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PortsmouthHerald

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‘We were really surprised’



Richard Hennessy’s tax bill went up more than \$1,800 this year. He believes it is a result of the town of York overspending. DEB CRAM/SEACOASTONLINE

Property taxes climb in York amid big-ticket spending

Max Sullivan Portsmouth Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

YORK, Maine — Richard Hennessy was taken aback when he saw his tax bill go up by more than \$1,800 from the previous year.

The bill he received in August for the 2025-26 tax bill was \$6,977, up from \$5,122 the year before. He said last year his bill went up \$577.

“We were really surprised to see this very large increase in our property tax,” Hennessy said.

The average tax bill for improved residential properties is \$6,936, according to town Tax Assessor Luke Vigue. The bills are paid in two installments, the first due Sept. 26, according to the town website.

Hennessy lives at 64 Ferncroft Road, a home near Yok High School, less than a mile from the ocean. He said he knows property values have risen, including his own. However, he also believes the town could be spending less in order to keep costs down. He is hopeful that more residents will begin to feel the way he does and try to stop big spending in the coming fiscal years.

“We vote no on things, trying to do our part,” Hennessy said. “Seems like people don’t really pay attention to what they’re voting for.”

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Marconi’s lawyers want AG removed from case

Todd Bookman
New Hampshire Public Radio

As the November trial of New Hampshire Supreme Court Justice Anna Barbara Hantz Marconi approaches, her lawyers continue to push for the case to be dismissed, citing an alleged conflict of interest between state Attorney General John Formella and the prosecution’s key witness: former Gov. Chris Sununu.

If the judge doesn’t toss the case, Hantz Marconi’s lawyers then say Formella should be forced to testify.

After a 90-minute hearing Tuesday, it is still unclear how the case may proceed.

Last year, Hantz Marconi was indicted on allegations that she attempted to improperly influence Sununu during a June 2024 meeting in his office on behalf of Geno Marconi, her husband and the state’s longtime ports director. Geno Marconi was under investigation at the time himself. As a result of that meeting with Sununu, Hantz Marconi faces a range of criminal indictments, including two felonies, and is currently suspended from the Supreme Court.

Sununu first discussed the content of the meeting during a phone call with Formella, who served as the governor’s legal counsel before his appointment to lead the state Department of Justice. Formella then conducted an interview with Sununu, during which the governor outlined the conversation, and

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Hampton Beach exotic lobsters return to the sea



A rare blue lobster rests in its tank at the Hampton Beach Oceanarium before being released back into the Gulf of Maine. PROVIDED BY ELLEN GOETHEL

Ellen Goethel
Special to Portsmouth Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

Once again, we have reached the end of the summer. The tourists are disappearing, and the animals will have the tidepools to themselves.

This is always a bittersweet time for me as I must shut down the Oceanarium and return our animals to their natural environment. And yes, even the exotic blue, orange and calico lobsters. No

matter how hard we try not to, we do get attached to them, and I always send them off with a wish that they have a long and fruitful life in the Gulf of Maine.

I have often wondered how far afield they may travel after I release them. An article in the news reminded me that I should try to put a tag on each of them. Tags are a bit difficult on an animal with an exoskeleton, as they molt (shed) to grow, and most tags would be lost at that time. Most adult male lobsters, if

they are healthy, will molt once a year. Females once every two years after their eggs hatch.

So, a tag could be lost at the time of the molt. That is a very short time to try to follow an animal. The newer tags are a little more sophisticated. I’ll be doing some research next week to decide what tags will be best for the lobsters at the Oceanarium.

The article I read was very intriguing.

See LOBSTERS, Page 2A

“The quality of care we give to our residents is what sets us apart.”

Charlyse M. - Community Mind & Memory Care Director

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