

The Town of

# Woolwich, Maine

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017



## State, local, school ballots await voters

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th. 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 4 ballots - one for the State of Maine Referendum Election and one for the Town of Woolwich Municipal Election, and two for Regional School Unit #1 for School Board of Directors and for the Referendum on a new High School in Bath.

The Maine Referendum consists of 4 questions. Question 1 concerns allowing a certain company to operate table games and slot machines in York County.



Question 2 concerns the expansion of Medicaid to provide coverage for qualified adults under age 65 with incomes at or below 138% of the Federal poverty level. Question 3 is a Transportation Bond Issue for \$105,000,000 that will be used to match federal and other funds. Question 4 is a Constitutional Amendment concerning state pension funding requirements. A sample ballot is available on the town website, [www.woolwich.us](http://www.woolwich.us) or from the Town Office.

The Town of Woolwich Municipal Election has three candidates running for two 3-year positions. The candidates are James R. Gabor, Allison Lee Hepler and Jason A. Shaw. Voters have the option of writing in candidates.

The Regional School Unit #1 Board of Directors has four seats

open. The candidate for a two year

term is Anita Brown of Arrowsic. The candidates for 3 year terms are Megan Fuller of Bath, William Perkins of Phippsburg and Jennifer Ritch-Smith of Woolwich. Voters may also write in candidates for each position.

The Regional School Unit # 1 Referendum is for authorizing the construction and equipping of a new high school at the Wing Farm Business Park in the City of Bath.

Sample ballots for the Woolwich Municipal Election and the two RSU 1 ballots are available at the Town Office.



### Calendar of Events

~  
Saturday, Oct. 28 4-6 pm  
Trick or Trunk  
Town Office Parking Lot

~  
Saturday, Nov. 4, 4:30-6:30 pm  
8th grade Harvest Supper  
Woolwich Central School

~  
Tuesday, Nov. 7 8 am-8 pm  
ELECTION DAY  
Woolwich Central School

~  
Saturday, Nov. 11 at 11 am  
Veterans Day event  
Nequasset Meetinghouse

~  
Sunday, Nov. 19 , afternoon  
Blessing of the Fire Dept.  
new engine

**NEW Town Office  
Hours!**

As of July 1, the Woolwich Town Office has been open 5 days a week for registering cars, paying taxes, and registering to vote.  
Monday and Tuesday 9 am—5 pm, Wednesday 9 am—6 pm,  
Thursday 9 am—4 pm, Friday 9 am—3:30 pm

# New positions, new faces at Town Office

**Katharine “Katie” Johnston** is the Town of Woolwich’s newest Tax Collector/Deputy Town Clerk. Katie returned to Maine after working most recently for the Town of Natick, Massachusetts as the Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector.



Returning to her home state where she missed family and friends, Katie is originally from Gorham, Maine where she worked for five years as the Assistant Finance Director after graduating from the University of Maine.

Katie says she “is enjoying her time here in Woolwich as the Tax Collector/Deputy Clerk, and is looking forward to working alongside the new Town Clerk, Mary Howe, for the upcoming November 7 election.”

The new Woolwich Town Clerk is **Mary C. Howe**, who’s been involved in municipal government on and off for many years. She began working for the North Attleborough, Massachusetts, Board of Assessors after graduation from high school, while she was a part-time college student.

After working there for three years, Mary moved to Bangor where she married and had two children. She continued her college, and worked at a variety of jobs, including opening and operating a bed and breakfast.

Mary missed working in local government and began working in Freeport’s Town Office as a Deputy Town Clerk, eventually becoming a Certified Clerk of Maine. She maintains



that certification.

The Town of Woolwich position offered her the chance to become a Town Clerk.

“Working for a small town,” she says, “has had its challenges where there are no departments and we handle just about everything.”

Mary is looking forward to her first election for the Town of Woolwich and working with “the very competent Katie Johnston as my Deputy Registrar.”



**Suzette Cloutier**, who residents will recognize as a familiar face in the Town Office because she was the Tax Collector, recently took over

for Lynette Eastman as Woolwich Town Administrator. Lynette retired after many years of service.

A dispatcher and dispatch supervisor for more than 20 years, Suzette also spent a few years working as Child Support Enforcement Agent. After working for the state, she is excited to return to the municipal level “because I feel that it usually a much more pleasant and satisfying experience for both the employee *and* the residents.”

Suzette currently lives in Topsham but hopes to move to Woolwich where her mother grew up.



## WOOLWICH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS: Town Meeting votes for new truck — it arrives soon!

**by Mike Demers, Woolwich Fire Department Chief**

Starting in November, Woolwich Firefighters will be logging a lot of training hours on the Town's new 2018 Compressed Air Foam Rescue Pumper. In April of this year, voters approved to replace the 1985 Tanker truck with a new truck.

Designated as Engine 2, The 2018 Freightliner/Ferrara built over the last 9 weeks to the Fire Department's specifications will replace the 1985 tanker that is located at the Town's North station. The 1998 pumper, Engine 3, will move to the North Station and the new Engine 2 will be the primary response truck for all emergencies in town.

Engine 2, with a 1250 gallon per minute pump, 1000 gallons of water and 30 gallons of foam, was designed to maximize storage space, giving it the ability to carry fire suppression equipment as well as automobile extrication equipment. The truck will be equipped to handle all types of fires, auto accidents and fuel spills. Engine 2 is also equipped with a telescoping light tower that will make working at night safer than it ever has been for us.

What makes Engine 2 stand out against many other trucks in the area is its Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS). Below are some facts

of why this system is beneficial to not only the firefighters but the community as well:

**Improved initial Fire attack capability.** Using CAFS, the fire-stopping effectiveness of first-arriving fire scene resources — equipment, personnel and water supply — increases up to five times. In some fire situations, this allows crews to turn a defensive operation into an offensive attack. The use of CAFS has reinvented the

limits of what a given total water supply and/or water delivery rate can do.

Rather than protecting exposures and letting a fire burn unhindered, CAFS often is successful in darkening the main body of a large fire.

**Reduced fire-scene cycle time.** Fire-scene cycle time (when the apparatus arrives on scene at a working fire to when the units return, available for the next fire) is more than an important statistic. For personnel who directly engage in fire combat, exposure to heat and toxic products of combustion

is reduced, thereby lessening stress and risk of injury.

**Reduced time that tankers operate on roadways.** Since much less total water supply is required to extinguish a fire when applying compressed-air foam, tankers shuttling water from static supply sources in rural areas to the fire scene spend less time on the road. This reduces the risk of roadway apparatus accidents and



injuries.

**Reduced water use.** Applying compressed air foam, the total water supply (total gallons) required to extinguish a fire is reduced to as little as one-third compared with applying water alone. This also carries through to exposure protection. Compressed-air foam clings well to vertical fire exposures, which

**(Continued on next page)**

# New Fire Truck is on its way . . . (Continued)



**(Continued from previous page)**

means less water is wasted from runoff during exposure-protection operations. In rural areas where water supplies are scarce, if exposure-protection applications are needed, more water remains available for offensive fire attack. It also reduces water damage to unburned contents of a structure because a lot less water is used.

**Increased reach equals increased safety.** CAF streams have greater reach than water or nozzle-aspirated foam fire streams. This provides greater stand-off distances from fire hazards and greater stream penetration into structures, which translates into increased crew safety. In addition, hose lines filled with compressed-air foam are filled with about 30% air by volume. This makes them lighter and easier to advance

through a structure during an interior attack, reducing stress on the attack team.

**Less chance of “fire at your back.”** During aggressive interior attacks of pre-flashover fires, applying compressed-air foam absorbs more heat than water, lessening the chance of potentially deadly fire compartment flashover. As attack teams advance through dwelling interiors and move past rooms where flames have been knocked-down, the wetting and penetrating action of a foam blanket applied on room furnishings reduces the chance of a rekindle and “fire at their backs.”

**Reduced smoke and steam.** During aggressive interior structure fire attacks, the application of compressed-air foam preserves the thermal balance

and leaves minimal smoke and steam in the atmosphere. Interior visibility is excellent, and the attack team never loses sight inside the room. Firefighters are not driven to the floor by the moisture cloud penetrating their turnout gear, which they typically experience during conventional water application through a fog nozzle.

**Effective structure protection.** When severe wildland fires burn into populated areas, firefighters using CAFS can pre-treat the exterior of homes with a foam blanket prior to the arrival of the approaching fire.

We are confident that Engine 2 is going to be a great asset to our department and the community. We are so very grateful to the citizens of Woolwich for the continued support of your first responders in making sure they have the best equipment to their job efficiently and most importantly safely.

Please be sure to Follow us on Facebook and be looking for information on the christening ceremony for Engine 2 to be held sometime in November.



# Woolwich Community Recreation Committee Going Strong, Making Plans for Winter and Spring

by **Beth Harrington**

Woolwich Community Recreation continues to expand its programming! In our second full year we added Spring Tennis for kids and adults and sponsored two free co-ed Lacrosse clinics. Over the summer, we hosted two summer camps that were a big hit - Adventure Camp for grades 3-6 and co-ed Basketball Camp for middle schoolers.

Our second annual "Woolwich Day BBQ Dinner" in August served many community members a delicious meal while raising donations that will help continue to keep our session costs low.

With the 2017 Soccer

season behind us (96 participants grades K-6!), our board is finalizing plans for the start of Youth Basket-



ball and Cheer seasons.

Please look for our online registrations at [www.woolwichrec.com](http://www.woolwichrec.com). Finally, this winter and spring we hope to bring Woolwich families together for some activities that will be free or low cost:

- Trick or Trunk: Oct 28th from 4-6:00 at the Municipal Parking Lot - wear your costumes!
  - Ice Rink: come skate for free on our bigger rink at the WCS field!
  - Red Claws basketball game: Jan. 28th at 1:00 - selling tickets for \$12, normally \$15-17!
  - Free Swim at Wiscasset Community Center Pool: Feb. 10th from 4-5:00
  - Candlepin Family Bowling: April 12th, time TBA, at The Bowling Bowl in Brunswick
- We hope you'll join us!  
WCR Board Members are; Dena Bachman, Kelsie Tardiff, Brandon Cahill, Leslie Gallant, Greg Smith and Jason Libby. Administrator is Beth Harrington.

## Woolwich Solar Array Makes Progress



Photo by Phil DiVece

Residents at April's Town Meeting voted in favor of the Town installing a solar array on Town-owned land, on the closed landfill on Middle Road.

The Town of Woolwich project is about 40% complete right now, and will be finished up as soon as ReVision Energy has an install crew available. Revision tells the Town that this "will certainly be before the end of the year." ReVision's operations specialist is in the process of getting the last half of the project on its schedule, which will happen soon.

The solar array will be 80 panels, and is expected to generate over 29k kilowatt hours each year. This will cover about 95% of the municipal electric bill.

## Nequasset Recreation Area Awarded Grant for Park Upgrades



\$15,000 grant from the State of Maine to make the swimming area of the park ADA-compliant. The town will be using some of the money to apply for the additional permits needed from D.E.P. to complete the work.

We plan to upgrade the parking area, and pathways to the water for

**by Sue Ellen Whittaker**

The Woolwich Nequasset Park Improvement Committee has been working to improve accessibility to the swimming area of the park for over 5 years. We have been working with Jonathan DeWick of Pine Tree Engineering to draw up the plans and necessary permits needed for almost two years.

With Jonathan's help, the Town of Woolwich was approved for a

accessibility. We also plan to make the entrance to the water more accessible for people in wheelchairs and safer for everyone else, especially children. The swimming area has been in need of repair for years.

We plan to apply for additional grants to minimize the cost to the Woolwich taxpayers. We hope to obtain the needed permits soon. We

would like to begin work as soon as possible. Nequasset Park needs to be a place that everyone can use and enjoy safely. Any questions contact Co-Chairs, Joan Jordan and Sue Ellen Whittaker.



Photos by Caelie Smith

### WOOLWICH RECREATION COMMITTEE "GOES GREEN"

Support the Woolwich Rec Committee and help the environment. Canvas bags are \$10 each or 2 for \$18.



### Send your ideas for future articles to us!

**E-mail:**

administrator@woolwich.us OR  
aheplerwoolwich@gmail.com

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