

## **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 06/17/2008:**

**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 event. For additional details as well as registration forms for the pageant and the marketplace, got to <http://eggfest.craftah.com/>

Something new this year: The Egg Festival Committee has a short audio and video that is advertising the Town and the Egg Festival that is now out on the public access station. We can credit Lori Barker for the additional advertisements.

**3. Sweeping Schedule:** The Town Sweeper was out of commission three times now, once fixed quickly and twice we had to wait for parts. Nearly all of the roads have been swept. A few places have been identified to be swept again. We have purchased a few extra parts to try to avoid this problem next year. The usual sweeping schedule has been over 1 month late. Our highway equipment is very old and we are budgeting reserve funds to replace trucks for sanding and future plowing and for a sweeper. We are fortunate to have our own sweeper regardless of its age. We had checked around for hiring a sweeper and found that if we hired one and swept ourselves it was \$110-\$120/hour. The other option was contracting sweeping through a company, that was very expensive and towns have to wait for their place in the queue for the service.

**4. Sidewalk Project:** The Public Works Department is digging up the Somerset Avenue sidewalk that has been raised/uneven for decades. Evidently, against popular belief, there are no water and sewer lines under the sidewalk which has been a deterrent to digging up this sidewalk. We dug some test pits earlier this month and found no deterrents to reconstructing the sidewalk and having it repaved.

**5. Next Pool Fundraiser:** There will be a Chicken Barbeque at the MCI Cafeteria on Saturday, June 21, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. so Mark Your Calendar. All proceeds to benefit the Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Project. Adults are \$6.00 each and children \$4.00 each. There is a limit of 150 tickets. Tickets can be purchased at Heidi Ann's Flower Shop, the Town Office, from a Swimming Pool Committee member or at the door as supplies last.

**6. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Outdoor Decorating Contest:** READ Notice

**7. Recreation Department Sign-ups:** Summer Recreation Department Program Registrations will be held on Wednesday, June 18 8:00 am – 6:00 pm; Thursday, June 19 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; and Friday, June 20 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Pittsfield Town Office (upstairs). The Summer Program will consist of Basketball; Field Hockey; Golf; Soccer; Tennis; Arts and Crafts; and Swimming Lessons. Program cost is \$15.00 resident fee and \$20.00 non-resident fee.

**8. Somerset County Transition Team:** The next meeting of the group which functions as a clearing house of information, sponsors job fairs with other entities and provides a strategy to address layoffs will be meeting on Wednesday, August 06, 2008 at 9:30 am in the Town Council Chambers.

Yesterday, we received the very good news from the Labor Department that additional Employment Assistance will be received for SAS Workers. The request for a Dual Enrollment Grant as part of the DOL's National Emergency Grant program was approved. The Dual Enrollment Grant will ensure that the State will be able to allocate the aid and vocational training to displaced workers not covered by the previously granted Trade Adjustment Assistance. It is hard to get both grants, however, the SAS workers and the region were very fortunate.

**9. Sebecook Valley Chamber of Commerce & Sebecook Valley Healthy Communities**

**Coalition:** The Second Leadership Conference for the region was held on Thursday, June 12, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. – no later than 8:30 p.m. at the Hartland Consolidated Schools Cafeteria. We reviewed the results of the assets in the region, brainstormed on several questions addressing a Healthy Sebecook Valley; types of retail, commercial or industrial activities we want to see in the area; and niche advertising and marketing the region. The results are being written up and will be distributed when received.

The Town was presented with a Heart Safe Community Sign from the State of Maine which recognizes the Sebecook Valley Hospital Ambulance Service for their efforts to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest and for meeting the criteria to be designated a HEARTSafe Community. These signs are to be placed in all towns which are serviced and support the SVH Ambulance Service.

**10. Pittsfield Public Library News:** READ Notice.

**11. Free Training: The Power of Positive Parenting – a Three Hour Workshop:** This is authorized instruction based on the book of the same name written by Dr. Glenn Latham presented by Robert Fletcher to be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 12 pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, 59 Libby Hill Road in Newport. Please pre-register by calling Walter Reuter Sr. at 487-5454.

## **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.