

# PITA NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by the Plum Island Taxpayers and Associates, Inc.

Bringing Plum Island Together

[www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org)

Summer 2021 Issue 2



## PLUM ISLAND OPENS POST PANDEMIC

By Susan Grillo

2020 was a tough year for many of our Plum Island businesses that were either closed or operating at a very limited capacity due to COVID-19 safety protocols. Thanks to science and vaccines, the ISLAND survived and these establishments are now open and ready for residents and visitors to EAT, SHOP, PLAY AND STAY! PITA Hall recently opened with a kick-off event... The Art of Summer. Read on for that story and several more blurbs about our many thriving businesses that are ready for your patronage. Welcome back to Plum Island!



### THE ART OF SUMMER - SALTBOX GALLERY SHOW A SUCCESS

The recent Saltbox Gallery art show at PITA Hall during the weekend of June 26 was a tremendous success for the eight member artists who displayed oil and watercolor paintings, photography and hand-made items for sale to the public. "We had a steady flow of people the entire weekend," said Ipswich artist Candy Way who paints local area coastal scenes in oil and noted that, "sales for everyone were brisk." Normally, the gallery members host a Friday evening reception at the Hall to open the show, but this year the reception was omitted due to concerns over COVID-19. The Saltbox Gallery member artists are Margie Florini, Debbie Frio,

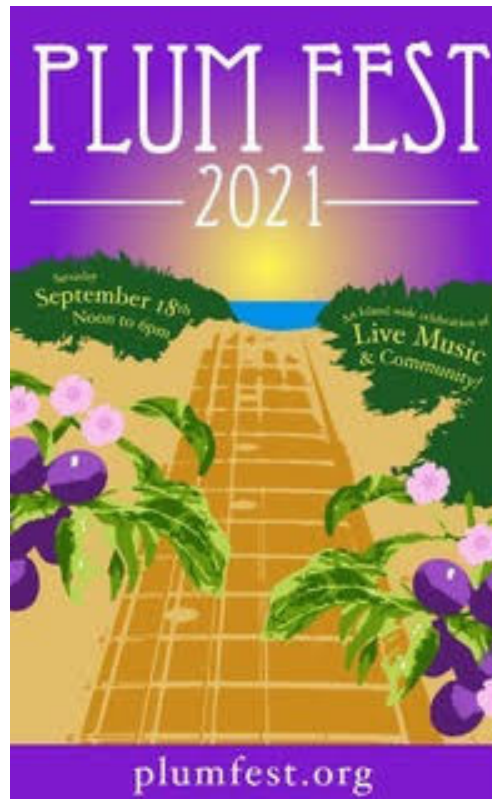
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## Plumfest is Back!! SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 12-6 P.M.

PlumFest is a community-driven project to bring local musicians, island residents and visitors together to showcase the natural beauty and artistry that make Plum Island such a special place. As an early participant in the "porch-fest" movement that is gaining popularity nation-wide, PlumFest brings our own unique flavor to the mix, with an event that is sure to please.

The entire event is FREE! The hosts volunteer, the bands volunteer, and our volunteers volunteer. This day is all about coming out and sharing the beauty of Plum Island and the music of our community with friends and neighbors. There is no admission charge, but we will be collecting donations for our designated

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## Events

**PLUMFEST** SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

**ARTIST EXHIBITION**  
SEPTEMBER 17-18

**SALT BOX GALLERY SHOW**  
NOVEMBER 19-21

## Pita Members Receive Propane Discount

Plum Island residents get a generous discount from Townsend Energy for propane and oil. You must be a PITA member to get the discounts, see ad on Pg. 6 to join. The deadline to get the discount for the coming period is August 31st so don't delay.

### TOWNSEND'S FIXED PRICES PER YEAR

**PROPANE:** \$1.93/gal. more than 100gal.

**PROPANE:** \$3.70/gal. less than 100gal.

**OIL:** \$2.79/gal. (one year contract)

*The propane contract price is fixed for a two-year period.*

Townsend is waiving their safety and compliance delivery fee for PITA members. You DO NOT need to sign up for both propane and oil to get this offer. Choose both or one or the other.

**Interested?** Please join PITA and then contact Kevin at Townsend Energy at [kanderson@townsendtotalenergy.com](mailto:kanderson@townsendtotalenergy.com) or call his Direct line at (978) 705-2322. **See Townsend Energy's ad on page 8 for additional offers.**

*PI Opens continued*

Robert Hahn, Karyl Hayes, Candy Way, Karen Nastuk, Darcy Moulton, photographer Joe Frio and returning jeweler Anne Krupsky. A Fall show has been planned for the weekend of November 19 - 21 at PITA Hall.

**For more information contact Candy Way at [candywayart@comcast.net](mailto:candywayart@comcast.net) or PITA Hall at (978) 463-0670.**

**PI BEACHCOMA**

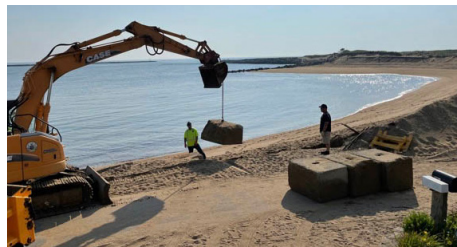
The Beachcoma is back! A local hot spot to meet up with friends and family to experience the Island

*PI Opens continued on page 3*

## Reservation Terrace Update

The erosion at Reservation Terrace continues to be a problem. The road is partially washed out and covered with sand, threatening emergency response access to neighborhood homes in the event of a fire or medical issue. Also, the City water/sewer lines will be adversely impacted if the erosion continues and completely washes

out the road. Some progress has been made to temporarily secure the area. Sand accumulated from several storms was cleaned out from under and around homes at the end of 75th Street and along part of Reservation Terrace (at the homeowners' expense) and piled up along the shore to help prevent further erosion. Also, the torn giant plastic sandbags debris has been removed and the toppled cement blocks at the end of 73rd Street have been put back in place by City workers.



A short-term plan is still being considered to dredge sand from the Captain's Fishing docks at Plum Island Point and place it onshore at the Reservation Terrace river beach, but the permitting process is expensive and long.

The good news is that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is on track for Fall 2021 with the Newburyport Harbor Federal Navigation Project (FNP) for maintenance dredging of the Merrimack River and placement of dredged material on the inlet beach of Plum Island's North Point (also known as the "North Point 204 Project Partnership Agreement"). The plan also includes placement of dredged

## PITA Board of Directors

Ron Barrett, President

Jerry Klima, Vice President

Frank Pierce, Treasurer, Hall Mgr.

Kevin Byrne, Secretary

Ron Perkins, Director

Maureen Trout, Director

Susan Grillo, Director, Membership

Lee Lane, Director

Kincade Webb, Membership

material at two near shore placement locations - one off Salisbury Beach and the other off Plum Island Beach. The final plan design may change, but the project has been approved. The link to the January 29, 2021 Public Notice is: [www.nae.usace.army.mil](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil)

*Plumfest continued*

beneficiary this year, the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Merrimack Valley located in Salisbury. This organization provides a safe place for children to learn and grow. It's mission is "to inspire and enable all young people, especially those that need us the most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens". Visit [www.bgclmv.org](http://www.bgclmv.org) for more info

There will be music playing across Plum Island on Saturday, Sept 18, 2021 from noon to 6:00 pm, and it's all FREE! Visit [www.plumfest.org](http://www.plumfest.org) for more info



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*PI Opens continued*

life, after work drinks, and dinner out so you don't have to cook! Owner Greg Pugh has seriously expanded the outdoor dining with a fun and festive patio area. Live music happens on weekends with local bands. Be sure to check out the new hours and stop by this Summer! [www.pibeachcoma.com](http://www.pibeachcoma.com)



### THE COTTAGE ISLAND MARKET & CREAMERY

Shop wine, spirits, beer, snacks, apparel and most importantly, ICE CREAM... The Creamery is the home of the famous

PI Sandy! With paddle board rentals available too...The Cottage is all about beach time fun! [www.thecottageplumisland.com](http://www.thecottageplumisland.com)



### THE SUNSET CLUB

*Coming Soon!!*

A casual, beachy restaurant with outdoor seating and a tiki bar vibe facing West to maximize the

sunset views overlooking the great salt marsh, located on the former Angie's Service Station site on the corner of Plum Island Boulevard and Old Point Road. Starlight Management Company and the Paddle Inn have teamed up with the owners of The Cottage to manage the restaurant, expected to open in August 2021. Watch for more info on their website at [www.sunsetclubpi.com](http://www.sunsetclubpi.com)



### GEORGIE PORGIE'S AT THE BEACHFRONT

Plum Island's only oceanfront restaurant! Open 9 to 9 every day, serving yummy homemade Hodgie's Too ice cream,

lobster rolls, and more... with outdoor seating and live music on the weekends. Be sure this place is on your "must go" list this Summer! And while you're there, check out the beach and stay for the day! [www.georgieporgiesbeachfront.com](http://www.georgieporgiesbeachfront.com)



### PLUM ISLAND PROVISIONS

The best variety store around open 7 days a week 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for whatever you forgot to get on the mainland. PIP offers breakfast, lunch

AND dinner for takeout and delivery. Great specialty pizzas, seafood plates/boxes/rolls plus beef and chicken plates, hot & cold sandwiches, subs, calzones and salads. Check out the full menu here: [www.plumislandprovisions.com](http://www.plumislandprovisions.com)

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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT INTROSPECTION: UNIQUE VIEW OF PLUM ISLAND

By Sandra Turner

We have all seen a lot of building on Plum island over the years, but there has been a completely different type of construction going on over the past fifteen years in a small workshop in the home of Joe Cmar of Reservation Terrace.

With a background in civil engineering and construction, in his later years, Joe became interested in constructing dioramas of local buildings and landscapes.

He needs no heavy equipment or pile drivers, just plenty of balsa wood, heavy weight paper, styrofoam and plaster to construct these detail-oriented table top replicas of local businesses and places of interest including: the Pink House; Surfand; PI Lighthouse; The Cottage and the docks at the Point including the Captains Fishing party boats, just to name just a few.



His work has crossed over the bridge to places like Lowell's Boat Shop in Amesbury, the old Striper's in Salisbury, and Michael's Harborside in Newburyport. Currently he is recreating a miniature version of Tendercrop Market along with the latest addition to PI, the Sunset Club.



Also on display will be paintings by local artists, Fran Butsavich, Peggy Poppe and Dorothy Aham.



I asked Joe what he does with all these dioramas, he replied, " I give them to the owners of each building for them to display and enjoy..." How great is that? I'd say it's a perfect example of "Enjoying the doing!!"

You are not going to want to miss the special Exhibition that will take place at the PITA Hall on September 17th and 18th from 10 am to 4 pm that will include many of the iconic buildings and landscapes well known to those that frequent the island and the surrounding area.



**Sandra Turner**  
Artist/Owner  
PlumIslander Art

978-519-6353

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## MOBI-Mats On Plum Island

A long-time project the Plum Island Taxpayers and Associates (PITA) has sponsored is placing Mobi-mats on ocean beach access pathways. The purpose of these mats is two-fold: to protect the dunes and also to make it easier for residents and visitors to reach the beach. The Mobi-mats in the following locations are owned and maintained by PITA and were paid for by generous donations from our membership as well as PITA fundraising efforts:

- 53rd Street Beach Access
- 57th Street Beach Access
- Northern Boulevard Beach Access (across from Mad Martha's)
- Reservation Terrace at 73rd Street River Access
- Harvard Way Beach Access (off Southern Boulevard)



Additional Mobi-mats have been installed by DCR (the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation) providing access to the Merrimack River Beach over the North Reservation dunes, which is land owned by DCR.

In addition to the Mobi-mats, PITA sponsored the Plum Island Point Boardwalk to the Merrimack River dedicated in June 2005. This Boardwalk was erected in conjunction with local, community and federal funding and support. The Boardwalk is open, but unfortunately, there is currently no beach access from the gazebo... only River and ocean views due to severe erosion at Plum Island Point. (See Reservation Terrace Update article in this newsletter about the Newburyport North Point 204 Maintenance Dredging Project.)



*PI Opens continued*



### PLUM ISLAND GRILLE

The Grille is a hopping place year-round for upscale seafood with a Mediterranean-influenced menu and a sunset deck in a casual summer-shack atmosphere. The Grille's primary goal "is to serve you high-quality and yummy food... created by passionate chefs daily". Find out what all the buzz is about on Facebook.



### MAD MARTHA'S CAFE

Breakfast is back!! Open for indoor & outdoor dining Wednesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The two local girls at the helm are Kendall Bowie and Kyree Gerson sharing their love of local flavor and a dream to open their own breakfast place. In September 2011, that dream came true. Their website says

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### Kate Batchelder

Senior Loan Officer  
NMLS#462418



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*PI Opens continued*

"So come, be fed and be happy"--sounds like a perfect way to start the day!  
[www.madmarthasislandcafe.com](http://www.madmarthasislandcafe.com)



### BOB LOBSTER

Billed as a "rough-and-ready fish market & seafood shack with river views & a cozy, laid-back vibe." Oh, and their food is really boss too! Offering yummy chowders, salads, fried boats & dinners, sandwiches, specialty award-winning lobster rolls, poutines, lobster dinners, sides and even a kids' menu. Open at 11 a.m. every day on the way to and from Plum Island. Dining inside or out, plus takeout options. Be sure to try their "take and bake" homemade seafood pies and lobster mac-n cheese.  
[www.boblobster.com](http://www.boblobster.com)

## PITA Membership

### Join or Renew for 2021

It's only \$25 a year for an individual membership or \$35 a year family membership.

Now you can renew Membership and join online-via PayPal at  
[www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org)



### SURFLAND BAIT AND TACKLE

Visit the PITA website for our Spring 2021 newsletter featuring Surfland History... it's a great story! Surfland offers "fresh bait for surfcasting or boat fishing, custom gear from the best fishing companies, expert rod and reel repair by Martha Moulton, fishing reports, specials and island gossip". One fish, two fish... you better visit.  
[www.surflandbt.com](http://www.surflandbt.com)



### PLUM ISLAND KITCHEN

Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday through Monday, Plum Island Kitchen is primarily a "grab-n-go" restaurant with home cooked meals to go and a self-serve coffee bar. Local PI residents, owners Dave and Carol Dempsey and their nephew Bill Adams have a mission: "Offer quality food and service and have fun doing it." They offer pizzas, sandwiches, breakfast treats,

specialty Thai food and Tuckaway Tavern meats and poultry, along with boxed lunches, ice cream, bagged ice, and even propane. Also, unique gifts from local artists are on display and available for sale. For more info, visit  
[www.plumislandkitchen.com](http://www.plumislandkitchen.com)



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### PLUM ISLAND SOAP COMPANY

With a tag line of "Get Dirty, Get Naked, Get Clean... Naturally", this place is pretty cool. The soap bars are made with high quality vegetable-based ingredients and they are creamy in lather, pure, gentle and wonderfully scented. From "The Man Can" best-selling gift set to the scrubs, soaks, and hand butter, you'll be squeaky clean in no time. Their website boasts "the first ingredient in every recipe is LOVE" and the tiny little shop on Northern Boulevard is open every day from 11-4 for browsing. There's also an online store for your convenience at  
[www.plumislandsoap.com](http://www.plumislandsoap.com)

### CAPTAIN'S FISHING PARTIES

Family owned and operated for over 47 years, Captain's at Plum Island North Point is "one of the most versatile and accommodating fleets on the North Shore"! Christos Charos began the business with a six-person boat used

*PI Opens continued on page 7*



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*PI Opens continued*



for bass fishing in the Merrimack River. His son George helped build the business and has mostly handed over daily operations to his two sons Chris and Ryan. The company now includes four passenger vessels

used for guided fishing trips, whale watching (Captains Lady III), and live music cruises. 2020 was a tough year for Captains due to all the COVID restrictions, yet they still managed to get people safely out on the water. They are now back in full operation and look forward to seeing you onboard soon. The next big upcoming event is a Yankee Homecoming Fireworks Cruise on August 7th. Visit their website and book your trip now!

[www.captainsfishing.com](http://www.captainsfishing.com)

#### **PLUM ISLAND LIGHT (NEWBURYPORT HARBOR LIGHT)**

Originally erected in 1788, two small lighthouses were located at the entrance of the Merrimack River on Plum Island. The lighthouses were moved often because of the shifting sands and changing channel. Plum Island Light was designated the 11th lighthouse on the North Atlantic

*PI Opens continued on page 8*

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## **PITA Hall Is Open!!**

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**PI Resident Non-Member ..... \$375**

**Non-Member ..... \$450**

**Commercial ..... \$550**

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**Mercy Meals:** Free use of the Hall to Island residents for mercy meals, and recognition of your loved one on the PITA sign.

**To rent PITA Hall contact Frank at  
[HallManager@plumislandtaxpayers.org](mailto:HallManager@plumislandtaxpayers.org) or visit  
[www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org) to fill out the PITA  
Hall Rental Agreement.**

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*PI Opens continued*



Coast and the 13th in America. In 1898, the white conical lighthouse you see today was built and then automated in 1951 so lighthouse keepers were no longer needed. In 2000, the United States Coast Guard deeded the lighthouse to the City of Newburyport who in turn transferred the lease to The Friends of Plum Island Light, Inc. Prior to 2020, the Friends kept the lighthouse open on weekends for public and private tours. To keep volunteers

and visitors safe, the Lighthouse was closed during the pandemic and has not yet reopened because the limited space inside the tower does not permit adequate social distance for tours. They hope to reopen in 2022. During the closure, the Friends have continued vital maintenance including renovating the inside of the tower, refabricating and replacing all broken panes of glass. Maintenance of the lighthouse is costly and fully funded by private donations. All are invited to become members, purchase commemorative bricks, or send donations to Friends of Plum Island Light at PO Box 381, Newburyport MA 01950. For a virtual guide to the PI Lighthouse and other New England lighthouses, visit: [www.newenglandlighthouses.net/plum-island.html](http://www.newenglandlighthouses.net/plum-island.html)



## BLUE, INN ON THE BEACH

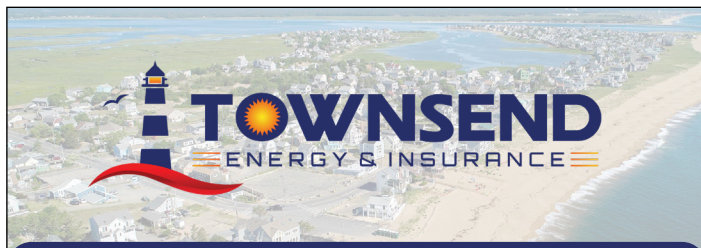
Set right on Plum Island Beach, Blue is a boutique hotel offering a luxury vacation cottage experience. The rooms are spacious with a crisp white

Summer décor and accent pops of their signature color... blue, of course! With fabulous ocean views, the hotel "offers a unique vantage point to experience the beauty of the Atlantic seacoast" and is located just 10 minutes from downtown Newburyport. Need to ease back into traveling after a long year of solitude? Consider Blue, it's the place to be. For more info on accommodations and rates, visit [www.blueinn.com](http://www.blueinn.com)

## PLUM ISLAND VACATION RENTALS

Many cottages on the Island are available for transient vacation rentals, although most are already booked for the 2021 season. Last minute rentals or planning for next year?

Visit: [www.plumislandbeachrentals.com](http://www.plumislandbeachrentals.com)  
[www.plumislandproperties.com](http://www.plumislandproperties.com)  
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