

Deadline: 1 p.m. Tuesday. Submit opinions by email or mail to Penobscot Bay Press, P.O. Box 36, Stonington, ME 04681.

## LETTER

### Supporting local businesses

At a time when my business as well as others in our area starts to slow down, I start to think about what can bring in more clientele to my salon. In the summer months we are busy, but in the winter we certainly have lulls in our schedules. I have noticed since purchasing on the internet has become a big part of our lives, that we are all very proud to proclaim that we got a great deal on an item online—with good reason of course. We are very happy to stretch our money as far as possible. I have price checked a few items that are carried in my salon by myself or the girls that work with me. I have noticed that our items are actually the same price or even less. Of course you have to come into our place to pick up, but I would like to remind our thrifty community members that you are actually supporting us when you buy from us. When you come in for services from us, you support us. You can see us and talk to us, and many of our products we carry have a professional guarantee attached to them. All laborers and service providers in our community are supported by you. And we count on repeat business to keep us going. Most of you know us or our families. Wouldn't you feel good knowing that the money you spent helped us support our families and was put back into our community? Helped to put our children through college, or paid for their healthcare. Just keep in mind that shopping local doesn't only apply to our retail stores. Plumbers, electricians, contractors, and as for my family, hair salons and boatyards rely on our community to support us. I know in my business the ladies that work with me and I will go above and beyond to ensure our clients are happy and that they come back to end up forming lasting relationships. That's what makes small businesses so personal and reliable.

Erin Butler  
Owner, Classic Cuts  
Blue Hill

## POETRY

### "Here we come A' Scalloping"

BY ROB BAUER, BLUE HILL

Here we come A' Scalloping, upon the bay so Blue,  
Here we come a wandering, their flavor is so true.  
Chorus:

Love and Joy come to you,  
And to your Scallops too,  
And God bless you and send you, scallops in a pie,  
And God send you scallops in a pie.

We are not the lobstermen, who moan and groan  
all day,  
No, were the jolly Scallopers, who happy on our way,  
Chorus

Now here upon the Coast of Maine, where lobsters  
run the show,  
The Chefs for fancy scallops, will go thru wind  
and snow.

Chorus  
I have my plastic bucket, the scallops in it go,  
I'll get my daily limit, despite the wind and snow.

Chorus  
Here's hoping for a good price, on my daily catch,  
And if you want I'll save you some, from this  
fancy batch,

Chorus  
So, save your coins and plan your meals, the  
season it is short

You may call, and ask for a gallon, but only get a  
quart.

Chorus

Chorus

## ANOTHER VIEW

# Limiting pesticides: Blue Hill Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance in the making

BY RICK TRAUB, BLUE HILL

*"For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is now subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals from the moment of conception until death.... These chemicals are now stored in the bodies of the vast majority of human beings, regardless of age. They occur in the mother's milk, and probably in the tissues of the unborn child."*

In 1962, Rachel Carson sounded the alarm in her seminal book, *Silent Spring*. Fifty-seven years later, the situation has deteriorated further rather than improve. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, over 1 billion pounds of pesticides are used in the U.S. every year, and per USDA data analyzed by Environmental Working Group, up to 70 percent of produce sold in the U.S. contains pesticide residue.

The increased use of glyphosate, the principle ingredient in Roundup weed killer and the poster child for dangerous pesticides in the U.S., continues at an alarming rate, going from 13.9 million pounds applied in 1992 to 287 million pounds in 2016 per the National Geological Survey.

Scientific studies associate exposure to pesticides with serious health problems such as cancer,

child developmental disorders, learning disabilities, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, asthma, liver damage, endocrine disruption, reproductive dysfunction, and even death. Pesticide residue permeates our air, water, land, and food. No living organism—human, animal, or plant—is immune from its effects.

The massive scale of this crisis can feel overwhelming. What can one do to help alleviate this problem? Last summer, I learned that two other Blue Hill residents, Semena Curlik and Gabrielle Wellman, shared my concern. We began studying the health effects of pesticides and researched healthy alternatives to their use. We discovered that at least 29 municipalities in Maine have already passed ordinances which limit the use of pesticides.

Using ordinances of Camden, Rockland, Ogunquit, South Portland and Portland as a foundation, we began writing an ordinance to propose to Blue Hill voters. We met weekly for five months to complete the Blue Hill Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance. When enacted, this ordinance will prohibit the "application, storage, or sale of synthetic substances (pesticides) other than those specifically listed as 'allowed' in the National Organic

Program (U.S. Department of Agriculture's National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances)," with exemptions (i.e., commercial farms) sited in the ordinance.

The ordinance will be voted on at town hall on Friday, April 3, 2020, as part of referendum voting that opens Town Meeting. Once enacted, the effective date of this ordinance will be January 1, 2021.

To help publicize this effort, the website BlueHillHealthyEcosystem.com has been created. On this site, you will find the ordinance, ordinance FAQ, a wealth of information relating to pesticides, and healthy solutions for a healthier future. Additional articles and information, including Second Tuesday Educational Evenings and a public hearing before the town vote will be added as available.

The Second Tuesday Educational Evenings will be held at the Blue Hill Public Library, starting December 10.

We are gathering signatures to place the Blue Hill Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance on the ballot. If you are a registered Blue Hill voter, see one of us around town, and if you would like to sign, please ask. We'll have petitions in hand.

# Community Compass expands Navigator program

BY BOB HOLMBERG

The Community Compass Parents are Leaders (PALS) program has been successfully developed by Deer Isle Stonington Navigator Linda Shepard over the past four years. It is an evidence-based program of supportive home visitations to every town newborn and preschooler, in addition to infant play/parent support and education groups.

Parenting can be stressful and isolating, especially in the first few years. These are the critical early years of infant brain growth. PALS empowers families with resources (for example, WIC, Mainecare, SNAP) and skills to be successful, reducing the risk of "toxic stress" in the home. The PALS navigator connects by offering welcoming home visits to all area families that are expecting or have a newborn. Basic needs are evaluated as housing, heating, food, transportation, and counseling services, with referrals facilitated by the Navigator as necessary. Partici-

pation in weekly infant play/parent support groups is offered that model positive, interactive, developmentally appropriate infant play and teaches positive parenting skills. Early childhood resources, books, and equipment are provided. Referrals to early childhood programs in the region are facilitated.

Linda has visited 25 to 35 newborn families on Deer Isle each year. She has been able to provide timely detection and developmental therapy referrals for a number of area children with early autism, deafness, and severe social emotional control issues. She has then followed these children into successful school transition working with Headstart, area child care, and Child Development Services.

Community Compass is a poverty prevention focused nonprofit that connects people in need with opportunity and connects regional human service organizations and the public in building poverty awareness, volunteer engagement,

and program collaboration. It serves the people of Deer Isle, Stonington, Sedgwick, Surry, Brooklin, Blue Hill, Brooksville, Penobscot, Castine, and Orland.

Community Compass has been engaged in coastal Hancock County for a number of years contracting and training local Navigators who know the face of poverty, their neighbors, and have the trust of their community. They reach out and help connect neighbors in need with available resources such as emergency housing, food, transportation, health care and counseling as well as connection to job skills training, education and financial counseling.

Community Compass is expanding its PALS program to Sedgwick and accepting qualified applicants who would work in partnership with Sedgwick Basic Needs Navigator Tammie Cox. For more information contact Community Compass director Scott Hamann at scott@communitycompassdowneast.org or 233-2951.



Serving Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville,  
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—The Staff

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