

The Arrowsic Arrow

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January 2005

From The Selectmen

We are all concerned about the recent rise in real estate taxes. The Legislature is going to be working on tax issues this month. If you want to do something constructive, please consider contacting the Governor and our legislators to let them know your concerns. They will be working out how to fund the mandate the voters sent them in June to fund 55% of school costs, as well as crafting substantive tax reforms. Contact information is posted on the Town web page, www.arrowsic.org.

On December 13, the Arrowsic School Committee came to the Selectmen's meeting with an update on some of the issues they are facing this year. Narissa Brown Stump, Jody Jones, and Francie Smith Toomey along with new Union 47 Superintendent, William Shuttlesworth, did a very professional job of explaining emerging concerns and long-term problems they face in looking after the educational needs of our children.

One of the questions that arose concerned setting tuition rates for children attending different schools as a way to limit property taxes. We decided to check with the Maine Municipal Association to see if they could help us understand our obligations regarding tuition. One of their lawyers, Mr. Richard Flewelling, responded to our query. To quote:

"After reviewing the school tuition provisions of Title 20-A (the State school laws), it is my legal opinion that neither the Town's legislative body (the Town Meeting) nor its School Board could vote to "cap" or limit the tuition rate payable per student where the Town has chosen not to contract with any particular school and instead allows full school choice." "Without a contract, the Town has an obligation to provide a "free" public education to all students wherever they may wish to attend school."

Sukey Heard apologizes that her phone number included in the tax bill was incorrect. The correct number is 443-6768; she would be happy to try to answer any questions folks might have.

From The Town Clerk

It's time once again to license your dogs. All dogs over six months old need to be licensed for the year '05 by the end of January. Spayed and neutered dogs cost \$6.00 to license; "intact" dogs are \$10.00. A late fee of \$15.00 is added to the licensing fee after the regular registration period ends. Owners need to show proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination for their dogs. Many dogs registered last year had vaccinations good for more than one year; those owners will not have to bring their paperwork. The following dogs will need new rabies vaccination papers:

Bradley Arsenault	Girlie Downs	Sammy Maley
Iris Briggs	Sally Downs	Duncan McGower
Bran Blaiklock	Jessie Detwiler	Bandit McLuer
Burnside Bridge	Molly Elwell	Heidi Neilson
Jasper Bridge	Lady Jo Foster	Bubba O'Leary
Chance Bridge	Talea Fitzherbert	Elijah Packard
Jake Carlton	Mugsey &Everett	Shawne Pinette
Chocolat Carr	Fitzherbert	Cujo Page
Tommy Carr	Chloe Gunston	Brie Roy
Monie Campbell	Skippy Gaillard	Raasay
McGarret Cassart	Alice Gaillard	Katie Stafford
Caley Cassart	Cleo Gill	Patty Stafford
Bell Carelton	Maddy Heath	Gunner Shaw
Mailey Drake	Oona Hull	Tango Shultz
Snowball Dunn	Alice Heard	Sarah Sullivan
Cassie Dresser	Joey King	Kelly Stoebe
Sammie Downs	Lucky Lakin	

From The Planning Board

Planning Board meetings are on the first Monday of each month except where the first Monday is a holiday. In such cases, the meeting will be held on the first Wednesday, as in July and September of 2005.

A request from Craig Rogers, our trash pick up provider, that residents who set out their recycling in trash barrels clearly label the barrel as Recycling when putting it out at the curb. Thank you. More recycling info inside.



Recycling and Trash pick up

January	14	28
February	11	25
March	11	25
April	8	22
May	6	20
June	3	17

Solid Waste and Recycling News.....

Good news from the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. During the first four months of the current fiscal year we collected 2.3 tons of mixed paper in the green roll off bin compared with the 1 ton during the same period a year ago. This means 1.3 tons is being recycled instead of going into the waste stream at a savings of \$35 per ton. The not so good news is that in the past 10 years we have increased our Solid Waste (Trash) from 121 tons in 1993 to 158 tons in 2003. During this same period the recycling has remained the same. This may be because we are careless about separating the items which can be recycled and not because we are not producing more. All of this waste means an increased load on the land fill and increased cost to the town.

We have all just received our latest tax bill which should encourage each and every household to do what they can to contain the cost of municipal services. A major part of productive recycling is effective sorting by everybody. Basically, **if you aren't sorting you're not really recycling.** We published a chart of

Car Registrations

<u>December 2004</u>	Levesque, ebbecca	Demers, Colleen
Arsenault, James	Mann, Jeffrey	Dunn, Floyd
Barnes, Anne	Martin, Michael	Giles, Samuel
Blanchard, Harold	Mcluer, Pauline	Gilliam, Brett
Brawn, Pamela	Mcluer, Pauline	Guckenbug, Barton
Brown, Charlotte	Packard, Nancy	Halica, John
Chaffee, John	Patzlaff, Gary	Harper, Mark
Cillier, David	Pieh, Lucy	Hggins, Richard
Comeau, Robert	Puff, David	Hinds, John
Crabtree, Kathleen	Robbins, Karen	Kalish, Robert
Detwiler, Brian	Safford, George	Kane, Michael
Elwell, Maryanne	Stuart, Scott	Kreindler, Michael
Elwell, Robert	Theodore, Steven	Maley, Dorothy
Geiger, Jennifer	<u>January 2005</u>	Maley, Kenneth
Gowell, R Randell	Arsenault, Mark	Neilson, Pia
Janawicz, Jennifer	Ater, Ann	Santree, Robert
Johnson, Lee	Bridge, Claire	Santree, Robert
Jorgensen Landscaping	Briggs Advertising	Scott, Jessee
'ane, Jean	Burdick, Michael	Shultz, Emily
King, Kathy	Burke, Joanne	Simonds, Amy
Knowles, Robert	Carleton, james	Staib, Eric
Law, Donald	Carlton, Celia	Warner, Doris
Lebrun, Leonard	Davis, Sheldon	White, John

where and how sort in order to recycle in the *Arrow* several months ago. If you can't locate your copy, please pick one up at the Town Hall. This information will also be available on the town website. Another savings can be had by composting organic material instead of adding it to the trash. Kitchen waste is heavy and we are paying by the pound.

A piece of good news is that Heather Baker has agreed to serve on the Recycling Committee. We welcome her enthusiasm and tough questions.

We encourage ideas and questions about solid waste. Feel free to contact any member of the Committee. Heather Baker 443-1713, John Hinds 443-4322, Judy Jones 442-7612, Jeff Mann 443-6174, Roz McLean 386-0179

From The School Board.....

Many thanks to all those folks who, despite their busy lives, took time on December 13th to join the Arrowsic School Board and Selectpersons in a discussion of school governance choices.

In surveys over the past twenty years, Arrowsicians have indicated they favor having a choice regarding where they send their students to school. However, most families "choose" to send their children to Bath's schools for their secondary education. Almost half of Morse High School's students hail from Union #47 towns. Yet, Morse is not a school in which Union #47 school board members have either school administrative power or duties. We in Arrowsic do not "decide" about the educational programs in any schools; we do vote on Union #47 policy and in that way effect programs in Union #47 schools.

When we contemplate the possibility that Union #47 will spend something in the range of \$50,000,000 over the next ten years to educate our students in Bath's schools, it seems appropriate to wish for a different governance structure, perhaps one that could give us proportionate power regarding how that money is spent. The process has begun. Bath and Union #47 have spent the past two years working closer together to address our shared educational

2005 Community Read Selection



Afghanistan takes center stage in *The Kite Runner*. Khaled Hosseini's epic tale examines the violent repercussions of ethnic and class tensions, civil war, and religious zealotry through the eyes of the boy, Amir.

Reading: Jan. – Feb.

Activities: March

FMI: www.midcoastreads.com

Patten Free Library
33 Summer St., Bath, ME 04530
www.patten.lib.me.us 207.443.5141

closer together to address our shared educational concerns. This educational discussion, however, needs to include our various communities. We hope folks will discuss the issues with friends and neighbors. Know, too, that you are welcome to attend the Arrowsic School Board meetings.

It might interest those who were not present to know that we concluded our Dec 13th meeting with an informal poll. When asked to vote for their first choice from four discussed governance options, no one in the assembled group voted for the current governance structure; nine voted for Union #47 Joint Board members having voting membership on the Bath School Board, 17 voted to develop a Community School District (CSD) to govern Morse H.S. with a Joint Board of Union #47 and Bath members, and 2 voted to build a new Union #47 middle/high school.

Food for thought!

– Nancy Brown Stump

Arrowsic School Committee, Chair, 442-7527