visit us on Arrowsic's own web site at www.gwi.net/arrowsic
Thanks to Great Works Internet (1-800-201-1476)
and Larry Wilson, Selectman and Webmaster 443-6970

"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I have hope for the human race."  H.G. Wells

Dear Reader,
Tuesday, March 7 is the Presidential Preference Primary Election. Please come to the Arrowsic Town Hall to vote.
Polls open at 10AM and close at 8PM. The last chance to change parties was Feb 18, 2000, but unenrolled voters can declare a party anytime up to and including election day.
Here is the Secretary of State's List of candidates:

Democratic Party:
Bill Bradley, Montclair, New Jersey
Richard Jan Epstein, Boca Raton, Florida
Al Gore, Carthage, Tennessee
Lyndon H LaRouche, Jr, Round Hill, Virginia

Republican Party:
Gary Bauer, Fairfax, Virginia
George W. Bush, Austin, Texas
Steve Forbes, Bedminster, New Jersey
Alan Keys, Darnestown, Maryland
John McCain, Phoenix, Arizona

About the Fire Department:
On Thursday, March 2, and about 30 others went to the Town Hall for the 3rd in a series of discussions held by the Selectmen to discuss Arrowsic's firefighting capabilities, present and future. We have published minutes from previous meetings in the Arrow (and they are available at Town Hall), so I'll stick to the unfolding of this meeting.
We began with a bus ride down to the firebarn on Rt 127 during which many recalled childhood memories of long school bus rides, motion sickness, falling asleep, missing the bus, not getting to sit next to friends or having to sit next to bullies or intimidatingly cute boys or girls. Many of us asked if they were going to serve dinner when we got to the firebarn. If the point of the trip was to see the equipment, I can honestly say that I never got more than 6 inches away from the side of either of the trucks.
Turnout gear, helmets, boots and other necessary items were all neatly stashed and hung tight up against the walls. The fact is, there is little to no room to move in the barn, and we could not possibly squeeze another inch of truck into those walls. We all single-filed, turning sideways, between the trucks and the walls around the perimeter, reconnitred outside while Chief Scott and Assistant Chief Thomas gave us facts and figures about the pumper and the brush truck as well as pointing out the property boundaries (about 8 feet from either side of the existing building).
If the point was to let us all know that we are desperately pressed for space and unable (quite literally) to expand the department, the point was well made.
Back at the Town Hall, Larry Wilson led the rest of the meeting. He pointed out that four options have been identified from the previous two work shops:
1. Renovate the present fire barn
2. Build a fire barn large enough to house fire equipment, on land next to Town Hall
3. Build a fire barn large enough to house fire equipment and accommodate other town interest, on land next to Town Hall
4. Keep the Status Quo
First we discussed purchasing a new truck Vs purchasing a used truck. A new truck will cost about $160,000.00 and last about 30 years. It will also feature the latest in Class A foam technology which increases water carrying capability 7-10 times, and decreases manpower requirements by more than half. As an example, Chief Scott pointed out that currently we have 7.5 minutes of water on one handline. If we go to 1500 gallons with foam technology, it would increase our capacity to 29 minutes of water on one handline. In other words, two firefighters and one truck could do the job that now requires 2 trucks and 5-7 firefighters.
Alternatively, we could purchase a used truck for $90,000.00 that might last 15 years but would not have the advantage of foam technology. Chief Scott pointed out the increased maintenance costs that come with a used vehicle. We have put $5,000.00-$6,000.00 into the 1966 truck we bought 3 years ago.
The next part of the discussion focused on the assumption that if we buy a new truck, we need a new building (arguably, we could use a new building now for training and meetings). We compared the options of size and aesthetic: do we want cheaper and larger (Chief Scott pointed out that a Motion building, built on a slab with wood trusses and sided with metal could be very reasonable but probably not available in multi-level design), or stick-built and "Arrowsic-designed? Do we want to spend a little more time coming up with a comprehensively designed plan incorporating the new building on the new site (land we purchased this summer adjacent to the town hall) into the current town hall setting? Do we want to spend a little extra money to get extra space for other town functions?
Financing options were also discussed. Shall we sell the town land (across from the current fire barn) and add $50,000.00 to the pot of available moneys? Do we sell the current fire barn? How much additional money do we need to raise to purchase a truck this year and begin the building process this summer?
There were concerns about the town paying finance charges for loans and I pointed out (as Town Treasurer) that we have enough money in surplus that we could finance the project ourselves.
Assuming we sell nothing, here are the (ballpark) costs involved in all of the options:
20x48 building with site prep: $53,800
40x40 " " $72,000
40x60 " " $95,000-$121,000

Much of the discussion centered around the building until Chief Scott pointed out that he doesn't care if the truck is parked in a tent. His primary concern is getting to fires quicker and saving lives.
Many issues need to be researched before a proposal can be brought to town meeting. Michele Gaillard kept a running list on a flip chart. At the conclusion of the meeting those interested in helping with specific tasks were asked to sign up. If you'd like to join the team, the list is at the Town Hall.
Larry Wilson will print up detailed minutes and have them available for you at the Town Hall, and on Arrowsic's web site (www.gwi.net/arrowsic). We will have a fourth and final meeting just before Town Meeting in June to discuss issues on which we will be voting.

"We have to keep in mind that we are not fighting for integration, nor are we fighting for separation. We are fighting for recognition, for the right to live as free humans in this society." Malcolm X April 6, 1964

Important Dates:
Selectmen meet 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24 6 pm Town Hall
Planning Board Meet 3/6, 4/3 7 pm at Town Hall
Coop Order Meeting: 3/24 4 pm at Town Hall
Coop Bread Delivery: 3/11-12, 4/8-9 443-3209
Coop Order Delivery: 3/16, 4/13
Property Management Committee meets 3/7 7 pm Town Hall
Shellfish Committee meets 3/20 5 pm at Town Hall
Conservation Commission meets 3/20 6 pm Town Hall
Road Commission meets 3/4 9 am Town Hall

" inert objects with simple, definite locations in space and time do not exist. Instead, all nature is alive with process and happenings. "  Mae-Wan Ho
From the Tax Collector, Liz Rollins 443-3648
THE FOLLOWING REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE IN MARCH (APRIL UNAVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING)

AMES, HAROLD A
ATHER, ROBERT G
BRAWN, ALLISON L
BRIDGE, CLARE L
BURKE, JOHN G
DAVIS, NANCY A
DUNN, FLOYD L
FOSTER, DAVID R
FRAHAM, SHIRLEY D
GILES, SAMUEL D
GUCKENBURG, MARY L
HOBROOK, KIMBERLY
HOWLAND, JEAN M
JORGENSEN, MARK
KANE, JEAN R
KING, STANLEY E
KREINDLER, MICHAEL
LELLIEBRE, BRIAN
MANN, JEFFREY S
MOORE, GEORGE

MOUNT, PAMELA
Nielson BRUNE, WILL
O CONNOR, JAMIE R
PACKARD, PHILLIP E
PANETTE, ALFRED J
PANETTE, ANTHONY J
ROBBINS, KAREN
ROOT, DONALD M
SCHLEIN, PAUL B
SHELTON, CATHERINE
SHUFELT, ERNEST F
STONE, JOHN FR
SULLIVAN, MICHAEL
TOLAN, JAMES J
WARNER, KEVIN J
WOOD, JOHN
YEATON, GUY M

The Range Light Keepers invite you to the 1st Annual
FOG BELL FISH CHOWDER SUPPER

Join us for a good old-fashioned chowder supper to benefit the Bell Tower Restoration Project.
Saturday, March 18, 2000
Arrowsic Town Hall
5:00-7:30 PM
$6. adults / $3. children
take-out pints available
Door Prize: signed original wood engraving
call 442-7443 for information