

## **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 05/06/2008:**

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

**2. Egg Festival Committee:** The Egg Festival Committee is geared up for a great event this year. Officers are Steve Craig, President & Chair; Lori Barker, Vice-President & Contact person; Eva Charity, Treasurer, and Tonja Metivier, Secretary. The Town's website has information on the website and for additional details as well as registration forms for the pageant and the marketplace, got to <http://eggfest.craftah.com/>

**3. GE Security 1<sup>st</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk:** Read announcement

**4. MDOT Preliminary Public Meeting: Neal Bridge:** The State MDOT held its Preliminary Public Meeting on Wednesday, 04/30/2008 to discuss the replacement of the Neal Bridge. MDOT wants to close down Route #100 to traffic for the installation of the new bridge to save construction costs and to put in a new composite material. UMO is working on the project with MDOT. Low flow time is July 15 – September 30 of the year, so MDOT would like to implement the project at that time. More than 20 people attended the public meeting to voice concerns over traffic and the funneling of all of the traffic onto one road. After discussions, ideas came out about breaking up the detoured traffic onto three sets of roads – state roads for the heavy truck traffic, one south-bound route for regular vehicles and one north-bound route for regular vehicles. This was an idea to be explored. We are to hear back in 2-3 weeks as to how MDOT would like to proceed.

**5. SAD #53 Budget Meeting for the 2008-2009 Budget:** The Budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Warsaw Middle School Gymnasium to vote on the 2008-2009 Budget. The required referendum to vote on whether citizens agree or disagree with the results of the actions taken at the budget meeting will be held the following Monday, May 12, 2008 from 9:00 am – 8:00 pm at the Pittsfield Council Chambers. Under the State law, voting on the school budget is now a two step process so it is important that people are involved with both steps.

### **6. 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 Seabcook Valley #2713 Elks Lodge off Central/Middle Street. Plenty of parking.

The purpose of the event is to provide tips on how everyone can conserve energy, both at their homes and businesses.

The keynote speaker is Richard (Dick) Fortier, the Solar Program Manager at the Maine Public Utilities Commission. The presentation will be on "Tracking and Reducing your Energy Cost". We will review how to track energy consumption so we can quantify savings. Topics we will cover residential energy efficient codes, commercial power savings, and Renewable Energy Sources.

There will be tables with resource materials on energy, recycling, re-use and other key areas dealing with the environment. Everyone should mark your calendars for an interesting and educational evening as well as a way to save money while conserving natural resources.

**7. Standard & Poor's General Obligation Bond Rating:** The Town's financial situation was ranked by Standard & Poor again this year. For the first time, our bond rating has been increased from the BBB level that we have had for many years to an A-. So the rating on the Town's General Obligation Tax Increment Financing Bonds has been raised reflecting the Town's improved financial position, although the town still relies on midyear tax anticipation notes. The Town's ability to receive considerable grant funding, end of year reserves, financing capital projects as we go and good unreserved fund balances were the reasons for the upgrade along with maintaining a stable economic environment. The report is on file at the Town Office.

### **Items for future meetings:**

**Somerset County Transition Team Meetings:** We have had a few Transition Team Committee Meetings now. We have been very fortunate to have been awarded Trade Adjustment Assistance for San Antonio Shoes (SAS) Inc. Pittsfield employees. All workers at SAS who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after February 15, 2008 are eligible for the assistance. Workers can access these benefits by going to their local on-stop career center, which are the Career Centers – Skowhegan, Bangor, Augusta are the closest depending upon which town the employee comes from. There will be a lot of benefits. Senator Snowe's Office advised us on Monday that depending upon the benefits that the workers draw on – job training, assistance, pay while at school, etc. we are talking \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 worth of federal assistance.

There are also some other plans taking place which include the Transition Booklet with resources which is finished; a Job Fair at SAS on Friday, April 4 for the employees and a larger job fair for all of the displaced workers in the area. From talking with representatives from Senator Snowe's and Collins' Office I understand the significance of holding the job fair. So there will be one big Job Fair on Monday, May 19, 2008 in the Warsaw School Gym and Cafeteria. Set up is from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. with the official opening at 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. I am working on this along with Kathe Bolster from the Skowhegan Career Center and Brian Hodges, our DECD Business Development Specialist. There will be a Resource Area for providers like we had at the Business Forum. Jean Dempster and Linda Landry from the Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community will be working on this. The main issue we are having right now is that we need 50 tables as the school only has a few tables. So ideas where we can locate folding tables – lots of folding tables would be greatly appreciated as well as people to work the event. We have identified 22 businesses to invite which we believe are gearing up to hire from the region. Any business within a reasonable commute from Pittsfield that is hiring is invited to attend as well as providers of services to displaced, unemployed or underemployed people in the region.

**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.

**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.

### **The Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Upcoming Fundraisers:**

**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).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.