

## **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 10/07/2008:**

**1. The FYI Folder:** The FYI Book contains the following items this week: READ LIST  
No FYI Folder this week.

**2. 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, December 03, 2008 from 9:30 am – 11:00 am in the Town Council Chambers.

**3. Pittsfield Farmers' Market:** The Farmers' Market is going strong rain or shine from May 1 – October 30 at Hathorn Park every Monday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Several Farms are involved. More information is available from [www.pittsfieldfarmersmarket.org](http://www.pittsfieldfarmersmarket.org) or you can pick up a brochure at the Town Office. Just a few days more!

**4. Neal Bridge Closing, Route #100:** There will be an MDOT sponsored meeting held on October 17, 2008 to demonstrate the technology and composite mechanisms involved in the new bridge being installed. More details will follow in case any of the Councilors or other town board/committee members would like to attend.

**5. Work Ready Program:** The Work Ready Program held a meeting for SAS Employees on 09/15/2008 with an excellent turnout. Funding is being provided for a WorkReady Program for SAS Shoe so we are fortunate to receive this program funding. WorkReady is an employer-recognized credential for those completing a 60-hour training program. It is a soft skills training program which offers a portable credential to participants signifying that people have acquired the skills that local employers want in job applicants. We had a presentation at the last Somerset County Transition Team Meeting and this program sounds very, very good and has excellent results. It helps people to become competitive in the marketplace for positions. There are approximately 12 individuals in the program. There will be a graduation held on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Elk's Lodge. The event will have a review of the student portfolios/resumes at 10:00 am and the credentials will be awarded at 11:00 am with lunch following.

**6. Pittsfield Municipal Theatre Restoration:** This summer the Cianbro Companies assisted the Town's Theatre Committee and Theatre Manager with a comprehensive review of the theatre for needed or preferred work to restore and enhance this facility. Books of proposed projects and costs were compiled and the Theatre Committee has been reviewing them for the last few months. The book is broken down into categories by priority to include roofing, insulation, seating, fire protection, electrical services, lobby, marquee, flooring, painting, acoustic ceiling; lighting, rear awning; and audio visual. Recently, I obtained a copy of the book. The work completed by Cianbro was impressive and very strategic for the Town. I recently attended a meeting of Theatre Committee members and a group of volunteers who have united to fundraise for the theatre. The fund raising committee is working on an outline of their ideas and will be ready to go in a couple of months. They are very dedicated to the cause which is good. The Theater Committee is to work on an Action Plan in the next few weeks. In the meantime, we will also be soliciting quotations for a structural review of the theatre.

**7. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day:** This was a great event hosted by the Town of Pittsfield, the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, the USDA Rural Development and Environmental Projects Inc. There were 34 participants from Pittsfield, 12 from Palmyra, 8 from Troy and 8 from Unity. Approximately 1 ½ tons of hazardous materials were taken out of Maine's landfills and energy recovery facilities.

**8. Surplus Properties:** Some of the smaller bids for the trucks that we accepted were not followed through even after several phone calls and finally a letter with due dates to make payment or the bid would be forfeited. Basically, we have a few of the smaller trucks still available and would propose to have them taken to the scrap dealer as metal if there are no objections.

**9. Sebasticook Valley Hospital Breast Cancer Awareness Walk:** SVH is pleased to host for the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row – the area's Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Saturday, October 18, 2008 in Pittsfield. Walkers from throughout central Maine participate every year, raising tens of thousands in support of breast cancer services at the hospital. According to the Director of the Women's Health Center, Linda Cregnole, "This year's walk offers two new features that our perennial walkers will find exciting: one is the walk location, which will begin and end at Sebasticook Regional Family Care (SRFC) in Pittsfield, and the second is the new walk-friendly routes. The one-mile route will begin at SRFC and continue down Somerset Avenue to Hathorn Park before tracking back to end at SRFC. The two-mile route will start at SRFC, continue down Somerset Avenue to Main Street before circling back through Hathorn Park and up Somerset to SRFC. Both routes feature sidewalks and meander past Pittsfield neighborhoods and businesses." The money gathered from the hundred or more walkers will be used to provide free mammograms to area women who cannot afford this life-saving cancer screening. Every year, SVH provides at least fifty free mammograms to women in need. In the past, SVH has shared the proceeds from breast cancer awareness walks with the Komen Foundation, the American Cancer Society, and the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition. To register or for more information, contact Beth Bacon at 487-0916 ext. 479.

**10. Keep Me Warm Teams:** If there is a group in town that is interested in forming a "Help Team", the area can participate in the Keep ME Warm Program. Kits will be distributed on Saturday, October 25, 2008 (National Make a Difference Day) from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm through the University of Maine Cooperative Extension County Offices so in our case, that will be the Skowhegan Cooperative Extension Office. Kit contents will be distributed based on the percentage of 2007 LIHEAP recipients by county. This year's efforts require that local teams come to distribution sites with a list of local community members who need kits. These lists will come from a variety of sources. To create these lists of homes to winterize, teams will inquire with local helping organizations in their communities such as churches, agencies of aging, Untie Ways, community action agencies and general assistance offices. In addition, there are also

discounted kits available for purchase by groups, companies and individuals who want to buy them so we can look into all of this.

**11. Pittsfield Public Library Story Time:** Story Time will be held downstairs in the Council Chambers at the Pittsfield Municipal Building on Tuesdays 10:15 – 11:00. The change of location is due to the renovations of the lower level of library. There will be a limited selection of books that can be checked out with your library card at the remote location is children and their caregivers are not able to go to the library after story time. The fall theme builds on the summer program “Catch the Reading Bug”. Programs will be: Sept. 23 – Lucky Ladybugs, Sept. 30 – Sunny Sunflowers, Oct. 7 – Dazzling Dragonflies, Oct. 14 – No program (room conflict), Oct. 21 – Hooray for Honeybees, Oct 25 – Spiders, Spiders Everywhere.

The Pittsfield Public Library has begun its renovation of the lower level of the library. The work on the foundation includes a ditch dug around the library, making the front door inaccessible for several weeks. Please come to the side door. The book drop will is also unavailable during this time. Please call the library at 487-5880 if you need an extended time for your library materials.

**12. Trash to Treasure Day:** Our *Annual Fall Trash to Treasure Day* will be held from Dawn to Dusk on Saturday, October 25, 2008 in conjunction with *Make A Difference Day* in Pittsfield. All residents are invited to participate in an effort to promote recycling and reuse and reduction of unwanted items. Items should be placed within easy access and view on your property on this day to encourage others to claim your items. Materials from your fall cleaning of barns, attics, homes, etc. will be free for the taking and will find new uses and homes. At the end of the day, please remove any items from the side of your property by the road and dispose of them appropriately at the Recycling Center and Transfer Station when it is open. We are encouraging donations to our partners: (a) Pennywise for new and used clothing; (b) Bud’s Shop ‘N Save for paper and plastic bags and eye glasses; (c) MCI Drama Program for large amounts of cloth, older furniture prior to the 1960’s and plywood; (d) Elks Lodge for used ink and toner cartridges and cell phones; and (e) Pittsfield Post Office for used ink cartridges.

Anyone considering a yard sale is required to obtain a permit from the Town Office. All free items do not require a permit. Participants may call Recycling Committee members Jane at 487-3343 or Kathryn at the Town Office at 487-3136. PLEASE RE-USE!

**10. 504 Home Repair Program:** There is financial assistance available for home weatherization from the USDA. The 504 Program has grants and low interest loans available for income qualified homeowners. 504 loan funds can be used for repair or purchase of a well and/or septic system; replace or repair roof; replace doors and/or windows and/or insulation; update or purchase of a central heating system; make the home accessible for a disability or remove health and safety issues; update/install electrical; repair foundation; replace siding and multiple other repairs. This is for families or individuals who own their own land and dwelling and need to remove health and/or safety hazards; have an adjusted annual family income that does not exceed the very low income limit for household size and county; cannot obtain needed credit through conventional sources or other assets; U.S. Citizens or qualified aliens and must be an elderly family – at least one applicant must be age 62 or older. Contact the United States Department of Agriculture at their Bangor Office (207-990-3676, ext. 4).

**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.