

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 03/04/2008:

1 The FYI Folder: The FYI Book contains the following items this week: READ LIST

2. Pittsfield Area Business Forum: This is a forum or get-together for the businesses in Pittsfield and our surrounding towns. All individuals thinking of opening a business, expanding their business, who would like to receive information on local and state programs that could benefit the business or just network and meet other business representatives are cordially invited to attend.

Pittsfield Area Business Forum will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 in the Vickery School Gym off School Street, Pittsfield. *Businesses & guests from all towns welcome*

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Networking & picking up resources
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Welcome, Presentations and Discussions
8:00 – 8:30 p.m. Refreshments & Socializing

Reasons to attend:

Brief presentations/discussions on assistance available for businesses

Find out about services & resources for your business

Meet other business owners/representatives & discuss what you have in common

Find businesses to work with or purchase products from in the future

Great resources if you are thinking of starting a new business

Questions, contact Kathryn Ruth at the Pittsfield Town Office (487-3136); Michael Gray, Pittsfield Ec Dev Team (487-5167) or Catherine Philbrick, Pittsfield Ec Dev Team (1-800-310-8353, ext. 2651).

Storm Date: Monday, March 31, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., Vickery School
Sponsored by Town of Pittsfield and Seabasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce

3. Pittsfield Area Recreation Program Sign-up: We are proceeding forward with the Spring Sports Program. The Town Office will sign up interested parents and children. Tom Bertrand has offered to take all of the sign-ups to set up the teams and the game schedule which is greatly appreciated. Manson Park Committee members will be assisting this Spring.

When: Wednesday, March 19 8:00 am – 6:30 pm (includes evening hours)
Thursday, March 20 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, March 21 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Pittsfield Town Office, Main Offices (upstairs)

League Information:

T-Ball: *Ages 5 & 6*

Farm League: *Ages 7 & 8*

Little League: *Ages 9 – 12*

Softball: *Ages 9 – 12*

(Cost is \$15 per child. Family Registration Maximum is \$45)

Individuals interested in coaching may submit their names.

The Town is still accepting applications for Recreation Director and Recreation Assistant. Contact Pittsfield Town Office, 112 Somerset Avenue (487-3136)

4. Upcoming Energy Forum to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day Week:

The Town of Pittsfield Recycling Committee will host an Energy Forum on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 for the community, businesses, schools and non-profits. Open to all communities. The event will take place from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Seabasticook Valley #2713 Elks Lodge off Central/Middle Street. Plenty of parking.

There will be a keynote speaker to discuss how everyone can conserve energy, provide tips on how to save energy at homes and businesses and other important tips. There will be tables with resource materials on energy, recycling, re-use and other key areas dealing with the environment. Mark your calendars for an interesting and educational evening as well as a way to save money while conserving natural resources.

5. 2008 Tax Club: The Town makes available a tax club payment plan which enables taxpayers to divide their next year's property taxes into twelve monthly payments. The basis for the estimated 2008 tax will be the actual 2007 tax divided by the number of months left in the year when you join. To sign up for the tax club, ask any of the counter personnel at the Town Office or call the Town Office at 487-3136.

6. Neighborhood Watch: The Town's Neighborhood Watch Group is inviting everyone to join them to exchange ideas and share information to make the community a safer place. Get tips on how to protect your loved ones and your property while learning how you can make a difference doing things you already do. The next scheduled meetings are Monday, 04/07/2008 and Monday, 05/05/2008, both at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building. The group generally meets the first Monday of each month.

7. Animal Control Officer Needed: Chief Emery has announced that the Town is seeking proposals for an Animal Control Officer for the Town. Anyone who is interested in this part-time position should contact the Police Department and speak to Chief Emery beginning 02/25/2008. In the interim, the Police Officers are addressing any animal control issues as they have covered over the years when the ACOs have not been available.

8. The Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Upcoming Fundraisers:

Exciting news on the Swimming Pool Fundraising Campaign. With recent donations, the total to raise on this \$400,000 project is now under \$100,000. Recent donations and revenue have brought the fundraising campaign to a total of \$79,329.46 since the official campaign was started last summer.

Over 151 individual and company donations have been made. In addition, hundreds of people have contributed through the Pennies for the Pool Campaign in the Schools, the collection cans around town, the Pittsfield Farmers' Market and the Egg Festival Booth.

The next fundraising event will be Scrapbooking for the Pool to be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Seabasticook Valley Elks Lodge off Central/Middle Streets in Pittsfield. The cost is \$30.00. Registration includes a reserved seat and workstation, great door prizes, free coffee & tea. Refreshments will be by The Mad Hatter. The vendor will be Creative Memories.

For reservations, contact Mary Gaeta 487-5101, e-mail: petduck52@hotmail.com or Christine Cookson at 487-5590, e-mail: nutmegpaddy1@verizon.net. Registrations will also be taken at Heidi Ann's Flower Shop at 103 Main Street and the Pittsfield Town Office, 112 Somerset Avenue. Checks made payable to the Town of Pittsfield, note Scrapbooking.

9. Town of Pittsfield 2008 Training Calendar: The Safety Committee has established a training calendar for 2008 which includes one training session per month. This will be great. Generally, when all of the summer people come on, we have 5 training sessions all together in May – June. We will need to do a little bit of individualized training, however, this will spread the training out all year round. PPE Hazard Assessment Review took place in 02/2008 and we will have Hazard Communication in 03/2008. The next Safety Committee Meeting is 03/21/2008. (Training for remainder of the year: Fire Extinguishers; Preventing Back Injuries/Proper techniques; Haz-Mat Awareness/Bloodborne Pathogens; Lock-out/Tag-out Procedures; Forklift Training; Chain-Saw Safety/Small Equipment; Emergency Evacuation Plan Review; Accident Reporting; and Video Terminal/Loss Prevention).

Saved for future Town Manager Reports (not read):

Pinnacle Ski Club Meeting: The next meeting of the Pinnacle Ski Club will be _____, _____ at _____ p.m. at the Pinnacle. This will be a work session to continue to work on the Pinnacle's operations. This is a great facility so anyone who would like to join the Pinnacle should show up at the meeting or pick up the sign-up materials at the Town Office. Remember, weather permitting, the Pinnacle is open 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday as well as school vacations.

1. Moses Martin Re-dedication of the First Homestead: The re-dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, 08/04/2007 by the Pittsfield Historical Society and the Maine State Organization Daughters of the American Revolution. This was a very nice event and well attended. We received a beautiful bronze plaque to place at the Homestead. The homestead site has been cleaned up and there is a path to it now as part of the preservation efforts. The Town is fortunate to own the Peltoma property where the Town Farm and the first Homestead are located. This property also houses the Police Shooting range on the opposite side of the property. For everyone's protection, the site will remain gated. The Historical Society will coordinate with the Town and Police Department to schedule tours of the first Homestead, most likely during the Spring and late Summer/early Fall prior to Hunting Season.

2. Town Maps: The new In-Town and Rural Routes E-911 Road maps are now on the Town's website on the front page under News. They can be downloaded and will print on 8 ½ X 11 paper so they can be printed out at peoples' homes or businesses now.

3. Historical Society Project: The Pittsfield Historical Society is looking for volunteers and donations to assist them with rebuilding the cupola at the caboose and painting the caboose. The caboose needs to be re-painted after the vandalism. In order to paint the caboose, the wooden cupola needs to be rebuilt. Anyone who has carpentry skill would be welcome at the Pittsfield Historical Society to assist them with this very important project which will then allow the painting to take place. They have one volunteer at this time. More are welcome. Anyone who would like to donate or would like more information, please contact Tom Brown at 487-4926 or Clem Spencer at 487-2408.

4. Pittsfield Farmers' Market: Rain or shine all Summer and Fall, the Pittsfield Farmers' Market will be in Hathorn Park until November 1 every Monday & Thursday from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. We have new brochures at the Town Office for anyone who is interested.

5. E-911 Implementation: E-911 matches a physical address with a telephone number and this information is displayed on a computer screen to dispatchers. With each letter, the Town opted to purchase and enclose numbers to be placed on everyone's houses and businesses. All numbers are supposed to be up on 05/01/2007, on homes or mailboxes if your house is away from the road. We need your new numbers up so that Public Safety can find you as well as to help the post office, delivery companies and visitors. Remember, the Post Office will deliver your mail up to 1 year from the date of your notification, so you have time to use up your checks, letterhead, etc. With your next order, just order the items with your new address. Copies of the new two-sided map with an urban in-town map and a country roads map is available at the Town Office and Library. More and more people have their numbers up. If your numbers are not up, please put them up. If you have lost your numbers, we have extras available at the Town Office until they run out.

6. Reminder for police issues: If there is an emergency, call 911. If you are calling in a police complaint, please call the regular police number of 487-3101 and relay the issue. The Police voice mails should not be used for filing police complaints. With a rotating schedule and days off, it may be 2 or more days for a police officer to check their voice mail. Complaints need to be answered right off so they can not be left on the officers' voice mail.

7. Water/Sewer Services: With over 60 miles of water and sewer pipes and approximately 700 gate boxes, 1400 service boxes, 500 manholes and 10 sewer cleanouts, the Water and Sewer Department can be kept quite busy. If anyone notices a manhole or box sunken or heaved in the roadway, please call Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent Scott Noble at the Water/Sewer Garage at 487-5203 listing the road and approximate location. With literally hundreds of these items in the roadway and the difficult winters we are having now, a few of them are going to shift out of place.