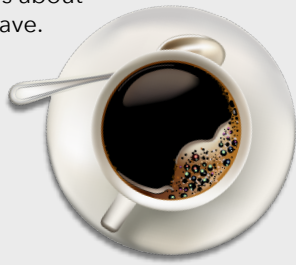




Afternoon Chat With Jerry Question & Answer Session with the Town Manager

On the last Wednesday of every month from 2 to 3pm the Town Manager invites you to join him for an hour of conversation. This is a good opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ideas, or to ask questions about any concerns you may have.

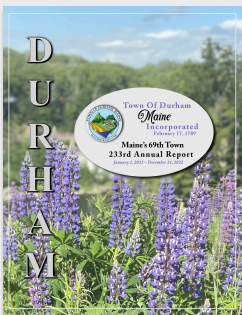
To sign up please reach out to the Town Clerk if you are interested in discussing a topic. The first opportunity will be October 25th.



Email Town Clerk or
call: 207-353-2561 ext. 111

Durham Awarded First Place Winner For Annual Report

The Town of Durham has been selected as the "supreme" first place winner of the 2023 Annual Report Competition in the 2,500 to 4,999 population category.



The criteria used by Maine Municipal Association's four-person review panel focused on the attractiveness of the cover and layout, as well as reader appeal; the presentation of the materials, including financial statements, statistics, and trends; and the use of tables of contents, photos, and graphics to succinctly inform readers of your community's achievements.

[Durham Annual Report](#)

Update to the Senior Property Tax Stabilization Program

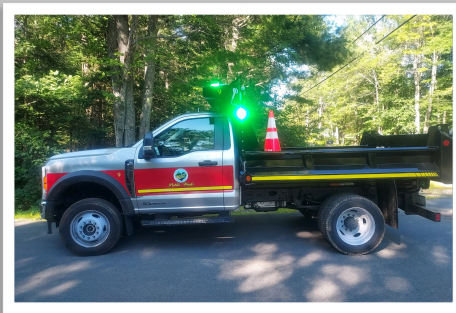
LD 290 "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" Repealed by State Legislature

The LD 290 "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" program, enacted in August 2022, was repealed by the Maine Legislature on July 6, 2023, with an effective date of October 11, 2023. The popularly regarded program had allowed Maine seniors 65 and older who owned a permanent residence for at least 10 years and were receiving (or eligible for) a homestead exemption, to freeze taxes at the previous year's level regardless of income.



To help low-income seniors avoid higher property taxes and remain in their homes, two existing State programs are being expanded:

- **The Property Tax Fairness Credit**, which currently allows eligible Mainers to take a \$1,500 credit, has increased to \$2,000; it also loosens limits on the program in a way that allows the benefits to remain constant for a Mainer whose spouse passes away. For more information, please visit: [Property Tax Fairness Credit Summary](#)
- **The State Property Tax Deferral Program**, a lifeline loan program that covers the annual property tax bills of Maine seniors age 65 and older who cannot afford to pay them on their own, has been expanded. It doubles the income limit on that program to \$80,000 and also raises asset limits. Taxes must be paid back when the home is sold or becomes part of an estate. For more information, please visit: [State Property Tax Deferral Program](#)



Public Works New Utility Truck

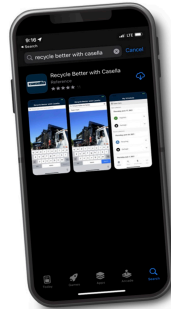
The Public Works Department is excited to have received our new Ford F550. We have been requesting an additional truck for the fleet for several years now and she has finally arrived. This truck was paid for with federal ARPA (Covid Relief) funds at no direct out of pocket cost to the Durham taxpayer. This truck will allow our team more flexibility by allowing us to spread out and complete tasks at multiple locations simultaneously. Additionally, this truck will be a great asset assisting with the 76 miles of winter plowing operations as the 2008 Chevy one ton was being overburdened.

Runaround Pond

Royal River Conservation Trust delivered the "Bruce's Burritos" blue picnic table to Runaround Pond. Special thank you to Bruce's Burritos for the donation of the table and to Mike Libby and Michael Friendly for the delivery!



INTRODUCING A NEW CASELLA APP FOR DURHAM RESIDENTS



Casella has developed an App that has information specific to the residents of Durham.

The App makes it even easier for you to stay connected about your trash and recycling collection programs and it includes a **collection calendar with reminders**, and a **searchable Waste Wizard A-Z listing** tool.

Download today by **scanning a QR code** with your smartphone camera!



SCAN FOR THE APP STORE



SCAN FOR THE GOOGLE PLAY STORE



RECYCLING • SOLUTIONS • ORGANICS • COLLECTION • ENERGY • LANDFILLS

casella.com

Durham Ball Field

Durham Youth Baseball has begun work to adjust the outfield fence distance of 165 feet from home plate to 200 feet, to comply with little league baseball.



Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Planning Board Meeting
Durham Town Hall

October 4, 2023
November 1, 2023
December 6, 2023

6:30pm

Conservation Commission Meeting
Durham Town Hall

October 18, 2023
November 22, 2023
December 20, 2023

6:30pm

Select Board Meeting
Durham Town Hall

October 10th & 24th, 2023
November 14th & 28th, 2023
December 12th & 26th, 2023

6:30pm



Staff Highlight



Jessica Landberg
Town Clerk

Year Started: July 2021

Favorite thing about your position: I like the various aspects of the job which allows me to help the residents of Durham with everything from birth certificates to dog licenses, to helping elect the next presidential candidate.

What do you like to do when you are not working at the Town Office? I love being outdoors! I enjoy hiking, walking and enjoying Maine's beautiful coastlines. My favorite is Popham Beach!



Family Life: Jessica moved to Durham in 2009 with her family. She is very involved in the community, volunteering her time at the school and other community groups.

Dog Registrations

Beginning October 15th you will be able to register your dog(s) for the 2024 Calendar Year. Please remember a current proof of rabies vaccination is required. The registration period will be open from October 15th through January 31st. A \$25 late fee per dog will be added after this date.



Vote By Absentee Ballot

Election Day is November 7, 2023

Absentee ballots will become available and will be provided to voters beginning in early October.

An absentee ballot request must be received by the Town Clerk by 6pm on Thursday, November 2, 2023.



[Absentee Ballot Application](#)



Fun Facts of Durham, Maine

Did you know . . .

Durham had it's own post offices, one was located on West Methodist Corner, Route 9, inside the Merrill Store.



Photos courtesy of the Durham Historical Society



Merrill Store Post Office Mail Slot

“Did you know that Durham had several different post offices located in town? Each of Durham's four settlements (Southwest Bend, West Durham [Methodist Corner], South Durham and East Durham) had a post office located within. Southwest Bend had the ES Warren Store, South Durham had Hussey's Store, West Durham was Merrill's Store and the location and name of East Durham's store is unknown at this time. In addition, Shiloh had its own post office. Each of the post office locations also served as a General's Store. By 1920, all the post offices were replaced with Rural Free delivery. In 1991, Durham was granted its own zip code, with service through the Lisbon post office. Before that, the town was served by rural routes from four surrounding towns. The picture shown is of Merrill's Store, which was located on West Methodist Corner, Route 9. The building, but not the barn, was still standing into the 1950's. William Merrill (shown in the picture), owned the store on Methodist Corner. William had a twin brother named Joseph. The Historical Society is now home to post office mail slots that were once housed within the Merrill Store.”



William Merrill inside his store.



Merrill's Store is the building on the left.

~ Tia Wilson
Durham Historical Society



Durham Fire's New Utility Truck #27

This 2022 Ford F-350 is Durham Fire's Utility 27. It came equipped with a Reading service body. The department uses it as a rapid response vehicle to respond to all town emergency scenes. It is also used to shuttle members between simultaneous calls, carry needed equipment to remote occupancies, transport damaged or used equipment and hoses, and set up barricades during storm responses. It carries medical, forceable entry and rescue equipment.



October is Fire Safety Month

- **Make sure smoke alarms are working properly**
- **Create a Home Escape Plan**
- **Do not run a generator indoors or in a partially enclosed space like a garage.**

**Durham Fire Department
Open House ~ October 7th
10 to 2**