

3-2014

The Town of Woolwich, Maine

Woolwich Communications Committee

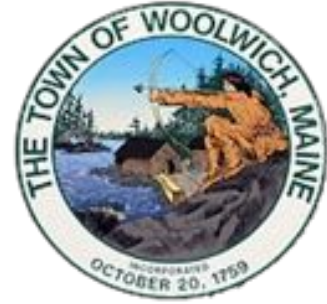
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The Town of Woolwich, Maine



WELCOME TO WOOLWICH!

Welcome the first edition of our town newsletter put together by the newly formed Woolwich Communications Committee.

Our mission is to enhance communication by and with the Town of Woolwich, to foster open access to timely, accurate and useful information to the public about Town government (public documents, including meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, budgets, and reports); and news about the community via sources such as local television, website, newsletter, Facebook, and other media as may become available.

We will be combining forces with the Woolwich Cable T.V. Committee and working closely with the website designer to keep you, the citizens, informed of

Communications Survey

We want to hear from you! Please go to the Woolwich website - www.woolwich.us, and take the survey to help us know what forms of communication are helpful.

Thank you to those who have taken the survey so far. Here is what we are seeing for results:

You rely on the town e-mail list for as the number one source of keeping up to date with town issues and events followed by the Woolwich website.

When searching the website you are most often looking for

important happenings in our town.

COMING UP

Town Meeting Date is set for Wednesday, May 7th at 6 p.m in the Woolwich Central School Gym. Our local Girl Scout Troop has graciously volunteered to offer babysitting for families who would like to attend. Please consider offering a small donation to the Girl Scouts for their assistance!

THANK YOU

A heart felt thank you to everyone who donated to the Fuel Assistance fund this year. Your donations helped nine Woolwich families heat their homes this winter.

Selectboard contacts, followed by property maps, community events, Selectboard agendas and meeting minutes, Committee Meeting minutes and agendas. There was a specific interest in trash and recycling info.

The majority of you utilize the website to register vehicles, boats, snowmobiles and ATVs, followed by hunting and fishing licenses and registering your dogs.

We had mixed reviews on the usefulness of the website. Many of you would like to see a more organized site with added legislative informa-

WOOLWICH DAY

Celebrate your town at Woolwich Day -August 2nd at the Woolwich Fire Station and Nequasset park!

Activities will be posted on the Woolwich website. Volunteers are always welcome!

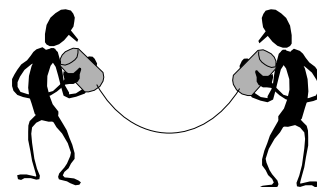
ALEWIFE COUNTS FOR 2013

Nequasset is considered one of the top alewife runs in the State. In 2013, an estimated 137k fish crossed over the fish ladder between April and June, with an annual harvest of 717.5 bushels. Read more about our historical fish ladder at www.kennebecestuary.org



tion as well as a section for Fire and EMS. There were requests for more recycling info, a searchable tax records page, and services for part time residents.

Please be sure to share your ideas and take the survey if you haven't. Your suggestions are helpful and constructive.



ALEWIVES IN WOOLWICH

In 2013 Woolwich was awarded \$30,262 for Nequasset Fishway Construction Material in partnership with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, Woolwich Fish Commission, and Bath Water Commission This community supported habitat restoration project is the final step to rebuild a 58 year old concrete pool and weir style fish ladder on one of the top alewife runs in Maine. Award of this proposal will close the funding gap by paying for building materials, ensuring summer 2014 construction of a new fish ladder at Nequasset Brook in Woolwich.

**SAVE A TREE!
VIEW YOUR
PRINTABLE 2014
RECYCLING
CALENDAR FROM
THE WOOLWICH
WEBSITE!**

WOOLWICH EMS

Last July the Town was faced with a decision after all of the Officers of Woolwich EMS resigned effective 7-15-13.

Back in 2005 the EMS was modified to be removed from the direct supervision of the Woolwich Fire Chief and a position was added as an appointment by the Selectmen for Woolwich EMS Chief or Director of Woolwich EMS. A meeting was held with all interested parties and the Board decided to bring the operation of WEMS back under the supervision of the Fire Chief, however they also reserved the right to appoint the Director of WEMS. In conjunction with Fire Chief Geoff McCarren the Board appointed William Longley Jr as the new "Director of EMS".

Bill has worn many hats over the years that he has resided in Woolwich. Bill's volunteer work

started as Planning Board member, Comprehensive Planning Commission member, Shellfish Committee, Road Committee, as well as the Town's CEO, Building Inspector and Plumbing Inspector from 1991 until 2005.

Bill joined the Fire Department in 2001 and later became a licensed EMT in 2002. During the years many changes have affected the EMS services such as moving from the transport by Bath Fire Department to North East Mobile Health Services contract for service which has saved the Town thousands of dollars.

Woolwich EMS has grown to approximately 25 individuals who either are licensed EMT's or trained drivers who respond with EMT's as they are available to calls for help. Woolwich EMS serves as "First Responders"

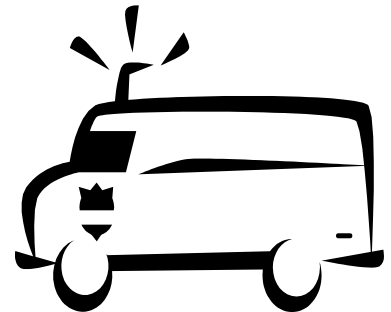
many are equipped with lifesaving tools, such as oxygen or AED. (Automated external defibrillator)

Woolwich does not have paid staff that standby and wait for a call, so not every call will be answered by a Woolwich EMT. However, Northeast will provide the coverage or through an agreement with others, someone will respond.

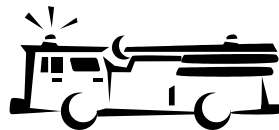
Woolwich EMS has two fully equipped ambulances that can provide backup to Northeast if crews are available. The cost of both ambulances has been provided by fees collected from transports to the hospital when, Northeast needs backup and Woolwich EMS members can respond. We are currently looking to add volunteers either as EMT's or drivers.

If anyone is interested they can contact the Town Office or leave a message at the Fire Station 207-443-3589 or contact Bill directly at 207-751-7420.

This is the first of hopefully many "spot-light" segments to show the strong commitment and dedication that all the Woolwich EMS personnel share.



WOOLWICH FIRE DEPT



Hello Everyone,
Please take a moment to think about this scenario. In the event of an emergency at your home, would public service -police, fire, and EMS personnel be able to easily and quickly locate you?

Living in a rural town with many roads some with the same name divided into sections, it is important that your house number is clearly marked and easily viewed from the street that you live on.

As your Fire Department we request that your driveway be marked with reflective numbers no less than 4" tall and that they are visible from both sides of travel.

If you share your driveway with another homeowner please make sure that a reflective arrow points in the direction to your house.

It is important to remember we work with out of town agencies that come to our town to help us from time to time. They might not be familiar with the area, and finding your home at night with no visible numbers available can be deadly when minutes count.

House Numbers can be purchased at any hardware store in the area. Remember - reflective, 4 inch tall numbers are the most visible to first responders.

So I ask you to please help us find you when you are in need, please put the proper markers at the end of your driveway and your house.

Thank you,
Geoff McCarren
Fire Chief

WOOLWICH FIRE DEPT LADIES AUXILIARY

Woolwich Fire Dept. Auxiliary was restarted in Dec of 2012 with a handful of excited ladies. Our membership is now twenty plus and growing. It's not necessary to attend all the meetings or events to be a valued member of our Fire Dept family. We do what we can, when we can. Some members contribute by watching the children of fire fighter on call, others help with bake goods for a fund raiser, and some by selling raffle tickets or donating their time making calls. It all helps and is greatly appreciated. The end result is knowing we've made a difference.

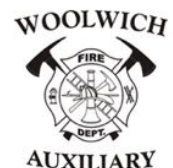
Our fund raising efforts include bake sales, car washes, luncheons and pies. The Christmas Fair is one of our biggest event. Local crafters sell the goods. The Auxiliary's famous pies. We get together to make fresh pies the night before. Santa visits us and there is a silent auction and raffles to enjoy along with coffee and refreshments.

We have a great time at Woolwich Day as well, selling watermelon and refreshments, manning the slip and slide and actively participating in the sliding itself. We are hands on after all!

The Woolwich Haunted House is another great community event. The Haunted House is always a big attraction. We have games, prizes for best costumes and a fun Trunk or Treat contest. Refreshments made by Auxiliary members as well as members of the community. It's a great family time and it's free. Of course donations are always welcome.

The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies at the station on March 22 from noon to three and the Auxiliary will be there with hot coffee and raffle tickets. Come join us.

Check us out on Facebook. Woolwich Fire Department Auxiliary, like our page, better yet ... join our family. Interested parties may contact President, Judy Rowe 449-0930 for more information.



Remember "It's All About The Love"

Woolwich Cable Channel

Check out the Woolwich Cable Channel

In exchange for the Town allowing Comcast to offer services in Woolwich, the Town has a free public access channel, which is operated from the basement of the Town Office and staffed by volunteers.

The first thing that most viewers see is the channel's "Bulletin Board," which offers up-to-date public information

announcements for residents, along with weather forecasts from NOAA radio. Regular programming also includes two public service programs, the "Learning Tree" on Fridays, and a locally produced program, "Community Connections" offering advice to seniors.

The channel also runs many



programs of local interest, including "Crafters of Woolwich" which profiles local arts and crafts businesses, and "Reflections of Woolwich", a series in which long-time residents reminisce about the early years of the town.

Long-time Cable TV volunteer Roger Baffer also records and then replays on the cable channel special events such as Woolwich Days, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, Town Meet-

ings, and the Memorial Day remembrance in Bath. All programming is shown at 12 noon, 4 PM and 7 PM.

With some recently acquired equipment, it is now possible to transmit live video feeds from places like the Town Office, the Nequasset Meetinghouse, and even the Woolwich Central School. All that is needed are volunteers.

STOCK STONE WALL

Nequasset Meeting House, Woolwich ME

In October 2013, 7 individuals built a "stock" stone wall under the direction of a dry stone walling instructor on the property between the Nequasset Meeting House and the cemetery. The wall is approximately 30' long and 5 1/2' high. It is truly a masterpiece and, because the seven wallers paid a tuition fee, there was no cost to the town. The wall

will remain for centuries as a lasting tribute to their work. There is a strong desire to continue the project and build a second wall of approximately 10' long. This section will be built of the same stone in the same fashion and create a natural opening between the Meeting House and the cemetery. We hope to build this second section in the spring of 2014.

In order to accomplish "Phase II" we will need community support

in the form of pledges to the project. Pledges can be made in any denomination and are not payable until mid-March 2014.

Thank you to our builders:

Christopher Glancy
Greg Kipple
Derek Leck
Richard Leck
David Martin
Jeff Nichols
Mary Lynn Scott



THANK YOU!

Instructor Matthew Carter of Green Island Stoneworks of Topsham for leading this class.

WOODBROOK ANIMAL CLINIC COMES TO WOOLWICH



In late spring, Woolwich will be getting a new veterinary clinic.

Woodbrook Animal Clinic was established in 2005 by Dr. Tammy Doughty, a longtime Woolwich resident who returned home to pursue her career as a veterinarian. It will be the first hospital in Woolwich in over 30 years since Dr. Douglas Rink moved his practice to Bath.

Construction began following the controlled burn of the vacant

Marion Chubbuck home on Hunneywell Lane that the Doughty's had purchased three years prior and determined had deteriorated beyond reasonable use.

In October, the building was donated to the Woolwich Fire Department for a training burn. WFD invited three other surrounding towns to train for a few months prior to the final scheduled burn in late October.

After the burn, the Doughty's presented each fire department with Pet Oxygen Mask Kits to have as part of their equipment

on the fire trucks.

The new clinic will provide its clients with the same service as it currently offers. It is one of the few clinics in the area which offers after hour emergencies, as well as house call services to both its small and large animal clients.

The hospital will also be providing in clinic appointments and a haul in service with the new building.

Contact info:
Dr. Tammy Doughty
www.woodbrookanimalclinic.com

Send your ideas for future articles to us!

E-mail:

administrator@woolwich.us
aheplerwoolwich@gmail.com

SIGN UP!

Future Newsletters will be available electronically. Be sure to sign up on the Woolwich Website to receive your copy!

PAYT -Pay as you Throw

A Different Way To Pay

A group of Woolwich residents has been circulating a citizen's petition asking the Town to pursue a new method of paying for trash collection. Commonly known as "Pay as You Throw" (or PAYT) or "Pay per bag," this system is in use in many towns across the state. The goal is to reduce solid waste, which the Town pays for "passed" on the weight of the trash collected.

The method to encourage less trash is for residents to pay individually for what they actually throw away by purchasing bags for their use.

The theory is that when people pay for what they throw away, they reduce their own trash and recycle more, and perhaps even begin to compost food waste.

Under the current system, the cost of trash disposal is shared townwide, regardless of individual household variations. Thus, there is a carrot and stick approach being employed – the "carrot" is the expectation of lower taxes by reducing the overall trash bill (and the number of bags that must be purchased), and the "stick" is the cost that people pay for bags when they produce more trash. Solid waste is currently about 5% of the Town's overall budget.

This petition asks residents to recognize the goal of environmental sustainability, which can be achieved by reducing waste in landfills, the economic value of reducing town .



budgets through lower solid waste costs, and the equity and personal responsibility that results when residents pay for their own trash and not subsidize the trash generated by their neighbors.

The petition process has stimulated lots of questions – both practical and philosophical – and important discussions amongst residents.

The hope is that the issue will become a warrant item at May's Town Meeting and if passed, would be passed along to the Woolwich Solid Waste and Recycling Committee for further study and developing a plan for the Town to consider.

If interested in learning more, contact Ben Tipton at 443-3870.

NEWS FROM WCS

On March 28 and 29 WCS Chorus will present Beauty and the Beast. Tickets will be on sale at the school or can be purchased from a chorus member.

The Woolwich Central School Annual Auction to raise money for the 8th grade trip to Washington DC will be on April 5th. This years 8th graders are working hard to make this auction the best one yet. If you would like to donate to the auction, please contact the school at 443-9739.

Later in the spring (May) will be a Spaghetti Supper which is the current 7th Grade's first big fundraising effort for their trip next year. Join us for delicious spaghetti, Mrs. Tainter's famous bread and lots of homemade pies and other desserts.



GREEN CRAB INVASION

Green Crabs and Clams: Woolwich Clammers Fight Back

Like many in Maine, the Woolwich Shellfish Commission members are concerned about the invasion of green crabs and the impact on the clam fishery.

Green crabs, which have been in the news lately, are an invasive species, are prolific and voracious, and have been attacking the clams, many of which have been growing as a result of recent re-seeding projects undertaken by the committee members. Green crabs, according to committee member Tim LaRochelle, also attack eel grasses, which help stabilize the mud banks along the salt marsh shore.

While trapping has had little effect in reducing the green crab population in other areas, LaRochelle and the committee have plans for a small pilot project in the creeks of Montsweag Bay. Here, he says, the narrowness of the area might allow clammers and other volunteers to noticeably diminish the number of green crabs.

With the help of the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust and other citizen volunteers, hope to lay traps and monitor them this coming summer. Laying the traps would probably entail one day in the mud at low tide, and pulling traps to count and remove the crabs on a regular basis.

This is a small project, the shellfish committee members acknowledge. "Without an industry-based solution," said committee member Dan Harrington, "we will never solve this problem."

At the state level, Department of Marine Resources biologists are revising green crab regulations to make it easier to get rid of the green crabs, one of which includes a new trap design that catches green crabs but not lobsters, for instance.

The larger question is what to do with the crabs. While some in Maine are promoting green crabs as a food source (for humans or cats), fertilizer seems to be

the most feasible at the moment. However, given the large supply of green crabs, these companies will currently take the green crabs but will not pay for them.

Green crabs first infested Maine waters in the 1950s and scientists believe that colder water temperatures reduced their numbers. Their return, scientists surmise, may be the result of warming trends in the ocean.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Tim LaRochelle at 319-9890, or Dan Harrington at 443-2104.

