

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 05/18/2010:

1. The FYI Folder: FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: NONE

2. Earth Day 2010 Backyard Compost Bin Sale: The Town is out of compost bins and has one rain barrel left. We have 6 compost wing diggers available. Thank you for celebrating Earth Day with the Town. We also are now out of the free trees that we were giving away for Arbor Day.

3. 2010 Egg Festival: The next meeting of the Egg Festival Committee will be Monday, June 14, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Council Conference Room. Parade Registration forms, Crafts Tent Registration Forms, and Scholarship Pageant Registration forms are available at the Town Office to pick up or on the Egg Festival website. Please go to www.pittsfield.org scroll down on the left side to Egg Festival, then once in that tab, click on the Egg Festival website. Deb Billings, President of the Egg Festival Committee is the contact person at 207-680-0646 for general information. The Egg Festival is July 20 – July 24, 2010.

The Town Office is organizing the Annual Quiche, Cheesecake & Pie Contest for this year's Egg Festival. The event is Friday, July 23, 2010 at the Elks Lodge at 140 Middle Street

Entries are due by 10:30 am

Judging 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Immediately following the judging, the public is invited to sample this year's fair for \$3.00/slice for quiche, cheesecake, pie & beverage or buy individual samples/plates to be available at the Elks Lodge until 1:00 pm. The entries will then be available at the Town Office for purchase Friday afternoon 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

We would like to thank our sponsors – C. Jones Floral, Sawyer's Dairy Bar, Anglers Restaurant, Pizza Hut, Oz Salon, Jazz Salon, Salon Red, Summer Glaze, Pittsfield Redemption Center, Subway, Big Bills and Pittsfield Community Theatre. Emmalee is doing such a great job organizing this event.

4. The Welcome Table: The Welcome Table is open from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm every Friday at the First Universalist Church in the Community Hall at 6 Easy Street. This is a local program staffed and funded by volunteers whose mission is to provide a warm place to gather, socialize and share a hot meal. Games, puzzles and cards are always available. All are invited to attend. For further information, please call Trudy Ferland at 487-6523.

5. Foreclosures in Maine have risen: The State's Bureau of Financial Institutions has just released information that the number of foreclosures in Maine is up. According to data from 32 state-chartered banks and credit unions, the number of houses in the process of foreclosure in the last quarter of 2009 was 305, compared with 271 in the third quarter. Foreclosures had continued to increase from year to year as well with 175 completed foreclosures in 2009 compared with 159 completed foreclosures in 2008. This does not include federally chartered banks, credit unions or mortgage companies. The Bureau noted that the increase was probably due to the economic times and not the result of predatory lending by Maine banks.

The reason this is mentioned is that often people get behind on their taxes, the bank then comes in and pays off the taxes and then adds the amount to the monthly payment. Then the payments are higher and people have trouble making them. For those people who do not have their taxes escrowed, we would encourage you to join the Pittsfield Tax Club. READ Tax Club Requirements. If you do not want to join the tax club, have back taxes due, do not have the same amount of money coming in each week, get paid by jobs or some other reason, that is fine. The Town encourages people to just put down \$10, \$25, \$50 or whatever amount you can when you can. This will reduce the amount of taxes that you have left. We have town employees who have payroll deductions of their own request, to pay down on their taxes. It does not have to be the tax club payment. This way, people can work on paying their taxes when they can.

