Solid Waste & Recycling Committee

We are pleased to welcome resident and volunteer **Damian Sokol** to our committee!

- Please help the collection crew by creating a physical space of approximately 5 feet in between your solid waste bin and your recyclables.
- Please stop by the white shed at town hall to pick up a yellow recycling sticker to identify your recyclable bin if you don't already have one (limit 2 per household)
- Composting is strongly encouraged as it reduces our solid waste (and creates great fertilizer for your garden!)
- As we use Arrowsic's curbside trash collection, we are expected to make all efforts to **minimize the amount of trash** we place at the curb. When the service is misused or excessive trash is placed at the curb, this committee receives complaints. Residents owe it to each other and to all Arrowsic taxpayers to obey the:

  **Mandatory Recycling Ordinance**
  1. divert all hazardous waste
  2. minimize trash output.

Failure to do so directly increases taxes in Arrowsic; while others' success in doing so directly decreases taxes. This **direct relationship to taxes** clearly dictates an obligation to each other of using the service responsibly. It also supplies a strong case for those who request a change to a pay per bag service. If the misusers of the service do not change their behavior, they will be to blame for the loss of our convenient service of today.

Thank you to those who participate responsibly!

**FIRE STATION UPDATE**

The fire station project has broken ground and is forging ahead! Concrete was poured last week by Barry Concrete, and Dick Elwell, our excavator, is back at the site trenching for the water and sewer lines. The committee is hammering out the final details, and reviewing bids for heating and framing. Special thanks to committee members Steven Theodore for the design work, and Rob Shultz for acting as the construction supervisor.

Respectfully submitted
Jeremy Blaiklock, acting Chairman

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**Big Brothers Big Sisters Has Volunteer Opportunities Available to Arrowsic and Georgetown Residents!**

**Community-Based Program**

Volunteers in this program are 18 years of age or older and are referred to as a “Big.” The Big is paired in a one-to-one friendship with a child (Little) age 6-14 living in a single-parent home. Bigs and Littles (matches) spend at least 8 hours a month taking part in activities that they both enjoy; this can include anything from reading books and cooking to playing sports and spending time outdoors. The activity possibilities are limitless and the benefits of a Big and Little match are great! Our agency also partners with restaurants and community organizations to help provide low to no cost activities for matches. Over 30 boys are currently enrolled in the program and are waiting for the right volunteer Big to come into their lives!

**School-Based Mentoring at Georgetown Central School**

The School-Based Mentoring Program pairs children with caring adults in one-to-one friendships (matches) to share time once weekly for an hour at the school. Matches enjoy having lunch, using the playground, playing board games, creating craft projects, or simply having a conversation. The program will take place at the Georgetown Central School from 11:40-12:30 during the children’s recess and lunch break on an established day of your choice Monday-Friday. This is a perfect volunteer opportunity for retirees!

If you are interested in spending time with a child in-need of an adult friend or would like to learn about our volunteer opportunities please contact: Aurora Joseph at 729-7736 ex 16 or email community@bbbsbathbrun.org.

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**Eco-Tips: Frugal and Friendly**

The recent tragedy of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has prompted a number of concerned Arrowsic citizens to begin a conversation about how we as individuals, and community members, are using the planet’s natural resources and how we might make choices that more efficiently and equitably utilize those resources. **FACT: The USA makes up 4% of the world’s population and consumes 25% of the world’s energy.**

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Ground-breaking ceremonies took place at Woolwich Central School on August 3rd, while behind the scenes, a great many decisions have been made regarding the details of construction of the new school. Ledgewood Construction, located in South Portland, has been awarded the bid for the building contract. For the next 2 years, while construction is going on, students will be attending the Huse School in Bath. The renovations that are taking place at Huse are going very well and are right on schedule.

Summer schools have been active, with one program in particular worth mentioning: The Shallop Project. In conjunction with the Maine’s First Ship Project, students from Morse are constructing an 18 foot shallop, a type of vessels used by the Popham Colony 400 years ago. This class is an elective and involves 14 students. Work is being done on the BFC property at the intersection of Commercial and Lambard Street and visitors are welcome from 8am-noon.

Certainly the biggest item on the Board’s agenda has been trying to conclude contract negotiations with the teacher’s union (SEA). In May the process moved mediation, at which time the State assigned experienced mediator Don Ziegenbien to work with both parties. The Board feels that it is in the best interest of all parties that this process is resolved prior to the start of school, and every effort is being made to meet as often as possible to reach a satisfactory conclusion. Still, we are well aware the start of school is just around the corner.

There are two other items of note as we start the school year. The first is that the World Language Program will look significantly different in the elementary grades. With a reduction in staff in this department, schools will now be implementing a computer instruction program (Rosetta Stone). There will be a staff person assigned to support students in the implementation of this program. The second item of note is that Morse will be changing their class schedule from the current “A/B” format to what is known as a “4 by 4” format. Instead of students taking 7 or 8 classes all year long (alternating days: 4 one day, 3-4 the next) they will now take 4 classes the first semester and 4 classes the second semester. This change occurred partly due to staff reduction and partly in an effort to improve student performance. If you would like more information regarding this change, please contact Principal Peter Kahl at Morse (443 8250).

And finally, another important item of note is the budget crisis RSU1 will be facing as we enter into our next budget cycle (2011-2012). This situation is not unique to our district, and, in fact, is one facing all schools in Maine. With State revenue down and Federal TARP money expiring, RSU1 is looking at a major budget shortfall in the future. We encourage all citizens of the region to follow this situation closely through media venues and by attending school board meetings. Any suggestions you may have would be welcome. As we receive more specific information we will certainly pass it along.

ARROWSIC STUDENTS ATTENDING RSU 1 2010-11

Projected Enrollments as of 8/4/10

Dike-Newell School: Kindergarten 1
Grade 1 1
Grade 2 2
Fisher-Mitchell School: Grade 4 1
Grade 5 1
Phippsburg Elementary School: No Arrowsic students enrolled
West Bath School: No Arrowsic students enrolled
Woolwich Central School: Grade 2 1
Grade 6 3
Grade 7 1
Grade 8 1
Bath Middle School: Grade 6 2
Grade 8 3
Morse High School: Grade 9 1
Grade 10 2
Grade 11 2
Grade 12 1

We would encourage parents and students who are attending schools outside of the RSU to be in touch with us regarding what they are up to, so that we can publish their information in the next edition.

Regards,
RSU1 School Board Members:
Tim Harkins, 442 8134, timharkins3@aol.com
Francis Tolan, 443 4893 mainetolans@gmail.com
Start Next Year's Veggie Garden Today!

Would you like to grow some of your own vegetables next year but need some advice on how to go about it? Arrowsic has a few experienced gardeners willing to help.

First, do your homework and plan as much as you can, where you want your garden, what vegetables you'd like to grow, etc.. Three good websites with guidelines are:

http://extension.umaine.edu/gardening/grow-maine-grow/
http://www.hort.cornell.edu/gardening/factsheets/misc/soilbasics.html
http://extension.umaine.edu/gardening/related-resources/gardening-with-raised-beds/

Second, if you need local help, contact one of our Arrowsic gardening gurus, volunteers Noreen Blaiklock at 443-3725, Pam Mount at pmount@myfairpoint.net or Bob Rogers at boborjanice@yahoo.com or 443-1728, (for other names email Janice Rogers at boborjanice@yahoo.com).

A vegetable garden tour is planned for Saturday, September 11 so you can get ideas from some sample gardens. Pick up a map inside the Town Hall the Wednesday or Friday before, or on Saturday in a box outside.

We're also looking for more gurus and gardens for the tour - if interested email Janice: boborjanice@yahoo.com.

Planning Board Vacancies

The Planning Board is in need of two alternate members. An alternate member attends meetings and votes when a regular member is absent, and becomes a full member when a vacancy occurs. The board meets the first Monday of the month.

Please contact a selectman or Will Neilson to volunteer for one of these positions.

Larry Wilson  larryw551@gmail.com  (443-6970)
Sukey Heard  sukeyheard@gmail.com  (443-6768)
Michele Gaillard mgaillard@bowdoin.edu  (442-7443)
Will Neilson  will@solobistro.com  (442-8163)

Reducing, Reusing, Recycling are the three fundamental ways to minimize our impact on the environment. In Maine, we have taken the recycling step seriously with single stream curbside convenience and money back for your bottles and cans. This is commendable, except that it doesn’t address the real problem, which is our over consumption of all goods, packaging and fossil fuels in this country.

Fortunately, the best way to be environmentally friendly is to be frugal and a little thoughtful. If you don’t buy it (or use less electricity, gas and oil) there is no packaging, no transport costs, no disposal costs, and think of all the money you save! The real expense is the time it takes you to pause and remember to make a choice.

The following are simple, free ways to “Be Green”:

· Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
· Turn down your thermostat in winter a few degrees and run your a/c up a little in summer
· Use a power strip to turn off all electric appliances you aren’t using (TV, stereo, computer)
· Wash clothes in cold water
· Set up a clothesline outside or have a drying rack in the house (a free solar powered dryer and your clothes last longer and don’t shrink)
· Use curtains to shade windows in summer and insulate rooms in winter
· Borrow an item you use irregularly from a neighbor or friend
· Share a ride to work, school, shopping
· Turn off your car engine if you are waiting for more than 10 seconds
· Combine your tasks to limit driving trips
· Drive the speed limit which is more fuel efficient
· Avoid the impulse buy
· Refuse a bag if you purchase a few items and bring your own reusable bags for shopping
· Buy goods and services locally; supports your neighbors, reduces transport costs, and minimizes packaging

If you are interested in seeing if these simple things really do make a difference gather some information about your expenses before you start. Look at your electric bill which has the amount of electricity you consumed every month for the last year. You can record how much gas you are using and the miles you drive to calculate your actual mpg each time you fill up. Do different things and see if it really makes a difference for you.

Look for more Eco-Tips on the town webpage!