

# The Falmouth Focus

## SPECIAL PRINT EDITION

### VISION & VALUES PROJECT SEEKS YOUR INPUT



*Falmouth's Vision & Values Project is moving full steam ahead. Despite the recent uncertainties associated with the uptick of COVID cases in Maine and the rise of variant strains, we are moving forward with a plan to hold in-person neighborhood gatherings, focus groups, and a think tank this September. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation and to make adjustments, including the possibility of moving to virtual meetings, as needed. Future iQ, the Town's consultant for the Visioning process, has identified 10 key discussion topics based upon the responses and input received from Community Survey #1 and through the Future Summits held in March. See topics at right.*

#### Join the Discussion Today Online!

Discussion Boards are now open on the project portal at: <https://lab2.future-iq.com/town-of-falmouth-vision-and-values-project/>. Residents can find background information on the complexities of each Focus Group topic, provide their feedback on the subject, engage with neighbors on these issues, and sign up for meetings being held in September.

#### Join us in September!

Future iQ is planning multiple meetings in September (scheduled for in-person at the time of this writing) to gather more input from residents. A key component of the

Focus Groups		
Topic	Date/Time	Venue*
Environmental issues	Sat., Sept. 18 9:00-10:30am	Lunt Auditorium
Governance and collaboration	Sat., Sept. 18 11:00-12:30pm	Lunt Auditorium
Shared community areas, green and open spaces	Mon., Sept. 20 5:30-7:00pm	Falmouth High School Cafeteria
Connectivity, walkability, and recreation	Mon., Sept. 20 7:30-9:00pm	Falmouth High School Cafeteria
Housing affordability	Tues., Sept. 21 5:30-7:00pm	Lunt Auditorium
Cost of living in Falmouth	Tues., Sept. 21 7:30-9:00pm	Lunt Auditorium
Non-residential development and future Town Center	Wed., Sept. 22 5:30-7:00pm	Lunt Auditorium
Residential development	Wed., Sept. 22 7:30-9:00pm	Lunt Auditorium
Community diversity, inclusivity, and resident experience	Thurs., Sept. 23 5:30-7:00pm	Lunt Auditorium
Lifelong community learning opportunities and school system	Thurs., Sept. 23 7:30-9:00pm	Lunt Auditorium

Vision & Values project are the **Focus Groups**. These workshops are a chance for residents to take a deep dive into specific, often complex, topics regarding Falmouth's vision for its future. In the Focus Groups, attendees will receive an overview of the discussion topic, macro trends that could impact Falmouth, and the trade-offs involved in choosing one path over another. Small group discussions will allow residents to hear from their neighbors and give their own input on these issues. See the chart above for topics, dates/times, and venues.

#### TOWN HALL HOURS

Monday: 7:00am-4:30pm  
Tuesday: 8:00am-4:30pm  
Wednesday: 8:00am-4:30pm  
Thursday: 8:00am-4:30pm  
Friday: Closed

#### ONLINE SERVICES

[www.falmouthme.org/home/pages/online-services](http://www.falmouthme.org/home/pages/online-services)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Vision & Values Project.....	1
Letter from the Chair .....	2
Senior Tax Assistance .....	2
Veranda Bridge Closure .....	3
Revaluation.....	4
Tax Rate Decrease .....	4
Get Connected .....	4

## FROM TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR, AMY KUHN



Dear Neighbors,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying a wonderful Maine summer.

As we look ahead to the fall, please mark your calendars for Monday, September 13 through Saturday, September 25, when the Town will host more than a dozen meetings to develop a community-wide vision for the future of Falmouth. Each meeting will be focused on a different aspect of life here in our town such as the environment, schools, parks and

recreation, and residential and commercial development. You can find all the details in this newsletter. The Council is eager to hear your vision for Falmouth's future so that policy can be well aligned with the community's goals and values. I hope to see you there.

On July 21, the Town Council held a very productive workplan retreat where we set out our priorities for the upcoming year. It will be a busy year with the continuation of the Vision & Values Project, the Revaluation Project (see an update on page 4), roadway improvements, and many other important initiatives before us. With so much going on it is a very exciting time and we look forward to working toward these goals on behalf of our community.

The Council joins me in wishing you a healthy and enjoyable fall season.

## VISION & VALUES PROJECT

*(continued from page 1)*

In addition, drop by one of three **Neighborhood Gatherings** to provide additional input regarding your vision for Falmouth's future. These more informal gatherings will provide residents a chance to meet the team from Future iQ, and to speak more generally about the Vision & Values project. See dates, times, and venues at right.

### Don't Miss the Think Tank!

The **Think Tank** is a highly participatory workshop where we take all we've learned from the Focus Groups and Neighborhood Meetings and pull it together into what Future iQ calls "future splitting questions" which explore the impacts and consequences of a range of different future paths. Here possible future scenarios are examined and discussed as participants gather in small groups to really drill down on what they envision for Falmouth's future and what ramifications, realities, and trade-offs will occur as a result of those choices. This is a crucial part of the Vision & Values process and we highly encourage residents to attend. The Think Tank will be held on Saturday, September 25 from 8:30am-12:30pm.

Neighborhood Gatherings	
Date/Time	Venue*
Mon., Sept. 13 5:30-7:00pm	Falmouth Congregational Church, Falmouth Road
Tues., Sept. 14 5:30-7:00pm	Venue To Be Determined
Wed., Sept. 15 5:00-6:30pm	Holy Martyrs Church, Rt. 88

### Sign Up!

Learn more about all these meetings and discussion topics and register to attend Focus Groups, Neighborhood Gatherings, and the Think Tank at: <https://lab2.future-iq.com/town-of-falmouth-vision-and-values-project/>. **Registration is requested** to gauge attendance numbers and plan accordingly. Online registration is preferred, but you may also call 207-699-5329.

### Stay Informed!

In July, Future iQ launched a special series of digital newsletters focused on the Vision & Values Project. These will be issued every other Friday on weeks opposite *The Falmouth Focus*. Project updates, national trends, comparison data, and the implications and opportunities these present for Falmouth's future will be highlighted in these issues. To receive these newsletters via email, you can subscribe to *The Falmouth Focus* at [www.falmouthme.org/subscribe](http://www.falmouthme.org/subscribe).

Think Tank	
Date/Time	Venue*
Sat., Sept. 25 8:30am-12:30pm	Falmouth High School Theater

*\*Note: Venues are subject to change and dependent upon pandemic related restrictions in place at the time of the event. If necessary, meetings will be held virtually or moved to a later date.*



The Town of Falmouth's Senior Property Tax Assistance Program is now accepting applications from eligible residents for property tax assistance. The program, now in its fourth year, is open to current Falmouth residents age 62 or older with annual income under \$50,000. Both property owners and renters are eligible to apply. Refunds will be determined based on the number of valid applications received. Recipients will be refunded a proportional share of the available program funds based on income level. The total amount budgeted for this program in fiscal year 2022 is \$60,000. Refunds for eligible applicants will be paid on or before November 18, 2021.

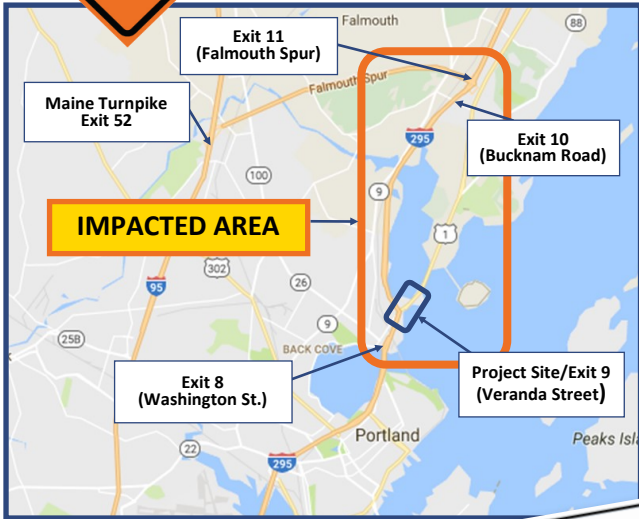
Residents can mail in the application and backup documents to Town of Falmouth, Finance Department, 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105. Or call Pete McHugh at 699-5311 to make an appointment to submit your application.

Residents are encouraged to apply early. **The deadline for applications is October 14, 2021.**

Contact Pete McHugh, Finance Director, at [pmchugh@falmouthme.org](mailto:pmchugh@falmouthme.org) or 699-5311 for more information. Application materials, additional information, and an eligibility worksheet, can be found at: <https://www.falmouthme.org/finance/pages/senior-property-tax-assistance>.

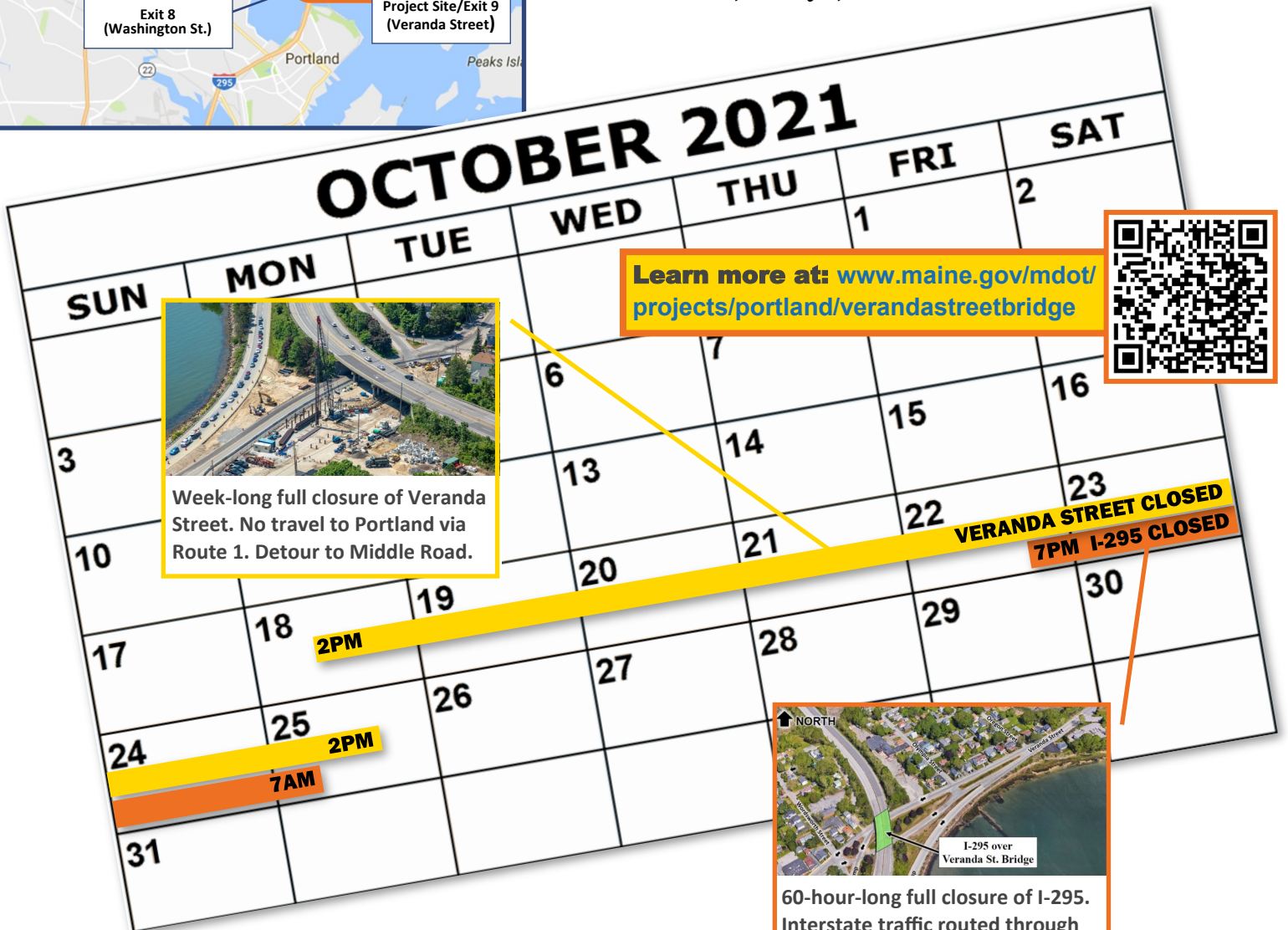


# UNDER CONSTRUCTION



## VERANDA STREET BRIDGE PROJECT MEANS MAJOR TRAFFIC FOR FALMOUTH

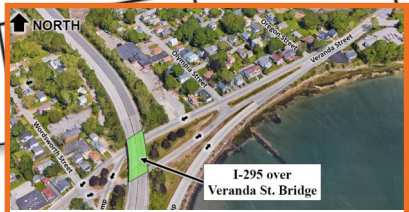
MaineDOT is replacing the bridge that carries I-295 over Veranda Street at Exit 9 and reconfiguring the roadways beneath the bridge to improve safety and mobility. **This means traffic, delays, and detours for Falmouth.**



Learn more at: [www.maine.gov/mdot/projects/portland/verandastreetbridge](http://www.maine.gov/mdot/projects/portland/verandastreetbridge)



Week-long full closure of Veranda Street. No travel to Portland via Route 1. Detour to Middle Road.



60-hour-long full closure of I-295. Interstate traffic routed through Falmouth.

### HELPFUL VIDEO LINKS

Use your smart phone camera to scan these QR codes.

#### Project Overview

<https://youtu.be/uWQmZrw-WAg>



#### I-295 Detours

[https://youtu.be/s\\_074HYPEP0](https://youtu.be/s_074HYPEP0)



#### Route 1/Veranda St. Detours

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hS35xUtKNdo>



## GET CONNECTED



E-Alerts are sent directly to your email about the issues that interest you. To

enroll, click “E-Alerts” on our homepage to select the bulletins you want to receive.



Facebook.com/  
FalmouthME



Twitter.com/  
MaineFalmouth



instagram.com/  
myfavoritefalmouth/

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know what kind of information you want to see in your town newsletter. Email feedback to:  
[ecadigan@falmouthme.org](mailto:ecadigan@falmouthme.org)

*The Falmouth Focus* is a bi-weekly digital newsletter of the Town of Falmouth. Special print editions are sent via mail to residents twice annually. Visit [www.falmouthme.org/subscribe](http://www.falmouthme.org/subscribe) to subscribe to the digital edition.

## THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH

271 Falmouth Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105

Phone: 207-781-5253  
[www.falmouthme.org](http://www.falmouthme.org)

INCORPORATED 1718

**FALMOUTH**  
MAINE

## TOWN-WIDE REVALUATION

Falmouth commenced its revaluation of all real estate in January. During a revaluation, all real property in the town is reviewed and assessments are adjusted to their fair market value to ensure a fair distribution of the tax burden. Under the supervision of Cumberland County Regional Assessing, the Town hired Vision Government Solutions to perform this work. Data collectors from Vision have been conducting exterior evaluations of Falmouth properties since January, starting on the western edge of the community, and moving eastward. At the same time, appraisers are studying property sales and determining where the actual increases and decreases in value are occurring. This study occurs over a 12-month period prior to April 1, 2022. Appraisers make comparisons and establish parameters to estimate the value of property that has not been sold. The appraisers then review this collected data and apply the determining factors of the sales analysis to the value of each property.

Property owners will receive notice by mail prior to a data collector visiting their property for both interior and exterior inspections. Residents need not be home for the exterior inspection. Interior inspections take approximately 10 to 15 minutes. While it is not mandatory for residents to allow inspectors interior



access, the data they are collecting is vitally important to the accuracy and uniformity of the assessments.

Property owners will receive individual notices of new assessments by mail in June 2022. All property owners are given the opportunity to discuss their values with appraisal staff during informal hearings at appointed times to be announced towards the end of the revaluation project (mid-2022). At individual informal hearings, property owners will have an opportunity to voice concerns and discuss inaccuracies or discrepancies with a qualified appraiser who will review property record cards and explain values. The appraiser will determine if a reinspection and/or valuation change is in order, and the property owner will be notified of the review results. The revaluation will conclude by August 2022 and the results will be applied to November 2022 property tax bills.

Find more info at: [www.falmouthme.org/home/pages/revaluation-project-2021-2022](http://www.falmouthme.org/home/pages/revaluation-project-2021-2022). General questions can be directed to the Assessor’s Office at 207-871-8380.

## TOWN COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD VOTE TO REDUCE PROPERTY TAX RATE

The recently approved State Legislative Budget increased the FY2022 State Revenue Share for the Town of Falmouth by \$282,120 more than the amount anticipated and approved in the Town’s FY2022 Budget. In addition, the approved State Budget increased the allocation of State Aid for Education to Falmouth Schools by \$1.6 million.

On July 19, 2021 the Falmouth School Board voted to allocate \$1,000,000 of the additional State funding to reduce the local share of the cost of education. Likewise, on July 26, 2021, the Falmouth Town Council acknowledged the School Board decision and voted to allow the Town Manager to reduce the Town portion of the tax rate

\$282,120--the entire amount of the increase in Municipal Revenue Sharing.

As a result of these changes to the FY2022 Budget, the tax mil rate has been reduced by \$0.54, from \$17.97 to \$17.43. This will reduce the FY2022 tax bill for a \$400,000 home by \$216.

