



# June Newsletter

*Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future*

## Town Elections Next Week on June 21



We often say that every vote matters in an election, but that is especially true in municipal elections. A small number of votes can make the difference between whether a candidate wins or loses, so your voice really does count. So too for the

ballot questions.

In Marblehead, town elections are coming up next week on Tuesday, June 21. Contested races include those for members of the Select Board (formerly called the Board of Selectmen), Town Moderator, Cemetery Commission, Board of Health, Municipal Light Commission and School Committee. Click [here](#) for town election information, including a [sample ballot](#).

The ballot also includes two questions. Question 1 concerns funding for road and sidewalk repairs, new roofs for town buildings, construction of a new salt shed, replacement of the boilers at the High School, and various technology improvements. Click [here](#) to see the informational handout presented at Town Meeting. Question 2 relates to an increase in the school budget, which Superintendent Dr. John Buckey and School Committee members argue is necessary to maintain the quality of our schools. Click [here](#) for more information on that ballot question. Both budget proposals were approved at Town Meeting, but because they involve tax increases, they must be voted on by all Marblehead voters.

The [League of Women Voters of Marblehead](#) website has information on candidates for town offices, including a [recording of its Candidates Night](#). The Marblehead Beacon, a local news site just launched to replace the Marblehead Reporter, is also making an effort to focus on the upcoming town elections, including posting [candidate profiles](#) with responses to a list of questions.

You can vote in person on June 21: Precinct 1 at the Old Town House; Precincts 2 and 3 at Abbot Hall; and Precincts 4, 5, and 6 at the Judy and Gene Jacoby Community Center. If you plan to be out of town on June 21, you can request an absentee ballot, until a week before the election by mail and until four days before

the election in person. If you are prepared to vote when you request the absentee ballot, absentee voting can also be done in person – by first filling out the request for an absentee ballot and then completing the ballot – at the Town Clerk’s Office at Abbot Hall.

As Select Board Member Erin Noonan said at a meeting earlier this year, the town stands at a crossroads as we decide what services we want to fund and how to pay for them.

Signs are popping up all over town urging you to vote one way or another.

Next week’s election is your chance to choose our leaders and our path forward.

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## Plastic Free July Challenge



Next month is [Plastic Free July](#). This annual event, founded by the [Plastic Free Foundation](#), began in Western Australia in 2011 and has spread across the globe. If we can each make an effort to refuse single-use plastics during the month and beyond, we can contribute to a global effort to make our streets, beaches and planet cleaner.

Click [here](#) for more on the Plastic Free July Challenge, including committing to avoiding single-use plastic packaging, targeting takeaway items such as bags, bottles, straws and cups, or going completely "plastic free."

Here in town, Sustainable Marblehead will help you take the plastic free challenge with events and information throughout the month.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is always full of color, but this year's will be greener than ever! Sustainable Marblehead has provided financial support for Black Earth Compost to provide bins and haul away compostable items from the festival's popular Champagne Reception on June 26 at Fort Sewall. We will also make compostable bamboo forks available to restaurants participating in the event, thereby cutting down the amount of nonrecyclable plastic forks used. Additionally, we will have compostable cups available for event goers.

Sustainable Marblehead has also found several ways to cut down on single-use plastic water bottles. On July 2, in the parking lot next to Arnould Gallery & Framery on Washington Street, we have arranged for a large "Quench Buggy" mobile water truck from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to be there along with providing compostable paper cups. Visitors can also quench their thirst by getting a cup of water from Sustainable Marblehead's new "Water Monster," a huge water cooler that will be placed in the St. Michael's Church lot.

Finally, on July 8 at 6:30 pm, MacCrae's Sustainable Goods will host a workshop: How to

Reduce Plastic: Buy Less, Use More. To register click [here](#) or go to Events on our website.

And, throughout the month, we will post daily tips to social media for reducing plastic use.

*Donors like you make these types of changes possible. Please consider a [monthly donation](#) to help us make additional town events this year more ecofriendly.*

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### **Native Plants Take Root**

The Conservation Working Group's Pollinator Action Plan team initiated a project with the Glover Landing

Condominium Association in October 2021 to transform over 50 large planters from annual flowers to perennials friendly to native pollinators.

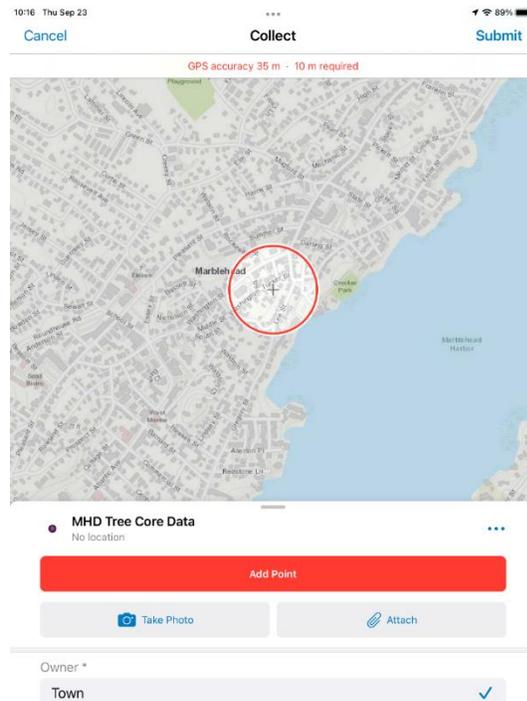
Tower School sixth graders were instrumental in the success of this project. They first performed solar and soil assessment surveys of the property in the fall. Then, based on the New England Native Pollinators [list](#) available on the Sustainable Marblehead website and help from the Pollinator Action Plan team, the children selected the plantings for each planter. The selections were made to meet the sunlight requirements at each location and to provide blooms from May to October in complementary colors. Not an easy task!

In the spring, plants were ordered and the planters prepared. The Tower students helped with the plantings in late May and came back in early June to present their efforts to residents. Glover Landing residents have expressed appreciation for

Sustainable Marblehead's and the Tower School's support for this project and is looking forward to seeing more pollinators across its property. Thanks to this project, Marblehead got its first butterfly registered on the [Pollinator Pathway website](#).

Members of the Pollinator Action Plan team also met with staff from the Marblehead Garden Center to encourage them to sell more New England native pollinator plants. The Action Plan provided the list of native pollinators. Marblehead Gardens ordered as many natives as they could get. They set up a specific area for the native perennials and hired a high school student who is putting stickers on the pots in that area as well as on perennials and shrubs in other locations of the nursery.

The Marblehead Garden Center has been very encouraged by the enthusiastic response by customers, and they plan to expand the native plant area next year.



## Taking a Tree Inventory

Volunteers have started working with Marblehead's Tree Warden, Jon Fobert, to take an inventory of the town's street trees.

Why is this important?

Inventorying town trees will help:

- Fight disease and insect damage – Emerald ash borers have found Marblehead, for example, but we don't know where all the ash trees are. Once we've recorded each tree, including its species, we will.

- Collect insurance money – Errant drivers sometimes take down large town trees, but we don't know the value of those trees for insurance purposes. Once we've measured the diameter of each town tree, we will. Trees are replaced on an inch-by-inch basis.
- Protect utilities by pruning – Tree branches need trimming to avoid downing power lines during a storm, but without a map of tree conditions, laying out a plan is very time consuming. With the comments entered as part of the inventory, the Tree Warden will be able to pull information together quickly from the database to determine which tree limbs need to be trimmed.

Sustainable Marblehead volunteers are using the Tree Department's three iPads (screen shot above) to capture the location, species, health, photos and environment of each street tree.

This is a big job, which will take all summer and into the fall to complete. If you'd like to volunteer to help in this effort,

please send an email

to: [Pal.bickford@sustainablemarblehead.org](mailto:Pal.bickford@sustainablemarblehead.org).

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## April Tree Plantings

On April 30, a diverse group of volunteers worked with Tree Warden Jon Fobert to plant 24 trees in three hours along Ralph and Sevinor Roads. Lots of fun was had by all, and since this was the second year that volunteers helped, the project took half the time it did last year.

Fobert purchased bare root trees appropriate for street planting using the town's Street Tree Donation Fund

set up in 1976, which also paid for trees planted around Abbot Hall. The fund has been dormant for many years and needs a boost now.

If you would like to see more town trees planted along our streets, to beautify our town and shade sidewalks and passersby from the summer heat, please give generously. It's easy: simply write a check made out to the Town of Marblehead with "Tree Donation" in the memo line and send it or drop it off at the Marblehead Tree Department, Attn: Tree Donation Fund, 3 Tower Way, Marblehead, MA 01945.

For more information, click [here](#).



## Recognition Landscaping

Do you have a favorite teacher, organization, mentor or family member whom you think deserves recognition? Did you request a memorial bench for someone after the moratorium on benches was imposed? Are you eager to support new landscaping projects that provide beauty and shade while reducing heat loads, carbon emissions, air pollution and storm runoff?

We have a great opportunity for you. The Recreation and Parks Department has a new site for your donations at [www.mhdlandscape.org/](http://www.mhdlandscape.org/). This donation fund, created in collaboration with Sustainable Marblehead's Town Trees and Urban Forestry Working Group, will give the Marblehead community an opportunity to support landscaping projects with native tree and shrub

plantings on our park and school grounds.

The first project will be focused on the Community Center's Humphrey Street face with new native plantings. These landscaping projects will include both the design and execution to plant native bushes, shrubs, and flowers. Plaques will be placed honoring the names provided with the donations. While Recreation and Parks will prepare the site, community volunteers will help plant – another great opportunity to beautify Marblehead's green spaces!



## Marblehead Ocean Week

Sustainable Marblehead, in partnership with the Rozalia Project,

held its second annual Marblehead Ocean Week from June 2 to 8, in celebration of World Oceans Day.

A highlight of the week was a kick-off evening presentation with famed Vendée Globe sailor and Marblehead resident Rich Wilson. Over the weekend, the Rozalia Project arrived with their Ted Hood designed *American Promise* to promote their mission of cleaning and protecting our oceans. Weekend events included an outdoor film screening and a community beach clean-up.

Sustainable Marblehead launched its first Harbor Sustainability Fair, featuring the latest in green boating technology, youth programming on microplastics and a Sailors for The Sea Green Boating table hosted by local skipper Rob Howie. Sustainable Marblehead also hosted a fundraiser benefiting both Rozalia Project and Sustainable Marblehead's efforts to create a more sustainable future for our planet.

During the week, Rozalia staff also

made a series of presentations at the Marblehead Public Schools.

Go to these websites for more information on [Sustainable Marblehead](#) and the [Rozalia Project](#).



## **Greening Our Yacht Clubs, Boats and Regattas**

Harbor Working Group members Rob Howie and James Ashton organized a Greening Our Clubs, Boats, and Regattas Workshop on May 14 to help “green teams” at all the Marblehead yacht clubs share best practices and resources. Dr. Shelley Brown from Sailors for the Sea presented to the group on its Green Boater program.

Attendees received three checklists to help keep track of efforts to promote sustainability in the club, for members and for regattas, in such areas as reducing single-use plastic, promoting recycling and composting, and saving energy.

To encourage yacht clubs to take action, Sustainable Marblehead introduced the Green Boater

competition. There are now 75 boat owners in Marblehead who have signed Sailors for the Sea's Green Boater pledge. We are challenging clubs to double that number by the end of the summer! The club that signs up the greatest number of its members as Green Boaters this season will be recognized and rewarded at the next workshop in October.

Sustainable Marblehead requested yacht clubs to promote the competition in their club e-newsletters and ask their members to take the pledge. We will present a Green Boater burgee for every new Green Boater recruited by each club.

Go to

[www.sailorsforthesea.org/Marblehead](http://www.sailorsforthesea.org/Marblehead) to take the Green Boater pledge.

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## Upcoming Events -- Plastic Free July



## July 2

Watch for the Festival of Arts' hydration stations sponsored by Sustainable Marblehead:

- "Quench Buggy" mobile water truck in the parking lot next to Arnould Gallery & Framery, 111 Washington Street.
- "Water Monster" (above) in the St. Michael's Church lot.



## July 8, 6:30 pm

How to Reduce Plastic: Buy Less, Use More

MacRae's Sustainable Goods, 108 Washington Street.

Space is limited!

[RSVP](#) today

We will discuss:

- How plastic waste is affecting our lives
- Sustainable alternatives to everyday plastic products and how to use them in multiple ways

- How to advocate for change

**Presented by:** Jennifer Lewis, owner  
of MacRae's Sustainable Goods

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## Save the Date!



### Land & Sea Cleanup

September 17, 2022

11:30 am

Please plan to join Sustainable Marblehead and SPUR for our fourth annual cleanup. We will be mobilizing volunteers to clean trash and debris from our oceans, beaches and parks at over 30 locations.

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### Did You Know?

Today, fewer than 2% of Americans live on farms or ranches.

Despite the trend toward Big Agriculture, Millennials and a growing number of Gen Zers recognize that kitchen gardening helps curtail their carbon emissions, connects them with their environment and saves them hard-earned cash.

By 2014, around one in three American households grew their own food – the highest participation in a decade. The country is primed for an explosion of what's commonly known as kitchen gardening.

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### What Can You Do?

You don't need a large plot of land to grow your own food. You can grow inside or outside, as long as you have access to sunlight and water. Even a

well-lit window can support herbs and other vegetables in small containers.

Map your sunlight, choose plants that fit your hardiness zone, get good soil and water appropriately. Then you can enjoy the harvest!

This [guide](#) will help.

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## Support

Sustainable Marblehead is a community organization working to reduce waste and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. Our work is important, and we can't do it alone. Please join us by donating today.

[Donate Today](#)

Special thanks to our Community Champion Sponsors



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