

Workforce Survey seeks input from Stonington businesses

Economic and Community Development Committee gathering data

STONINGTON—In January, the Town of Stonington re-started its Economic and Community Development Committee after a year-long pandemic hiatus.

The SEDC was founded in 2004 as a recommendation of the Town's Comprehensive Plan and meets monthly to support and enhance Stonington's economy, according to a press release. The committee supports all the Town's businesses, including but not limited to fisheries and shoreside support; arts and culture; tourism; construction; retail; and agriculture.

The committee's goal is to develop, through local efforts, a more vibrant and sustainable year-round economy for all, supporting businesses and workers as industries transition in the face of climate change, regulations, market forces, etc.

One of the committee's first tasks has been, in collaboration with Project Launch and the Chamber of Commerce, to conduct a workforce survey. Many should have received this in

their email last month; a reminder will be sent this week. The committee hopes that all who employ others will complete it.

Two years of the pandemic have made more visible systemic, growing gaps in the local workforce, and all have experienced labor shortages reducing business hours and services. There is a lot of anecdotal evidence but no data on which to base solutions or grant requests to implement them. The workforce survey includes questions regarding year-round jobs, seasonal jobs, different sectors of the economy, average incomes of unfilled positions and how openings are marketed. The latter will be used as part of the committee's collaboration with the island schools to better connect employers and students for both short-term summer positions and career opportunities.

The 14-question, multiple choice workforce survey takes less than five minutes to complete and will help the Town greatly as it creates actions to better support businesses and advance local economies. To receive a survey or have a Project Launch volunteer deliver an in-person survey, email econdev@stoningtonmaine.org.

Fields will be quiet this spring

Interest too scarce for softball and baseball teams

BY JACK SCOTT

Once again, we will not field a softball or a baseball team this spring. There were not enough students who wanted to participate to be able to have a team. After the pandemic shut down sports in the spring of 2020, we still were not able to get enough players interested when sports resumed last year, despite each sport having strong senior classes.

There are enough players in both girls and boys tennis. At this early point, it

SCOTT'S SPORTS SPOT

looks like each team has seven players and will be coached by Mark Churchill, Mary Penfold and Esther Adams.

Also, Athletic Director Bob St. Peter will be coaching a track and field team that has four girls and one boy, all of whom played basketball this past winter.

With only a couple seniors graduating, the hope for the future of softball and baseball will have to rely on more players coming up from the elementary school. We have survived minimal numbers in the past, but this makes three years in a row without either team.

SALT AIR SOCIETY

First-year Kaylee Morey, of Stonington, picked up her first college hit and also made a couple of key defensive plays at third base during Saint Michael's College women's softball wins against Southern Connecticut State University, 2-1 and 7-6, during Northeast-10 Conference play on April 2.

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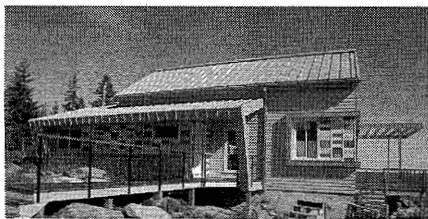
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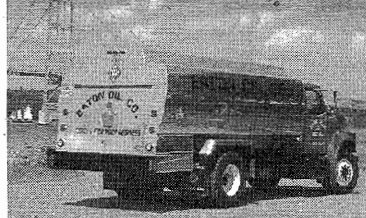
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