

- November 28, Thursday: Town Office closed** – Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 29, Friday: Town Office closed**
- December 1, Sunday, 9-10:30 am Public meditation**, followed by tea. Morgan Bay Zendo
- December 2, Monday, 5 pm Tree Lighting and Carols** at the Memorial Park
- December 2, Monday, 7 pm Special Select Board Meeting**-Climate Vulnerability Assessment Final Report
- December 3, Tuesday, 7 pm Special Town Meeting**
- December 7, Saturday 2-5 pm Festival of Trees** at Surry's Rural Hall
- December 9, Monday 6 pm** Newbury Neck Pilot Project GEI Engineering Consultants Findings
- December 14, Saturday, 1-3 pm** at Surry Historical Society's Old Town Hall, 1217 Surry Road: **Santa's Magic Chimney**– free gifts and hot chocolate for all Surry kids aged 1-12.
- December 14, Saturday, 6-10 pm Contra Dance** at the Surry School, no experience or partner needed
- December 21– December 31– Town Office Closed** for annual holiday break. To reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2025
- December 21, Saturday, 6-9 pm** The Gatherings **Solstice Party** with Bob Dylan Belated Birthday Benefit Band. Hot cider and eggnog provided by The Gatherings. Bring a small dish to share. There will be a bonfire and the cover band will perform at 7 pm.
- January 2, Thursday, Nomination papers available** for Select Board & School Board
- January 11, Saturday, 6-10 pm Contra Dance** at the Surry School, supports the Arbutus Grange
- January 12, Sunday, 1-4 pm Folk Waltz Workshop.** Beginner @ 1pm, Intermediate at 2.30pm. At the Surry School (TBC).
- January 29, Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 pm Storm Response and Preparedness** in Working Waterfront Communities
- February 8, Saturday, 6-10 pm Contra Dance** at the Surry School, more info at deffa.org
- February 9, Sunday, 1-3 pm Soup/Chowder and Cookie Competition** at Surry School Gym

Save Toddy Pond

Last July the company that owns Alamoosook, Toddy and Silver Lake dams (Bucksport Mill, LLC) petitioned the State to divest themselves of the dams and be allowed to drain the lakes in the event that a new owner cannot be identified. The Surry Select Board is working hard, along with Orland, Penobscot, Blue Hill, and Bucksport to prevent the current dam owners from walking away from the dams with no repercussions.

The four towns with property owners on Alamoosook and Toddy are all small towns with very limited budgets (Surry's budget for legal services is only \$12,000/year for all needs). None of the towns can afford the quality legal representation that is needed to protect our lakes. Thus, we must turn to fundraising for legal expenses. Surry, Orland, Penobscot, and Blue Hill have secured joint legal representation with the Portland firm Norman Hanson & Detroy. If Toddy Pond properties lose value because of lowered water levels this will affect all Surry taxpayers. We are working hard to protect property values along with the significant environmental, recreational, and economic benefits that Toddy Pond represents.

While some of you may have contributed to the dam legal funds established by Alamoosook Lake Association and Toddy Pond Association, those funds are not available for the Towns to utilize unless you directed your funds to the Towns as stated here below. The towns are the entities which will expend significant financial resources to protect the lakes. **If you are in a position to help with that fight, your contribution would be greatly appreciated.** Checks should be made out to the Town of Surry and mailed to 741 N. Bend Rd. Surry, ME. 04684. Please put "Dam Legal Fund" on the memo line. You can find information on our website which explains how the 5 Town Dam Committee is trying to find a resolution that will protect the lakes. Our website is updated as soon as new information is available.

The Select Board is confident that if we work together, we can find a workable solution and save Toddy Pond. Thank you in advance for your help.

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The Surry Scoop

Brought to you by The Surry Town Office. 741 North Bend Road, Surry Maine 04684

W I N T E R E D I T I O N



The Surry Town Office will be closed December 21st – January 1st for our winter break. We will reopen for normal business hours on Thursday, January 2nd at 7:30am.

Reminder - 2025 Dog licenses are available! Please remember to register your dog before January 31st to avoid the \$25 state law late fee. All dogs 6 months or older must be registered. To register your dog, you will need to provide proof of rabies vaccination & proof of spay/neuter if the dog is fixed.

TextMyGov: Receive town text message notifications! Text "SURRY" to 91896 or visit our website townofsurrymaine.com to sign up. (After the initial keyword of SURRY is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to opt-in. Please remember to reply YES or you will not be subscribed.)

General Assistance

General Assistance requires that people seek other types of assistance first through either the **Department of Health and Human Services in Ellsworth (855-797-4357) or Downeast Community Partners (207-664-2424).** The Surry General Assistance application is available at the Town Office or on the Town website.

Surry Fuel Assistance Program

Funded by generous donations of Surry residents, this program is separate from the General Assistance program, does not have the stringent guidelines of GA, and has a simple application form. The program provides up to 100 gallons of oil, kerosene, or propane; electricity used for heating; or a cord of wood to anyone who demonstrates a need. If you would like to donate to the Surry Fuel Assistance program, make a check payable to: Town of Surry with Surry Fuel Assistance in the memo line.

Food and Other Resources: for Surry residents in need of food and or other support contact Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Ellsworth; Tree of Life Food Pantry, Blue Hill; Families First Community Center in Ellsworth, Senior Food Program through Eastern Area Aging on Aging, community meals in the area, the Surry Backpack Program, and the Magic School Bus (summer) in Surry. For a list of food resources in the area, contact the Town Office or visit the town website under Departments then GA.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED for these SCIA programs:

If you can help provide rides for medical appointments, please contact Ted Fletcher (rtfletch@gmail.com). If you'd like to provide rides for neighbors to buy groceries, attend social activities or get to other necessary, non-medical appointments, please contact Beth Sylvia (elizabeth.c.sylvia@gmail.com).

The DownEast Wood Bank is a volunteer group that seeks to provide firewood for families in Surry who are currently experiencing some type of heating crisis. It is not the intent of the Wood Bank to provide firewood for the entire season unless the family continues to be in crisis. Families can make appointments to pick up wood at our Wood Yard which is located on Blue Hill Heritage Trust property in Surry. Up to 1/2 cord can be picked up per month. Financial donations are always appreciated and volunteers are welcome. Please contact Tom at downeastwoodbank@yahoo.com or 207-812-4472 or find us on Facebook-DownEast Wood Bank.

SCIA-VETERANS WERE HONORED at the SCIA's annual Harvest Dinner on October 25th: Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 823 members Lyla, Charlotte, Dylan, Hopelyn, and Brin for leading the Pledge of Allegiance and reading poetry to thank our veterans. Thanks also to Army Veteran and Commander of VFW Post 109, Richard Saunders, who served in Vietnam and other countries, for sharing stories from his many years of service. We also welcomed the new Town of Surry Treasurer, Chris Nemeth, and his wife, Tara.

PICKLEBALL will start in February at the Surry Elementary School Gym. Follow SCIA on Facebook for details of this fun exercise opportunity and other events.

HOW TO JOIN THE SURRY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION:

New members are always welcome. Dues are \$10 per person or \$20 per family. Send your name(s) and address, email, and phone number, along with a check payable to the Surry Community Improvement Association (SCIA), P. O. Box 253, Surry, Maine 04684.



Photo: **Emerton Brook Marsh Study:** Surry resident, Mark Baldwin, shares information with some College of the Atlantic students that will be studying why the Emerton Brook Marsh is eroding rapidly. Fall semester, 2024

Hunting & Fishing licenses make great stocking stuffers!!

Special Select Board Meeting — Climate Vulnerability Assessment Final Report, Monday, 12/2/24 at 7 pm. To be held at the Surry Fire Station, Conference Room. The report identifies climate hazards and their potential impacts for Surry, with input on priority areas and long-range adaptation strategies. Presented by Leila Pike, P.E. Water Resources Engineer and Coastal Modeler. This 18-month study was prepared by GEI Consultants and its subcontractor, The Gulf of Maine Research Institute with funding that the Town received from the Community Resilience Partnership of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future.

Newbury Neck Pilot Project (GEI Engineering Consultants Findings) Monday, 12/9/24 at 6 pm. To ensure that there will be an evacuation route for 140 households south of Carrying Place Beach. To be held at the school gym. Alternatives Analysis Report is available on our website for viewing prior to the meeting.

Storm Response and Preparedness in Working Waterfront Communities, January 29, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, at the Blue Hill Library. Open meeting (Brooksville, Castine, Penobscot, Sedgwick and Surry) to discuss working waterfront resilience and how it connects to storm response. . For more information and to register, seagrant.umaine.edu/workingwaterfrontstorms. This event is part of a coastwide series hosted by Maine Sea Grant, Maine Coastal Program, Island Institute and UMaine MARINE.

If you get a chance, swing by the Town Office to welcome our new Treasurer, Chris Nemeth. He is a wealth of knowledge with a vast background in finance and economic development. Welcome aboard Chris!!

OSVS Wreath Sale & Workshop
November 16, 2024



Rural Hall Association:

The Rural Hall in Surry will host the 4th Annual Festival of Trees to help kick off the holiday season on **Saturday, December 7th, from 2 - 5pm.** The Rural Hall has served as a center of community activity for over 150 years and we invite all to come and experience a great holiday tradition.

The Rural Hall will be decorated from floor to ceiling and with trees decorated by Surry non-profits and businesses. There will be awesome raffle items including decorated trees and gifts. Admission and refreshments are free and Santa will be there for pictures with children.



The Surry PTCO (Parent, Teacher, Community Organization) meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month in the school library at 6pm. In the coming months we will be hosting a Cocoa and Crafts event for kids returning from their annual community caroling, decorating for the winter concert, planning a Family Fun Night (with a cake walk!), and getting ready for the Students vs Teachers basketball game. We welcome all community members to join us for meetings and are grateful for donations that fund PTCO events for students and school staff. If you are able to donate, please use the QR code to the left or send a designated donation to the school office. Thank you for your support!

The Gatherings Solstice Party-December 21, 6pm-9pm-Saturday: with the Bob Dylan Belated Birthday Benefit Band-Hot cider and eggnog provided by The Gatherings. Bring a small dish to share. There will be a bonfire and the Bob Dylan cover band will perform at 7pm! Have an idea for a group or class you want to organize? Send inquiry to buildinguse@surrygatherings.org

The Surry Short-Term Rental (STR) workgroup has completed its task and will present the proposed ordinance to the Select Board at their December 3rd meeting. In response to the concerns identified in the Surry Comprehensive Plan (maintaining Surry's rural atmosphere and the affordable housing shortage), the group met weekly since early July to create a document that transformed a very complicated subject into an understandable and manageable ordinance. If the Select Board deems it acceptable, at least two listening sessions will be scheduled where townspeople can ask questions and make recommendations for changes. After the listening sessions, there will be a hearing scheduled where the final version of the STR Ordinance is presented and voted on by Town vote in April.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: If you need sand/salt buckets for the coming winter, please contact the Town Office. Someone from Neighbors Helping Neighbors will contact you to arrange pick up or delivery.

Tea House Zen: Tea House Zen offers Zoom meditation on Wednesdays from 5-6PM. All are welcome. Go to teahousezen.org for zoom link.

Toddy Pond Association: The Toddy Pond association's primary goal is the preservation of Toddy Pond through the resolution of the dam ownership question now before the communities. We seek an ownership model which repairs/maintains the dam on Toddy Pond, improves and enhances the fish passage at the dam and maintains lake levels to promote wildlife habitat, support recreational activities and preserve property values. We are willing to work collaboratively with other organizations, municipalities, state agencies and elected officials towards this goal. Further, recognizing the value of Alamoosook Lake and Silver Lake to the communities, we are willing to partner with additional organizations, lake associations and municipalities, as well as those entities outlined above, to achieve similar goals for those additional bodies of water wherever these goals are congruent with preserving Toddy Pond.

The Town of Surry will hold a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, December 3 at 7pm in the Fire Department Meeting Room to discuss the following articles:
Article 1: To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting. **Article 2:** Shall the Town participate in the statutory consultation process (see 38 M.R.S. § 902), together with other towns affected by the petition to abandon ownership of the Toddy Pond dam and/or Alamoosook Lake dam, to obtain sufficient information about the dam and the towns' legal options of facilitating an agreement for dam ownership, including whether to participate in or otherwise support a group that would accept ownership of the dam?