

Drought, heat force mandatory water conservation

Stonington Water Company may have to haul water

BY LESLIE LANDRIGAN

STONINGTON—The Stonington Water Company is ordering its customers to conserve water as of July 1 because of heat, drought and an influx of summer visitors, according to Annaleis Hafford, the Olver Associates engineer who manages the company. “We have an extreme drought going on and excessively dry, hot tempera-

tures,” Hafford said in a phone interview. “That water tank is dropping half a foot a day.”

Hafford said the company is trying to increase water production by putting another well online. But the day the well went online seemed like the day everyone came to town, she said. “All the businesses are slammed.”

It isn’t unusual for Stonington to go to mandatory conservation—it happened in 2018 and 2019, but later in July, Hafford said.

“It’s still June, and we’re usually not at this level until late July,” she said.

Within the past month, someone or

some people exacerbated the water shortage by opening the outside spigot on several properties overnight, causing the loss of thousands of gallons of water.

Mandatory conservation

Hafford said the water company has the right to turn off customers’ water if they do wasteful things such as water their lawns, wash their cars in the driveway or copiously water their gardens.

Should the water shortage grow more dire, the water company is preparing to haul water from off island. “The only thing horrible about that is the cost,”

CELEBRATIONS: Events and parking in towns

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Community Band will play live music before the crowd welcomes the Color Guard with Suzy Shepard as the Master of Ceremonies. To enter a float, antique car, or participate as a walker, call Shepard at 367-5855. A reminder that the roads leading to Deer Isle village will be closed prior to the parade. Traffic will be directed to use the Reach Road and Sunshine to go around the parade route. Candy can be passed out, but may not be thrown from vehicles or floats.

Parking: King Row one side, Dow Road one side, Deer Isle-Stonington High School parking lot. No parking in the village or on either side of the road from Deer Run down to the Congregational church.

Food Vendors and Live Music. After the parade, head down to the Stonington Fish Pier at 5 p.m. A variety of food vendors offering local seafood, slushies and much more will be on deck. Bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of free live music by Elvis at 5 p.m. and local blues/rock band Along for the Ride at 6:30 p.m.

Fireworks. The annual fireworks display will begin promptly at 9:15 p.m. on Stonington Harbor. The rain date is Monday, July 5. No dogs are allowed on the commercial fish pier.

Parking. Town parking lots at the corner of Main Street and Atlantic Avenue, former Stonington elementary school, Island Community Center, or down Memorial Lane. Ball field across from the elementary school. Cemetery Road one side only. North (sidewalk) side of Main Street.

Flash in the Pans. End the holiday weekend with an evening of music and dancing. Flash in the Pans comes to the ball field on Monday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Island Community Center. To learn more, visit islandcommunitycenter.net.

Young adults look at climate change

Looking at options to inherited problems

BY JONNY SONNENFELD

STONINGTON—“Inheriting Change,” the latest installment of the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries’ monthly Lunch and Learn webinar series, featured a panel discussion among three young adults addressing the local effects of climate change. Parker Gasset, a University of Maine Sea Grant student, moderated the discussion.

The June 25 discussion focused on the problems the younger generations will inherit. Rylee Eaton, MCCF data analyst, commercial lobster fisherman, and Deer Isle-Stonington High School Class of 2021 salutatorian, said “Even though I’m going off to college and studying engineering, I was born and raised on Deer Isle and I’ll probably end up coming right back here. It scares me because the way things have been moving in the short time I’ve been alive, there might not be these industries left for me to come back to. If I ever have children

they might not be able to experience the amazing things I’ve experienced.”

“I have a lot of friends in Eastport and a lot of them just don’t want to look at the fact that lobstering may go away or lobstering may become a smaller part of our lives,” said Elijah Brice, an Eastport lobsterman, seaweed farmer, boat builder and Downeast Institute researcher. He added that “a lot of the older generations have been doing the same thing year after year, but we have to look at other options.”

Hallie Arno, a member of Maine Youth for Climate Justice and researcher at the Hurricane Island School Center for Science and Leadership, mentioned the recent increase in flooding in Camden as an example of how climate change has already affected the area.

The panelists discussed the polarizing nature of the discussion around climate change. Eaton said, “I think a lot of it comes from people growing up a certain way and being set in their ways, but I think it’s more because they are scared of losing what they’ve known their whole lives—more so than not wanting to believe in climate change. It’s more being afraid of what they could lose.”

“In my own harbor and on my own

docks I could not have a conversation about climate change,” Brice said. “I would be frowned upon and called crazy. We need to start talking more about how we can present this in a way where it’s not going to scare people.”

The panelists also discussed the irreversibility of climate change. “There are options to just ride the wave of change, so I feel okay with that. Part of it is just letting go of the fact that things are not going to be the same 10, 15, even five years from now,” said Brice.

It was not all doom and gloom, however, with Arno discussing how the Maine Legislature recently passed a bill divesting from fossil fuels and Brice discussing how kelp farms help to sequester carbon in the atmosphere.

Eaton explained how people are often complacent with climate change, seeing it as too big of an issue to address themselves; however, she insists “it is as simple as starting small. Let’s not throw garbage in the ocean—like if you have a pot buoy that gets cut just throw it in the boat and throw it away on land.”

The Lunch and Learn webinar series continues the last Friday of each month. Visit coastal fisheries.org to find out more.

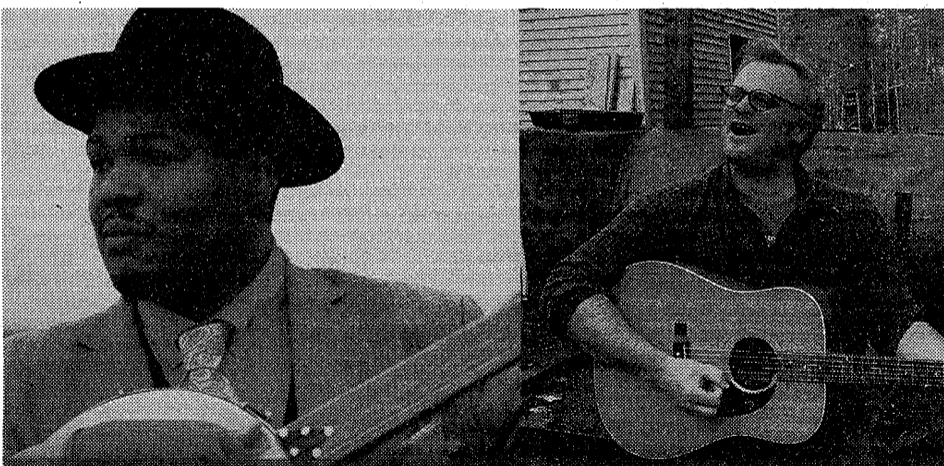
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