



Sebago Happenings

Town of Sebago, Maine
Approved by the Board of Selectmen



“COMMUNITY SPIRIT” STILL ALIVE IN SEBAGO!

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2011

April, May, June

HOURS OF OPERATION

TOWN OFFICE

- Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TRANSFER STATION

- Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday, Sunday
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

- Thursday
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

By Maureen Scanlon, Editor

The other day I was pondering over the predicament that many of us are facing today during these tough economic times. We all tend to focus on our own problems when stress levels are running high and we tend to forget that there are probably many people out there that would love to trade their problems for ours. Perhaps it really is “all in the perspective and the way we look at things”. Maybe our situation isn’t as bad as someone else’s.

As a municipal employee I am seeing more individuals facing the possibility of losing their home, not being able to afford heating fuel or even food for their families. It saddens me greatly and I wish I could help everyone. Unfortunately, that just isn’t possible.

However, I am happy to report that the essence of “Community Spirit” is truly

alive and well in this wonderful town we call Sebago. Not only is this a beautiful place to live, but it never ceases to amaze me at how passionate the residents are in helping others that may be struggling. I have seen individuals deliver large quantities of food products to the Town Office for the Food Pantry and even come in and anonymously pay off someone else’s property taxes. While reading the reports that are submitted by the different organizations in town for the Annual Report, I realized that there is much more that goes on “behind the scenes”. It warms my heart to serve such a dedicated community.

I’d like to mention a couple of other community wide projects that you may not be aware of, but might want to lend a helping hand. The Weatherization Project was started last fall when the town received a grant from

the government to help with rehabilitation of homes owned by qualifying senior citizens. Five senior families have received assistance in doing necessary repairs to their homes such as replacing the roof, windows, doors, insulation, and siding. If the town is able to secure another grant next year, this very worthwhile project will continue.

Last year the Cemetery Committee held a Cemetery Clean-up Day which was very successful and resulted in the adoption of several cemeteries by residents. An official Clean-up Day is planned but the date has not been set yet by the Cemetery Committee; however, volunteers are always needed to assist in the cleaning of the adopted cemeteries, if you are interested in participating please contact the Town Office at 787-2457.



2011 PWD Rain Barrel Promotion



By Kirsten Ness, Water Resources Specialist, Portland Water District

The Portland Water District is offering discounted rain barrels in the spring of 2011. Rain barrels provide an innovative way to capture rainwater from your roof and store it for later use. Water collected by rain barrels can be used to water lawns, gardens, and indoor plants. This water would otherwise run off your roof or through downspouts and become storm water, picking up pollutants on its way to a storm drain, stream, or lake. Here’s a way to conserve water and reduce polluted storm water runoff. Please visit www.pwd.org for pricing, ordering, and pick-up information. Ordering deadline is May 13, 2011. For more information about rain barrels, contact Kirsten Ness at kness@pwd.org.

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By Michele Bukoveckas, Town Clerk

On May 24, 2011 voters will be asked to elect individuals for the following positions: 2 Selectmen, 1 Budget Committee Member, 1 M.S.A.D. #61 School Board Member, 1 Dr. Joseph Potter Fitch Trustee and 1 Cemetery Trustee. The polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots for the Town Election should be available the first week of May.

CLERK'S CORNER



The M.S.A.D. #61 School Budget Meeting will be held at Lakes Region High School in May. The tentative meeting date is May 17th starting at 6:30 p.m. The school budget represents 2/3 of Sebago's annual budget and this is the only chance voters will have to discuss and vote on individual pieces of the school budget. I strongly encourage the public to attend and participate. The validation of the school budget will occur on May 24th.

Don't forget that the **Annual Town Meeting will be held on June 4th starting 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall** to vote on the Town Budget and other important issues in our Town. Come and be part of the great governmental process!

A reminder that your recreational licenses, boats, ATVs, dogs, vehicles and trailers can be renewed online by using the links on our webpage at www.townofsebago.org.



ASK THE TAX COLLECTOR

By Michele Bukoveckas, Tax Collector

Dear T.C.: What happens if I don't pay my taxes by June 30th?



Dear Tax Payer: Taxes not collected by the end of the fiscal year (June 30th) will be listed in next year's Annual Report. In addition, if taxes continue to be unpaid by August, a 30 day Notice of Lien will

be sent to the owner of record as of April 1st of the previous year. If after 30 days, the tax remains unpaid; a lien will be placed against the property which will then foreclose 18 months from the lien filing date (interest continues to accrue). **If you have sold your property, it is imperative that you forward the information to the new owner to avoid a lien in your name.** In addition, if you purchased the property after April 1, you should contact

the Town Office for a copy of the bill. If you are not sure if you currently owe taxes, please contact the Town Office at 787-2457.



If money really grew on trees we'd all be rich here in Maine.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS



TAX PAYMENTS DUE: The second half of the 2010 Property Taxes are due on May 3, 2011. If you are unsure of the balance due on your property, please call the Town Office at 787-2457.

ASSESSORS FIELD WORK - Please be advised that the Town of Sebago will be conducting it's yearly assessing of resident properties. Employees from John O'Donnell & Associates have permission from the Town of Sebago to assess properties in the Town. **If you have any questions or concerns, please call 787-2457.**



- Pay your property taxes
- Register your motor vehicle(s)
- Register your recreational vehicle(s)
- Update your Voter Registration card
- Renew your Fishing/Hunting License

TOWN BEACH & DOUGLAS MOUNTAIN 2011 SEASON - Opens Memorial Day weekend.



SEBAGO DAYS - Third weekend in July.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION - Please remember that if you change your mailing address, you should notify this office of the change when you;

A REMINDER FROM THE E-911 ADDRESSING OFFICER - Please make every effort to display your physical address in a visible location in order to prevent any delays in getting help to you when you need it most. **A life may depend on it!**





AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

By Helen Twombly, Health Officer

→ PERTUSSIS →



I would like to make everyone aware of the risk of Pertussis. As we age we lose the immunity we received from our childhood vaccine.

I recommend adults ask their Health Care Providers about a Pertussis booster and children should keep up to date on their immunizations. Here are more details on pertussis that I have received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PROFILE - Pertussis is also known as *Bordetella pertussis* (the bacteria that causes pertussis illness) and the whooping cough (for the "whoop" sound of someone gasping for air after a coughing spell). Pertussis leaves its victims literally gasping for air. At first, this tricky pretender might seem like a common cold—runny nose, fever, and cough. That's stage 1, when pertussis is just warming up. After a week or two, pertussis infection delivers its cruel surprises—thick, gluey mucous and extreme coughing spells. In these fits people can literally cough so hard and long that they throw up or turn blue because they can't breathe. Victims of pertussis make a gasping "whoop" sound when they suck in air after a coughing fit. Pertussis infection is no joke—about 40% of infants who get it wind up in the hospital! Weeks after Stage 2, as the body finally fends off pertussis, the victims' cough tapers down.

POWERS & ABILITIES - Pertussis is highly contagious (easy to catch). Want proof? A person with pertussis will infect almost

everyone in their household if those people aren't vaccinated.

PREFERRED METHOD OF ATTACK - Pertussis is primarily an "air attacker", flying through the air looking for its next victim, when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The bacterium may also infect people who touch places where wetness from those coughs and sneezes lands, and then touch their noses or mouths.

KNOWN WEAKNESSES - Pertussis fears four letters - D, T, a and P - and 2 vaccines, "DTaP" and "Tdap". Kids get "DTaP" while teenagers and grownups get a "boost" with "Tdap". The vaccine ammo contains diphtheria (the D), tetanus (the T), and acellular pertussis (aP). The term "acellular" (pronounced A-SELL-you-lur) means that the vaccine uses pieces of pertussis bacteria (not the whole bacterium cell). By using just pieces, the vaccine can "teach" the body to protect itself, with the fewest side effects. Since the days before the vaccine, pertussis cases are down more than 80%.

Pertussis may be tough, but some simple basics can help to keep it in check—like washing hands with soap, covering up coughs and sneezes, and not sharing cups and silverware.

PREFERRED VICTIMS - Pertussis is a bully, slamming young children and babies the hardest. Very young kids are just not as able to cough up the gluey mucous as older people are. Also, other bacterial infectors just love to join pertussis' party, moving into a sick person's mucousy, pertussis-infected lungs and throat to cause their own infections. These are called "secondary infections". Pertussis mostly pulls off its complications among young children, too—such as pneumonia, seizures, and encephalopathy (disease of the brain).

PRECAUTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC - Stay vigilant. We may think we've gotten the upper hand against pertussis. But, the disease is always scheming to get back on top. Since the 1980s, doctors have been reporting increasing numbers of pertussis cases. At the moment, there are still far fewer cases than there were before the vaccine. Still, the number of people infected seems to peak every three or four years, showing that pertussis is still out there figuring out its next move.

AREA OF OPERATIONS - Pertussis operates worldwide. It is especially busy and deadly in developing areas of the world, where fewer people are vaccinated and medical care is less accessible. Pertussis infects millions of people each year, and claims hundreds of thousands of lives.

CRIMINAL RECORD - Doctors have been dealing with pertussis for at least 500 years. Finally, in 1906, scientists were able to identify and see *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria through a microscope—a first step in learning how to stop its evil tricks. From 1940-45, before the vaccine was widely used, 175,000 people in the U.S. were infected each year. In the 1940s, vaccinating against pertussis became routine and the tables turned for the better. Now, about 1,000-25,000 people are infected each year, and very few die.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 787-7078.



A Reminder from the Fire Chief

"Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors."





TOWN OF SEBAGO, MAINE

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Phone: 207-787-2457
Fax : 207-787-2760

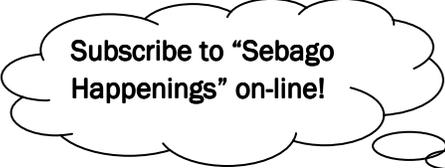
MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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PRESORT POSTAL PATRON
ECRWSS**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETINGS

(Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.)

April 5 & 19
May 3 & 17
June 7 & 21



PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

(Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.)

April 12
May 10
June 14

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

There is an open position for the Zoning Board of Appeals. If you are interested in joining, please contact Maureen Scanlon at the Town Office at 787-2457.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

SOCCER REGISTRATION



Soccer registration will begin in May. Forms will be sent home with each child in Sebago Elementary and will also be available at the Town Office.

Fee: \$15 per child (K);
\$40 per child/\$55 per family grades 1-6
(\$20 per child gr. 1-6/\$35 per family if registered by June 30).

Sign-up before July 31, 2011 (except Kindergarten and new residents) in order to play.



Season runs September through early November. Teams are Kindergarten; grades 1, 2-3, 4-5-6. Boys league and girls league.

SUMMER SWIM LESSONS

Bridgton Recreation is joining Sebago Recreation to offer this program.



Lessons are held in Bridgton



at Woods Pond and Highland Lake. Sebago residents pay the resident rate of \$10 per child or \$30 per family per session.

Classes begin the last week in June. 2nd session begins in July. Registration forms are available at the Sebago Town Office and the Bridgton Town Office.

For questions on Soccer Registration or Summer Swim Lessons contact Corinne Davis at 595-8173 or at Corinnedavis@yahoo.com.



HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!!!