencies at all hours of the day offers our town a tremendous level of protection. It is with great pride that I have had the opportunity to serve for 22 years as the Chief of Department.



Everyone has performed above and beyond expectations in regards to COVID-19. We operated as a teammate with all other town departments by maintaining necessary safety supplies so everyone could return to providing service to our community members as efficiently as possible. Mitigating Fire and EMS emergencies have not been diminished because our personnel follow all safety measures and never hesitate to provide necessary care. The largest contribution from the Cumberland Fire Department was obtaining vaccination shots. We not only coordinated shots for our public safety personnel, but to other town and state fire and police agencies, to other

town employees and to the public.

We replaced our ladder truck in October after two years of planning and research to determine what the best resource was for our community. The final product is a truck that can perform both the roles of a pumper and a ladder truck while keeping our firefighters as safe as possible. At a minimum, 15 hours of factory and in-house training was required for a firefighter to become qualified to drive and operate the truck at emergencies. A maintenance commitment for this vehicle is expected to keep it in service for a minimum of 25 years.





Another planning and research project resulted in the decision of what manufacturer should be utilized to begin the replacement of our SCBA. Some of our units were greater than 25 years old and were beyond their useful, and dependable, life span. We have begun purchasing and hope to have all replaced within the next three to five years.

With the excitement of celebrating our Town's Bicentennial we spent some time comparing our present day operations to how fire and medical emergencies were managed during our community's first year of independence in 1821.

- First and foremost, there was not a fire department until 1915 so there would be no fire stations, ambulances or fire trucks for another 94 years. Bucket brigades, while most typically ineffective, were only located in cities where there were enough people to actually form the brigade.
- Because our community had farms, ship building, blacksmith shops and sawmills located in all areas of town, there was a significant impact of fire safety. Things that we take for granted today simply were not available. There likely were no insurance benefits for property replacement or business interruption. If a farmer was not cautious enough to place dry hay in his barn the higher moisture content could create mold that could create a chemical chain reaction of spontaneous combustion. The cascading effect of losing the building, the loss of contents and then the resulting impact of not being able to feed the animals would be a tremendous loss to the home and/or business and to those who depended on its production of consumables.
- Kerosene and electricity were not available for several decades so candles were made at our local farms from beeswax, or from tallow, which is rendered from animal fat. We live in the Pine Tree State, so a common source of heat, light and cooking was wood. Fires from candles, stoves, fireplaces and/or hearths would at times become dangerous and uncontrolled. There was also a significant risk of burn injuries since there were no safety measures and standards put in place by agencies such as Underwriters Laboratory, because that company wasn't established for another 72 years. Adults wearing loose clothing and the lack of understanding by children, made burns a common source of injuries.

- This past year we responded to 516 medical emergencies. Several of these incidents required us to transport the patient to one of the hospitals in Portland for continued medical care. When we turn the calendars back to 1821 we didn't need an ambulance because there were no hospitals. Babies were born at home or in a birthing house, such as a home that was located on Main Street where a midwife would assist with the delivery. Some midwives would come to the home to oversee the delivery there. Other medical care may have been provided by the doctor living within our town. Travel to the patients would have been via horse in order to perform medical care or even certain procedures.
- Immediate reporting is critical to an incident being effectively mitigated. The present day goal of alerting EMTs and/or firefighters via radios or cell phones is 90 seconds after a 9-1-1 call has been made. Communication of emergencies 200 years ago included having someone travel from home to home to ask for help or having the bells at churches sounded. To this day it still seems like an eternity, because it takes a volunteer firefighter over 10 minutes to arrive at an emergency scene after it has been reported. Lives and property were at a much greater risk in 1821 so we are certainly fortunate to have the training and equipment that we have today.

With all of the advanced care and protection our department provides, the Town of Cumberland needs citizens to join our department. There are several differing roles that you can help with, such as: assisting with traffic control, driving fire trucks or ambulances, wearing air packs, or becoming an EMT, it is likely that we have a job for you. We truly need to build our base of volunteers, and it starts with you. There are hours of mandatory training to become a call-company member "volunteer" but it's truly rewarding to help others. To learn more about the skills and benefits of firefighting and emergency medical services, please view the Town Website or contact the department at 829-5421.



Daniel R. Small, EFO
Chief of Department

PUBLIC SERVICES

I am pleased to submit my 30th annual report on behalf of the Public Services team that consists of Public Works, Parks, Valhalla Golf Course and the Municipal Facilities Maintenance Department.

As 2020 closes and 2021 starts, the Town of Cumberland will be celebrating its Bicentennial and I will be celebrating 30 years of service to the Town I have grown up in. A lot has changed in Cumberland since the Town was formed 200 years ago, and a lot has changed since my family moved here 50 years ago. When I was growing up, Main Street was the hub of the Town. There were 3 stores, Harding's Store next to the post office, Ravens where Food Stop is today, and the Log Cabin



Christopher Bolduc,
*Assistant Town Manager
Director of Public Services*

Store on Blanchard Road, a barber shop, a dentist office, two doctors' offices, a gas station, a flower shop/green house, Sweetser's Apples, a bank and of course the schools. You got to all these places on a dirt sidewalk that was really a path across everyone's front lawns on Main Street. The Town hall was in the large blue building behind the Congregational Church, and the police station was next to town hall in the historic brick school building which is now located at the library and is being used by the historical society. The Public Works garage was a two-bay building located at the entrance to the operating dump, and the fire station was small but adequate to serve the volunteers that responded to emergencies. There were no large parks and the school grounds served as the hub for most recreation activities.

Today, Main Street Cumberland has taken a new look. The road has paved shoulders, the sidewalks are paved and have been extended through out the Town. The school has grown adding three new buildings and multiple additions. The Town Hall moved into a large 20,000sqft building housing all Town services and the police department, the fire station was upgraded with a 4-million-dollar renovation. The public works two bay garage was upgraded in the late 60's and again in 2021 with a 3.5-million-dollar expansion that will house the school department maintenance facility as well. We have developed hundreds of acres of parks and open space, including a beach and water access. Our recreation facilities are beautiful, well maintained and are the envy of many municipalities.

Our Town continues to grow but is doing so in a way that respects and maintains its infrastructure with the same mind set as the town Selectmen did 100 years ago as they celebrated the Towns Centennial. In the 1921 annual report, the Town Selectmen have articles in their town meeting that address maintenance of roads, adding streetlights, public water main extensions, funding for the fire department, funding for winter plowing and supporting schools. 100 years later the Cumberland Town Council still works with the same mind set with the same funding goals of 1921, we continue to maintain our assets and infrastructure with the goal to ensure the residents of Cumberland live in a safe and well cared for community.

Looking ahead to 2021 and the FY22 budget, I am pleased that the Town Council has fully funded our capital program after putting it on hold with the uncertainty of the pandemic. We will once again be in the neighborhoods all over town repairing drainage and repaving roads. The capital equipment budget was funded allowing departments to purchase much needed equipment. The State of Maine DOT will be beginning a large project on Route 9/Longwoods Road to add paved shoulders and resurface the entire length of road from the Falmouth line to North Yarmouth Line. The Town and School Department will be entering into a partnership consolidating services and working together in the new public services / school bus maintenance facility. There are a lot of exciting and positive things happening in Cumberland and I am honored to have such a great team working with me in a great Town.



Original Public Works garage



New Public Works/School Department facility under construction

PUBLIC SERVICES

Public Works

The Public Works department is responsible for the maintenance of our town's infrastructure as well as various tasks related to the operation of Town facilities and Covid didn't change this. The Public Works Department remained fully operational during the Pandemic, and we never shut down. A few employee's hours were lost to COVID as people had to adjust, like the rest of the town, to take care of family. As in years past, our infrastructure maintenance was completed, all resident issues and questions were addressed on a timely manner, and we even got a jump on some ditching and road improvement projects.



As the work environment became more challenging, we adjusted the way we worked. Instead of having multiple people in one vehicle, we assigned everyone their own equipment and to their own vehicle for social distancing. This method of keeping our staff safe had some unexpected benefits. When two workers arrived to complete a work order, we were often more efficient simply because we had more equipment on site with us. This resulted in fewer trips back to the garage to get a needed tool and allowed us to use our time more effectively. Also, when one staff member was diagnosed with Covid, our safety measures proved to be effective and prevented the spread within the department, keeping us healthy and productive. Public Works office staff was able to work from home until we came back into the office after the first 8 weeks. Much of Public Works' interactions with the public have always been conducted via the phone, so residents were able to conduct their business with Public Works in the same manner as always; it didn't matter whether they were talking to us while we were at Town Hall, on our cell or in our homes.

As we gear up for the Town Bicentennial, the Public Works Staff can reflect on the changes in the Department and the Town. Having several staff that are still on duty after almost 40 years, we have seen many of the changes in person. Several men were here back in the early 70's when the Public Works Garage was a little 2 door small block building. In 1977 we purchased our first diesel plow truck. This was remarkable in that the gas truck only got about 2 miles per gallon. The new diesel trucks got about 6 miles per gallon at that time. We cut our winter fuel bill by almost by two thirds. Now, most of our fleet are diesel and gas mileage continue to improve.

We no longer take care of the roads on Chebeague Island like we used to do, but we have added miles of roads and sidewalks here on the mainland. We've also added miles of trails at our Parks which Public Works has assisted with. We've built bridges and walkways and stairs to the ocean, increasing the residents' access to the natural resources available in our community. We have closed a landfill and added solar to that area – it went from generating a pile of waste to generating sustainable energy. All of this without increasing the staff – in fact, we operate with fewer staff than we did just one decade ago. Our department is a prime example of how to do more with less and how Cumberland can move forward being safe and efficient.

Steve Googins
Public Works Foreman



Photo by Brian Allenby (Knight's Pond Preserve)

PUBLIC SERVICES

Parks Department

The maintenance of our Parks, in addition to the other public facilities, takes a great deal of work and the pandemic didn't change this. Our staff was busier than ever! Fields needed to be maintained regardless of how many games were played on them. Trash cans were filling quickly, trails were seeing a great deal of traffic, weather continued to blow down branches, and equipment need to be maintained – all of which needed our ongoing attention. The grass kept growing and we kept mowing.



Whether the Town parks were opened or closed or just had limited use during Covid, the work of maintaining those parks continued and staff didn't miss a beat. As people looked for family centered activities where they could maintain some social distancing our parks have become meccas for the residents. The Town has 5 major parks: Twin Brook, Broad Cove Reserve, Knight's Pond, Town Forest, West Cumberland Recreation Complex and Rine's Forest. Twin Brook is the town's most used park. It is in use from sunup to sundown by a wide age range of people doing anything from walking their dogs, flying kites, playing soccer to eating their lunch.

We are glad we have so much to offer the residents of Cumberland. It seems like we have more to offer each year. In the last decade alone, we have added to Rine's Forest acreage, added Broad Cove Reserve to the Town's list of parks and given Cumberland residents access to the ocean, as well as having added on the Knight's Pond Preserve. We now have a playground in West Cumberland and pickle ball courts there as well as at Val Halla. The Town is growing in population, but we are ensuring that we will keep all that makes Cumberland beautiful a high priority.

As we look forward to hosting the Bicentennial Event at Twin Brook, we will be working harder than ever to ensure residents can be proud of their parks. Enjoy the beautiful facilities in Cumberland! Please be respectful of the rules at each property. You can find information, maps, dog guidelines, management plans, and more on each park's web page.

Theo Bosarge
Parks Superintendent

Val Halla Pro

Municipal golf courses have played a pivotal role in the communities that they serve since the first municipal course opened in New York, in 1895. Originally set out to provide access to beginners and those unable to join a private club, municipal courses across the world have maintained their founding principles for more than 100 years, introducing the game of golf to people of every socioeconomic background.

Val Halla, though not originally intended to be a municipal facility, had those same founding principles. Built in the early 1960's and opened in 1965, as a 9-hole course, Val Halla quickly became a secondary option for residents that had been playing at Portland's Riverside Golf Course. In the early 1970's, only a few years after opening, the original founders (Bob Leighton, Bob Darling, Dave Higgins, Bud Bernard, Andy Bunker, and Ted Lauritzen) were forced to sell Val Halla to the Town. Since then, Val Halla has continued to provide residents of Cumberland, as well as our neighboring communities, the ability to learn a lifelong sport.

The past year, while more challenging due to a worldwide pandemic, was Val Halla's busiest and highest revenue year in our 56 years of operation. While the COVID-19 pandemic took our world by storm, it was golf that was able to stand above other forms of recreation and activity, providing physical exercise, socialization and the ability to physically distance from others. For many people, the golf course was the only place they felt safe outside of their own home. In FY21, we saw significant increases in rounds played by greens fees (close to 35%) and we also had an increase of 25% in memberships sold.

Along with increases in our daily play, Val Halla also saw a large increase in demand for our junior golf programs. With many youth sports being cancelled due to the pandemic, we worked tirelessly, in coordination with the Recreation department, to make sure that our junior camps were able to run without issues, constantly updating our protocols to follow CDC guidelines. In total, we had over 400 kids participate in Summer and Fall programs in FY21 and this trend doesn't seem to be changing, with all 2021 Summer programs at maximum capacity.

In addition to our golf related activities, we also offer four seasons' activities for non-golfers during the off-season months. We provide residents with plowed walking trails to take their dogs on, snowmobile trails and access to the local trail system, some of the best sledding hills in Town, as well as great terrain for snowshoeing. If you haven't come down in the Winter yet, I highly recommend checking out what we have to offer this year.

Looking ahead, I am very excited about what the future holds for Val Halla. Through all that we do to promote junior golf, our adult leagues and clinics, and the member tournaments we run, Val Halla is perfectly positioned to take advantage of this wave of new golfers. We also hope to expand our offseason offerings to provide more open space for residents to take advantage of in the Winter. The future at Val Halla looks bright!



Nick Plummer
Head Golf Professional



Photo by Toby Young

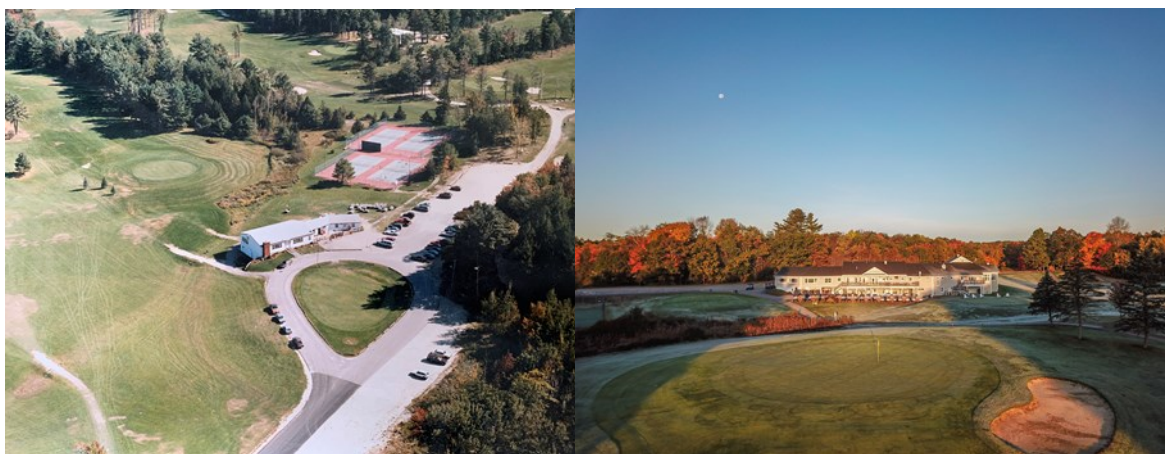
Val Halla Grounds

While it is not our bicentennial this year, Val Halla has been a part of Cumberland's history for nearly 60 years. Val Halla was founded by six Cumberland residents and designed by architect Phil Wogan (son of Skip Wogan who worked closely with world renowned course architect, Donald Ross). They broke ground in the early 1960's and opened Val Halla as a 9-hole golf course in 1965. In the early 1970's, the Town acquired the golf course making it one of only a handful of municipal golf courses in the state. In 1986, again with the design help of Phil Wogan, and the Public Works Dept., the back nine was opened making Val Halla a full, 18-hole golf course.



Toby Young
Val Halla Grounds Superintendent

The golf course has seen many changes and improvements since then; the clubhouse being the first one you see when you arrive. The new clubhouse, which was built in the early 1990's is vastly different than the original clubhouse, as seen in the photographs below. Through the years, this building has evolved into a hub for Maine golf; housing at one point the Maine State Golf Association, the Southern Maine Women's Golf Association, the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association and, given that Val Halla has arguably the largest junior golf program in the state, the Maine Chapter of The First Tee also found it as a suitable location.



Left: Clubhouse, 1989. Right: Clubhouse, 2020

While not as noticeable from the parking lot, the golf course itself has seen the most change over time. With the support of the town and my dedicated staff, numerous improvements have been made in pursuit of a vision. A vision to create a golf course Cumberland residents can be proud of. A course that is challenging enough for the best players, welcoming enough for beginners and an open space that residents (golfers and non-golfers alike) can enjoy in the off season. Tee-to-green cart paths and extensive drain lines in the fairways were installed to increase accessibility. New tees were built; larger to accommodate more play, longer to appeal to better players and forward tees to facilitate those just

getting into the game. Greens and fairways were expanded to be more player friendly while still providing a challenge. While all these changes to the layout are most important to the golfer, it is the changes to the physical property itself that I am most proud of.

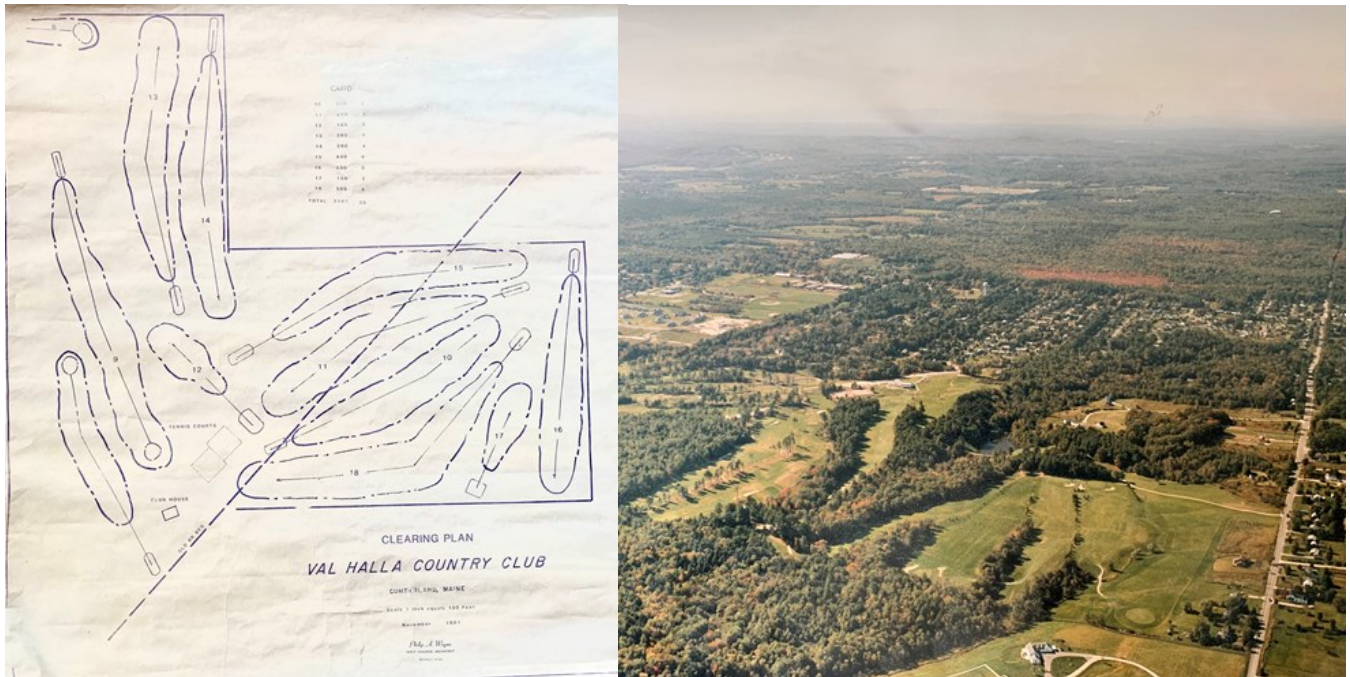
For the last decade, my goal has been to create a golf course that is sustainable and environmentally friendly. This past spring, I completed our facility adoption of the *Best Management Practices For Maine Golf Courses*; a 200-page manual published by the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association with the help of New England universities (UConn, UMASS & UMaine), as well as local authorities like FB Environmental, Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Maine DEP and Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District to name a few. The manual is broken down into 12 chapters that cover topics such as Water Quality Monitoring, Management and Protection, Nutrient Management, Pollinators, Energy Management, Sustainable Landscape and many more. Our facility adoption is a 150-page document outlining Val Halla's compliance with these BMP's and notes the changes made to our operation.

We have achieved a lot of progress over the past decade. We have significantly reduced our energy consumption with lithium golf carts and a state-of-the-art pump station. We have saved millions of gallons of water annually using wetting agents and soil moisture sensors. We have drastically cut our chemical inputs through proper nutrition and agronomic practices. We have converted almost 300,000 square feet of minimally used turf to native/naturalized areas to increase wildlife corridors throughout the property. We have teamed up with numerous organizations such as *Operation Pollinator* and *Monarchs In The Rough* to increase pollinator habitats. We have documented over 125 different plant, tree, animal, and bird species. Most of these things would not be possible without the hard work of my staff and the numerous Cumberland residents that volunteered countless hours of their time and expertise over the years.



My staff and I are proud to showcase our sustainable operation and environmental stewardship to golfers and non-golfers alike. In the off season, countless residents enjoy the property through walking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and sledding. In season, the golf course and tennis courts are full from sun up to sun down. I believe we have found a balance between golf and nature as

well as golf and the community, since we have never been busier year-round than the past few years or done as well financially. The original founders of Val Halla envisioned an 18-hole golf course that was accessible to the public – all of the public – and I feel that my staff and I have achieved that over the past few decades and we are proud to be a part of Cumberland’s history.



Left: 1981 Back 9 Concept. Right: 1989 18-Hole Aerial

2018 Back 9 Aerial (New Front 9) - Photo by Toby Young



PUBLIC SERVICES

Community Recreation



(L to R: Rob Hale, Heather Brown, Patty Murphy, Pete Bingham, Sarah Davis, Jen Gifford, and Nick Plummer)

As with every facet of our lives changing in mid-March of 2020, Cumberland-North Yarmouth Community Recreation Department was significantly impacted by the economic and societal impacts of Covid-19.

While the past year was most challenging socially, financially and in multiple other ways, I would like to highlight some of the positives and successes. First I'd like to thank our residents for practicing social distancing measures at all of our public parks, trails and outdoor facilities during the past year, particularly prior to the gradual relaxing of some restrictions in April.

I would also like to recognize our staff as they eagerly stepped up the challenge and used their considerable talents to adapt and re-invent programs and activities working with the guidelines and restrictions that were in place.

We were one of the few Recreation Departments in the state who still held a Summer Day Camp Program in 2020. While significantly different in size and overall operation, we were able to offer a safe, and engaging recreation opportunity for over 90 children each week. For many of the participants, this was literally their first interaction with friends and peers in over three months since school and society in general were shut down in mid-March. For parents it was an opportunity to once again go to work knowing their children were in a nurturing setting with staff they were familiar with.

While the Day Camp Program was up and running along with a handful of other enrichment based camps, we were simultaneously exploring how to implement and operate a school year Care Based Program to serve the needs of the community under the school "Hybrid" schedule.

Pulling off this program was a true team effort as we collaborated with the Town of North Yarmouth to

house the Full Day Care portion of the program at the Community Center as well as working with the School Department to offer care at both MIW and GMS for students on the days they were in school. Well over 100 families took advantage of these services and for the 2020-21 school year. 19 staff oversaw these three programs daily over the past 10 months and between contact tracing, quarantines and Covid cases, no two days were ever the same!

While there are still many unknowns to the upcoming year we are approaching 2021-22 as the “bridge year” back to normal. Many programs, activities and events are scheduled to return and I think I can speak for my staff and the overall community when I say this will be a welcome sight to see. Thanks and once again thank you for your patience, vigilance and positive feedback!

Peter C. Bingham
Recreation Director

Cumberland Recreation Department Over the Years

Cumberland Recreation Department was founded by Glenn Hutchins in the mid 1960's. “Hutch” had two active boys and saw a need to engage the youth of our community in an organized fashion. From team sports to activities, games and events, Mr. Hutchins had the vision and foresight to roll this programs into the Town of Cumberland municipal umbrella. What started with an annual operating budget of \$900.00 in 1966 has grown into 1.1 Million in program revenues for 2019! While many things have changed in the 55 years of organized recreation in the Town of Cumberland one constant has been serving the residents of our communities by offering quality programs, events and activities.



Cumberland's First Recreation Director, Glenn Hutchins with son Kyle (Circa 1960)



Cumberland Recreation “Junior Olympics” (1982)



Cumberland Recreation Director (1991-2010)
Bill Landis (With daughter Christine)



Grand Opening of Greely Pool, (January 1968)

PRINCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Today, Prince Memorial Library houses a collection of over 55,000 items and provides access to innumerable digital holdings that include ebooks, audiobooks, magazine and journal articles, and reference databases. We have 5,417 card holders who managed to visit the library over 25,000 times in the past year. We circulated 98,075 items over the course of the year.

The year 2020 was one of challenge and change. In response to the realities of COVID-19, library services shifted in delivery of services, instating our Grab-n-Go shelf, initially to minimize points of contact but remaining now because of its ease and efficiency for library patrons. The demand for digital items, accessed through Digital Maine and Cloud library, has increased to 10% of our annual circulation. To meet this growing demand, Prince Memorial Library has added exclusive holdings to our existing Maine In-fonet Download Library.

Our COVID response included a move to remote programming for all library events. Online technology allowed us to reach patrons when they couldn't come into the building. This had the added benefit of expanding our audiences for library book groups, Camden Conference lectures, yoga classes, and the



Library staff members being treated to whoopie pies and other goodies by the Friends of Prince Memorial Library. Picture l. to r.: Youth Services Librarian Kelly Greenlee, Asst. Director Elizabeth Manning, Director Thomas C. Bennett, Circulation Librarian Arabella Eldredge, Technical Services Librarian Pam Copenhagen, and Circulation Aide Jennifer Benham. Not pictured: Circulation Aides Carolyn Currie and Sally Somes and pages Nola Gallo and Ashley Van Rensselaer.

powerful and provocative discussion series *Race and Equity: Three Voices*, facilitated by Dustin Ward.

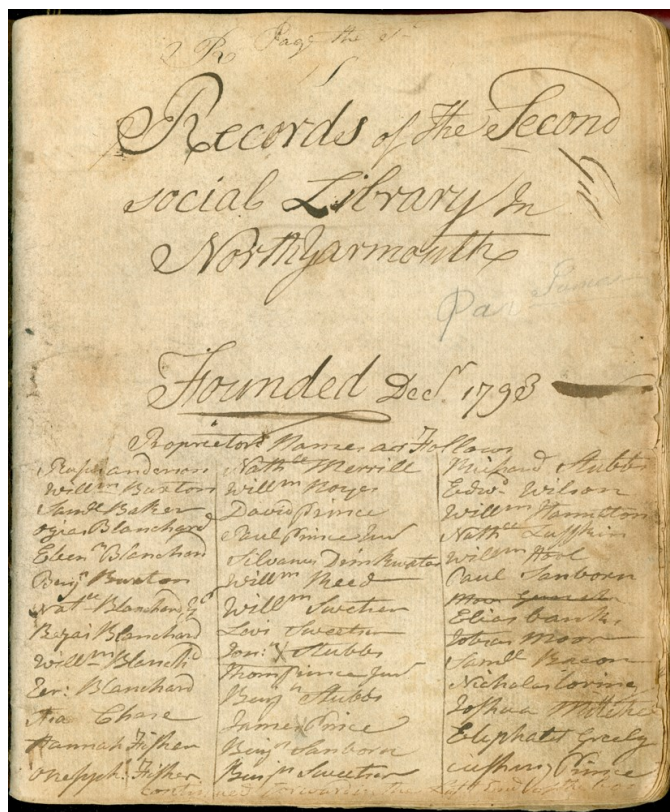
Youth Services followed suit, implementing programs that focused on outreach, with online storytimes for preschoolers; semi-weekly on-site visits with the Town Recreation day camp program; a wildly popular take-home craft program (80 kits distributed per week!); and even a virtual cooking class for kids who cooked and completed kitchen challenges from their home kitchens. Within our walls, we strove to offer programs that engaged and excited children, while continuing to keep them safe and distanced. Our annual Lego contest achieved new highs, with 44 contestants and more than 200 voters. The bleakest days of February and March were brightened as kids gleefully carried home wrapped Super Secret Books, which parents said briefly made their houses “feel like Christmas” and kids said introduced them to some new favorite books. A virtual monthly Young Adult-Adult book group focused on race in fiction began as a four-part series, but continues today, drawing new participants each month.

PML anticipates keeping remote options available while returning to in-person programs in fall of 2021, exploring ways that we can offer a wide range of programming that not only draws people into the library but also brings the library to the community.

Prince Memorial Library, A Historical Perspective

In 1747, **Deacon John White** of the **First Congregational Church of North Yarmouth** left a bequest that contributed to the establishment of a lending library near the church, which was located on the Foreside in the present-day town of Yarmouth. In **December 1793**, the 40 men and one woman, residents of **Walnut Hill** and the village that would later become **Cumberland**, signed a document establishing the Second Social Library in North Yarmouth. The concept of a social library established by proprietors who paid a fee to belong and borrow books was not unique in the area, as one was established on **Falmouth Neck** in 1766. The books of the Second Social Library in North Yarmouth were kept in the home of the appointed librarian.

The Second Social Library in North Yarmouth was incorporated on January 13, 1817, and with the secession of Cumberland from North Yarmouth in 1821 became the First Social Library of Cumberland. The proprietor's tax, or membership fee, which had been nine shillings when the library was established in 1793, now stood at two dollars. Proprietors had a right to take out one bound volume for two months at a time. The fine for an overdue book stood at one cent per day, and proprietors were "accountable for all damages done any book..." The final entry in the record



December 1793 document establishing the Second Social Library in North Yarmouth

book is dated March 20, 1855, and is a call for a meeting to “see what disposition shall be made of the books and to manage the concerns of said Library.” It is unknown whether the meeting was called to consider an end to the Library or to find a new home to house the books. What is known is that 40 years later, the **Reverend Frank Davis**, pastor of the **Congregational Church of Cumberland** from 1892 to 1899, and his wife **Helen**, worked to organize the Cumberland Library, which was founded in 1897. The books of the Cumberland Library were housed in the homes of volunteer librarians until Prince Memorial Library opened on January 7, 1923.

Construction of Prince Memorial Library, 1922





Photo by Emily Bell

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Town of Cumberland would like to thank the board and committee members who so generously give their time to maintaining the character and beauty of our community. Council and Board appointments expire as of Dec. 31 of the designated year. Terms are for three years. Town Council elections are held in June, and positions are three-year terms.

TOWN COUNCIL

Ronald Copp, Jr.
Michael Edes
Allison Foster
Thomas Gruber
Shirley Storey-King
George Turner
Robert Vail

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS

Andrew Black
Ronald Copp, Sr.
Peter Lacy
Christian Lewis
Matthew Manahan
Michael Martin
Sally Pierce
George Turner*
Amanda Vigue

AGING IN PLACE COMMITTEE

Barbara Berkovich
Brian Cashin
Hilary Doane
Rita Farry
Pam Flick
Allison Foster*
Deb Gray
Mike Kemna
Suzie McCormack
Sally Pierce
Cicely Russell
Thomas Gruber*

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Baily Douglass
Tig Filson
Emily Gray
Rhonda Grigg
Dale Hahn
Allyson Knowles
Christina Mitchell
Megan Pelsinski
Carolyn Small
Shirley Storey-King*

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Shaun Alfreds
Amanda Berticelli
Peter Garsoe
Alan Johnson
James Thomas

BOARD OF SEWER APPEALS

Doug Pride
Ralph Oulton
Steve Sloan
Rhonda Grigg

COASTAL WATERS COMMISSION

David Carlson
Thomas Gruber*
Ivy Frignoca
Peter Garsoe
Robert Johnson
Hugh Judge
Mike Schwindt
Richard Thompson
George Turner
Robert Vail
David Witherill

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING COMMITTEE

David Echeverria
Linda Fulda
Thomas Gruber*
Eli Rivers
Carolyn Small
Robert Vail*

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Cara Biddings
Connie Bingham
Meredith Burgess
Janene Gorham
Thomas Gruber*
Bill Hansen
Norman Maze, Jr.
Sally Pierce
Bill Stiles
Robert Vail*

LANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Jennifer Bell
Sukie Curtis
Allison Foster*
Ivy Frignoca
Dennison Gallaudet
Matt Grondin
Jenn Grasso
Thomas Gruber*
Ellen Hoffman
Riva Krut
John Jensenius
Jesse Lamarre-Vincent
Mike Schwindt
George Turner*
Sam York
David Young

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Amy Amico
Melissa Cott
Chris Fitzpatrick
Rhonda Grigg
Bill Hansen
Sally Pierce
Travis Seaver
Nancy Storey
Shirley Storey-King*
Don Stowell

PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

Kenneth Blanchard
Estelle Bouchard
Michael Brandon
Alfred Butler
James Clifford
Doug Pride

* Denotes Town Council liaison

PLANNING BOARD

Paul Auclair
Amanda Berticelli
Thomas Gruber*
Bill Kenny
Lorraine Rardin
Jason Record
Joshua Saunders
Ann Sawchuck
George Turner*

**PRINCE
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY
ADVISORY BOARD**

Kelly Barnes
Jerry Benezra
Trudy Dibner
Linda Draper
David Echeverria
Thomas Foley
Linda Putnam
Jill O'Connor
Eli Rivers
Bill Stiles
Shirley Storey-King*

**SHELLFISH
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

Charles Adams
Michael Brown
Peter DelBianco
Peter Garsoe
Thomas Gruber*
Robert Maloney
Ralph Oulton
Paul Sololoff



Photo by Janine Giustina

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

CUMBERLAND

1821 ⇄ 2021

On March 19, 2021 the Town of Cumberland turned 200 years old! In 1821, residents of the southwestern side of North Yarmouth signed a petition requesting that a new town be incorporated. These residents cited the travel required to attend town meetings and perform “the ordinary duties as a citizen” in such an extensive area was inconvenient and burdensome. While the distances the residents were looking to reduce are no longer the burden they were, the benefit of a smaller, closer community can still be felt today.

It’s a community that has evolved and grown. But for 200 years, during struggles of wars and pandemics, and during times of growth and building, through life’s milestones like graduations and birthdays, the people have come together and remained at the heart of this community. Take a look at the celebrations the Bicentennial Committee has planned to honor our town’s birthday!

Birthday Parade

On Saturday March 20, 2021 the festivities kicked off with a Birthday Parade through Cumberland! Members of our public safety team led concurrent parades that met in the center of town. Community members lined the streets, held up signs and balloons and cheered as the procession made it’s way towards the center of town.



Online Exhibits

Online exhibits were launched that displayed historical images from the past 200 years! The town of Cumberland, Maine, seceded from the town of North Yarmouth on March 19, 1821. The new town was

approximately eight miles long and three miles wide, included twenty-two square miles on the mainland and eighteen offshore islands, and had 1,386 residents. This exhibit outlines the process that led to the creation of the new town, and highlights aspects of Cumberland's history through the past two centuries. View it here: <https://cumberland200.omeka.net/exhibits/show/cumberland-thru-200/cumberland-through-the-years>

Scavenger Hunt

Track the ten Cumberland Pines around town to complete the Bicentennial Scavenger Hunt! Explore the historic sites and landmarks on this fun-filled trek around Cumberland Center.

Apparel

Purchase Bicentennial swag (*hats, sweatshirts, t-shirts, water bottles, etc.*) and the new 'Cumberland' book at Town Hall. Items will be available for purchase until the end of 2021!

Twin Brook Celebration

The grand finale is slated for Saturday, September 18th at Twin Brook! Join us for a fun-filled day. Below is a schedule of events:

10am: Tuttle Trot

11:00am: Kids Fun Run

11:30am: Hope Garden Planting by the Cumberland/North Yarmouth Mental Health Committee

11:00am - 7:00pm: Games + Food Trucks

11:00am - 3:00pm: Photo Booth

12:00pm - 3:00pm: Car Show presented by Copp Motors

3:00pm: Time Capsule

3-6:00pm: Carriage Rides from Spring Brook Farm & Market

3-7:00pm: Jack Streeter/Juggler

6-6:30pm: Community Band Performance

7:00pm: Concluding Speech, Singing of Happy Birthday, and Cupcakes

7:30pm: Fireworks



LANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Lands and Conservation Commission (LCC) and its subcommittees had a productive year in addressing some of the conservation needs within the Town. Together, these groups include 27 individuals volunteering their time, talents and energy to help improve our Town, with many serving on several subcommittees and work groups.

Much of the effort is at the subcommittee level although the Commission, along with its administrative responsibilities, also gets involved with the hands-on work. For example, this year some of its efforts resulted in:

- ◆ The placement of two more benches, courtesy of the Foreside Garden Club; the first at the Butterfly Garden (BFG) and the second in the Town Forest, near the Senior Housing.
- ◆ Mapping and characterizing trail and sidewalk data along with the related GPS information. Additionally, the work group developed a standardized naming convention for town parks, trails and sidewalks for consistency among parcels.
- ◆ Hours of weeding and mulching the BFG as well as expanding the unique peony area.
- ◆ Photographing the nature trail plants in the Town Forest. The photos are linked to the individual plants and will be available when the nature trail is put online.
- ◆ Planting and maintaining the pollinator garden at Val Halla.

As noted, much of the fruits of our efforts are accomplished at the subcommittee level. Each subcommittee develops its annual work plan, meshes its efforts with the other subcommittees and the Commission and the combined plan is provided to the Town Council for its advice and acceptance.

The primary task of the **Forestry Subcommittee** (FS) in FY 2021 was to complete the forest management plans for the Town's two new properties: Knight's Pond and Rines Addition. To help fund this work, the FS applied for and won a \$6,000 Project Canopy grant from the Maine Forest Service. These funds largely defrayed the professional services of Paul Larrivee, the Town Forester.

A key component of these two plans is a timber cruise. For this work, the forester lays out a series of sample plots (about 1 plot every 3 acres) and measures and identifies each tree in the plot over 4" in diameter. Key statistics are species, diameter at chest height and saw log potential. From this tree-level data, the forester can then ascertain the overall forest type, its rate of growth and guidelines for timing of future harvests and notable conservation values such as wildlife habitat.

Knight's Pond, at 205 acres, is a well-developed and productive hardwood forest of the oak/hickory type. One 15-acre portion harbors a shagbark hickory community, relatively rare in Maine; the FS has decided to manage this as a conservation preserve. Also important is the riparian zone around the pond itself with its unique flora and fauna. The FS has designated a 100-foot no-cut, buffer zone around the

water's edge to protect this habitat and minimize runoff into the pond. A segment of the White Trail will be relocated to steer clear of this buffer. Lastly, some portions of the forest, such as the beech stands along the northwest slope, are candidates for a sustainable timber harvest.

The Rines Addition at 85 acres is a younger forest that is predominantly softwood of the red pine type. Much of this red pine is the result of a plantation established by the Rines family after World War II on former pastureland. Although its soils are less productive than those of Knight's Pond, this area is growing rapidly because of its relative youth. There is some competition to the native trees from invasive species such as buckthorn. These factors argue against timber harvests in the near future until the tree canopy grows more dense and abates the encroachment of invasives.

Of great interest to the Maine Forest Service and a subject of the grant is the rate of carbon sequestration of these two forests as exemplars in Cumberland County. Part of Maine's Climate Action Plan is to maximize the rate at which Maine's forests can offset carbon dioxide emissions. Through photosynthesis, trees naturally draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequester it in the new wood, branches and roots added each year. The Town Forester estimates that this rate of storage is about 3 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide per acre per year based on data collected in the timber cruise. This is more than double the rate of carbon sequestration of Maine's North woods, which are thinly stocked and primarily spruce. This result also confirms the assumptions made in Cumberland's own Climate Action Plan.

Another important project was taking action to mitigate the severe infestation of invasive plants in roughly 10 acres at the midsection of the Town Forest. What looked to many like a clear cut was, in fact, a meticulous brush hogging of these invasives and retention of all live trees and saplings for regeneration. In the coming months, the invasive plants will be treated with herbicides. The last step will be to replant with native trees and shrubs that will tolerate the wet soils in this area of the forest. The Public Works Department has done yeoman's work on this project.

Other FS activities during the year included a re-work of the Twin Brook forest management plan, research and mini-plans for the Town's small forest holdings, outreach to open space and other woodland owners in Town, trail work – to name a few.

At close to 1,000 acres, the Town's forests are a valuable, even irreplaceable, resource for the community. This value was highlighted during the pandemic with record use of trails for walking, running and biking.

The **Recreational Trails Subcommittee** continued its efforts to monitor, maintain, and improve Cumberland's Town-owned trails. During the year, the Town's trails saw a second year of increased usage due to the COVID-19 virus, and the unusually heavy rainfall and wet conditions during the summer put an additional stress on the trails. Fortunately, much of the trail work completed during the fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021 mitigated these adverse conditions.

As part of the Town's efforts to build sustainable trails and minimize impacts on the environment, the Town Council approved the subcommittee's proposed standards for trail construction and maintenance on Town-owned trails. During the year, these standards were used in the construction of numerous bridges and walkways in Rines Forest and Greely Woods, and to harden several thousand feet of soft or wet sections of trail. The Town's Public Works Department and the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust also substantially contributed to these efforts. In addition, the subcommittee posted colored trail markers on many of the trails on Town-owned properties.

The trails in Rines Forest saw the greatest number of improvements with the construction of two bridges and seven walkways totaling about 450 feet. More than 18 yards of gravel were used to harden sections of trail surface that had become soft, muddy, or rooty due to the increased usage, and sections of blocked or overgrown trails were cleared. Additional trail markers were added at trail intersections to help direct people who are unfamiliar with the trails system. Also, a section of the snowmobile trail was re-routed onto the Godsoe portion of Rines Forest to avoid private property.

For Greely Woods, most of the effort was directed toward improving the trail surface in soft or muddy areas. About 16 yards of gravel was used to harden about a thousand feet of trail surface. One bridge was built to allow better access from Crystal Lane. In addition, the subcommittee worked with property owners to mark connecting trails on private property, thus allowing trail access to Greely Woods from several additional neighborhoods.

During the year, the subcommittee also worked to finalize two trail easements across private properties and, where needed, to harden the trails with gravel. These easements now provide permanent access from Crystal Lane to Greely Woods, and from Farwell Avenue to MSAD 51 property.

Additionally, the subcommittee worked with developers of new subdivisions in the Town in an effort to retain existing trails and develop new trails.

At its January 2020 meeting, the LCC established the **Climate Action Plan Subcommittee** ("CAP SC"). Its charter calls for it "to develop a Climate Action Plan that would specify a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal for the Town of Cumberland and set out a coordinated and formal plan to achieve such goal."

The CAP SC, now consisting of seven members, delivered the first phase CAP at the end of January 2021. It includes action steps for the Town and MSAD 51 to go carbon neutral by 2030; and the Town itself to be carbon neutral by 2050. The Plan was approved by the Town Council on June 14, 2021, by a unanimous vote.

The Phase 1 report and recommendations were restricted to the GHG emissions of the Town and MSAD 51 and are provided on the Town website at: https://www.cumberlandmaine.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif446/f/uploads/cap_final.pdf.

Photo by Brian Allenby



Phase 2 will address the roles of commercial and residential greenhouse gas emissions and the dovetailing of same with actions taken by the Town and MSAD 51; it is to be completed and presented to the Town Council for consideration by December 31, 2021.

The Phase 1 Report estimated that total baseline Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are 66,129 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents: residential (79%), commercial (13%), school (7%) and town (1%). By 2019, some 25% reductions from the baseline had been realized by projects such as switching fuel to natural gas, the landfill solar array and efficiency investment.

A survey conducted of Cumberland citizens received 742 responses, representing 28% of households. Its main findings were:

- ◆ Residents are clearly engaged in the topic of climate change.
- ◆ Residents see climate change issues as connected to broader issues.
- ◆ Residents are taking action to reduce their impact on climate change.
- ◆ Residents have clear proposals for future climate change mitigation action in their Town

Cumberland's two Phase I goals are to achieve a carbon neutral Town and MSAD 51 by 2030; and to launch and promote a unique Town brand of Sustainable Cumberland.

These goals can be achieved by taking the following actions on top of actions already taken:

1. Develop a MSAD 51 solar farm.
 2. Install industrial scale heat pumps to supplement natural gas heating and mitigate the GHG effects of natural gas heating.
 3. Phase in Electric Vehicles or plug-in hybrid automobiles, light duty vehicles and school buses.
 4. Set aside a 225-acre forest carbon reserve from Town-owned woodlands.
 5. Design and build new public buildings to a zero-carbon standard.
 6. Make available 5 to 10-acre parcels of town-owned land to market gardeners.
 7. Develop a tree planting program for public ways and easements.
 8. Engage MSAD 51 staff to integrate sustainability principles and the CAP into K-12 curricula.
- Delegate to the Town staff the duty to annually analyze and report the GHG emissions generated within Cumberland.

The Phase 1 Report and the plans to achieve carbon neutrality for the Town fits well within a general increase of local, state and national activity and interest in taking action to avoid contributing to more climate change and to help mitigate some of its impacts. Most excitingly, the Town of Cumberland's Climate Action Plan shows practical steps to achieve carbon neutrality, including the development of a forest carbon reserve to offset 25% of the Town GHG emissions.

In the Fall of 2020, the **Invasives Subcommittee** identified quite a number of knotweeds and purple

loosestrife growing in the ditches along our major roads. These were sprayed with good success in many areas but, unfortunately, there are still many more colonies of these species growing, along with a number of other invasive species.

The Invasives Subcommittee also worked with the Forestry Subcommittee and the Town Forester to develop a plan for beginning to clear out some of the heavily infested areas within the Town Forest with a goal of controlling the invasive plants and replanting with native species that will bring the area back to its natural state.

The **Farmland Assessment Subcommittee** devoted its efforts to getting an understanding of the types of soils within the Town, their location, and current usage. Future direction for the subcommittee will be set as we learn more about the Town Council's goal setting decisions.

All told, we believe we had a good year – but there is much more to be accomplished. Our ambitious 2021 work plan is at <https://www.cumberlandmaine.com/2021lccplans> . Ideally, we will get everything done before the snow flies. Realistically, we may not – but that's OK. If you are interested in these or similar subjects, please let us know by volunteering for appointment to the Commission or the subcommittees. You may let us know by contacting your Town Councilor, Town Staff or us. I believe we can find a challenge you will enjoy.

Mike Schwindt,
Chairman



Photo by Hilary Doane

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dear Citizens of Cumberland,

I am pleased to submit this annual report on behalf of Maine School Administrative District #51. We strive to fulfill our mission to *Engage, Empower, and Inspire each student in our care every day.*

On March 13, 2020, all schools closed to in-person learning for three months before reopening our facilities in September 2020 with a hybrid model. The 2020-21 school year was marked by ups and downs as we handled 110 positive COVID-19 cases involving students and staff and well over 1,000 quarantines from school. Our teachers, staff, and administrators rose to the challenge and did the best job anyone could have asked given the health emergency we have faced.



I am so grateful and proud of the way our schools and staff have met kids' needs despite every obstacle possible during this unprecedented time. I am also grateful to our parents and families for hanging in there with us for the last 18 months, riding this roller coaster with us, and trusting us with the safety and education of their children.

Here are some ways that our students and staff experienced change over the last year: Greater reliance on technology, Google Meets lessons and meetings, a hybrid model, live streaming, remote options, remote planning, rethinking how we interact and intervene with students, reconfiguring classroom setups, hyper-vigilance about health and safety, physical distancing, eating in classrooms, more outdoor learning, wearing masks



Jeffrey Porter
Superintendent of Schools

Scott Poulin
Director of Finance, Human Resources & Operations

Julie Olsen, Ed.D
Director of Instructional Support

Susie Robbins
Director of Academic Services

Carla Fancy
Assistant Director of Instructional Support

Dirk Van Curan
Director of Technology

all day, learning and teaching in awkward ways given health restrictions, constantly changing schedules and conditions, remote parent-teacher conferences, remote staff meetings, sports and activities curtailed, identifying the most essential standards students need by the end of this unprecedented school year, quarantining in and out of in-person learning, working with students who are being quarantined, smaller class sizes due to cohorting, more individual attention on in-person days, owning the impact of the pandemic on schools even though it's not anyone's to own, isolation, mental health challenges of students, staff, and parents, fear of contracting the virus, vaccination frenzy, resiliency, and -most importantly- hope.

MSAD #51 has long been recognized as one of the leading school districts in Maine in academics, athletics, and the arts, and we will continue to be so well into the future. Our district has always worked in the best interests of all students, even when people may disagree with those decisions. We have placed great value on student learning from prekindergarten through graduation, and have done so with academic clarity, careful planning, hiring only the most talented teachers and staff, and providing outstanding learning experiences for all students.

Below you will find representative highlights from the 2020-21 school year. Though not an exhaustive list, it provides a snapshot of the remarkable people and events happening in your school district over the last year.

ACADEMICS

- US News and World Report ranked Greely High School #1 in Maine for the second year in a row in 2021. Congrats to students, staff, and families for making our high school the best in the state.
- During 2020-21, MSAD #51 educated 2,094 students in varying modes of learning, including in-person, remote, and hybrid, along with many instances of outdoor learning experiences. There were 125 students enlisted in the MSAD #51 Remote School option.
- Greely High School held its first outdoor graduation in decades this past June, with the ceremony taking place on the new outdoor amphitheater with families and staff looking on.





- The district hired 10 teachers and leased 11 modular classrooms for one year to reduce class sizes and be prepared for pandemic situations as they arise.
- Jordan Young, Eden Marshall, and Maya Zimmerman, students at GMS 6-8, had their National History Day documentary project “Do Not Ride a Bus Today: How Communication in the Montgomery Bus Boycott Desegregated the Public Bus System” featured at The National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, part of the Smithsonian Institute.
- Three GHS students were named 2021 US Presidential Scholars candidates: Elizabeth Hanson, Jonathon Piesik, and William Young.
- GHS students Elizabeth Hanson and Christopher Martucci were named Semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.



ATHLETICS & CO-CURRICULAR

- The Greely Debate Team was the 2020-21 Maine Champions in Congressional Debate, winning three out of five of Maine's spots in the NCFL National Finals tournament.
- GHS senior Zach Whiting for earning the Academic All American award. Fewer than 2% of National Speech & Debate Association student members earn the Academic All American award in the US.
- Five members of the equity steering committee joined a consortium of Portland-area school districts and the University of Southern Maine for training on equity work.
- The Rangers Golf team won the 2021 Class A state championship.
- The Rangers Girls Lacrosse were the 2021 State Class B Runner-ups.
- Lizzy Hanson was the 2021 WMC Slalom Champion and Leif Harvey won the 2021 WMC Nordic Ski Championship.
- During a late August evening under the lights, the Falmouth-Greely football co-op team played South Portland at Hutchins Field, the first home football game in nearly three years.
- Greely athletics and technology department partnered to broadcast live sporting events on YouTube.
- GHS senior Nola Gallo was one of 250 high school students in the US to be awarded the prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) scholarship. CBYX is a bilateral exchange program co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and German Bundestag (Parliament).
- The Grand Piano Committee organized and raised funds to purchase a new grand piano for the Greely Center for the Arts.
- The GHS Madrigals Virtual Choir hit the big time and was seen on all three local TV stations WCSH, WMTW, and WGME singing a commercial for Reny's Department Stores.
- GHS students Sebastian Alfreds & Matthew Gilbert participated in a virtual All-National Honors Chorus, interacting with internationally renowned conductors and the best singers from every state in the nation.
- 8th grader Maya Douglas was a semi-finalist in the Future Engineers Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest, one of 52 semi-finalists of 14,000 applicants in the US.



- Cross Country Coach David Dowling was recognized by the Board for recognition as Coach of the Year.

DISTRICT & COMMUNITY

- The Facilities Committee and Board have continued to work on plans for a new primary school, the latest version located on the existing campus with the potential purchase of additional land.
- Voters approved the 2021-22 budget in June with less than a 1% impact on the tax rate.
- Federal funds were used to hire additional staff, build an outdoor amphitheater and pavilion, upgrade the district's network, invest in concurrent learning technology, and secure COVID supplies.
- GHS students Avery Olsen and Nathan Farnham built fourteen tables for the school campus as part of an Eagle Scout project.
- MSAD #51 hosted a COVID vaccine clinic with Northern Light Homecare for students 12 & older with 197 students participating. Many thanks to MSAD #51 Nurses Nancy Terison & Erica Sarapas for coordinating and to Cumberland Rescue for assistance during the clinic.



- The Board and Leadership Team hosted 10 “Listening Sessions” with parents and staff over the course of the year to hear concerns, answer questions, and gain feedback about the schools.
- The MSAD #51 Board approved the *Greely Goes GREEN Plan as the guide for navigating the pandemic*.
- A Superintendent’s COVID advisory group was formed with 15 stakeholders representing students,

parents, staff, and health care providers to advise on pandemic-related matters.

- Thank you to Jennifer Benham (and her many helpers) for the donation of over 400 handmade cloth face masks for students to use.
- Jenn McAdoo and community members rallied and attended a spring Board meeting to show support for Board members and the administration. Many families also helped to decorate the campus with hearts to show support for students and staff and promote a positive community environment.



- All students and staff were invited to participate in a district-wide "Unity Chain" Link installation, representing the interconnectedness and diversity of all students.
- GHS freshmen Sean Allen and Charlie Moore were featured on News Center 6 for starting their own nonprofit business where they sell calendars in order to help out students in the community who need cold weather clothing, along with school supplies.
- The joint SAD 51-Cumberland-North Yarmouth Mental Health Committee held a community conversation with the National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI) to help talk about the effects of the pandemic, understand grief, build resilience, and find local resources.
- The PK-12 school nurses were recognized as the 2021 MSAD #51 Employees of the Year. The nurses were instrumental in keeping students & staff safe during this challenging year. Pictured (l to r): Lora Rolfe, Nancy Terison, Erica Sarapas & Chrissy Givans (not pictured: Nicole Anderson).
- The new SAD transportation facility was completed this fall in partnership with the Town of Cumberland.
- Students from the GHS Climate Action Team met with Revision Energy and Cumberland Town Manager Bill Shane to discuss Cumberland's solar farm on Drowne Road. Students learned about solar energy's benefits toward sustainability.
- Siemens Industry provides us with periodic reports as to energy efficiency and savings based on a major energy project that was conducted in our schools six years ago, with the guaranteed savings exceeding the estimate by 22%, a total energy savings of \$839,22 and counting.
- Skillins sponsored gardens at GHS & organized the junior class's work on planting 4,500 bulbs.



- Our school partners, Greely PTO and Foundation 51, contributed financial resources, time, and expertise in strengthening our classrooms and programs during the pandemic.

To learn more about MSAD #51, I encourage you to visit our website at www.msad51.org for complete information about the district.

I wish to thank all the students, staff, parents, and community members for their continued support and commitment to the ideals of our high-performing school district. Collectively, we are all Rangers and, indeed, We Lead The Way.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey J. Porter
MSAD #51 Superintendent of Schools





Photo by Kali Pratt

GOVERNOR OF MAINE

Dear Friends:

When I took the oath of office as Maine's 75th governor, I never imagined that we would face a deadly pandemic. For nearly sixteen long, difficult months under a State of Civil Emergency, it was my responsibility to guide our state, to keep Maine people safe and healthy, and to stabilize our economy.

Guided by science and expert advice, I am proud that our state implemented one of the nation's best COVID-19 responses. We have distributed billions of dollars in Federal aid to minimize economic disruption and to support our people and businesses, and we implemented tailored public health measures to protect the health of Maine people. Because of this work, Maine has one of the lowest COVID case, hospitalization, and death rates in the country and we have one of the highest vaccination rates in the nation. Our economy is on the path to recovery and my Administration continues to partner with the Legislature to advance measures that will support Maine people.

In July, joined by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, I signed into law a balanced, bipartisan budget that supports Maine people. For the first time in Maine's history, we are funding 55 percent of education costs, we are fully restoring revenue sharing with municipalities to five percent, and we are providing property tax relief to hardworking Maine families and seniors. The budget also increases the State's Budget Stabilization Fund, or Rainy Day Fund, to an historic high.

My Administration has worked with the Legislature to pass the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, an investment of more than \$1 billion in Federal relief funds to address economic development, workforce, and longstanding challenges. Drawing heavily from my Economic Recovery Committee and the State's 10-Year Economic Development Strategy, the plan supports Maine small businesses and heritage industries, encourages job creation, and invests in essential infrastructure – roads and bridges, broadband, affordable housing, and child care. Together, we will rebuild and strengthen our economy and rise from this unprecedented pandemic to be a stronger, better state than ever before.

The people of Maine have persevered and remained resilient, and I congratulate and thank you for all that you have done to protect yourselves, your loved ones, and your fellow citizens throughout this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor



UNITED STATES

SENATE

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to reflect on 2020, an incredibly challenging year for Maine families, small businesses, and communities.

When the pandemic struck, our country faced the specter of an overwhelmed health care system and devastation to our small businesses and the millions of people they employ. I immediately worked with Republi-

cans and Democrats to pass multiple laws allocating approximately \$3 trillion to respond to this public health and economic crisis, including more than \$8 billion directed to Maine to support testing, schools, the economy, and other purposes — that is nearly double Maine’s annual state budget.

I am especially proud of the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) I co-authored. This program has provided three out of four Maine small businesses with nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, which has helped sustain more than 250,000 Maine jobs. I have met thousands of Maine small employers and employees in all 16 counties who are surviving because of the PPP. As one small business owner told me, the PPP provided “exactly what we needed at exactly the right time.” The PPP also allowed employers to maintain benefits, such as health care, during this challenging time. Another round of PPP is needed to sustain small businesses and their employees.

While the pandemic continues across Maine, our nation, and the world, I thank the first responders, health care professionals, teachers, grocery store employees, factory workers, farmers, truck drivers, postal employees, and so many others who continue to stay on the job during this difficult time. With the deployment of the first vaccines, better tests, and the incredible speed with which these life-saving responses were developed, I am hopeful we can emerge from this crisis in the next few months.

While providing relief to American families was my focus throughout 2020, other accomplishments include the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provides full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the maintenance backlog at our national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. As Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, in 2020 alone, I secured \$132 million to improve Maine’s roads, bridges, airports, buses, rail, ferries, and seaports. Finally, as Chairman of the Aging Committee, I led the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which funds programs that improve the well-being, independence, and health of our nation’s seniors and their caregivers, and I authored laws to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and protect individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.



As the end of 2020 is approaching, I have cast more than 7,535 votes, never having missed one. In the New Year, my focus remains to work with colleagues to find common ground on policies to help support the health and safety of Mainers and the safe, responsible opening of our communities. If ever I or my



Susan Collins
United States Senator



Photo by Amy Martin

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

2020 has been a year of unconscionable loss and hardship. The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged our nation, magnifying long-unaddressed inequities. I hear daily from constituents whose lives have been upended by the pandemic. As we navigate these ongoing challenges, my top priority in Congress has been to advocate for the resources Maine residents, businesses, and institutions need to weather this crisis.



In March, the CARES Act was signed into law, providing much-needed relief to Mainers, including expanded unemployment benefits, stimulus checks, grants and loans for small businesses and nonprofits, and funding for health care providers on the front lines of this crisis. As this crisis wore on, I saw increased need; that's why I voted for the Heroes Act in May and again in October to provide further support. I'm relieved we passed another relief package at the end of December, but I know another round of support is still much needed in the coming year.

The pandemic isn't the only crisis we face. Climate change threatens Maine's environment and industries. This summer, the Gulf of Maine recorded its hottest day, and we experienced the longest, most severe drought in 20 years. Maine farms continue to be stymied by climate change, but they can also play a crucial role in combatting it. In February, I introduced the Agriculture Resilience Act to ensure American agriculture is net-zero by 2045. The release of Maine's Climate Action Plan is a major step in the fight against climate change. I will continue to work with state leaders to ensure they have federal support to achieve this agenda.

2021 will offer different challenges. We must distribute a vaccine to millions, restore jobs, uplift the economy, and repair the divisions that undermine our ability to make meaningful change. I look forward to working with the incoming presidential administration to meet these challenges and emerge as a stronger, more resilient nation.

As always, the needs of Mainers guide my work as we recover from this crisis. If there is anything my office can do to help, please reach out.

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

SENATE OF MAINE

Dear Residents of Cumberland,

I hope 2021 finds you and your loved ones thriving. Thank you for the opportunity to represent Cumberland in the Maine Senate — it is a tremendous privilege to serve this community in Augusta.



Maine is still contending with COVID-19. As always, I appreciate all of the sacrifices the people of Cumberland are making to reduce the risk for themselves and others, including wearing a mask, social distancing and, chiefly, getting vaccinated. If you need assistance with services of any kind, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

As Chair of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, I am proud of the work we did this year to lower taxes, invest in Maine people and save for the future. In the biennial budget, we increased the state's share of K-12 education funding to 55% to provide schools with the resources they need while shifting costs away from taxpayers. We further lowered property taxes by expanding the Property Tax Fairness Credit and increasing the rate of Municipal Revenue Sharing to 4.5% this year and 5% in Fiscal Year 2023. And we gradually increased the reimbursement to towns for the Homestead Exemption program until it reaches 100% in ten years.

Additionally, we appropriated nearly \$1 billion of federal aid to provide a one-time \$300 "hazard payment" to more than 500,000 eligible Mainers who worked throughout the pandemic, expand internet access across Maine, invest in Maine's small businesses and heritage industries and much more. Finally, we increased the Rainy Day Fund to \$492 million — a historic high.

I like to use this space to remind folks about unclaimed property, or money owed to Maine people by third parties, such as former employers, banks or utility companies. It could be from a forgotten account or uncollected wages, and could be unclaimed as a result of a change in name, addresses or bank account. Go to www.maine.gov/unclaimed or call 1-888-283-2808 to see if the state is holding any unclaimed property for you.

Please email me at Cathy.Breen@legislature.maine.gov or call (207) 287-1515 if I can be of service to you or if you would like to share any thoughts or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you around soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Breen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cathy Breen
Senate District 25

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear friends and neighbors in Cumberland:

This year's legislative session has looked quite different from any previous session due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were sworn in at the Augusta Civic Center, and much of our early work took place remotely, with both legislators and the public participating via the internet. Even though we were able to accomplish a great deal, I was grateful that our meetings moved back to the State House in the spring.



Despite the many complications brought about by the pandemic, I am encouraged by all the good work that we did. In June, we passed a unanimous bi-partisan budget bill out of committee and had a nearly unanimous budget vote in the full Legislature to keep the state operating for the next two years. We were able to lessen the burden on property tax payers by increasing the state share of education funding to 55% for the first time and by increasing revenue sharing to cities and towns. To further help property tax payers, the Legislature also voted to put more resources into the Property Tax Fairness Program and the Homestead Exemption.

In addition to tax relief, we improved access to broadband, augmented workforce training, increased the pay for long-term care workers, invested in cleaning up toxic chemical contamination and improving Maine's infrastructure. We were also able to raise the balance in the Budget Stabilization Fund to almost \$500 million by adding nearly \$231 million.

The Legislature, through the federal American Rescue Plan Act, was also able to provide additional funding for a variety of initiatives to benefit Mainers including workforce training and to assist small businesses who are still being challenged by COVID-19. We also made important investments in affordable housing, weatherization and childcare, all to ensure Maine's economic recovery today and a prosperous, sustainable and equitable future for generations to come.

As we look ahead to this next legislative session, I am committed to working with all my colleagues to advocate for our community and move our state forward.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to represent you again in the 130th Legislature. It is truly an honor to serve this district. Please contact me if I can be of any help to you and your family, or if you want to discuss any legislation. I welcome your questions and feedback.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Moriarty".

Stephen Moriarty
Representative District 45



