

The Surry PTCO extends a welcome to all community members to attend our monthly meetings, held on the first (non-holiday) Monday of each month at 6pm in the school's library. This winter we will be planning for Family Fun Night, a spring clothing swap, the annual favorite Students vs Teachers basketball game, and literacy night.

We are also seeking donations to support our regular events, teachers and staff requests, and the weekly School Store Cart - students earn tickets for good behavior throughout the week and use them to purchase prizes. If you are willing, donations can be earmarked and given to the front office at the school or can be made electronically at <https://bit.ly/PTCOdonations> or by scanning the QR code.

SES students will be caroling again this year! If you would like to have them come sing to you, please call the school office with your name and address. The date will be December 21 at 9am.

For the most up to date information and announcements, please visit our Facebook page at <https://bit.ly/SurryPTCO>

Happy Holidays! Thank you for your support!



Did you know that you might be eligible to save \$30 per month on your internet service? Go to this website <https://www.getinternet.gov/> to see if you qualify and apply. If you need assistance to apply for the monthly discount, please reach out to us through the Town Office. Also, if you need technical assistance in connecting your devices, or how to use the internet, please reach out to us. Some examples for using the internet to serve your needs might include: how to use telehealth, how to cut the cost of TV programming by using streaming services, or how to make video calls with friends and family. Please contact the Surry Broadband Committee for assistance. And, if you are a computer savvy Surry resident and might be available to help a neighbor with computer questions, please contact us by calling the Town Office at 667-5912 to volunteer (leave a message).

The Gatherings:

Community Clothing Swap **Sunday Dec 3rd, 10am - 1pm**

Trade clothes and refresh your wardrobe! \$2/person

Kids Mending Day **Saturday Dec 9th, 10am - 1pm**

Fix your toys, books and favorite stuffy! Ages 2-13. \$4/child

Island Christmas Singalong **Thursday Dec 21st, 6pm - 8pm**

All instruments and voices welcome, traditional and modern festive tunes, hosted by our local uke group. Donations welcome.

Plus many more weekly groups and events! See www.surrygatherings.org or call 412-0264

Hosted by the Arbutus Grange:

Contra Dance and Community Dance

2nd Saturdays: Dec 9th, Jan 13th, Feb 10th at The Surry Elementary School Auditorium.

No experience? No partner? No problem! Neither are needed for these fun and easy dances!

6-7pm Community Dance: learn the basics, suitable for everyone: kids, adults, elders, families and newcomers. No charge, donations welcome. Play an instrument? Join in the Open Band!

7-10pm Contra Dance: all dances taught, newcomers are very welcome. Live music by a variety of talented musicians from all across Maine. \$10-\$20 suggested. Funds help support the Arbutus Grange. For more info: 385-7694 or

facebook.com/SurryContraDance



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November 30, 2023

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

Reminder: Starting December 5, 2023 Select Board Meetings will be held at **6pm** on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.



The Town Office will be closed for winter break from December 23rd – January 1st. Normal business hours will resume on January 2, 2024.

2024 Dog Licenses are available at the Town Office. All dogs 6 months or older must be licensed. To obtain a license for your dog, the owner will need to provide a current rabies certificate from the veterinarian and proof of spay/neuter. Please remember to register your dog by January 31, 2024 to avoid a \$25 late fee.

Dates to remember:

Sunday, 12/3 –Clothing Swap-10-1 pm at The Gatherings

Monday, 12/4 -SCIA Tree Lighting and Caroling, Memorial Park, 5 pm Hot beverages and cookies will be served at Pugnuts afterwards.

Saturday, 12/9-Santa's Magic Chimney at the Old Town Hall-1-3 pm

Saturday, 12/9– Contra Dance–Surry Elementary School– 6-10 pm

Saturday, 12/9-Kids mending class-10-1 pm at The Gatherings

Saturday, 12/16–Festival of Trees at Rural Hall– 2-5 pm

Thursday, 12/21–Island Christmas Sing Along-6-8 pm at The Gatherings

Saturday, 12/23-Monday 1/1-Town Office Closed for Winter Break

Saturday, 1/13- Contra Dance-Surry Elementary School-6-10 pm

Monday, 1/29-2/2-Select Board Chair-Listening Sessions

Sunday, 2/4- SCIA Soup, Chowder & Cookie Contest, Surry School Gym, 1-3 pm

Saturday, 2/10-Contra Dance-Surry Elementary School-6-10 pm

Saturday 3/30-Taxes due! Second installment for FY2024

We want to know your story if you have been denied access to connect solar panels to the electric grid.

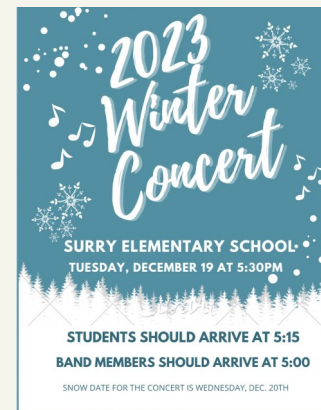
Several homeowners on the Blue Hill Peninsula have recently applied to connect their solar electric system to the grid, but were denied. They were told that there was limited capacity at the local substation. If you are being denied access to the grid, we want to know about it. Leave a message with your experience at the Town Office. We are seeking ways to address this issue.

The Surry Community Improvement Association (SCIA) held our October Harvest Dinner to honor Surry veterans with guest speaker Jason McFarland and pianist Wayne Smith. Thank you to Ben Hawes, Lucy Landry, Charlotte Miltner, and Mr. Patterson's art students for their participation in honoring our veterans. The SCIA would like to compile a list of all of our current veterans of Surry. If you are a veteran or know a veteran, please contact us at golfeng@aol.com.

Pickleball season has started at the Surry School Gym! Please check the SCIA Facebook page or the Surry School Calendar for scheduling details, as school events take priority over pickleball! Please join us for our next events: Tree Lighting and Caroling at Memorial Park, Dec. 4th, and the Soup, Chowder, and Cookie Contest at the Surry Gym on Feb. 4th.



Santa's Magic Chimney, Saturday, December 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 1217 Surry Road. Surry Historical Society elves will drop great gifts down the chimney for all Surry kids. See the Magic! Feel the Awe! Enjoy the Gifts! Hot cider for all who come by.



Surry School Winter Concert Tuesday, December 19th at 5:30 pm

Mary Allen, Surry Select Board Chair, will hold Listening Sessions for Town residents during the week of January 29th. If you would like to meet with Mary, please send her an email at Chair@townofsurrymaine.com or call the office at (207) 667-5912 and leave a message. Mary would like to hear your ideas for making Surry better and also your concerns. Meetings can be with just one individual or a small group.

Tea House Zen meditation on Zoom. (link on TeaHouseZen.org) with Nancy Hathaway, Senior Dharma Teacher Kwan Um School of Zen Wednesdays 5-6PM. Tea, Meditation, Discussion, Loving Kindness chant.

Mindfulness-based Compassionate Communication on ZOOM with Nancy Hathaway, M.Ed., Licensed (clinical) Pastoral Counselor Psychotherapist, College instructor, Senior Dharma Teacher Center for Studying Mindfulness Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 January 10, 17, 24, 31 (Zoom link sent to participants; CEUs available) For more information contact: Hathaway.N@gmail.com

Healthy Peninsula is developing an online "Skills and Services Directory" for the Blue Hill Peninsula and Deer/Isle Stonington to make it easier for local people to publicize their skills and to make it easier for others to find the help they need. To add a skill or service or to find one go to: <https://www.healthypeninsula.org/>

General Assistance in Surry

General assistance is a program for people who don't have enough money to pay for necessary expenses such as food, medicine, rent, heat and electricity. You can get an application from the Town Office or download it from the Town website. On the application you will be required to give a list with all your expenses, such as rent, heating fuel, electricity food and other things you need. You don't sign the application until after you meet with the GA administrator, Chris Stark, and are certain that the application is complete. Also, you will be asked to apply for other types of assistance through either the Department of Health and Human Services in Ellsworth (855-797-4357) or Downeast Community Partners (207-664-2424) if you haven't already. You may still be eligible for general assistance after you have applied for another resource.

Surry Fuel Assistance Program

Funded by the 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.

*Note: **Additional resources** for Surry residents in need of food include: Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Ellsworth; Tree of Life Food Pantry, Blue Hill; Senior Food Program through Eastern Area Agency on Aging, community meals in the area, the Surry Backpack Program and the Magic School Bus (summer) in Surry. Contact the Town Office for applications or more information: 667-5912

Downeast Woodbank

An all volunteer, non-profit group that provides 1/3 cord of firewood for those who have a woodstove or fireplace and need supplemental heat. The program, based in Surry, serves residents of Blue Hill, Brooklin, Ellsworth, Sedgwick and Surry and doesn't require a proof of need (no application required). You can contact them at: downeastwoodbank@yahoo.com or 207-812-4472.

Note: same contact for volunteering.



Some Town Volunteer Needs:

Climate Action Workgroup – need members. The group is currently scoping possible sites to have a public water handpump for Surry residents for access to good drinking water during power outages as well as for residents that currently have to buy bottled water due to contamination. The group will encourage residents to have their wells tested and will explore grants to provide vouchers for those who need water treatment to have safe drinking water from home. They also will be researching Homeowner energy audits – to save on fuel costs.

Ad Hoc Shellfish Committee is forming to draft a Shellfish Ordinance for Surry.

Alewife Committee - sign up to participate in the spring count

Contact the Town Office for more info!