



Town of
Sebago, Maine

SEBAGO HAPPENINGS

Volume 3,
Issue 3

SUMMER 2011
July, Aug., & Sept.



Sebago Elementary School Future Study

Approved by the
Board of Selectmen

By Allen Crabtree, Selectman

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This summer the Town of Sebago will be inviting public input into a look at potential future options for the Sebago Elementary School. In an attempt to deal with increasing costs, declining state revenues, and projections of stable or declining student enrollment over the coming years, the Facilities Committee to the School Board for the Maine School Administrative District (MSAD) #61 has identified areas to reduce costs over the next several years. This involves, among other things, consolidating services and closing school buildings to increase efficiency. One option could involve closing Sebago Elementary and returning the building to the town potentially as early as the 2014-2015 school year.

Sebago Elementary is the heart of our community, and the town is justifiably proud of our school and our teachers, the enthusiasm of parents in supporting their school, and the very strong learning results of our students. Our community does not want the school to be closed, but it is important that we get ahead of any possible closure and examine the town's options.



To that end, the town has obtained a Community Development Block Grant to develop and evaluate options to keep the school open as well as developing alternate uses for the facility if it were closed. Planning Decisions, a research and planning consulting firm from Hallowell has been hired by the town to conduct an extensive public outreach program and develop potential costs and a timeline for the options open to the town. A citizens advisory committee has been appointed by the Board of Selectmen to work with the consultant. Recommendations will be presented to the Board sometime this fall.

Public meetings will be scheduled and we ask that parents, teachers and interested citizens attend as possible and offer your suggestions to develop options that will best serve our community and allow the town to make an informed decision.

Hours of Operation

Town Office

- Tuesday
10:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Wednesday thru Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Transfer Station

- Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday, Sunday
7:00 am to 5:00 pm

General Assistance

- See the bottom of page 2
for the Summer Hours

Senior Citizen Weatherization Program Update

By Edythe Harnden, Selectman/General Assistance Administrator

A special thank you to our Selectman Chair, Ann Farley, for being instrumental in our receiving a grant for a second year to help our Seniors with weatherizing of their homes. We are finishing up on our first grant this summer. We have replaced several roofs, insulation, siding, windows and doors.



Applications for 2011 and 2012 are available at the Town Office. Applications will be chosen on a basis for need and income. If you have any questions, please call the Town Office and ask for Edie Harnden, Selectman/General Assistance Administrator.



Become a Sebago Landscaper!

Adapted by Brie Holme, Portland Water District, from "Lakescaping: Not Just Another Pretty Lawn" by the Watershed Center ~ Grand Traverse Bay; www.gtbay.org

The Portland Water District is offering matching Lakescaping Grants to property owners around Sebago Lake who want to improve their property and protect the Lake.

Lakescaping, or landscaping along lakefront properties, emphasizes natural plantings utilizing native flowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs while minimizing turf lawn. With this approach the homeowner makes environmentally sound decisions that help preserve the character and quality of the land as well as protecting water quality. The concept emphasizes planting native plants that do not require supplemental water, fertilizers, pesticides,

or best of all, excessive maintenance.

Traditional lawns have few of the benefits of a more natural shoreline and provide little wildlife habitat. They also need frequent maintenance and are often over fertilized.

Did you know that excess fertilizers, pesticides, and other materials found around shoreline home sites wash into the lake after a heavy rain? These substances can alter the water's chemical and biological characteristics, and degrade water quality. Be sure to use a phosphorous-free lawn fertilizer. The nutrient code on the fertilizer bag should have a zero as the middle number to indicate it is phosphorous-free.

Some of the benefits of lakescaping are:

~ Providing habitat for a wide variety of

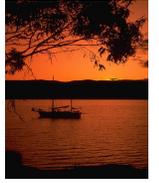
wildlife

~ Preventing shoreline erosion

~ Filtering pollutants and runoff that degrade water quality

~ Reducing yard maintenance and providing more leisure time

~ Increasing property value



Portland Water District's Water Resources Specialists are available to provide free consultations and technical assistance on a range of projects including not only buffer plantings, but also shoreline stabilization, rain gardens, driveway or gravel road improvements, and more. Matching grants are available to homeowners, lake associations, commercial summer camps, and municipalities. To request a free consultation and find out if you are eligible for a matching Lakescaping Grant, e-mail sebagolake@pwd.org.



HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE A TICK!!

By Helen Twombly, Health Officer

As many of you are already aware this seems to be an abundant year for ticks. I would like to remind you of a few things you can do to protect yourself. Every time you come in from the outdoors, do a complete body and clothing check for ticks. Do the same for pets. When outside, wear light colored clothing so you can easily see the tick. If wearing socks put them over your pant legs. The proper way to remove a tick is to use a set of fine tweezers and grip the tick as close to the skin as is possible. Do not use a smoldering match or cigarette, nail polish, petroleum jelly (eg, Vaseline),

liquid soap, or kerosene because they may irritate the tick and cause it to behave like a syringe, injecting bodily fluids into the wound. The proper technique for tick removal includes the following:

- Use fine tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible.
- Pull backwards gently but firmly, using an even, steady pressure. Do not jerk or twist.
- Do not squeeze, crush, or puncture the body of the tick, since its bodily fluids may contain infection causing organisms.



• After removing the tick, wash the skin and hands thoroughly with soap and water.



• If any mouth parts of the tick remain in the skin, these should be left alone; they will be expelled on their own. Attempts to remove these parts may result in significant skin trauma.

AFTER THE TICK IS REMOVED

Tick characteristics—It is helpful if the person can provide information about the size of the tick, whether it was actually attached to the skin, if it was engorged (that is, full of blood), and how long it was attached.



Notice of General Assistance **Summer Hours**

During the months of July & August, the General Assistance Administrator will be available at the Town Office on Fridays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. In September the hours of availability will revert back to Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.



FROM THE DOGHOUSE



By Bobby Silcott, Animal Control Officer
asktheACO@yahoo.com or call 642-4343 (Standish Dispatch) or 1-800-501-1111

This year I would like to talk about leaving your pets in a vehicle. The law is as follows: Title 7 S/S 4019. Removal from unattended motor vehicle.

Removal Authorized - A law enforcement officer, humane agent or animal control officer may take all steps that are reasonably necessary to remove an animal from a motor vehicle if the animal's safety, health or well being appears to be in immediate danger from heat, cold or lack of adequate ventilation and the condition could

reasonably be expected to cause extreme suffering or death. [2007, c. 702, S/S 20 (NEW).]

Notice Required - A law enforcement officer, humane agent or animal control officer who removes an animal in accordance with subsection 1 shall, in a secure and conspicuous location on or within the motor vehicle, leave written notice bearing the officer's or agent's name and office and the address of the location where the animal may be claimed. The owner may claim the animal only after payment of all charges that have accrued for the maintenance, care, medical treatment and impoundment of the animal. [2007, c. 702, S/S 20 (NEW).]

Immunity - A law enforcement officer, humane agent or animal control officer who removes an animal from a motor vehicle pursuant to subsection 1 is immune from criminal or civil liability that might otherwise result from the removal. [2007, c. 702, S/S 20 (NEW).]



If you see an animal in a vehicle and believe that it is in danger, get a plate number, location and call the police. If you have to ponder taking your pet or not, it would be best to leave the animal at home.

ASK THE TAX COLLECTOR

Dear T.C.: What is the difference between the tax year and fiscal year?



Dear Tax Payer: The **tax year** is easy to understand as it's really one day, April 1st of each year. Maine law refers to the tax year, but many other states call it the tax date. For this article, I use the term "tax date", as I think it is easier to understand. The tax date controls and is used for three primary reasons.

1. Sets the ownership date.
2. Sets the valuation date.
3. Sets the taxable status of property and if any exemptions apply.

Sebago's fiscal year runs from July 1 to

June 30. These dates are important for many reasons, but what is most concerning to property owners is: How much is my tax bill and how is it calculated? This is an example of how it works.

1. You own a home as of April 1, 2011 (ownership date).
2. The assessor sets the value of your property at \$175,000 as of April 1, 2011 (the valuation date). The tax rate for Sebago was set at \$13.35 per thousand of valuation for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Therefore: \$175,000. - \$10,000 (Homestead exemption) = \$165,000. Multiply by the tax rate of .01335=

\$2,202.75 in property tax for the fiscal year.

Property taxes in Sebago are billed in two installments. In terms of time periods of coverage, the first half bill covers occupancy from July 1 to Dec. 30, and the second half bill covers occupancy from Jan. 1 to June 30.



The due date(s) for Sebago property taxes are set each year at Town Meeting. Usually the due date(s) are the first Tuesdays in November and May (of the following year). This coming year the first half is due on November 1, 2011 and the second half is due on May 1, 2012.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

ASSESSORS FIELD WORK: 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 to assess properties in the town. **If you have any questions or concerns, please call 787-2457.**

BOAT & ATV RE-REGISTRATIONS: YOU MUST BRING YOUR OLD REGISTRATIONS WITH YOU TO RE-REGISTER YOUR BOAT OR ATV!





TOWN OF SEBAGO, MAINE

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We're on the Web!
www.townofsebago.org

Subscribe to "Sebago Happenings" on-line!

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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DENMARK, ME
PERMIT #2

**CARRIER ROUTE
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETINGS

(Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.)
July 19
August 2 & 16
September 6 & 20

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

(Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.)
July 12
August 9
September 13



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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



ROAD REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

The Town is in the process of organizing a Road Rehabilitation Committee. If you are interested in joining, contact Town Manager Jim Smith at the Town Office at 787-2457.

SEBAGO DAYS EVENT

July 15, 2011 (Friday)
July 16, 2011 (Saturday)



RECREATION DEPARTMENT EVENTS

SUMMER SWIM LESSONS & SOCCER REGISTRATION



Contact Corinne Davis at 595-8173 for more information (Soccer Registration Deadline is July 31st)



FREE SUMMER LUNCH FOR SEBAGO KIDS & TEENS (& VISITORS) (AGE 18 AND UNDER)



Free "bag style" lunches will be served to Sebago kids and teens (and their visitors), age 18 and under, from July 5th thru August 19th (Monday thru Friday - 11:30 am to 12:30 pm) at the Sebago Elementary School lawn. (Rainy days: in the School cafeteria). For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, contact Jim Libby at 787-2747.

