

SEBAGO HAPPENINGS

T O W N O F S E B A G O , M A I N E

Approved by the Board of Selectmen

SEBAGO REDUCES

PROPERTY TAX MIL RATE



HOURS OF OPERATION

Town Office

- Tues. - 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm

Transfer Station

- Tues., Thurs., Sat., Sun. 7:00am - 5:00pm

General Assistance

- Thursdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm

By Allen Crabtree, Selectman
Recently when Sebago taxpayers received their property tax bills in the mail they were pleasantly surprised to see that their taxes went down. At their September 4th meeting the Sebago Board of Selectmen reduced the mil rate assessed on property taxes to \$0.01286. This is a reduction of 5.4% over the current mil rate of \$0.01360, or a reduction of \$74 in property taxes for every \$100,000 that your house is assessed. The new rate will be lower than the mil rate that Sebago has had for the last two years.

the MSAD 61 school budget. There have also been some important increases in the assessed property that makes up the tax base.

“This tax reduction is possible because of the hard work by the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee and the Capital Investment Program Committee to bring in recommendations for a tight municipal budget to the voters,” said Board Chair Ann Farley. “At the same time, the town has not cut necessary services for our residents, even in these tough economic times.”

and has an ample “rainy day fund” for fiscal emergencies that may come up.



Property taxes pay for the major portion of the \$5,130,614 annual cost of running the town (35% of the total cost), the town’s share of Cumberland County costs (4.4% of the total cost) and the town’s share of running MSAD 61 (60.6% of the total cost).

Property taxes are determined by the appraised value of each property multiplied by the mil rate. For example, a property assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$2,572 in property taxes under the new mil rate of \$0.01286. That is \$148 less than the \$2,720 in property taxes that would be levied using last year’s mil rate of \$0.01360.

The Board was able to make this tax reduction primarily because the FY13 budget is \$120,614 less than last year, reflecting a decrease in both the Sebago municipal budget and

The financial state of the Town of Sebago has never been better! The town has no long term debt obligations, is consistently saving to replace vehicles and fund major projects through its Capital Investment Program,



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Fire and Rescue Building Referendum Voter Response Survey

Sebago voters turned out in record numbers for the June 12, 2012 referendum on the proposed Fire and Rescue Building. Voters defeated the measure overwhelmingly. In order to help determine if, or how, the town should proceed, taxpayers are being asked to complete a survey with their concerns either against or for the proposal.

The survey was included with the fall property tax bills that were mailed to each taxpayer. The survey may be completed and left at the night drop box at the Town Office. As an alternative, taxpayers may go online to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N28HXXB> and complete the survey electronically. The survey may also be accessed through the Town website at <http://www.townofsebago.org> and click on Town News. All responses will be kept confidential. Taxpayers are urged to complete the survey by November 15, 2012.



ASK THE TAX COLLECTOR

By Michele Bukoveckas, Tax Collector

Dear T.C.: I've received my property tax bill from the previous owner. Now what do I do?



Dear Taxpayer: The tax bills were mailed out on September 14th. Under Maine law payment of property taxes is the responsibility of the person who owned the property on April 1st. Tax bills are sent to the owner of record as of that date. Only one tax bill is sent out in the fall with two payment stubs. A reminder notice **will not** be sent in May. The new owner **will not** receive a tax bill if they bought the property after April 1st of that year. It is the responsibility of the former

owner to forward the bill to the current owner. In the event you purchased your property after this date, the buyer and seller may agree to divide the taxes between them, but if any part of the taxes is not paid, a lien will be filed in the name of the person who owned the property on April 1st. Please be aware, if you are the seller, even if you no longer own the property, a lien may have a negative effect on your credit rating. If you are the buyer, and a lien is filed in the seller's name, the municipality may foreclose on your property unless the taxes are paid. All municipalities have different fiscal years and tax due dates. Make sure you understand the buyer's and seller's obligations with re-



gard to property taxes and what may happen if taxes are not paid as agreed.

Payments can be made online by electronic check or credit card. Be aware that convenience fees will apply. The town also accepts checks, cash and debit cards at the Town Office.



Just a reminder, should you negotiate a worthless instrument, the Town does not re-deposit the check. A replacement check will have to be re-issued with a \$20.00 return check fee.



TO BURN OR NOT TO BURN! (Burn Permits)

By Maureen F. Scanlon, Editor

Now that fall has officially arrived we are seeing more residents coming in to the Town Office for Burn Permits so they can clean up the fallen leaves and debris in their yards. I thought this may be a good time to review the Burning Permit Regulations.



Burning Permits are required by Law when you want to do any open burning - all year long. To obtain a burning permit, you can go to the Town Office and get one, you can go to Standish Dispatch, or you can call Standish Dispatch at 642-4343 and they will page one of the Firefighters with your phone number so they can contact you directly.

You can also obtain an on-line burning permit by following the link to the State of Maine's on-line burning permit site at <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/firedanger/fire.shtml>. Be advised that there is a fee for these on-line permits.

Both the Town Office and Standish Dispatch will not know if they can issue Burning Permits until approximately 9am each morning when the Fire Class Day is

announced. The Fire Class Day is determined by the Maine Forestry Service.

The State allows burning on the 1 & 2 Fire Class Days.

Fire Classes are as follows:

- Class 1: Low
- Class 2: Moderate
- Class 3: High
- Class 4: Very High
- Class 5: Extreme



Burning Permits **will be issued on Fire Class Days of 1 or 2, and will not be issued on Fire Class Days of 3, 4, or 5.** However, sometimes even though the Fire Class Day is determined to be a 1 or 2, it is important for you to understand that if the winds are high, a Burn Permit will not be issued.



Safety requirements for all burning are as follows:

- No burning within 50 feet of any structure.
- An adult must be present at all times.
- Hand tools (brooms, shovels, rakes, etc.)
- Water supply if possible (charged hose)
- No burning on paved asphalt.
- All permitted burns must be **completely** extinguished by midnight unless special permission is obtained from the Fire Chief to burn overnight.

Burning Permits may be revoked under the following conditions:



During a period of high forest fire danger, Where a nuisance condition is created, When permit conditions are not followed.

Remember to keep a constant watch on the fire and make sure that it is completely extinguished before leaving. The Burning Permit is granted in good faith that the fire is carefully watched and controlled by a sufficient force of adults and adequate equipment. You shall be liable for suppression costs if the fire escapes due to negligence or not following the listed safety requirements. In accordance with Title 12 Statutes, the out-of-door burning of plastic, rubber, styrofoam, metals, food wastes, chemicals, treated wood or other solid wastes, except for wood wastes, is prohibited in all areas of the State. Any person who engages in out-of-door burning who fails to comply with any stated permit condition or restriction commits a Class E crime.

As a final note on burning in Sebago, there are also "Seasonal Campfire" Permits available at the Town Office.



CLERK'S CORNER

By Michele Bukoveckas, Town Clerk

ELECTION NEWS: On November 6, 2012 there will be a Presidential/Referendum Election. The Referendum questions consist of one Citizen Initiative regarding issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples and four bond questions. Absentee ballots should be available by October 6, 2012. Polls are located at the Town Office and will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

You will see some new equipment on election day this year. As part of a Federal Grant, the State of Maine is providing several towns with electronic tabulating equipment. Ballots will be placed in the machine and read. At the end of the night, the machine will display the results. Ballots that are incorrectly marked (too many indicators are checked) will be placed in a special bin to be hand counted. I am very excited about this endeavor. Not only will it provide for quicker and more accurate results, it will result in a savings for Sebago taxpayers.



If you are not registered to vote, please do so at least 15 days in advance of election day. This will allow me time to prepare the incoming voter list. Even if current law allows registration on election day, this is a very busy day for us, and **registering in advance will only benefit you.** To register, please provide proof of residency, and a photo ID.



DOG LICENSES: 2013 Dog Licenses will be available at the end of October. The State of Maine requires dogs to be licensed at 6 months of age or within 10 days of ownership. Renewals for dog licensing are due by January 31st of each year. Fees are: \$6.00 per year for spayed/neutered dogs and \$11.00 per year for dogs not spayed/neutered. Kennel owners - Please pick up the form at the Town Office. All Kennels **must be** inspected by the Animal Control Officer prior to the license being issued.

Late fees will be applied after January 31st. Please bring in a valid Rabies Cer-

tificate and Neutering/Spaying Certificate. Anyone with questions can contact the Clerk's Office at (207) 787-2457. A rabies clinic will be held at the Town Hall in January, watch our website www.townofsebago.org for more details.



HUNTING LICENSES & SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATIONS:

It is also that time of year for hunting licenses and snowmobile registrations. **Please bring in the prior year information for renewals.** 2013 licenses will be available on December 1, 2012. Hunting, Fishing, ATVs and Snowmobiles are also available on-line.



ON-LINE SERVICES: Renewals for vehicles, trailers, dogs, ATVs, boats and snowmobiles are available through the links on our homepage www.townofsebago.org.



As always, it is a pleasure to serve you!



LITTLE LAKE STEWARDS STORY TIME

Submitted by Kirsten Ness & Megh Rounds, Portland Water District

The Portland Water District presents Little Lake Stewards Story Time, a monthly event for children ages 3 - 6. Please join us at the Sebago Lake Ecology Center for stories, games, activities, crafts, and snacks that expand on our monthly theme. Our first story time, themed Unbe-LEAF-able Colors



and Shapes, is **free** and will be held on October 19th from 10:00am - 12:00pm. Space is limited and materials must be prepared, so if you would like to attend, **please register your child!** You may register by calling Jackie Boudreau at (207) 774-5961 x3320 or e-mailing sebagolake@pwd.org. Future Story Time dates and themes are

listed below. For the months of November through April, we ask for a donation of \$2/ session or \$10/entire series to support local loon preservation.

- November 16th** - A Touch of Thanksgiving
- December 14th** - Warm in the Winter
- January 18th** - Winter Water Fun
- February 22nd** - Move Like An Animal
- March 22nd** - No Place Like Home
- April 19th** - Here Comes the Sun

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

For more information on Rec. Dept. Activities & Events contact Corinne Davis at (207) 595-8173 or at Corinnecdavis@yahoo.com

ACTIVITIES

BASKETBALL: Basketball Registration forms will be available at the Town Office in October. 3rd & 4th grade basketball starts in mid-November, and 5th & 6th grade basketball begins at the end of November. If you are interested in coaching, please contact Corinne Davis.



ADULT SNOWSHOEING: Once again we will be offering snowshoeing to residents of Sebago ages 18 years and older. This activity has been offered for **free** for the past two years thanks to a grant that was received by the town to motivate people to get outdoors and enjoy some exercise during the winter months. Each year this has proven to be a more popular activity. It's a great opportunity to try it out and see if you like it before you decide to invest in your own pair of snowshoes. If you're interested in borrowing a pair or two for an outing, contact Corinne Davis.



EVENTS

HALLOWEEN PARTY: Friday ("Fright Day"), October 26th, 6:00pm - 7:30pm at the Town Hall building. If you would like to help out with this fun event for all our little ghosts, goblins and witches, please contact Corinne Davis to volunteer.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING: This event will be held at the Sebago Elementary School. Watch the Sebago Elementary School website for more details.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.TOWNOFSEBAGO.ORG

TOWN OF SEBAGO, MAINE

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Sebago, ME. 04029
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PERMIT #2



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide truthful, up-to-date, and educational information on how the community works, in order to provide the opportunity for making informed decisions while also enriching the lives of our citizens that want to live here, prosper, and raise their families.



**CARRIER ROUTE
PRESORT POSTAL PATRON
ECRWSS**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETINGS

(Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.)



October 2 & 16
November 6
December 4

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

(Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.)

October 9
November 13
December 11



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 4, 2012 at
2:00 a.m. Daylight Savings Time
ends in the United States
(except Hawaii & Arizona).
Don't forget to "FALL BEHIND"
one hour.



WINTER SALT/SAND AVAILABLE FOR SEBAGO RESIDENTS

Sebago residents and tax-
payers may obtain salt/sand from the
designated area in the lean-to building
located in front of the Public Works Garage
(and next to the EMS Bldg.) to use only on
their own property located in
the Town of Sebago. Contrac-
tors shall not obtain or use
any town salt/sand for com-
mercial purposes.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT EVENTS



Check out Page 3 for details
on the upcoming activities
and events for the Recreation
Department.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 6, 2012
(Polls will be open from
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
at the Town Office.)



FIRE & RESCUE BUILDING SURVEY



We'd like to hear from you.
Please see Page 1 regarding
the Fire and Rescue Building
Survey that was recently
mailed out with the property tax bills.



RABIES CLINIC

A Rabies Clinic is being planned
for January 2013. Watch our
website www.townofsebago.org
for more details.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

