

Dexter Municipal Newsletter – Summer 2008
Town of Dexter 23 Main Street Dexter, Maine 04930-1374 ~ (207) 924-7351
E-Mail: manager@dextermaine.org ~ Web Site: www.dextermaine.org

TOWN MANAGER: In 2005 we entered discussions with the Dexter Lake Association Officers and the Dexter Utility District and together we financed the Lake Wassookeag Lake and Dam Management Plan. This Plan is a guide for the Dam Operator (Dexter Utility District) to maintain the water level of the Lake for the Dam Owner (Town of Dexter). Through the cooperative efforts of our three entities this Plan has proven to create a more stable and consistent water level for the Lake and a new committee has evolved. The **Drinking Water Source Protection Committee** is currently working with Penobscot Soil & Water Conservation District to reduce erosion into our precious drinking water supply.

With approval of the 2008/09 budget, we will have our municipal owned buildings in good shape. The Hewett Bldg was sold to Mayo Hospital, the Ambulance Bldg was sold to Kiwanis and the Morrison Building roof and the base of “Nancy” is now stable. The Library ramp has been replaced with a protective roof over the back entrance, the Police Department has a second floor that will be completed for full use in phases and the Fire Dept over-head door has a nice new retrofit for our new ladder truck.

Much of my time during my three years here has been spent on **Grant Administration**. The grants we have received in the last 26 months total over \$200,000. Those have now been closed:

Town Hall Renovations; including **ADA Compliance**, improvements to **Wayside Theatre** and **Technology Upgrades**.

The technology upgrades have brought the twenty-four year old accounting/taxes software to a windows environment and upgraded the telephone system to include voice mail. We have two grants left open (\$300,000). 1) **Well & Septic Replacement:** if you or a neighbor is income eligible, there are funds awaiting. Please call PENQUIS at 800-215-4942 to apply, 2)

Reuse Planning for the Dexter Primary/Middle School. Grants take a lot of time and energy but, since the demise of Dexter Shoe, it has been important for us to seek grants (non-refundable monies) to make necessary improvements to our service center community. As long as the low to moderate income level (LMI) continues to rise we will be eligible for these state and federal monies. We have been quite successful in our efforts during 2006 and 2007 so we will now put strong emphasis in the coming months on business retention and development, increasing our tax base and enticing new business (and jobs!) to our area. Next month, I will sign a letter of intent and begin working with Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) to apply to the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) for an **Economic Development Planning Grant**.

My door is always open and I encourage you to come by and give comment anytime. I can be reached at 924-7351 or manager@dextermaine.org.
Judy Doore, Town Manager

RECREATION Fall programs will begin the first week of September. **Co-ed soccer** begins on Wednesday September 3rd at 6 PM. **Flag football** for grades K-2 will begin on Thursday September 4th at 6 PM. Both of these programs will be held at Ellms Field and the fee is 15. **Field Hockey** signups will be on Monday September 8th at 6PM at the Field Hockey field for grades K-6. The fee is also \$15. **Tackle football** for grades 3-5 will begin in September; time to be announced. The first **Middle School Dance** will be held on September 26th from 7-9:30 PM for grades 5-8. Admission will be \$3.

Roller Skating will start back up on October 4th from 2-4 PM at the Town Hall. Skating will be every Saturday until the end of March. Admission and skate rentals will be \$1 each. If you have any questions regarding Recreation programs, I can be reached at 924-3438 or dexterrecreation@roadrunner.com.

Andy Conway, Recreation Director

CODE ENFORCEMENT

My goal is to provide prompt courteous customer service and education for residents towards the prevention of violations. The Shoreland Zone Ordinance updates, proposed as a result of the State of Maine Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act are in the process of adoption. By early winter, over 375 rental inspections

were conducted to provide proactive annual checks into the safety of the 20% of Towns residents living in rental housing. This spring has been busy with the Lake Stewards Program and planning the Dexter Lakes Day. The resultant activity for this fall will be executing a spot sanitary survey of all lakeside properties that have septic systems built before 1990. All residents who fit into that category will be notified and a convenient inspection time will be scheduled. Camp road residents are encouraged to form a road association to help with the repair and maintenance of private ways down to the lake. Our lakes are our most valuable resource and we all are responsible to protect them from soil erosion; to the greatest extent possible. My office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 12 noon, with inspections available in the afternoon. If I can be of assistance, please contact me at 924-7620 or townceo@dextermaine.org. *Jana Woods*, Code Enforcement

ABBOTT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library's **Book Club** meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6 PM. Our selection for the August 27th meeting will be “Charting Maine’s Future: an action plan for promoting sustainable prosperity and quality places.” So far, the club members have focused their reading on books dealing with the end of cheap fossil fuels, the need to rebuild our communities and act locally to provide our own goods, whether food or fuel. Our **Summer Reading Program** “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” began on July 8th and concludes on Saturday, August 9th. Our dedicated readers are embarked on a journey through the lands of Narnia, collecting the six gifts of Father Christmas. Once fully armed, they will join Aslan in the battle against the evil white witch. **StoryTime** continues on Wednesdays at 11 AM. We’ve enjoyed seeing so many new faces this summer. During the hot weather, the StoryTime crowd has enjoyed a picnic on the library grounds and made their own “Rock ‘n Roll” ice cream. For more information on library programs contact the library at 924-7292 or liz@abbott-library.com.

Liz Breault, Librarian

HUMAN SERVICES

The General Assistance office is open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Please call for an appointment and for information regarding what items are needed for the application process. The Food Cupboard and Clothes Closet continue to assist many people in the area but the Food Cupboard has recently undergone a variety of changes, for more information please call me at the above number.

Last year a program/fund titled ‘Warm Your Neighbor’ was initiated and many residents and business’s donated money to assist with winter heating costs for those people that are unable to access many of the other programs. Many of our local residents benefited from this resource and we are hoping to continue with this local resource again during the upcoming heating season. Please call me with any and all questions regarding the above mentioned programs. If you have questions please contact me at 924-7351 Ext 17 or dexterga@roadrunner.com

Jean Jacobs, Human Services Director

CEMETERY & PARKS Spring was a very busy time for us. We had 18 committals before June 1, 2008. The cold, wet spring slowed down the grave preparation as well as the annual spring cleanup and mowing. With our very competent crew we were able to get everything done for Memorial Day. We are working on regarding the old campground at the beach. The replanting is going on now. A tip of the hat to Arnold Perry who is taking care of the Beach bathhouse and surrounding areas. He has taken a big load off of us by his grounds maintenance. My thanks to Maurice Neal for his patience and training in the transitions of supervision this spring and his continued support this summer. If you have questions, please leave a message for me at the Town Office; 924-7351.

Fred Banks, Cemetery & Parks Supervisor

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ASSESSOR

The **Revaluation** project is nearly complete. All owners should have received a visit, or at least a notice to arrange an inspection. Notices have been left at residences or mailed to property owners. Persons wanting an inspection must call **924-5791** to set up a time. The next phase of the project will be to mail notices of the new values to property owners. Company representatives will meet with individual property owners who feel the value is not reasonable or want an explanation of how the value was derived. The dates and places for these conferences will be listed on the valuation notice. If you feel that your property has been overvalued, please bring any supporting evidence of your opinion to the meeting. The best supporting evidence is a recent appraisal report, but the company representatives may consider other evidence that an error has been made. Because the tax bills will not be issued until after the hearings are concluded (late August), it is important to take the time to discuss your concerns during the hearing period. It is more difficult to make valuation changes once the tax bills have been committed to the tax collector. The notice of valuation will include an estimated 2008 tax. Please do not use last year's mill rate to estimate your 2008 tax. The 2008 mill rate will be set when the final total of the values is settled and could be substantially less than last year. Given the budget that the Council and School Board adopted, which is very similar to last year's, there will be many taxpayers who will experience no increase in their tax bill even if their individual valuation has been increased somewhat. In any event, the Town and the revaluation company will be willing to discuss your concerns with you. If you have any questions please call me at **924-3241** or assessor@dextermaine.org.

David Pearson, Assessor

TOWN CLERK

Voting: Please remember to vote on November 4th at the Town Hall located at 10 Hall Street. The polls are open from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Citizens of Dexter are allowed to register to vote at the polls on election day with proof of residency and identification. In order to run for an office a Dexter resident must collect at least 25 and not more than 100 signatures of registered Dexter voters. Papers for local seats will be available at the Town Office August 11th. The papers must be returned by September 19th.

Town Council - 2 3-year terms (Brawn & Goodwin)
SAD #46 Directors - 3 3-year terms (Foster, Mitchell & Bennett)
Dexter Utility District - 2 3-year terms (Brawn & Clukey)
HAD #4 Director - 2 3-year terms (Tobin & Goerlitz)
Board and Committee Openings - In the month of December the Town Council makes appointments to Boards and Committees. If you are interested in serving your community please submit an application or a letter of interest to me.

BOARDS:

Board of Appeals - 2 3-year openings (Grant & Neal)
Planning Board - 1 3-year opening (Silverman)
Golf Course - 1 3-year opening (Greenberg)
Library Trustees - 2 3-year openings (Vafiades & Munday)

COMMITTEES:

Human Resources - 2 3-year openings (Dodge & Munday)
Recreation - 3 3-year openings (Dodge, Perkins & Munday)
Airport - 3 3-year openings (Morrel, Tremblay & Briggs)
Personnel Advisory - 1 3-year opening (Bennett)
Wakefield Scholarship - 1 3-year opening (Craig)

Dog Licenses/2009 may be renewed starting October 15th. All dogs must be licensed prior to January 31, 2009 to avoid a mandatory, state imposed fine of \$15.00 per dog. Please bring a current rabies certificate as well as proof of spay or neutering if applicable. The fee for a non-neutered dog is \$11.00 and the fee for a spayed or neutered dog is \$6.00. If you have any questions please contact me at 924-7351 or dextertownclerk@roadrunner.com.

Shelley Watson, Town Clerk

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION:

Rapid Renewal/On-line Registration is coming to Dexter!! For the convenience of the residents of Dexter, the Town Council unanimously agreed to budget the funds needed to participate in on-line registrations through INFORME. Residents will soon be able to renew their motor vehicle registration with the State and pay their local excise tax to the Town in one transaction. More information will be available soon.

Kim Hughes, Motor Vehicle Agent

TAX COLLECTOR

The Municipal property tax rate for the period of July 2008 – June, 2009 has not yet been set. The mil rate cannot be set until the revaluation is finished. Upon completion, the mil rate will be determined and tax bills will be mailed. Out of each tax dollar earmarked in the FY 2009 budget, we will spend 50 cents to operate the town, 43 cents to the school district and 7 cents to Penobscot County. The 2008-09 budget had a net increase of \$172,154 over the 2007-08 budget. The due date and interest rate will be set at the same time as the mil rate. Unpaid taxes as of June 30, 2009, will be in the annual town report. Residents should be aware that they may qualify for the State sponsored property tax relief program. Qualification for the program is based on income. Forms should be available at the town office in late August or by logging on to www.maine.gov/revenue. If you have questions, please contact me at **924-7351 ext. 15** or dexterfinance@roadrunner.com.

Marilyn Curtis, Finance Director

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dial 9-1-1 for Emergency Service

<i>Animal Control Officer: Kathie Ricker</i>	924-7513
<i>Municipal Golf Course Mgr: Jim Costedio</i>	924-6477
<i>Public Works Director: Mike Delaware</i>	924-6257
<i>Transfer Station Manager: Trampas King</i>	924-3650
<i>Utility District Operator: Randy Webber</i>	924-7367