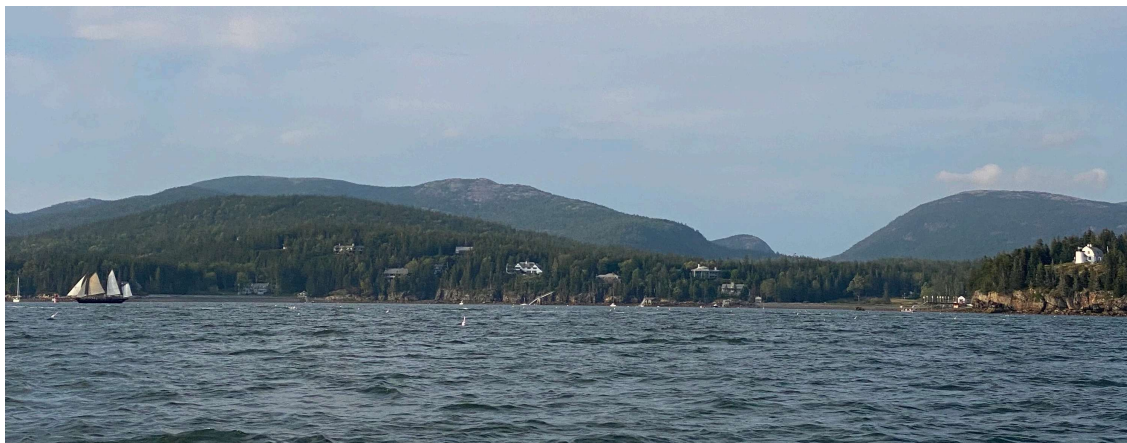


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A Note from the President

Happy New Year to our SRA members!

December on Mount Desert proved magical, with snowfalls, twinkling lights, even returning summer residents shopping to holiday songs playing in the villages.

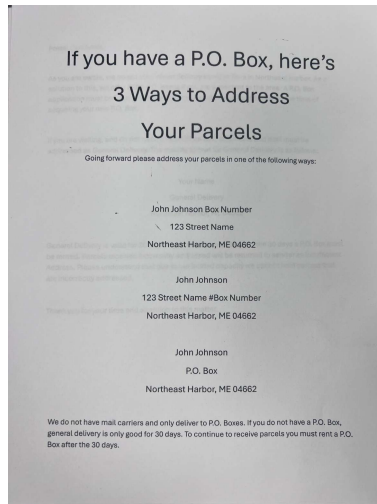
2025 brings a renewed effort to bring our members news from MDI and connection to our local government. We know you miss the island and want to be kept up to date when you are away and with our new newsletters and summer members meetings, we hope to open up meaningful dialogue on the issues affecting us on MDI. Our board members are now following different committees and town boards so we can report back to you.

Another change in 2025 is that our membership fee is increasing to \$50 per family to cover our administrative costs. Our membership year starts in March, so please keep an eye out for your dues statement.

Members' Questions

Why are my packages getting returned or sent to the Somesville Post Office?

Our Town Manager, Durlin Lunt reminded us that a decision was made years ago at the town level, not to have street delivery in favor of post office boxes. In the age of Amazon, members are reporting delivery issues. The NEH Postmaster Patrick offered this sheet to remind us how to get packages properly delivered:



see box to the left. In addition, signing up for informed delivery allows the post office to let you know in real time where your packages are (and you can head them off before they get sent back from Somesville, where officials return unclaimed deliveries from other villages back to sender): <https://www.usps.com/manage/informed-delivery.htm> here.

Passings

Among the dear members of the community we lost in the last part of 2024: Charlene Marshall (August 2024); Malcolm “Mike” Peabody, and Becky Brown (December 2024), Charlie Ingersoll (January, 2025). Our thoughts are with their families as they mourn the passing of their loved ones.

Following the Committees & Boards

The Broadband Committee

Reported by John Slater

The recently disbanded Broadband Committee

The Harbor Committee

Reported by Whitney Drayton

The Harbor Committee is planning a lot for 2025, including:

Elementary School Consolidation Committee

Reported by Cammie Disston

Reported by Cammie Disston

has spent the last decade working in earnest to get the most up-to-date connectivity services to all five of the villages of the TMDI. Today, Spectrum's cable products are available across the entirety of the Town of Mt Desert. In 2022, in Bar Harbor, Consolidated Communications and Spectrum started building fiber networks for the town. Consolidated Communications' Fidium has stated that they plan to build-out fiber service in other parts of the Island. And further good news (according to our Town Manager) is that Fidium plans to finance the entire buildout, so that the Town and the Island generally will not have to raise or contribute additional funds. In the not-too-distant future, we can look forward to having competing providers of high-quality broadband in ToMD.

Thanks to the Committee for a job

-Camera- A plan to acquire a "Marina Eye" roving camera to assist with visiting boats with the objective of making the Harbor safer for the large visiting boats.

- Slip Rental Fees- The first increase in two years, All boats in NEH, SH, BH, and SWH will incur a 15 cent per foot rate increase.

-Registration Enforcement- The Harbor Committee will endeavor to enforce boat registration and size limits to combat overcrowding at the dinghy docks.

-Dumpster Management- To limit excessive dumping at the NEH Marina, there is a discussion to set up a security fence with an access code to regulate high season garbage dumping.

- Moorings- Of interest, Mooring ownership waiting list will now prioritize year-round residents by a ratio of 8 to 1 over Summer residents. 80% of new mooring ownership will now go to year-round residents. Legally, the State of Maine can allow harbors to reprioritize year-round residents by 9 to 1 over transient residents. This plan is intended to help out the lobster and fishing community. In reality, most local people on the list are miscellaneous. The list has "exploded" over the past few years. They will have to rebuild the mooring wait list across all four harbors. The town owns 13 moorings in NEH, and all the rest are privately owned.

The committee started in 2022, meets monthly (and will through June 2025) to create a regional elementary school system. This would take the numerous independent elementary schools on the island and create a single employer with one school board and one budget (shared fairly by all the towns). The committee has been considering four different models and as of December, had narrowed its options down to two models. Whether to go through with the proposed consolidation will be put forward to the voters in June 2025 and if passed the chosen model will be put in place for 2026.

well done!

The Tea in Town

Ice Rink Opening



The ice rink at the NEH Marina is up and running and already serving over 80 skaters a day. Still, Mother Nature has the final say on when the ice is useable; The Friends of the NEH Rink have a campaign to raise funds for a compressor. For more information [click the button below!](#)

*Skaters must bring their own skates. (Rentals available at sports shops in Bar Harbor, Ellsworth, and elsewhere).

[The NEH Rink](#)

Christmas Festival



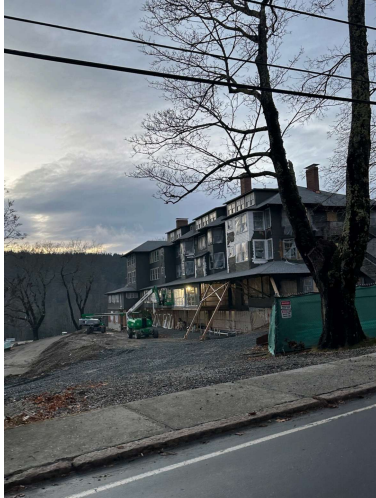
This year's Christmas Festival was a success and despite the freezing temps, attendance was high and attendees in high spirits! A dedicated few braved the cold for the Frosty 5K road race, Santa and Mrs.

Claus floated in on the Maine Seacoast Mission *Sunbeam* to a chorus of little voices. The elves from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust helped local children choose and wrap gifts for family members at a pop-up Santa's workshop. Local merchants opened their doors, and the day was capped off with a fundraiser dinner/ dance at the Neighborhood House.

Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and the sponsoring chamber members!

Work at The Asticou: It's Happening!

***Opening Summer 2025!**



Comings & Goings



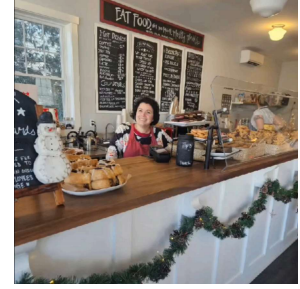
Sassafraass Cafe opened their doors in October. Run by a mother / daughter duo, Amanda and Kira Kendall, it is already a welcome addition to the island's coffee, tea and wine scene. The cafe, open year-round, is currently open Thursdays-Mondays from 10am-6pm and is located at 1317 State Highway 102 (just before the Town Hill Market)



A cornerstone merchant in Northeast harbor... **The Holmes Store** is for sale. If you are interested or know someone who might be: Please contact Peggy at theholmesstore@gmail.com



The Nook closed its doors permanently in October 2024.



After nine seasons, **123 Main Street** closed its doors at the end of December. The building owners are already looking for the next great thing for the space...stay tuned!

Be a part of the conversation!

JOIN / RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Our annual membership fee is \$50 per family



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This newsletters is intended for members of the Summer Residents Association. You are receiving this email because you are or were at one time a member of the SRA.

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