

10-2015

The Town of Woolwich, Maine

Woolwich Communications Committee

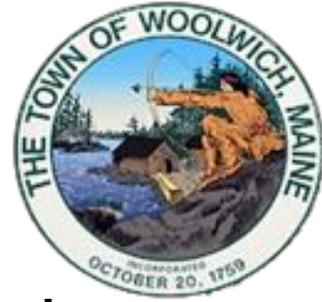
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The Town of Woolwich, Maine



OCTOBER 2015

Pay-As-You-Throw Indicates Savings, Less Trash

In its first month of operation, the new pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) waste reduction and recycling program in Woolwich has decreased municipal solid waste (MSW) tonnage by 46% and saved more than \$3,000 in disposal fees.

The program began on Sept. 1, 2015. Pine Tree Waste, which picks up the solid waste, has seen a decrease of 46% since that point—from 81.03 tons in September 2014 to 43.71 tons in September 2015.

The waste reduction from PAYT has enabled Woolwich to save an estimated \$3,253 in disposal costs since the program began.

With pay-as-you-throw, Woolwich has more than doubled its recycling rate, from 17% in September 2014 to 39% in September 2015.

Joshua Kolling-Perin of WasteZero calls these numbers “typical,” and the Town will likely maintain them, although the average reduction is 45%. One likely cause of the decrease is because trash collected in dumpsters around Town is no longer part of the Town’s waste stream, but by far the largest cause is simple — people would rather recycle more in order to buy fewer bags.

Under the program—managed by WasteZero as

part of the WasteZero Trash Metering™ service offering—residents have been using official orange trash bags stamped with the Woolwich seal for curbside collection.

The orange bags—made in the U.S. using recycled content—are available at six retail outlets in and around Woolwich, as well as at the Town Office. The bags are available in two sizes: Small, 15-gallon bags sold in rolls of 10 for \$10.00 per package; and Large, 30-gallon bags, sold in rolls of five for \$10.00 per package.

To learn more about PAYT in Woolwich, visit <http://wastezero.com/woolwich>.

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 14 WFD Open House
5:30 - 8:00 pm
 - Oct. 19 Public Hearing on
PAYT petition
5:30 pm
 - Oct. 24 E-Waste Drop off
8 - noon
 - Oct. 24 FD Haunted House
5:00 - 8:30 pm
 - Nov. 3 Election Day. VOTE
8:00 am - 8:00 pm
 - Nov. 7 WCS Harvest Supper
4:30 - 6:30 pm
 - Nov. 11 Veterans Day Service
11:00 am
 - Dec. 6 Holiday Sing &
Tree Lighting
5:00 pm
- Look for stories elsewhere in this newsletter!

Selectboard, Road Commissioner, PAYT Petition on November Ballot

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. Voting will take place at Woolwich Central School on Nequasset Road. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters will receive 3 ballots - one for the Town of Woolwich Municipal Election, one for the State of Maine Referendum Election and one for RSU 1 School Board of Directors Election.

The Town of Woolwich Municipal Election Ballot includes candidates for a 3-year term for Selectboard: Donald J. Adams and David A. King Sr. Candidates for a 3-year term for Road Commissioner : Joseph I. Creamer and Jack A. Shaw. Voters may write in a candidate for either position. Also included is a referendum question that reads “Shall the Town repeal the “Pay As You Throw” (PAYT) contract between the Town of Woolwich, Maine and “Waste Zero” - Waste Trash Metering Service?” This was the result of a

citizen petition.

The State of Maine Referendum Election ballot has 3 questions. Question one is a Citizen’s Initiative that asks voters if they want to allow publicly financed state candidates to qualify for additional funds under certain limits and rules in the Maine Clean Election Act, and other changes aimed at greater transparency.

Questions two and three are bond issues. Question 2 is a Maine Affordable Housing for Low-Income Seniors Bond. It asks voters if they favor a \$15,000,000 bond issue for the construction of new energy-efficient affordable homes for low-income seniors. This money would be matched by an estimated \$22,600,000 in private and other funds. Question 3 is a Maine Transportation Bond for \$85,000,000, and would

fund construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities and equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails. These funds would be used to match an estimated \$121,500,000 in federal and other funds.

The RSU 1 School Board of Directors Election includes two positions for three year terms for Unrestricted Residence positions. The two candidates, running unopposed, are Stephen August of Bath and Louis Ensel of Bath. Voters have the option of writing in a candidate for each position. Of note, under a re-apportionment plan, because of West Bath’s withdrawal from the RSU, all Board directors will be voted at large. There are 4 seats, however, that will have “residency requirements” so that each municipality will have at least one seat on the Board.

WOOLWICH EMS ACQUIRES NEW AMBULANCE, DIRECTOR



Woolwich EMS has a new ambulance. Julia Gillespie, acting EMS director, finalized the \$27,000 purchase with Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue. Gillespie, along with Danny Munsey and his wife Jennifer, picked up the 2004 Ford TraumaHawk on Saturday morning, Sept. 19.

"It handles really well, it's quiet and very smooth riding," Munsey said. He drove the ambulance from the Harpswell Neck fire station to its new home at the Woolwich municipal building. The new vehicle, which is powered by a 450 diesel engine, has been driven just 33,000 miles.

Woolwich's current ambulance, also a Ford 450 diesel, still has a lot of life left. It was recertified by the state two weeks ago. But with over 122,000 miles on it, the crew knew sooner or later they'd be faced with having to replace it with a newer vehicle. Gillespie said word got around the department might be looking for an ambulance. One was available and pretty close to home,

too. Gillespie said Mike Demers, a former Woolwich EMT who works at Togus Fire and Rescue, told her he knew of a surplus ambulance for sale. He put Gillespie in touch with Frank True, fire chief of Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue. She then test drove the ambulance and thought it was perfect for Woolwich's needs.

The new ambulance has been well cared for and is in fine condition, says Gillespie. It's equipped with newer features the current ambulance doesn't have, including a handy backup mirror that automatically activates when the vehicle is put in reverse. The monitor is located above the dash and lets the driver clearly see what's behind him or her.

"For us that's huge because we often find ourselves driving up a long driveway on a call and then discovering there's no place to turn the ambulance around, which means the driver has to back all the way out," Gillespie said.

"Having the rear camera will make doing this easier and safer."

Harpswell Fire & Rescue included a Stryker Power Cot in the sale that will make it easier and safer to load a patient into and out of the ambulance. The cot is hydraulically powered and rated for 700 pounds. With the push of a button it can be raised or lowered to the desired height.

Gillespie said Woolwich EMS is always looking for volunteers to join the department. A good way to learn more about

the service is to attend the annual open house, which will be held this year on Oct. 14 at the fire station. That will also be a good time for folks to see the new ambulance.

Gillespie took over as EMS Director when Bill Longley resigned at the beginning of September.

(Article and photos courtesy of Wiscasset Newspaper.)






FREE
Electronic Waste Recycling
Saturday, Oct. 24, 8am-noon
Morse High School, 826 High St.
SMALL BUSINESSES WELCOME - SECURE DATA DESTRUCTION AVAILABLE (\$10)

TV's	Laptops	Projectors
CPU's	Stereos	Digital Cameras
Monitors	Keyboards/Mouse	Tape Players
Copiers	Peripherals	PDA's
Printers	DVD Players	Speakers
Fax Machines	Cell Phones	Telephones
Scanners	Remotes	2-Way Radios
Camcorders	CD Players	Answering Machines
Game Systems	Air Conditioners	Pagers Microwaves

A Public Service Event by the Bath Rotary Club
CASH DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Time to Prepare for Winter Conditions

As the leaves change and we begin to enter another glorious fall, though we'd rather not think about it it is the time to begin to plan for winter. Road Commissioner Jack Shaw has a few tips for staying safe in the snow and ice. As always, in bad weather if you do need to travel, do take your time and when in doubt, drive slowly. Leave plenty of extra time to get where you are headed.

Before you do hit the road, please also be sure to clean off your cars to ensure good

visibility for you and a safe ride for others. We've all been on the highway when big chunks of ice and snow have flown off vehicles in front of us, leaving us little time to dodge these wintery missiles.

When it comes to clearing out your driveway, keep in mind that it is illegal to leave snow in the road. However, it is perfectly fine to plow across the road—just remember that leaving snow in the road from the plow, shovel or snowblower is dangerous for road traffic and you could be held liable

for causing an accident.

If you're among those who had their mailboxes buried or knocked out last winter, here are a few tips. Clear out the snow on each side of your mailbox after each snowfall, to leave room for snow to fill in when the snow plow goes by. And if your mailbox is damaged during a storm, a good temporary fix is to place your broken off post (or remounted mailbox) in a five gallon pail of sand.

Stay safe and have a happy winter!

Route 1 Re-Striping Soon Completed

Maine Department of Transportation is completing its repaving of the downtown part of Route 1 from the Sagadahoc Bridge up to the Taste of Maine Restaurant. Construction also included a re-striping of this section of road to include bicycle lanes on either side of the highway, which meant a north-bound lane reduction earlier than previously existed.

The Selectboard had asked MDOT to analyze whether it would be safe and feasible to transition into one lane much closer to Bath, in order to create improved conditions for safer travel for bicyclists, and potentially to slow traffic. MDOT engineering studies resulted in the changes we see. The initial restriping this summer was done on a trial basis to see if any safety or mobility issues became apparent.

According to Shawn Smith and Dan Stewart, both of MDOT, "The Department has monitored and evaluated the situation carefully over the last few months, and fortunately no safety or mobility issues have arisen. The new traffic pattern is working well from our reviews." They went on to note that they have had very

few complaints, and many comments on the positive impacts.

Preliminary crash data from MDOT indicated that there have been three crashes along the corridor this year in June, July, and August, compared to four in 2014, so there does not seem to have been a spike in crashes due to the new traffic pattern.

Smith and Stewart explained that the decision, as outlined at the public meeting, was to make the changes "permanent" unless safety or mobility issues developed based on MDOT monitoring. "As it stands," they said, "our evaluation shows that the pattern is working well, as most people had hoped." The final paving and striping is nearly finished as of this writing.



HARVEST SUPPER



Woolwich Central School will hold their popular Harvest Supper again this year at the school on Saturday, November 7 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The dinner, which benefits the 8th grade class trip to Washington D.C., will feature homemade beef stew, homemade bread, salad, homemade pies, cakes and other desserts, as well as coffee, juice, water and tea.

Prices are \$20 for a family ticket, \$5 per senior, \$6 per adult, \$3 for children age 3 to 12, with children 2 and under admitted free. For more information, please call 443-9739.



**OCT.
24**

HAUNTED HOUSE

**FIRE
STATION
5:00 –
8:30**



Some “Open Space” properties offer public access

Some of the large areas of land we enjoy in Woolwich is in an “Open Space” classification. This means that owners have agreed to set aside this land and not develop it. Many of these properties offer scenic views that help maintain the rural character of the Town, or land that is valuable for its plethora of natural resources. In exchange for the agreement not to develop the land, property owners receive a tax reduction. Any removal of land from Open Space mandates a penalty.

Many qualifiers go into whether a property is appropriate for an Open Space characterization. And there are various categories of Open Space: Forever Wild, management

by a third party such as a Land Trust, and Public Access. This means that, on some portion of the property, public access by reasonable means is allowed.

Furthermore, according to statute, the property owner agrees to not “discourage or prohibit daytime, non-motorized and nondestructive public use.” The owners of Open Space land might also impose other restrictions as allowed by statute.

Ten separate properties in Woolwich in Open Space allow public access to some portion of the property. Dewick Family Associates and Chewonki Foundation offer public access to land on Montsweag Bay. DeWick’s is on Phipps Point Road

while Chewonki’s is north of that, on Montsweag Road.

· Also in “southern” Woolwich are two properties owned by Hockomock Bay Farm, one on Hockomock Island, and the other on Hockomock Road. Land near Day’s Ferry owned by John and Peggy Chapman is also publicly accessible.

· In “northern” Woolwich there is Open Space/Public Access land owned by James and Jon Economou on Swango Drive. The Lillys Cove Farm owners also allow the public to access two properties off River Road.

NOTE: Public access to these properties is limited to certain areas and comes with use rules. Contact the Town Office for more information.

“Internet Essentials” available

Comcast is offering access to low-cost broadband service. The program, in its fourth year, is available to families with children eligible for the National School Lunch Program — Free and Reduced. The cost is \$9.95/month, includes a WiFi router, and no activation of equipment fees. Free in-person and online classes are available.

Additional information can be found at www.internetessentials.com. You can also contact the Town Administrator at 442-7094.

Send your ideas for future articles to us!

E-mail:

administrator@woolwich.us OR aheplerwoolwich@gmail.com

SIGN UP!

Newsletters will be available electronically. Be sure to sign up on the Woolwich Website to receive your copy. Contact us if you’d like a copy mailed to you. The Communications Committee is looking for a new member.

NEW AIR BAGS HELP WOOLWICH FIRE DEPARTMENT IN EXTRICATIONS

The Fire Department has a new air bag, that can lift up to 26 inches. As the photos illustrate, that is a lot of lift. The new air

bag is a Paratech Multi-force bag. It replaces the Department’s single bags that had to be stacked onto one another to achieve that same 26 inches. Fire Fighter Glen Kirkpatrick says that it

will be a “very welcome addition to our Arsenal of tools for the Town of Woolwich.”

