



CITY OF CALAIS

September 2019

Greetings from the Manager

It is my privilege as City Manager to express my viewpoint regarding things happening around town and give updates on projects currently ongoing or scheduled for the future. It is also my intention to use this newsletter as a tool to remind Calais residents of upcoming events and activities throughout the year and recognize those community members that go above and beyond to make Calais a great place to live. This newsletter will be posted on the city's website www.calaismaine.org and available at the City Building each quarter.

As we recently wrapped up another successful International Festival, it's time to focus our attention to the fall and the 2019 Scarecrow Fest being held on October 25th and 26th. The committee is hard at work preparing for a wonderful festival with lots to do and enjoy for all age groups. The Festival gets kicked off Friday evening with an 'ole fashioned farm dinner provided by Crumbs Café and Bake Shoppe. The spread will be laid out in the Fountain Park parking lot in the heart of downtown with entertainment provided by Calais' very own Meghan Clark. Following the festivities on Main Street, there will be a dance at the Triangle Park hosted by DJ Tanika Niles for the younger crowd and the Black Magic Bash hosted by the Calais Lioness at the Calais Motor Inn for the adults. The next day there will be a pumpkin carving contest, face-painting, waterfront haunted hayride, bobbing for apples, chili cook-off, casket race, cadaver throw and of course, the scarecrow decorating contest! **Main Street will be blocked off between Monroe Street to North Street from 12 noon until 5 p.m. on Saturday.**

Within the next two months our city playgrounds will have had a complete overhaul and facelift. Many thanks to our local Lions Club for adopting the Union Street playground and with the addition of new equipment at Memorial Park and DiCenzo Athletic Complex, things are really starting to take shape for the kids in our community. Regarding the adults that enjoy outdoor activities, the Friends of Devils Head Conservation Park have been working to maintain the hiking trails, creating picturesque views, and creating a great family experience to those who visit the park. If you don't want to leave town for exercise, then I suggest venturing down to the waterfront trail which offers some of the best scenery in the area. The Triangle Park sidewalk project is moving along and we hope to have that completed by the end of September. The project was scheduled to be completed before International Festival, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the project started two months later than planned.

In conclusion, I would urge everyone in the community to get out and take advantage of the beautiful fall weather, enjoy the festivities, relish in the spectacle of the changing leaves and spend time with your family at one of our upgraded parks... because we all know what's around the corner!

"Democracy begins in conversation." – John Dewey

Mike Ellis
Calais City Manager

Fall Sports offered by Calais Rec. Department

The change in the weather means that fall is just around the corner and fall sports have officially begun. Fall sports being offered this year include; Elementary/Jr. High X-Country, Jr. High Soccer, Jr. High Volleyball, K-2 Soccer and 3-5 Soccer. For the latest updates on practices and schedule changes, visit the Calais Recreation Department Facebook page.

Tax Bills Due October 1st



The City of Calais Assessor has been working diligently to get all taxes committed for 2019-2020. Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were committed on July 12, 2019 and were mailed out on July 22, 2019. Taxes are due on October 1, 2019 and interest will be charged on unpaid taxes at an annual rate of 9% beginning on October 2, 2019. After eight months and no later than one year from the date of commitment, a lien will be placed on all real estate for which taxes remain unpaid. Please contact the Tax Collector's Office for information regarding: payments, interest, costs and/or refunds at (207) 454-2521 option 2. Valuation concerns or account changes should be directed to the Assessor's Office at (207) 454-2521 option 5. Taxes may be paid by mail, in person, or online. To pay online, please visit www.calaismaine.org and click the 'Pay My Taxes' link. Please make checks or money orders payable to **City of Calais** and mail to:

Tax Collector, City of Calais
PO Box 413
Calais, ME 04619

If you would like a receipt, send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

Downeast Broadband Serviceable Addresses for Calais Residents

Downeast Broadband Utility is a Non-Profit that is bringing high speed broadband internet to the Calais and Baileyville areas. Downeast Broadband Utility and the fiber network is owned by the citizens of Calais and Baileyville. Here is a list of Calais addresses eligible soon for hookup as of August 21, 2019:

Washington Street: All Houses
Lincoln Street: All Houses
North Street: House #79- #446
South Street: House #92- #526

To be connected, or to get more information please contact an internet service provider (ISP). Current providers are listed below:

Pioneer Broadband
Email: info@pioneerbroadband.net
Telephone: (207)532-1254

Follow or 'Like' Downeast Broadband Utility on Facebook!

Volunteers Needed

The City of Calais is seeking volunteers to serve on various boards. Volunteers are expected to attend occasional evening meetings as scheduled. If you are a Calais resident and have an interest in civic affairs and community involvement please call City Manager, Mike Ellis at 454-2521 ext. 8 or email manager@calaismaine.org.

Calais Downtown Revitalization Coalition is always seeking volunteers. If you have an interest in the future of our City's downtown, please consider becoming a volunteer. Please contact City Manager Mike Ellis at 454-2521 ext. 8 or email manager@calaismaine.org.

Schedule of Meetings

Meeting schedules and agendas for City Council, Planning Board and School Committee can be found on the City's website at:

<https://www.calaismaine.org/meeting-schedule-agendas/>

If you were unable to attend a meeting and would like to know what took place, meeting minutes for City Council, Planning Board and School Committee can be found on the City's website at:

<https://www.calaismaine.org/meeting-minute-archives/>

OUR
SCHEDULE!

Job Openings

The Calais Police Department is seeking a full-time Police Officer. Persons with questions are urged to contact Chief Randall at policechief@calaismaine.org.

Calais Fire-EMS is seeking per diem Paramedics. Interested applicants may contact Chief Clark with questions or to request an employment application at (207)454-7400.

Job openings are also listed on the City website at www.calaismaine.org.

For assistance please contact the City Building at:

11 Church Street

or

PO Box 413 Calais, ME 04619

Tel: (207)454-2521

Fax: (207)454-2757

Open Monday thru Friday

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



School is Back in Session

The start of the 2019-2020 school year started for Calais students on August 28th. They have been in school for almost 2 weeks and are starting to get in the swing of a new routine. Please watch for kids that are standing at the ends of driveways waiting for the bus and make sure to stop when a school bus has its stop sign and red lights flashing. For kids who walk to school, please be aware of crosswalks especially the one in front of the school. The speed limit in a school zone is only 15 mph!



Permits

- Building Permits are available at the City Building and online under Code Enforcement. These do come with a charge which is explained on the back page of the permit. Demolition Permits are a part of the Building Permit, free of charge. Many residents may not know that a Demolition Permit needs to be completed so the City is aware of the building being demolished.
- Plumbing Permits are available at the City Building and do come with a charge.
- Transfer Station stickers are free and available at the City Building for residents whose vehicles are registered in town. If you are seasonal, there is a paper permit that needs to be filled out at the City Building, free of charge. Sticker permits will expire on January 31, 2020!