

The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around & About Arrowsic

Volume 38, Number 3
Autumn 2024

RAVE—Real-time Safety and Emergency Alerts

Arrowsic – As Sagadahoc County Emergency Management (EMA) reflects on the past year’s emergencies, protecting our residents and building resilient communities remains our top priority. In July, Sagadahoc County EMA took an important step towards improving our communications during emergencies by implementing a new emergency notification system, called RAVE. During periods of high tide and major flooding, State Route 127 floods in low-lying areas, but many people are often left wondering, “How will I know if the road is closed due to water over the road?” When Sagadahoc County EMA implemented the RAVE mass notification system, notifying every one of the closures of critical transportation routes was one area that we are trying to improve upon.

With winter weather rapidly approaching, we want you to be prepared for those events that could impact you! Using the RAVE mass notification system, local officials can alert residents in real-time when a roadway is no longer safe to drive on. You can get this information through a text, phone call and/or email notification. This system is completely customizable to you as the resident and can provide you valuable safety information regarding road closures, parking bans, missing persons, evacuation orders, and so much more as soon as your local officials issue these warnings.

Have you signed up for RAVE to know when these things are going to impact you or your loved ones? Sign up today before it’s too late and see what other community members are “RAVE”ing about by visiting:



<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=SCEMA> or by scanning the QR code. **For more information on the RAVE mass notification system, please contact Sagadahoc County EMA by calling 207-443-8210.** Stay ahead of the storm and stay safe Sagadahoc County.

—Philip Davis, [Director, Sagadahoc County
Emergency Management Agency]



*New Deployable Road Signs on #127
(Photo by Dale Carlton)*

Farewell Tom, Welcome Denise

We commence this issue of the *Arrow* with a farewell and a welcome. Our farewell is to Tom Spear, former chief editor of the newsletter, who has moved recently to Brunswick, ME. Tom, who joined the newsletter in 2016, worked tirelessly soliciting articles and photos and news of members of the community. He made sure to participate in the Town’s annual and other meetings to get a feel for its pulse, and to familiarize himself firsthand with the issues facing it, and that were often documented in the *Arrow*. In this he was also joined by his late wife, Sheila, who dedicated a great chunk of her time and talent in the service of the town, acting as the Town Administrator, among other positions. Tom, an historian by training, was a meticulous reader and editor and insisted on producing a newsletter of the highest caliber. Above all, he was a congenial colleague and a friend. He will be missed.

Our welcome is to Denise Parker, who started summering in neighboring Georgetown since 1964, and has been an Arrowsic resident since 2008. Denise contributed to the *Arrow*, especially the fascinating series chronicling the life of the Mildred Knight family on the island. Denise, as you may already know, became the Town Administrator for two years (2022-24), after Sheila Spear’s passing, and revived the Education Committee, which raises scholarship money for high school students heading for college. During these two years, she also edited the Arrowsic’s *Monday Newsletter*. We are thrilled, Denise, to have you on our editorial team, and we look forward to working with you to continue to produce an *Arrow* worthy of the Arrowsic community.

—Sharif Elmusa



Pulling the Trap (Photo by Fish Commission)

2024 Arrowsic Alewife Season: Counting 19,688 Fish

The alewives came, the alewives were counted, the alewives left—adults by early summer and the juveniles over the course of the open water season.

That simple summary does not convey the amazing people who contributed their time and effort to making sure that the Arrowsic Sewall Pond alewife run sets the “gold standard” for monitoring our run. Moving rocks and other debris before the season. Putting in the trap. Counting fish twice a day in knee deep water. Taking the temperature and collecting scale samples for DMR’s assessment of the run. Removing the occasional snapping turtle from the trap. Joining in our celebrational one-day harvest in May. Hauling the trap back out. Clearing debris and restoring the bottom near the culvert in late summer. Monitoring the juveniles’ departure and seeing how low water hindered their leaving.

So many hands we cannot begin to name you all. But thank you, Arrowsicans, for stepping up to help. It could not be done without you. We look forward to seeing you again in the spring.

In the meantime, we have secured funding to study ways to restore the fish passage through the woodland marsh on the west side of Rte. 127, are looking forward to DMR’s analysis of the 2024 run (due in January) and are excited about the 2025 season.

—Arrowsic Fish Commission

Celebrating Senator Vitelli

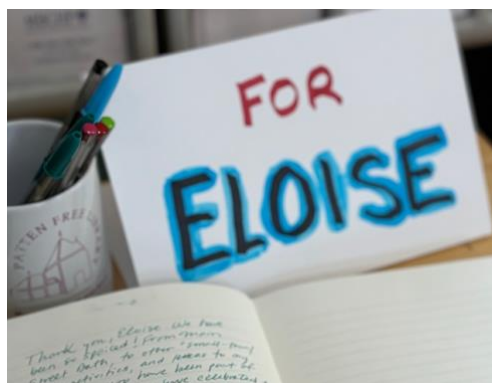
On November 15, Arrowsic friends and officials gathered to celebrate Eloise Vitelli’s tenure as our State Senator and to thank her for her service to her hometown residents as well as her persistence in crafting legislation that will benefit all State residents. Select Board Chair, Walter Briggs, spoke thanking her for her service, and let slip a few juicy snippets from her past. He then offered a toast (with nonalcoholic champagne).



Senator Eloise Vitelli (Photo by Sukey Heard)

New Majority Whip, Matty Daughtry, and Representative Allison Hepler, were also in attendance. Eloise was presented with some tokens of appreciation, including a book signed by many Town residents starting on election day and available for those present at the party to sign. It was a wonderful excuse to gather with friends in our cozy Town Hall, and a good time was had by all.

—Sukey Heard



*Many Residents Signed
(Photo by Camille Kauffunger)*

Arrowsic Education Committee Yard Sale

After a hiatus as a result of the pandemic, the Arrowsic Education Committee held the traditional yard sale on September 10th. Our second fundraiser of 2024 raised money for the Scholarship Fund, to benefit high school seniors living in Arrowsic and planning to pursue further education through college or vocational education programs. Nature provided a spectacular day for the event, providing a great time to meet up with old friends and to make new ones.

A steady stream of Arrowsic and area residents attended the event and many expressed gratitude for its return. It couldn't happen without the generous donations of a whole range of goods from our local and very supportive community. In one of those classic small-town stories, we had a daughter buy a couple of the items donated by her parents—a true win-win situation.



(Photos by Camille Kauffunger)

The yard sale wouldn't have happened without the Education Committee members and our friends and relatives who volunteered. First, I would like to thank the other members of the Education Committee—Brenda Wojciechowski, Karen Mignone, and Denise Parker—for planning and implementing this event.

The Education Committee had lots of additional help the night before, during the sale, and especially with the post-sale cleanup. We are very grateful to Jon Biehler, Barb Feldman, Dale Carlton, Malcolm Persen, Jeff Miller, Camille Kauffunger, and Jean McNutt, for their assistance before and on the day

of the sale. A special thank you to Brooke Wojciechowski, who assisted with the set-up, teardown, and transport of items to Goodwill and the ReStore. Finally, we would like to thank Nadine DeVries, Ros McLean, and Roz Arienti for opening the Swap Barn for additional sale opportunities. A total of \$87 in donations was collected at that site and given to the Scholarship Fund.

To date, the event has raised \$2,251.00. Additional funds will be coming from the sale of Arrowsic ball caps and the online store for Arrowsic apparel. In total, the Committee has raised more than \$7,500 this year from the silent auction and the yard sale.



To our current high school seniors and their parents, we ask that you watch for the scholarship application information, which will be available in early 2025 from the Morse High School guidance office and through Arrowsic Town Hall. And if you are eligible, or have already benefited from the scholarship, we invite you to join our committee and/or volunteer to help at events. This is a true community effort, and we hope that you might be willing to participate.

To do so, please contact an Education Committee member:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Denise Parker | denise.parker@arrowsic.org |
| Janet Persen | jpersen52@gmail.com |
| Brenda Wojciechowski | bjbwojo@yahoo.com |
| Karen Mignone | karen.mignone@gmail.com |

—Janet Persen

Arrowsic Votes

As expected, the November 5, 2024, General and Referendum Election was busy with high voter turnout across the state. Before polls even opened, roughly 40% of registered voters in Maine had cast ballots.

In Arrowsic, 361 of 452 registered voters cast a ballot for a participation rate of 80%, 126 voters (35%) voted absentee.

The foundation of our democracy is voter confidence in free and fair elections. In Maine, there are laws and practices in place to ensure voters are free from intimidation, that our elections are secure, and that the results are accurate. In this time of heightened scrutiny and pressure on our electoral system, this election provides reassurance that Maine's election laws and administration are effective in ensuring that voters are able to cast ballots and have their votes counted.

This cannot happen without our dedicated Arrowsic election workers who are your friends and neighbors. Many thanks to Livy, Doug, Lucy, Brandy, Jody, Gretchen, Sukey, Don, Vicky, Phine and Mary Louise.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough Republican workers. By state statute, polling locations must have each of the major parties (R & D) represented at the check-in table and for the counting. For the last few elections, Brandy and Doug Rink from Woolwich have filled those spots. We need representation from Arrowsic Republicans. Please consider committing four hours at the polls on election day. If interested, please email me at barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org

—Barbara Boyce, [Town Clerk]

Town of Arrowsic Is Looking for an Animal Control Officer

The Animal Control Officer is appointed by—and reports to—the Arrowsic Select Board and responds to calls regarding domestic animals as well as rabid wildlife. All other animals are the responsibility of the owner. Requirements include knowledge of ordinances, laws, and procedures pertaining to the general care and control of dogs and other domestic animals, or the ability to acquire such knowledge, the ability to deal courteously with the public and to exercise independent judgment in conducting patrols and responding to complaints. Training and experience are required in handling dogs and other animals. Please contact our Town Administrator Irene at irene.burgess@arrowsic.org for more information.

Arrowsic Results

President

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----|
| ✓ | Kamala Harris | 265 |
| | Chase Oliver | 2 |
| | Jill Stein | 1 |
| | Donald Trump | 90 |
| | blank | 3 |

U.S. Senator

| | | |
|---|----------------|-----|
| | Jason Cherry | 5 |
| | David Costello | 41 |
| ✓ | Angus King | 243 |
| | Demi Kouzounas | 69 |
| | blank | 3 |

U.S. Representative (Dist 1)

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|
| | Ethan Alcorn | 8 |
| ✓ | Chellie Pingree | 261 |
| | Ronald Russell | 83 |
| | blank | 9 |

State Senate (Dist 24)

| | | |
|---|------------------|-----|
| | Suzanne Andresen | 15 |
| | Jeffrey Pierce | 85 |
| ✓ | Denise Tepler | 249 |
| | blank | 12 |

State House (Dist 49)

| | | |
|---|----------------|-----|
| | Vincent Brown | 76 |
| ✓ | Allison Hepler | 270 |
| | blank | 15 |

Judge of Probate

| | | |
|---|-------------|-----|
| ✓ | David Paris | 304 |
| | blank | 57 |

Register of Probate

| | | |
|---|--------------|-----|
| ✓ | Sean Paulhus | 296 |
| | blank | 65 |

Sheriff of Sagadahoc County

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|
| ✓ | Joel Merry | 272 |
| | Aaron Skolfield | 77 |
| | blank | 12 |

County Commissioner (Dist 3)

| | | |
|---|-------------|-----|
| | James Kelly | 92 |
| ✓ | Todd McPhee | 249 |
| | blank | 20 |

Neighbors Driving Neighbors

Pilot Project: Volunteer Transportation Program in Arrowsic and Georgetown

When Sheila Spear needed rides to medical appointments for her cancer treatment, her family, friends and neighbors stepped up. Along the way, Sheila repeatedly said how much she enjoyed these opportunities to chat with her friends. However, not everyone has such a dependable support network.

Age-Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec is in the process of developing a Volunteer Transportation Program matching riders who cannot drive themselves with vetted volunteer drivers who provide free rides to medical appointments and grocery shopping. Transportation is increasingly recognized as a growing need for older adults and essential to maintaining independence and health, no matter one's age.



(Drawing by Livy Glaubitz)

In these programs, volunteers use their own vehicles to drive from the rider's home to the destination. UMaine Center on Aging/Lifelong Maine and AARP Maine are generously supporting our project by providing access to software that manages the logistics. An excess liability insurance policy as well as background checks for drivers are included.

Georgetown (Age-Friendly Georgetown) and Arrowsic will be the first two communities on the lower Kennebec to launch this pilot program. Ride coordinators, Jim Peavey for Georgetown and Karin Sadtler for Arrowsic, will interview riders and drivers, help with the application process, coordinate rides, and provide driver training.

Arrowsic currently has two drivers. Based on experiences in other towns with similar programs we may need about ten drivers for our community over the coming years. **As a driver you decide how often and when you are available. Please share this information with your family and friends in Arrowsic who might want to drive a neighbor or might enjoy that ride!**

—Karin Sadtler and Jim Peavey

Resilience Committee Grant Application

First Action Steps Toward Island Resiliency

The newly formed Arrowsic Resilience Committee (ARC) is now planning to submit a proposal for another Community Action Grant, due December 17, 2024—a *first step towards implementing the climate priorities expressed by you*. Each of ARC's members have unique backgrounds in science, grant-writing, financial reporting and community engagement. In addition, experienced partners have joined our team to add value and help the committee meet the short timeline for submission.

Planning for Success

Our partners include Georgetown Conservation Commission (GCC); Maine Geological Survey, with hydrogeologist Jessica Meeks, which has funding for a regional study of water quality/saltwater intrusion in mid-coast Maine; and hydrogeologist and consultant Carol White, who will help write the grant. Carol will be our primary consultant if our two island communities are awarded funding. Carol has worked with Westport Island, Long Island, Chebeague Island, and other communities doing similar work.

Arrowsic relies exclusively on private wells for drinking water, accessing groundwater stored in bedrock fractures. In addition to threats from pollution, this valuable resource is threatened by several climate change impacts, including increased drought frequency, increased intensity of storms, and saltwater intrusion. Arrowsic's Climate Action Plan identified this as a top priority, and we have a plan to start addressing this.

Proposed Grant Tasks that Will Be Advantageous for Town Residents

- **A well study and septic survey** that would offer FREE chemical testing of wells to all Arrowsic (and Georgetown) residents (e.g., bacteria, salinity, and possibly other elements) in exchange for collecting data on each well. The septic system study paired with the well study would help identify any issues that may affect water quality that could impact a resident's well. *This would start to fill the data gaps outlined in the Climate Action Plan that were identified as barriers to understanding Arrowsic's water supply.*
- **Addressing water quality issues at the Town Hall well.** This would include opening the hand-pumped well (located by the Arrowsic Town Hall) as a public water source. Regular testing by trained volunteers would be part of this and be particularly valuable during power outages or drought. *We are in the process of collecting historical information to see if this is possible.*
- **Data analysis and GIS mapping** to construct town-wide maps of the geology, geologic features, and soil recharge characteristics.
- **Collaboration with Maine Geological Survey** to enhance research on current and future capacity of wells in Midcoast Maine.
- **Community engagement and outreach** to inspire participation and share results.

The grant application requires that one town be the applicant. GCC and ARC have agreed the applicant will be Arrowsic, the partnership will be outlined in a memorandum of understanding. Joint application increases the monetary value of the grant and creates other efficiencies of time and management.

Project Value and How It Affects Residents

The first step in protecting Arrowsic's water supply is to determine what threatens it. The data collected from the free water testing will be compiled, giving us a sense of threats town-wide (individual well results will be strictly confidential). A much more difficult task is to determine our total water supply, and where it might be threatened.

Hydrogeologist Jessica Meeks says the geologic unpredictability of fissures in the bedrock (where fresh water collects) makes modeling water supply in coastal communities especially challenging. "While there is a trend in the fractures' orientation over a region, it is impossible to know exactly the depth, distribution and interconnection of fractures, and the resulting water yield at a site until you put in a well."

The Maine Geological Survey has funding for placing monitoring instruments in abandoned wells that will provide live data on water temperature and depth, and salinity/electrical conductivity. The data will be measured hourly and automatically transmitted via telemetry to a server for retrieval and analysis. It is likely that Arrowsic's freshwater lens (*islands don't have aquifers*) pulsates up and down with tides and rainfall—measuring helps estimate water supply. The other variables being monitored could help with modeling future susceptibility of wells to saltwater intrusion.

—Dale McNutt and the Arrowsic Resilience Committee



Maine salt marshes are a key tool in the fight against climate change, acting as a buffer against storms and soaking up planet-warming emissions. These reservoirs of "blue carbon" can be 10 times more effective at absorbing and trapping carbon than tropical forests. (Photo by Dale McNutt)

Water supply at risk

Instances of drought are projected to increase, in addition to a general increase of average temperatures. This can cause more evaporation from vernal pools, freshwater wetlands, and other vegetative habitats that support the ability of freshwater to infiltrate and recharge groundwater. Drier soils and periods of torrential rainfall may cause rainwater to turn into runoff, rather than being absorbed into the soil to replenish groundwater.

Saltwater intrusion is another threat to Arrowsic's groundwater resources. It occurs when the salt front (the line where fresh and saltwater meet) shifts vertically or moves inland, which can increase the salinity of the groundwater. Groundwater salinity level can be impacted by a variety of factors, including periods of drought, sea level rise, variations in the volume of water demand/use, rates of groundwater recharge, and the geological features of the groundwater source of a well. *High salinity levels in groundwater can make the resource unsuitable for use as drinking water.*

Arrowsic Now Has Broadband— The Network

On November 12, the Town officially celebrated the culmination of a multiyear effort by dedicated volunteers and our partners, the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA), the internet service provider Axiom Technologies, and the construction team at Hawkeye Fiber Optics to install a fiber optic broadband Network in Arrowsic. It was a massive volunteer effort, and we owe all the volunteers an enormous thank you for their perseverance over years of effort.

The Town residents who subscribe benefit from the lowest cost 100/100 Mbps service for only \$49.99 monthly in Maine, excluding special short-term offers. Other Maine residents may pay as much as \$89.99 monthly for the same service. All of Axiom's other customers pay \$59.99. This inexpensive rate is not at the cost of quality, as the Network installation was completed to the highest standards, with each home having an individual fiber directly connected to the switching equipment in the Arrowsic Central Office. This high-quality design ensures that as technology advances and more bandwidth is required, the Arrowsic Network will continue to service its residents for many years into the future.

However, the favorable subscription cost poses risks to the Town's fiscal status. The Town is responsible for maintaining the Network's physical

infrastructure. The costs of maintaining and repairing the Network's aerial components and eventually upgrading the Central Office switching equipment will need to be covered by the Town's percentage of the subscription revenue.

The Arrowsic Broadband Authority (ABA) volunteers have invested dozens of hours researching the potential damage scenarios and weighing the probabilities of damaging events. To ensure sufficient cash reserves, we estimate that 85% of the generated revenue should be set aside for repairs or equipment replacement, leaving a meager 15% for all the remaining overhead expenses. Regular maintenance and any damage repairs will reduce funds dedicated to the reserves.

The Network is a break-even venture, assuming no major damaging storms occur. In fiscal 2027, subscription rates could increase depending on maintenance costs, damage costs, inflation, and the level of cash reserves. If significant storm damage occurs before the storm damage reserve reaches sufficient levels, the town would need to secure a loan to pay for the repairs. Any loan and interest repayment would add to the Network's overhead.

While the probability of a significant damage event is low, an ice storm, Nor'easter, or even fire can cause expensive damage. This network damage is the single most significant risk of owning the Network. The apparent solution is insurance. Unfortunately, no economical insurance solution is currently available. Hence, covering the repair cost solely depends on the Town's reserving sufficient cash to pay for the maintenance and repair of storm damages. ABA commissioners continue to work with State officials, highlighting the need for affordable insurance and exploring other possibilities, such as a CO-OP of small networks combining exposure into a single insurable entity or possibly selling the Network.

Arrowsicans should be proud to have completed the Town's largest infrastructure project since building the bridge to the mainland in the 1800s. A high-speed Network will benefit all the town's residents for years by increasing efficiency, providing more accessible access to information, increasing home values, and allowing those with restricted mobility to have far more access to services.

Thank you to all the Town's volunteers, the Select Board, our partners, and residents. It took more than the ABA team to make it all happen.

—*The ABA Volunteers*

Community News

Congratulations!

Tia Michaela Hufstader and Spencer Irving Chipman got married on October 5, as well as Lauren Beth King and Kenneth Charles II Wagner on October 11, 2024.

Irene Burgess, our new town administrator, moved back to Maine in January of 2023 after a career in higher education and nonprofits outside of Maine. Born in Warren, Maine, she rents a home in Arrowsic where she lives with her three cats, Mr. Butters, Elrond, and Olivia. In addition to her post with Arrowsic, she is the Executive Director of the Maine Cheese Guild. In her spare time, she reads, works out, draws and paints, and keeps up with her extended family throughout Maine (including Paul Burgess and Polly Moutevelis Burgess of Arrowsic).

Kathy and Randy Roy purchased Tom Spear's house in August. "We made the move from Freeport and we're loving the quiet and peacefulness of Arrowsic. Our move to Arrowsic was easy, we have children and grandchildren in Bath. We love watching the tide come and go on the Sasanoa, the sunrise, the moonrise, the geese, the ducks...I could go on and on. I've attached a photo of the Hunter Moon that I took from our dock. We're looking forward to exploring more of Arrowsic!"



Mike Field: "I am your new Codes Enforcement Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector, having started in June of this year. I also do Woolwich and Georgetown. Before coming to Arrowsic, I did a 3-year stint with the State of Maine Cannabis Office as Director of Compliance. Most of my work career was with the Bath Police Department, where I retired as Chief of Police in June 2021 after 33 years of service. In my short tenure, I have met several Arrowsic residents and learned a lot about the Town. I am excited to be part of the Arrowsic team. Personally, my wife, Melissa, and I live in Woolwich. We have two adult children, and three grandchildren."

Jeremy W. Beane, 45, passed away on Friday, Aug. 23, 2024. He was born on Feb. 6, 1979, a son of Scott and Debra (Perow) Beane. He graduated from Morse High School and received his Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Maine in Orono. He also went on to earn a degree, as Valedictorian of the Bath Iron Works Apprenticeship/ Maine Maritime Academy program. The summer he graduated from college, he worked as a Stern Man on a lobster boat out of Five Islands. He was a longtime member of the Bath Lodge of Elks. Jeremy's passion was working in his garage building engines, ice fishing, hunting, camping, and snowmobiling. An experienced boatman, he especially loved boating along the waterways of the Kennebec River, and along the waters around Seguin Island. He was interested in cooking for his friends, plants, trees, and wildlife and had a cardinal that pecked at his window every morning that he fed sunflower seeds. He loved his two dogs, Oreo and Ralphie. He was kind and strong. He especially loved his family and was very close to his brother. Jeremy is survived by his parents, and his brother, Jonathan Beane of West Bath; his maternal grandmother, Eleanor Perow of Bath; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased by his grandfather, Augustus "Tim" Perow, and his great-grandmother, Bessie Burns.

John James Cooper, age 78, of Arrowsic, passed away September 27, 2024. Born on December 22, 1945, to Thomas and Genevieve Cooper, John grew up with his brothers Thomas and Donald. He was married to Arlene for 56 years and was a loving father to his children. In recent years, his greatest joy came from spending time with his

grandchildren, teaching them, laughing with them, and watching them grow. He passed on his love for building and creating to his children and grandchildren, teaching them the importance of patience, craftsmanship, and the joy of working with their hands.

After serving three years in the Navy during the Vietnam era, John developed a lifelong love for the water. Whether it was fishing, boating, or sailing, being near the ocean or on the water brought him peace. He had an adventurous spirit, always ready to set sail or cast a line, but it was never just about the activity—it was about sharing these moments with his loved ones. He also loved fishing, golfing, gardening, birdwatching, and of course, cheering for his favorite sports teams.

John worked hard throughout his life, first as a construction worker in New York City and Morris, NY, and later as a project manager for Jones Lang LaSalle in New York. He took pride in his work, knowing that every project reflected his dedication and care.

John was predeceased by his parents and his brother Thomas. He is survived by his wife, Arlene, his children, Jennifer, Timothy, and Daniel, his brother Donald, and his beloved grandchildren.

Time to Register Your Dogs

Dog tags for 2025 are now available. All dogs six months and older are required to be licensed each year. The current year's license expires December 31, 2024.

The Maine Animal Welfare Program has instituted a new system for registering dogs. To license your dog, you must provide a current rabies certificate, along with proof of neutering or spaying, if applicable. **Even if you have previously submitted a multiple year rabies certificate, you will still need to submit the certificate.**

Licensing can be done in either of the following ways:

- Through the mail by providing the current rabies certificate, a self-addressed envelope

and cash or a check made out to the Town of Arrowsic. You may also drop your request in the mail slot at Town Hall.

- At Town Hall, by appointment. Please contact Town Clerk Barbara Boyce at barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org to request an appointment or call 443-4609.

Fees are:

- Male/Female: \$11
- Neutered/Spayed: \$6
- A late fee of \$25 will be added to dogs licensed after 1/31/25.

Questions? Email Town Clerk, Barbara Boyce at barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org

Arrowsic Ball Caps Available

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for a family member or friend? How about an Arrowsic ball cap? A portion of the \$25 sale benefits the Arrowsic Scholarship Fund. To purchase an Arrowsic ball cap, please contact Brenda Wojciechowski at bjbwojo@yahoo.com to make arrangements.

—Denise Parker





Water Access

(Photo by Camille Kauffunger)

News from the Water Access Management Committee

Packard's Landing was opened on the first of September this year. The Landing provides hand-carry saltwater access to the Back River for Arrowsic residents and the public. The property provides parking for up to six vehicles and a privy.

We have received several positive responses from town folks who enjoyed using the facilities this fall. One couple referred to the kayaking experience as magical and used the facilities three times in one week.

The Water Access Management Committee will be working on ideas for the property in the coming year, such as an educational walking path. We are also planning on burning a brush pile on December 21st, if it's safe to burn at that time. Residents are welcome to attend. Packard's Landing will reopen in May, 2025. If you have ideas or input, please contact one of our members.

—Bob Ater



Grand Opening

(Photo by Camille Kauffunger)

State of Maine, November 5, 2024

List of Referendum Questions

Arrowsic Results

| | | | |
|---|---|-------|-----|
| Question 1: Citizen's Initiative | ✓ | Yes | 282 |
| Do you want to set a \$5,000 limit for giving to political action committees that spend money independently to support or defeat candidates for office? | | No | 67 |
| | | blank | 12 |
| Question 2: Bond Question | ✓ | Yes | 248 |
| Do you favor a bond issue of \$25,000,000 to provide funds, to be awarded through a competitive process and to leverage matching private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis, for research and development and commercialization for Maine-based public and private institutions in support of technological innovation in the targeted sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, environmental and renewable energy technology, information technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, composites and advanced materials and precision manufacturing? | | No | 103 |
| | | blank | 10 |
| Question 3: Bond Question | ✓ | Yes | 225 |
| Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue to restore historic buildings owned by governmental and nonprofit organizations, with funds being issued contingent on a 25% local match requirement from either private or nonprofit sources? | | No | 123 |
| | | blank | 13 |
| Question 4: Bond Question | ✓ | Yes | 230 |
| Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to invest in the design, development and maintenance for nonmotorized, motorized and multi-use trails statewide, to be matched by at least \$3,000,000 in private and public contributions? | | No | 120 |
| | | blank | 11 |
| Question 5: State Referendum | ✓ | Yes | 203 |
| Do you favor making the former state flag, replaced as the official flag of the State in 1909 and commonly known as the Pine Tree Flag, the official flag of the State? | | No | 143 |
| | | blank | 15 |

—Karin Sadtler

Starry Night at Patten Free Library

We will once again host *Starry Night*, a luminary walk in Library Park. On Saturday, December 14 from 4-7 p.m. Bundle up to enjoy this annual celebration of light, featuring candlelit pathways, baked goods, and a space for the community to gather.

Returning once again this year is *A Night at the Patten*, a special ticketed fundraiser inside the Library from 5-7 p.m. Warm up inside with an indoor luminary walk, live music, and beer, wine, and snacks.

More details can be found at patten.lib.me.us.



“Arrowsic Nature Sightings” Community Science

A four-toed salamander, a ribbon snake and a hairy-tailed mole are just a few of the hundreds of species observed and recorded as part of the Arrowsic Conservation Commission’s ongoing project, “Arrowsic Nature Sightings.”

The project launched two years ago as part of a larger effort to document our island town’s biodiversity through the seasons and across the years. Using the popular iNaturalist app, a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, participants take photos or audio of the living things they see and hear. The recorded observations are then curated and identified by a world-wide community of naturalists.

The data we contribute can help drive scientific discoveries, such as range expansion or contraction of a species, the occurrence of invasive species and the identification of species. These data can also help inform how climate change and habitat fragmentation and destruction affect biological diversity. Given the critical role biological diversity plays in maintaining healthy ecosystems, our project aids in monitoring the well-being of the Kennebec Estuary and its inhabitants, wild and human, alike.

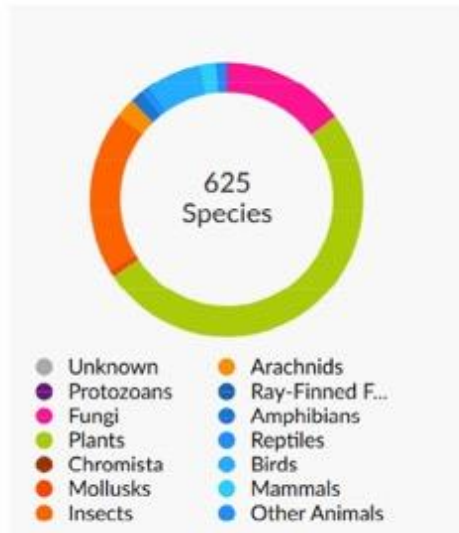


Figure 1. Colors Represent Different Kinds of Organisms

As of November 3, 2024, our project boasts 1,620 observations made by 116 individuals with 625 unique species identified. Many of these observations came from the three Bio Blitzes the ACC hosted last April, June and August.



Figure 2. Map of Arrowsic Island Showing the Locations of Nature Sightings on the iNaturalist Site

A Bio Blitz is a biological survey during which participants work together over a specific timeframe to document the biodiversity (flora, fauna, and fungi) in a designated area. This past year we focused on the six plus acre town-owned vacant lot located along Rt. 127. Along with the native species identified, we were surprised by the number and abundance of invasive species such as vinca, oriental bittersweet, dame's rocket, and honeysuckle.

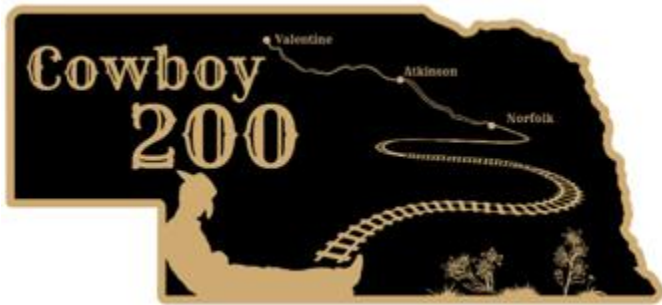
We plan to conduct additional Bio Blitzes in 2025 and invite all Arrowsic citizens to help collect observations. In the meantime, we encourage you to download the iNaturalist phone app and join our town project, “Arrowsic Nature Sightings.” You can also find our project at the following link: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/arrowsic-nature-sightings>.

—Priscilla Tucker



An American Toad, one of Many Species of Amphibians Observed at the Bio Blitz
(Photo by Clarke Cooper)

The Cowboy 200



The Cowboy 200 is an ultra-marathon which I recently ran in Nebraska. The course is on an historic railroad line turned into a really nicely packed gravel track that meanders through fields of hay and corn, with vistas as far as the eye can see.

A 200 mile ultra marathon is a long way, as I came to learn. I chose the race in hope of raising scholarship funds for the non-profit ZGiRLS and its program supporting middle school girls. We were able to raise over \$30,000—enough to fully fund over 230 girls' participation!

During the race across this great Nebraska expanse, where towns and homes are so many miles apart, I'd see a speck of a water tower in the distance representing the next town. Too often reaching it seemed like an insurmountable goal, a concern that sent me into a tailspin of self-doubt. And that's where the conundrum of an ultra lies: you want the challenge to see if you can muster the energy and will, but you want the darn aid stations to be closer!!



The highlight reel of the race had plenty of ups and downs. Oddly, I had some of my greatest anxiety

during the first 40 miles, as I really didn't know how much energy to use and how much to conserve, and how to balance that with making the early aid station cut-offs. I did get lots of advice from the more experienced runners, which made all the difference.

At the 60 Mile Aid Station, my stomach turned, and I couldn't keep anything down. It was about 1:00 a.m. and hard to get myself willing to go back into the darkness feeling really ill, knowing it would be several solitary hours before I'd see the next aid station. Definitely, one of those low moments when quitting was looking appealing.



And then came the 84 Mile Aid Station and the completely unexpected arrival of our daughter Becky, who had secretly flown out from Maine to surprise me and help get me through. She jumped out of her car, already dressed for the trail and spent the next 18 miles with me inspiring me and spurring me on! One lucky dad, for sure.

The 104 Mile Aid station was the first sleep station. I remember talking with Becky about the fact that we had just equaled the longest distance I had ever done, and we were only halfway through the race, and I was pretty spent and felt pretty horrible. She kindly shared some tough love and told me to get some sleep! When a couple of hours later it was time to get going, it took a lot of coaching and support from Becky and Vicky for me to get vertical and get moving.



temporary insanity, Vicky announced to me that she was going to join me for the last 25 miles—an 88-degree, unshaded death march to the finish line. Wow!



As I went back into the darkness at 2:00 a.m., the 100 song playlist my kids had compiled made the difference as, in their terms, they “expanded my music knowledge,” but also sprinkled in some classics just to remind me that they were in fact listening those many years ago when they got their schooling in real music from their dad!

Ever the ebullient one, Vicky was determined we’d finish what we started, and even suggested we sing—which did not go over well! And then in the midst of it, Jesse weighed in with a text and shared that there were five runners behind us, and they were gaining, thinking that she could kindle her dad’s competitive juices to get to the finish line. Let’s suffice it to say that there were some profanities involved when I heard the news! (But they didn’t catch us!).

My other two children, Jesse and Andy, stayed in close contact, calling me to keep me going and distracting me from the pain and discomfort. It was special to have that time with them, knowing they were looking out for their dad from afar.



From 150 miles on, with the fog of sleep deprivation and the nighttime solitude of the plains, hallucinating creatures in the shadows began creeping in. By 3:30 a.m. I knew I wouldn’t make it any farther without rest, so I curled up on the trail and set my alarm for a 30-minute nap—hoping I would hear it and be rejuvenated enough to keep going.

Eighty-two hours and fifty-one minutes later, the race, at long last, finished in a local brewery, where other runners who finished earlier came out to cheer me in over the last 100 yards, with a cold beer waiting for me—which did not last very long! Heck of a way to end an ultra!

When it went off, getting up off the trail floor, and persuading myself that I in fact could keep going was a bit daunting, but then the family circled once again, and the calls came in and the encouragement followed. And we were back in business.

Finishing the Cowboy 200 was a dream come true, it was receiving so much love and support from the family that was the most meaningful to me. That is what will stay with me.

As I came out of the darkness into the dawn of the new day, I made it to the 175-mile mark and saw Becky and Vicky running down the trail, smiling and laughing—and we all just had one big, long embrace (maybe even some tears). I had made it through the lows of the night, and each of us knew how close I had come to dropping.

After a short nap, it was time to get the race done and be finished before the cut off. In a display of love and

—Nick Stoneman

Broadband Milestone Celebrated



Arrowsic Broadband Celebrated

(Photo by Michael Kreindler)

Over twenty people gathered at Town Hall on Tuesday, November 12, to celebrate the completion of the construction phase of the Arrowsic Broadband Network. From our major funder Maine Connectivity Authority, Tyler Collins, Kendra Grindle, and Andrew Butcher, President attended. From internet service provider Axiom Technologies came Mark Ouellette, President, and from system construction contractor Hawkeye Fiber Optics, Ryan and Maryanne Hawkes, President and Vice President, respectively. Local community members included members of the Select Board, the Arrowsic Broadband Authority (ABA), and our State representatives, Alison Hepler and Eloise Vitelli.

Select Board chair, Walter Briggs, told the group that Arrowsic residents have consistently communicated that high-speed internet was integral to the viability of the town, and although there was no useful road map for constructing a municipal broadband network, residents were clear that it was an essential service. Bringing fast, reliable internet connectivity has been a long-term effort that at times seemed impossible but was kept alive by a small group, including notably Don Kornrumpf, who worked tirelessly to overcome barriers. ABA Chair Vince Capone and Treasurer Don Hudson both credited Kornrumpf's tenacity as key to keeping the town on track to this successful outcome. Vince also praised all our community partners for their team effort and willingness to work together.

While much work remains to ensure the successful long-term operation of the system, the town took a moment to celebrate an important milestone and those who have already contributed years to the effort.

—Michele Gaillard

Green Crab Count 2024

As in previous years, members of Arrowsic's Shellfish Conservation Committee, friends, and neighbors conducted another one-day survey (and maybe the last one of this scale) in the rivers that surround our island. On July 27th we set baited traps in ten locations at low tide. The traps were retrieved six hours later.

We caught a total of 423 green crabs. The location on the Back River at Crow Island had the most with 136, followed by the Sasanoa River, where we caught 131 green crabs at the green channel marker #33, and 120 at Tom Cod Rock. The trap at Fisher Eddy had thirty-four green crabs this year. The crabs were measured, color-graded, and sexed. We identified 256 males and 167 females.

—Karin Sadtler

Featured Artist: Maria Salcines

Artist's Statement

I prioritize living a life revolving around passion. My artistic practices are constantly evolving and self-taught. I founded Silybum Arts in 2017, which originally featured ceramic sculpture and dried floral design. While working as a freelance floral designer, I would rescue discarded flowers from the compost and take them home to dry— an ode to Maine's ephemeral summer. Watching the hanging bunches transition to everlasting flowers brought me peace. Flowers are often perceived as perishable goods with short lived enjoyment. Creating dried flower arrangements savors that joy and extends it over a much longer period of time.

After purchasing our home in 2019, my husband, Keith, and I created Fogwood Gardens, where we began growing and drying our own flowers for design. In between tending the land, and motherhood, I carve out time to escape to my studio and explore the romance between flora and form. My floral design is bold and lush, while my sculpture sources inspiration from complex human emotions and the curiosities we encounter in everyday life. Seemingly stuck in time, dried flowers inspire wonder and expand the possibilities of design concepts. Both delicate in nature, flowers and ceramics encourage slowness and adapting to unpredictability.

To see our work in person, come visit us on Saturdays at the Bath Farmers' Market this winter or browse our website www.fogwoodgardens.com.

If you are interested in a custom floral installation for your home, business, or event, please feel free to contact me at fogwoodgardens@gmail.com.

—*Maria Salcines*



Update—Doubling Point Lighthouse— One Year Later

Most of you are aware that last September the walkway from the shore to the Doubling Point Lighthouse in Arrowsic collapsed on Open Lighthouse Day. Friends of the Doubling Point Light (Friends) send heartfelt well wishes to those who may still be healing. The Friends organization also extends its appreciation to all local responding agencies, and residents, who rendered rescue assistance and aid on that difficult day. The damage to the walkway resulted in the closure of the lighthouse; it still remains closed.

Doubling Point Light is a captivating landmark in our Town—readily identified by residents and visitors as an important part of our rich maritime heritage. Since its closure, the Friends Board of Directors have been busy laying the groundwork necessary to reopen and welcome the public again.

Over a period of several months, Friends consulted with experts in construction and engineering, finally receiving approved design plans in August 2024. Friends solicited bids for the construction work.

The costs for this extensive project as developed by the engineers and confirmed through the contractor bidding process is \$500,000—quite a sum for our small, lovely, and historic lighthouse. Now, Friends

volunteers are laser-focused to raise all the funds needed to complete this project. To this end, Friends are hard at work submitting grant applications, engaging local participation in fund drive events, and reaching out to local and regional businesses for support.

It is the Friends' desire to keep our Arrowsic neighbors and friends informed. This small group of dedicated volunteers is making good progress toward complete restoration of the walkway and catwalks around the light tower. In the coming months you may hear about opportunities to help reopen this treasured Arrowsic lighthouse. We hope this update will help get people involved when the time comes.

And of course, we want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have already reached out to support Friends of the Doubling Point Light. We look forward to seeing you at Doubling Point Lighthouse in the near future.

For those of you who have not received a mailed Annual Newsletter from the Friends, please share this with your family and friends in neighboring towns and find it here:

<https://doublingpoint.org/Newsletter2024.pdf>

—Friends of Doubling Point Lighthouse



Icicle

(Photo by Mike Loviska)

MARINE DEBRIS COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

ART STATEMENT

Arrowsic Island is defined by three rivers. The Back River separates Arrowsic from Georgetown; the Sasanoa separates us from Woolwich, and the Kennebec flows between Arrowsic and Phippsburg. These rivers have long transported people for thousands of years by canoe, and more recently by ship as well as logs for sawmills. Now they carry trash, some of which gets trapped in the reeds and mud of Arrowsic's marshes.

This community art project took advantage of storm surges that brought extra trash to Arrowsic this year. By bringing marine debris to our attention without romanticizing it, the sculpture project encourages us to think about our own role in its creation and how we can be part of the solution. The various items found on the marshes are remnants of forgotten moments: kiddie pools, high heels, and an empty bag of ice-melt crystals. But once collected and placed on the sculpture, these moments can be seen more clearly for the way they connect us to the river, to global supply chains, and to the problem of plastic pollution. One resident said,

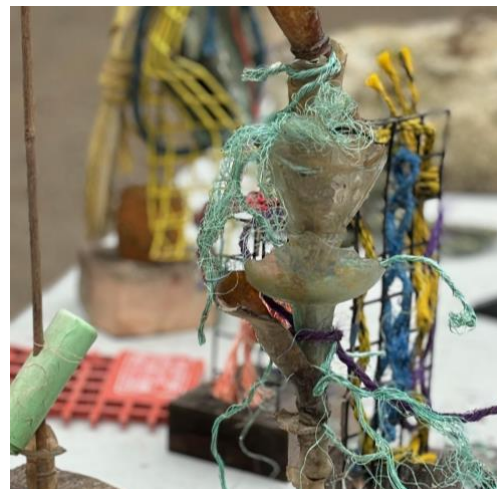
"It's a mixed sensation, considering the craziness of us first buying all that stuff and then retrieving it from the shores."

The sculpture offers a way to find ourselves in this larger picture.

-Ren Kauffunger, Arrowsic Resident (Age 16)



FOR MORE INFO: REN.KAUFFUNGER@ICLOUD.COM



(Photos by Camille Kauffunger)

The Arrowsic Arrow is Arrowsic's independent newsletter, produced through the efforts of volunteers. The newsletter is published three times a year in spring, summer and autumn. The Arrow is primarily distributed via e-mail to all those on the Town of Arrowsic email list or by mail to those who cannot access it online. The Town covers any costs for paper and postage. All articles and notices are welcome. Notices should be limited to 100 words. The Arrowsic Arrow Editorial Group: Sharif Elmusa, Denise Parker and Karin Sadtler. Contact: Karin Sadtler kasadtler@yahoo.com. Past issues of the The Arrow can be found at www.arrowsic.org.

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