Dear Reader,

Everyday the sun climbs a little higher in the sky and stays there a little longer. Who knows, maybe spring really is coming. Lots of stuff for you to read following. Stay warm...and be careful on the ice.

From Ann Carlton, Town Clerk: Town Hall Hours are Wednesdays 3-5:30 and Fridays 8:30-11am. Phone is 443-4609. Maine License Applications are in.

The following is a list of dogs that need to be licensed. An asterisk means that the clerk needs to see proof of rabies.

Princess & Mindy Moore*  Lady Devon Campbell*  Pizza Elwell
Sarah Sullivan  Samantha Teter  Roger Hunt*
Arrow & Beau Packard*  Maggie Yeaton*  Boogie Dunn
Mike & Willie Dunn*  Percy Perkins  Smokey Simmons
Lucky Kalish  Moose Bryant  Sadie Giles
Sabinna Hamblin  Benji MacHale  Barney Anderson
Rasun White*  Brandi Nelson*  Rascal Musier
Socks Stuart  Bailey Sperling  Sam Pimpen*
Johnny Frye  Buffy Fream  Abby Pilarski*
Titter Poddle*  Morgan & Ashley Schlein*

Any other dogs that aren't licensed need to be licensed. A call letting the clerk know of any dogs that aren't with us any longer would be helpful.

From Nancy Brown Stump, Tax Collector: I will not have hours April 21 and 23.

The following is a list of vehicle registrations due:

Bassett, L  Brown, P  Carey, T  Carlton, A  Chaffee, B  Cost, W  Doyle, J
Dunn, F  Elwell, F  Elwell, F  Foster, D  Giles, S  Guckenburop, P  Grop
Kennedy, J  Lawrence, S  Maclehan, J  Mason, K  McEachen, K  Miller, A
Olds, P  Olary, J  Packard, P  Peabody, J  Phinney, W  Peabody, J
Robbins, K  Ross, S  Schulin, C  Sheldon, C  Plane, W  Peabody, J
Stinson, C  Stuart, K  Sullivan, H  Swan, M  Sweeney, W  Shufelt, E
Vitien, J  Warner, D  Weiss, D  Williams, S  Wood, J

From the Road Commission: Jim Stump, Chair 442-7527

Town Roads will be posted soon and will remain closed to vehicles weighing more than 5 tons until the ground firms up. If you need to move heavy equipment, do it now!

From the Planning Board: John Wood, Chair 443-3874

Although the town has no commercial zone, more and more residents are working at home. Many "home businesses" are permitted by the current Zoning Ordinance, although "sales outlets" are not.

The Planning Board has been discussing ways to control home businesses, in order to prevent traffic, noise, and waste from becoming a nuisance. One proposal would require a permit for any home business; another would apply only to those which are "distinguishable" from single family residences.

If you have questions or opinions about home businesses, the Planning Board wants to hear from you. Their next meeting will be April 5 at 7 PM.

From the Recycling Committee: Co-chairs: Sandy Burnham 442-8948, Jeff Mann 443-6174, Bob Kalish 443-4600, Paul Perkins 442-8466. Here's a tip to lessen the flow of junk mail to your box: write to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association; PO Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008. Your name will remain on file for 5 years, you should notice a decrease in junk mail in 3 months. Don't forget to keep recycling those cans, #2 plastic, glass, cardboard, newspapers, and business paper. Please follow instructions at the bins at the Town Hall. AND...Be part of the Solution!! We are always looking for new ideas, new members, and helpers (even if you have an hour a month, we can assign specific tasks. Every little bit helps. Call any of us.
Young People's Theater summer classes: Al Miller is considering a class for two weeks in Arrowsic, July 26-August 6 for 3rd-6th graders to continue developing Nancy Brown Stump's "Arrowsic Folktales." The cost will be $100 with partial and full scholarships available. If you're interested, please leave a message at 442-8270.

So, you think you know Arrowsic?

Where was William Butler's shipyard landing? How about the schoolhouse in District Two? Or, for extra credit, can you find the Southeast corner of Essie Stinson's grain barn? The Road Commissioner and the Town Historian have been wrestling with questions like these in an effort to locate Arrowsic's old roads.

Town Historian Mildred Stafford has transcribed the descriptions of more than a dozen old roads which were laid out and accepted by the town between 1795 and 1875. Many of these roads are described in great detail ("thence west 13 degrees South 80 poles to the Old Road Crossing the slough to the North of the Old Bridge") but are difficult to locate unless you know where the Old Road and the Old Bridge were.

Recently, Road Commissioner John Wood has used a computer to plot these descriptions at the same scale as the tax maps. John and Mildred hope to use these plots to locate the old roads, traces of which can still be found in many parts of the island.

Arrowsic School Meeting Planned (for more information call Lucy Hull at 443-4908)

A small group of Arrowsic parents are working on starting a new school for our community. This will be an alternative, independent school for children ages nine to fifteen. We want this to be a community school in the real sense of the word, and we need input from the community to make it so. We will have our next meeting (only the third meeting of people interested in this school), on Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 at the Town Hall. This meeting will be a chance for families to meet Karen Robinson, who will be the new school's head teacher. Karen is leaving in mid-March to hike the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Katahdin. This trip is part of Karen's continuing study at the University of Southern Maine, and upon her return she will be working on staff development in the field of experiential education.

This school is envisioned as a community school in several senses. Because Arrowsic has no store, post office or church, some members are feeling the lack of a place to gather on an informal basis, at times other than Town Meeting. Whether we build a new facility or renovate an existing structure we feel strongly about the space being large enough to double as a meeting and performance space for many kinds of activities during non-school hours. An after-school program is being planned for children of all ages for arts, music, drama, sports, and whatever activities are of interest to the community.

In terms of the education of our children we see our community as a wonderful resource. We assume that every child and adult have both things to learn and things to contribute to the learning of others. We have among us artists, scientists, carpenters, educators, writers, fishermen, historians, and all kinds of interesting people with wonderful stories to tell. So students will have opportunities to tap the knowledge, skills and talents of people who live and work in our area, and we will be inviting people to come in to the school to work with the students. An emphasis will be placed on field trips, as well, and parental involvement will be crucial to implement the plans we make together. We will use other resources as well, from The Patten Free Library to Reid State Park. In addition, we expect the school to take on a life of its own as the children develop their own social environment, traditions and customs.

Our curriculum will address Maine's state goals, and seeking state approval for our program will be of paramount importance. Students will have the freedom to pursue their own interests within a firm, academically sound structure, and will benefit from the individual attention made possible by a student/teacher ratio of 12:1. We believe the program we are designing will prepare students to succeed, and certainly to meet the entrance requirements of receiving schools.

The search for a facility, or land on which to build one, is underway, and we need your help. Does anyone have property they would like to lease or donate? We are hoping to find a central location for the convenience of the largest number of families possible.

Most importantly, please come to the Town Hall on Tuesday the 9th and share with us what a community school could do for your children and for yourselves. A few of us are ready to work very hard on making this happen, but it won't be a community school without your input.

Refreshments will be served!

THANKS THANKS THANKS to BATH PRINTERS; THE MILLERS & THE PEBBYS