

The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol. 20 No. 5

September 2005

Make A Difference In Your Town

Arrowsic has three open positions that need to be filled. These positions are Animal Control Officer, Town Constable, and Fire Chief. Please contact one of the selectmen if you have an interest in any one of these positions. Larry Wilson: 443-6970 or lwilson@gwi.net; Michele Gaillard: 442-7443 or gaillar@bowdoin.edu; Sukey Heard: 443-6768 or sukeyheard@gwi.net.

Arrowsic School Committee Meetings

- Sept. 14th, 7pm: Arrowsic School Committee and Select Board will hold an informational meeting to discuss educational issues. This meeting will be facilitated by Darla Jewett and will be held at Town Hall. Please come with comment and concerns.
- Sept. 6th, 5:30pm: Joint governance meeting between Union 47 and Bath School Board at Union 47 Central Office, West Bath
- Sept. 9th, 8:45am: Monthly meeting at Union 47 Central Office, West Bath
- Sept. 20th, 6-8pm: Union 47 School Board (Committees from all towns) meet at Phippsburg
- For additional meetings in Oct./Nov. see the town website

Thanks To Ike Heffron

Ike Heffron and his family have moved to their new home in Eagle Lake. Tara moved up in August to get the children ready for school. Ike planned to stay in Arrowsic until late September, but both Ike and Tara found jobs. Ike's job required him to report on Monday, August 22nd. Ike did a wonderful job pulling the Arrowsic Fire Department together and seeing that new members got the necessary training. We wish them all well and hope to see them when they return for a visit.

Meanwhile, the Selectmen have appointed Deputy Chief, George Meade, to be Acting Chief until all interested candidates have a chance to apply. We thank George for taking things on at short notice, and are grateful for his experienced leadership.

**Arrowsic Artworks Show
Saturday, Nov. 5th
10 to 3.**

-Featuring artworks by town residents-

We will be contacting artists who have been involved in the past. We welcome newcomers to join us, anyone who has artwork they would like to sell or to display please contact Phine Ewing at 443-9795 or Clare Bridge at 442-0159.

Arrowsic lost two members of its community last week: Sally Brooks who served the Town as Tax Collector and Pat Harcourt, a former Selectman. There will be a celebration of Pat's life planned for later in the fall.

Notes from the Tax Collector

1. Applications for the 2005 Maine Residents Property Tax & Rent Refund Program are now available at the Town Hall. This is the so-called "circuit breaker" program which has been expanded to cover both property owners and renters. The income minimums have been raised to \$99,500 or less for 2004 household income if you have a spouse or dependent(s) and \$74,500 or less if you do not have a spouse or dependent(s). You can also file online at www.maine.gov/revenue. Check it out!

2. Please be aware that a new law went into effect January 2005 that requires a company insuring a vehicle registered in Maine to immediately notify the Secretary of State when insurance coverage is cancelled or terminated or allowed to lapse. Once notified, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will send a letter to the registrant informing him or her that the registration for that particular vehicle will be suspended in 30 days. If you have put a vehicle in storage, sold or transferred the vehicle or obtained insurance from another company, please contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles immediately by calling the Financial Responsibility Section at 207- 624-9000 ext. 52108.

You can also fax your current insurance information to 207-624-9124 or enter the information online at www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/poi/

From Our Residents

Congratulations

Congratulations to this year's high school graduates. Congratulations Anne Brett, Sarah Bryant, Ben Dauphin, Jared Dunn, Brenton Elwell, Matthew Elwell, Reuben Hudson, Andrew Mitchell, Kathryn Norris, Jonathan Robinson, Cassie Tarbox. Your names were called at Town Meeting and you were applauded for this accomplishment. We wish you well on the roads ahead. They may not be paved or as well maintained as Rt. 127, but they will have the same sky above, the same Earth beneath; there will be birds that fly over and raccoons that venture across; there might even be mosquitoes buzzing around.

You are travelers now whether you go or stay here, and the journey is never

guaranteed to be just what you want: roads are inclined to have ups and downs, they are apt to rut and spring pot holes. So here's hoping you feel a cool breeze when it grows stifling. Here's hoping you take time to pick blueberries at the sides of back roads and listen to the songs crickets make rubbing their legs together. When life is difficult, may it not be too difficult, may you grow strong with strength that is full of kindness and compassion, which is what Arrowsic means after all.

Congratulations! Fare well.

N. Brown Stump

Real School Choice

It has been argued by some that a contract with a specific school district for some or all of Arrowsic's students still allows choice, as parents can choose to pay any additional tuition for a non-contract school. While the majority of Arrowsic families could probably shoulder this additional cost, I believe that it is fundamentally unfair to ask them to. Here's why:

There are actually *two* choices involved in this debate; the choice to live in a waterfront house or large acreage, and the choice to send kids to the school that is best suited to their abilities, temperment, etc. People live in this town for both reasons. Why should the choice of the first be an excuse to burden the second with additional costs? The tuition increases to the parents will be substantially more than the tax increase to the waterfront people, especially if they have more than one child. For example, if I choose to send my two children to Georgetown instead of Bath, I may have to come up with an additional \$3000 per year, per student. Has anybody's property taxes gone up by \$6000 in one year? I doubt it. Society benefits more when our children get the education that is best for them, rather than making it easier for folks to retire by the water. People whose taxes are increasing have a choice, too: to move to a cheaper location! The citizens of Arrowsic need to decide which choice will serve us better in the future.

Jeremy Blaiklock

Trash and Recycling

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|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| September | 9* | 23* |
| October | 7* | 21* |
| November | 4* | 18* |
| December ² * | 16* | 30* |

(*) trash *and* recycling pickup.

Halloween Party!

Sunday, October 30th

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.

Ballot Questions Nov. 8, 2005

Question 1: People's Veto

"Do you want to reject the new law that would protect people from discrimination in employment, housing, education, public accommodations and credit based on their sexual orientation?"

Question 2: Bond Issue

"Do you favor a \$33,100,000 bond issue for improvements to highways and bridges; airports; public transit improvements; state-owned ferry vessels and ferry and port facilities including port and harbor structures; and statewide bicycle trail and pedestrian improvements that makes the State eligible for over \$158,000,000 in matching funds?"

Question 3: Bond Issue

"Do you favor an \$8,900,000 bond issue for purposes related to agriculture and the environment in anticipation of approximately \$31,000,000 in federal funds to be used for sustainable water sources and irrigation system development, loans from a wastewater state revolving fund, grants from a small community grants program, support of public water system improvements and repairs and improvements to a veterinary technician facility at the University of Maine?"

Question 4: Bond Issue

"Do you favor a \$20,000,000 bond issue to stimulate economic growth and job creation through investments in the Maine economy in anticipation of approximately \$44,000,000 in federal and private funds for medical research and development; marine research and development; equity investments in small Maine companies with potential for high growth; the New Century Community Program for capital improvements to cultural resources; the renovation of Camden Hall on the University of Maine Bangor campus for a graduate school for biomedical science; the development of the Laboratory for Surface Science Technology; capital costs and equipment for the career center facility at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College; and the development of the Sunrise Business and Career Center in the Town of Jonesboro?"

Question 5: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$12,000,000 bond issue to purchase land and conservation easements statewide from willing sellers for conservation, water access, wildlife and fish habitat, outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, farmland preservation and working waterfront preservation to be matched by at least \$7,000,000 in private and public contributions?"

Question 6: Bond Issue

"Do you favor a \$9,000,000 bond issue to make building renovations at campuses of the

University of Maine System , improve and expand the facilities of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine and make building renovations at campuses of the Maine Community College System?"

Question 7: Constitutional Amendment

"Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to permit the Legislature to authorize waterfront land used for commercial fishing activities to be assessed based on the land's current use in a manner similar to treatment now available for farms, open space and forestland?"