

# The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol. 19 No. 5

October 2004

## From The Town Clerk

Polls at Town Hall will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Nov. 2. I have been handing out a lot of absentee ballots, but really, in spite of what the political parties are saying, it is not safer to vote absentee than in person here in Arrowsic. In Maine, we have same day registration, so a person will not be surprised when he or she comes to the polls, to find out he or she is not on the rolls, and so cannot vote. Also, in Arrowsic, we vote on paper ballots, and polling place ballots and absentee ballots are identical and are counted at the same time. On the other hand, there is always a slight chance that an absentee ballot could be lost in the mail. So please, if you can, come to the polls on election day, see your neighbors, and cast your vote in person.

### Referendum - Sample Ballot

#### Question 1: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to limit property taxes to 1% of the assessed value of the property?

#### Question 2: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to make it a crime to hunt bears with bait, traps or dogs, except to protect property, public safety or for research?

## From The Conservation Commission:

The annual Conservation Commission field trip will be on Sunday, Nov. 7 (rain date Nov. 14). We will be visiting the cemetery of the original James Stinson in Arrowsic, and from there we will walk North to the fog bell on the Kennebec. We will meet at the Town Hall parking lot at 9:15. If you have questions, call Phine Ewing at 443-9795.

## Car Registrations -Nov.

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ames, Slyvia          | Jorgensen Landscaping |
| Bassett, Michael      | Jorgensen Landscaping |
| Blaiklock, William C. | Macleod, James        |
| Brett, J. Christopher | Mann, Jeffery         |
| Brummer, Kathleen     | Macleod, James        |
| Cossart, Edward       | McClead, Seth         |
| Dunn, Sally           | Schumaker, William    |
| Elwell, Richard       | Starbird, John        |
| Elwell, Ronald C.     | Stobe, Jeffery        |
| Elwell, Ronald E.     | Thomas, Kathryn       |
| Fandango Music        | TTEE UTD 05-20-99     |
| Galati, Arthur        | Weiss, Davis          |
| Geiger, Trevor        | Wood, John            |
| Grill, Christopher    | Woodruff, Margaret    |
| Jorgensen Landscaping |                       |

**If you need to register to vote** - please try to register at town hall before election day. This will make voting more efficient for everyone on election day. Thank you.

# From The School Committee:.....

The Arrowsic School Committee strongly recommends that the citizens of Arrowsic vote NO on the Palesky Proposal which would cap taxes on real estate property at 1% (10 mil) across the state starting in tax year 05-06. We believe this proposal would have a negative impact on all citizens, but especially our children since the loss of revenue threatens the strong educational programs that have helped Arrowsic students succeed. Here are some of our concerns:

- ✦ Arrowsic cherishes local control, but the Palesky tax cap infringes on our ability to make our own decisions. We have enjoyed the right to vote at town meeting for what we want for our children and our town and what we're willing to spend; a state wide tax cap changes that.
- ✦ If our mil rate is near 14.1 to raise the \$799,393 we'll need to pay for our '04-'05 budget (see "Letter to Taxpayers from the Selectmen" sent just prior to town meeting 2004), then we'd have to make do with \$566,945.00 if we'd limited ourselves to a 10 mil cap. Mandatory county and school expenses come to \$647,065.00. Instruction alone comes to \$525,871.00
- ✦ Significant reductions in school staff and educational offerings at the schools where we send our students do not mean savings for us. Tuition is set by the state and must be paid to meet Arrowsic's obligation to provide free and appropriate education for our children.
- ✦ Woolwich and Bath predict that the Palesky tax cap will cut their revenues considerably (one Bath official estimates \$800,000 revenue loss) which will result in large cuts in service and staff in their schools (Bath may have to cut 78 educational employees).
- ✦ Arrowsic depends on other communities for more than their schools. If roads can't be well plowed or maintained, if fire protection and garbage collection is

reduced, if recreation departments are cut and library hours reduced, all this will effect us, too.

- ✦ Will excise taxes cover all of Arrowsic's road maintenance and snow plowing expenses, so town roads are safe for students and all citizens?
- ✦ Arrowsic's mil rate is usually set by the end of November. It fluctuates based on how much the properties in town are valued (our valuation) and what we vote to spend each year at town meeting (revenues to meet our budget). Valuation x mil rate = revenues. Last year the mil rate was 10.7, the year before 10.13.
- ✦ The Palesky Proposal contains many provisions that are unconstitutional (See <http://www.memun.org/resources/Public/news/pp/bkgd.htm> or the resource link at <http://www.citizensunitedformaine.com/>).
- ✦ It would take a 2/3 majority of voters at statewide referendum to change those parts of the proposal not deemed unconstitutional.

The Arrowsic School Committee urges you to read the letter from our Superintendent to citizens of the Union #47 communities. The letter is posted at the Town Hall. Supt. Shuttleworth maintains that the Palesky tax cap referendum is bad public policy that will hurt our children. He states "As superintendent, I am very aware of the deep responsibility that I have in spending hard earned taxpayers' dollars to educate our children. Our school boards share the same belief. We want to have tremendous schools for terrific children, and yes, they do cost money. We cannot afford to reduce the commitment to our children. They are truly our greatest national resource. Our children are far too important to be used as pawns in any political fight."

Thank you for your careful consideration.

-Nancy Brown Stump, Jody Jones and Francie Tolan



## Halloween Party!

October 31st

2-4pm

Join us at Town Hall for games, stories, crafts and goodies.

Call Francie Tolan 443-4893

or Maria Grill 442-8152

for more information.



## From The Arrowsic Scholarship Committee:

As 2004 comes to an end consider making a donation to the Arrowsic Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to recognize the accomplishments of Arrowsic students and encourage them in their continuing education. For the second year there will be a raffle to benefit the fund, the winners to be picked at town meeting 2005. If you are interested in donating a prize contact Jeremy Blaiklock at 443-4630 or [great-gardens@hotmail.com](mailto:great-gardens@hotmail.com). Donations to the fund can be mailed to the Arrowsic Scholarship Fund c/o Town Hall. Thank You.