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## A Note from Your SRA

The season is changing and so is our town. Tried and true businesses are closing, and some cornerstone citizens are retiring. The Asticou Inn is reopening with a whole new vibe that is sure to bring a different buzz to town. Spring is in the air, and so is change. Read below to catch up on the news and be sure to check out our website and our “News” section. You can keep up to date and start your summer in the know! We strive to keep members updated on activities pertinent to you. If there are topics not covered you might be interested in, please let us know and we'll try to include them in future newsletters.

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## We want to hear from you!

Each month, this newsletter will include a one question multiple-choice survey. This month, we ask: “When would be the most convenient time for our July and August Members Meetings?”

[Start Survey](#)

*Note: To be a SRA member, you must visit or reside in the Town of Mount Desert, but are not qualified to vote at town meetings. These monthly surveys will give the SRA vital data to better represent our membership with the local government. Please note, individual survey responses will be kept confidential.*

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## WEIGHT IN! Fill out the town's comprehensive planning survey before March 30 (it takes about 15 minutes)

Connect me to the survey

### Following the Committees & Boards

#### The Board Of Selectman

The BOS reverses its earlier decision and supports non union member town worker's proposed double-digit raises (a total of \$108,000). They are sending a recommendation to the Town Meeting for citizens to vote on.

**This year's Town meeting is set for May 6.**

[Read the Bar Harbor  
Story article here](#)

#### The Department of Public Works

The Maine DOT has started the bridge replacement on Route 3 in Somesville. Brian Henkel, the Director of Public Works, says "There is a temporary bridge being built on the downstream side of the existing bridge. The garage is in the way of that temporary bridge. The small garage will be removed and stored at their shop north of of Somesville. It will be put back in place at the end of the project."

#### The Regional Planning Committee

The AOS 91 Regional Planning Committee (RPC) has been pressing forward and making consensus-based decisions on many important issues in a possible move towards reorganization of the AOS (alternative organizational structure) into an RSU (regional school unit). These decisions are only proposals that will be presented to the individual towns that make up AOS 91 and many are subject to change based upon resident feedback.

[Read the Bar Harbor  
Story article here](#)

#### The LUZO Committee Revision of Solar Energy Regulations

The committee's goal is to strike a balance between promoting renewable energy and preserving the town's aesthetic appeal. The final draft of these regulations will be forwarded for further action, marking a

\*The committee established two primary categories for solar systems: **ground-mounted** and **roof-mounted**. These categories are further divided into **small** and **medium** systems based on size.

\***Medium-scale systems** will require planning board approval, whereas **small roof-mounted systems** typically do not need permits.

\*A maximum height of **15 feet** was set for ground-mounted systems, with provisions for exceptions in specific cases.

\*To minimize visual impacts, the committee emphasized the use of **screening** and **native vegetation**. Property owners are responsible for maintaining these visual barriers.

\*Criteria for the removal and abandonment of both small and medium ground-mounted systems were streamlined to ensure efficient management.

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## The Tea in Town



### Town Manager Durlin Lunt to retire

August 31, 2025

The second longest serving Town Manager, Durlin Lunt, will retire after 15 years of service in that position. A committee will be formed to search for his replacement and Durlin hopes to use the last months of his career to help the transition to a new Town Manager of smoothly.

[Read the story HERE!](#)

## Keating Pepper Retires

### Knowles Company Welcomes New Ownership

Keating, who has been a cornerstone of the company since 1988 and co-purchased the business in 1994, has left an indelible mark on both the company and the community. The

Knowles Company welcomes a generational shift in ownership, combining the wisdom of long-time leaders with the energy and vision of new partners. Joining existing owners Mia Thompson and Kate Chaplin are Claire Dorwart, Kitty Barbee, and Emily Anne Pepper.

[Full Story HERE](#)



## Marla O'Byrne is retiring

Island Housing Trust (IHT) announces an upcoming leadership transition as Executive Director Marla O'Byrne prepares to retire this fall after years of dedicated service. Under Marla's leadership, IHT has made significant strides in creating and sustaining year-round housing opportunities for MDI's workforce and families.

[Full Story HERE](#)



## Housing on the Island: Island Housing Trust

IHT has created sixty-one home opportunities for year-round residents to date and will break ground on nine additional homes later this year. Bringing on our new Executive Director also coincides with developing our next (2026-



READ MORE

## The Holmes Store is Looking for a New Owner: Read Peggy's Letter Below:



The Holmes Store  
 114 Main Street  
 114 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

Summer Association  
 PO Box 143  
 Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Members of the Summer Association:

It is with mixed feelings that I am writing this note. I would like to spend more time with my family and my morning tea.

The Holmes Store is in the market. There has been quite a bit of interest. But that has fallen through. It is not clear to me if a buyer that would buy some of the buildings of the store is coming. The Holmes Store has been in the market for over 1000 and it was then the owner prior to the store. The Holmes Store has been an anchor in Main Street for a very long time.

Sales have been very strong. Each of the last three years has been better than the last with 2014 being the best year of the store. The buying is in the last three weeks of the store.

The store is the building is owned by John Brown and Nancy Brown. Please have them at the address of The Holmes Store. They have expressed their interest in selling a piece in a new owner of The Holmes Store.

I am writing this note to you of this opportunity might be interested in purchasing the store. It is a large amount of a going of the store.

The general store is still in the market for sale. The Holmes Store has been a store that is going to have no more of the store. It is possible that you are a new owner of the store. I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have. The best way to contact me is through email. [peggy@holmesstore.com](mailto:peggy@holmesstore.com)

Thank you all the best,  
 Peggy  
 Peggy K. Adams  
 The Holmes Store

## New Dog Policies from the Garden Preserve





*After 6 years,  
Seaside Deli has  
permanently closed.*



*The Nor'Easter is  
back on May 3.  
Serving breakfast,  
Lunch and Dinner 7  
days a week.*



*Coming this summer  
to the Marina: The  
Nor'Easter will open  
The Cup and Cone  
Food Truck.*



*The Asticou is set to  
open this summer.  
Construction is  
moving along on a  
comprehensive  
renovation.*

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## **Friends of Acadia invites you to an open house to view The Dane Farm Seasonal Workforce Housing Buildings on April 2**

Dear Seal Harbor Friends,

We are excited to let you know that we will be celebrating the success of our Raise The Roof Campaign at our Annual Meeting in July. Part of that success of this campaign is the completion of Dane Farm Seasonal Workforce Housing buildings and campus.

Before our big celebration in July, we would like to invite you all to an Open House at Dane Farm (75 Jordan Pond Road) on Wednesday April 2nd, from 4pm-6pm. There will be light refreshments, tours, and friendly conversations about Acadia.

Please RSVP to [lynn@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lynn@friendsofacadia.org) if you are able to join us.

Friends of Acadia and Acadia park leadership look forward to seeing you as our way of thanking Seal Harbor which has been so generous in welcoming this campus to your neighborhood.

Best,  
Eric Stiles, President & CEO  
Friends of Acadia

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## **Northern Light Health Center in Southwest Harbor Closes**

**News Center Maine**

[READ MORE](#)

## **After tremendous pushback, Maine rejects new minimum lobster size**

**News Center Maine**

[READ MORE](#)

## **Island Explorer Transit Hub, designed to ease seasonal traffic congestion, to Open in Trenton in June**

**The Bar Harbor Story**

[READ MORE](#)

## **Dept of Transportation, Southwest Harbor and National Park Service cannot come to agreement. Seawall repairs pushed back until Fall 2025**

**MDIslander**

[READ MORE](#)

## **Criterion Theatre Goes Dark for Much Needed Repairs**

**MDIslander**

[READ MORE](#)

## **Havana is a finalist for Outstanding Restaurant at the James Beard Awards**

[READ MORE](#)

## **Decreased Allowable Catch Rules in Effect; Scallop Prices Soar**

**The Seafood Story**

[READ MORE](#)

## **How Policy Developments Are Impacting Acadia**

**The Friends of Acadia**

[READ MORE](#)

## **MDI Bio Lab Responds to Proposed Cuts in NIH Funding**

### **Proposed NIH Cuts Blocked Again (3/11 update)**

**The MDI Bio Labs**

[READ MORE](#)

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**Membership renewal invoices will be coming shortly. Check your inboxes!**

[Click HERE to Join the SRA](#)

*Our annual membership fee is \$50*

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**Interested in Joining the Board of the SRA?**



[sratmdi@gmail.com](mailto:sratmdi@gmail.com)

We welcome all potential nominees from our six villages: Seal Harbor, Otter Creek,  
Hall Quarry, Northeast Harbor, Pretty Marsh and Somesville



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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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