

The Temple Times

Quarterly Newsletter ~ September, 2024

An election is coming up. All elections are important and this one particularly so. Some folks complain that our vote doesn't mean anything, and this is absolutely true when we don't use it. The State of Maine strongly encourages its citizens to vote and allows folks to register to vote on the day of the election at the latest. (Registering ahead of time at the Town Office is strongly encouraged however. It's also possible to register at the Department of Motor Vehicles or online.) As important as your presidential vote may be, your "down ballot" votes may make an even bigger difference. They shape our local towns, school districts and county governments. When you come to vote on November 5th, if you haven't already registered please bring documents such as an electric bill, drivers license, birth certificate or passport to demonstrate your US citizenship and residency in Temple. We'll be happy to see you!

Janine Winn, editor

Town Calendar: (also on the Town website)

- Select Board Meeting, Mondays, 6 to 7:00pm
- Planning Board 6:00pm 2nd Monday
- Temple Historical Society (THS) 3:00pm, 3rd Monday
- THS Annual Meeting & Auction Sept 7
- THS Archive Room open 9:00 to Noon, first Monday of the month
- Special Town Meeting Sept. 23, 6:30
- Election Day November 5, 8 AM - 8 PM

Town Office:

Hours: Monday, 11:00 to 7:00 PM

Thursday, 9:00 to 5:00 PM
(closed on major holidays)

Note: Office closed Sept 2 (holiday)
& Sept 5 (training)

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Office Staff:

Tax Collector & Treasurer Sue Cantrell

Town Clerk Georgia Exner
Registrar Bob Van Riper

Select Board Austin Foss, David True
& Dean Collins

Trash pick-up every Friday. Recyclables pick-up on the 1st & 3rd Fridays each month.

Trash & Recyclables Meeting: A few residents met with Select Board member Dean Collins during the late afternoon of August 5th to discuss trash pick-up issues and possible remedies. Given the ongoing concerns we've had, the turnout of so few residents was a bit surprising.

Our contract with Archie's, the business that hauls our garbage to the Jay Transfer Station, expires in December. Archie's takes possession of our recyclable materials and markets them as best they can. The crux of issues with Archie's is the erratic timing of the pick-ups which makes it hard for folks to plan around rain storms and trash marauders, domestic and wild. Unfortunately, the

Board members are not notified until roughly 9:00 in the morning when the trucks are delayed.

Discussion at the meeting touched on possible cost reduction strategies such as having trash picked up only twice a month and recyclables only once a month. These would increase problems for households in that they would have to store more waste for longer. Switching to single sort recycling was discussed. Some towns that switched found that this drastically reduces the value for resale as the waste is prone to contamination and ultimately is less valuable. Also discussed was the possibility of placing a rolloff at the Town Hall and a number of issues came to light: security, safety hazards, sanitation, lighting, a platform so that trash can easily be thrown in. Would such a set-up need to be locked to avoid inappropriate and out of town materials? If so, who would be in charge of locking and unlocking? The Office staff is in only two days a week and already have full schedules.

Doing away with town-wide, tax-supported pick-up altogether is not an option. It is clear that residents like the ease of roadside pick up and recycling. The adoption of our current system, in the late 1980s I believe, grew out of fear that trash would just get dumped in the woods once our town dump closed. This remains a concern.

Only two other trash/recyclables haulers are available for our use: Gregory's out of Waterville and Casella from Cumberland. A three year contract would be required by any of the haulers.

The Select Board, bottom line, does not want to make trash pick-up inconvenient for residents nor do they want costs to increase significantly. Folks are urged to reduce waste where ever possible: choose products that will last; avoid single use plastics; recycle, recycle recycle. It is recommended to put trash out by 6:30 AM, and limit bag weight to 50 pounds as per Archie's requirements. The guys on the truck will appreciate it!

Other Town Office News:

Property Tax Bills: Treasurer Sue Cantrell will mail the current Property Tax bills on September

10th. Preparing the tax bills is no small task as they incorporate the cost of the decisions finalized at the Annual Meeting as well as the School and County Budget assessments. Bills are determined individually for each of Temple's property tax payers for each of the properties owned. This year, about 850 tax bills will go out plus a number of personal property tax bills. There are, by the way, about 258 year-round household in Temple.

Our MIL rate this year is 23.45, up by 1.35 from last year. Tax amount equal the MIL rate x the town's value of the property the Homestead or Tree Growth deductions. You may notice that the valuation on your tax bill is below the market value. The Homestead deduction, set by the state, is \$18,750 this year, \$1,250 less than last year. Folks who took advantage of the Property Tax Stabilization program, which held 2023 taxes to the 2022 amount, last year will see a jump in their current taxes.

Sue Cantrell encourages people who have their mortgage holders keep funds in escrow for their taxes to check your mortgage statement and make sure the taxes were paid in a timely manner.

Special Town Meeting: On Monday, September 23 at 6:30, a Special Town Meeting will address several issues. One will be to raise additional funds for the plowing of roads this coming winter. Another is to create a more effective dog ordinance policy. This was last updated in 1972 and addresses nuisance dog issues and sets fees and fines regarding licensing of dogs. A third issue will address a junk yard ordinance. Watch the signboard at the Town Hall and the Temple facebook page for announcement of the meeting.

Winter Roads Contract: The request for proposals for a new winter roads maintenance contract closed on August 5th and brought in only a few interested parties. The Select Board will now evaluate the proposals and award the contract to the company deemed best able to meet Temple's needs. The larger heavy equipment companies in the area are not interested in Temple's plowing. As

David True put it, there is more money in plowing parking lots than town roads. We will have to add to our winter roads budget to handle the change in provider, no matter who gets the contract.

UPDATE: The Winter Roads contract has been awarded to Ryan Sirois of Temple. Congratulations, Ryan, and we wish you a good winter!

Did You Know? Temple Stream is part of the Kennebec watershed & Jessie Pond is recognized by some as its source. Others, notably Bill Roorbach and Bob Kimber, maintain that the source is a spring well uphill from and bypassing Jessie. It reaches the Sandy River in West Farmington after flowing under the Wilton Road just south of The Ice Cream Shoppe, a distance of about 12 miles from the bog on the lower reaches of Day Mountain. Its watershed encompasses almost 22,000 acres.

RSU 9 School Budget: It was a close vote, but the RSU 9 school budget passed in Temple 38 to 31 with no abstentions. The Municipal Assessment for Temple is \$510,138.30.

Temple Road Maintenance: The final FEMA funded road repair, the result of last December's storm, will be finished this fall. The ditch along Tilton Hill on the Lisalo Rd will be paved to circumvent future damage to the road surface. More ditching will be done on the Mitchell Brook Road and a much larger culvert will be installed under the road. The lower part of Edes Brook Road will be ground up, graded and repaved, and ditching will be improved up above. The far end of the Intervale will be improved, and various ditches around town will be attended to. Erik Hellgren, our Road Commissioner, says now that he's not preparing for the winter road maintenance he will be able to move the general maintenance along more quickly.

Fire Permits: Planning to burn? Get a permit online at the Maine Forest Service website maine.gov/burnpermit or from Temple Fire Dept officers David True (779-4137), George Andrews (491-3627) and Wayne Tuttle (779-4012). All permits are free. Fire permits are not available until 9:00 AM when the weather conditions for the day are officially assessed.

Temple High School Graduates this year are Maurice Romanyshyn and Mackenzie Hellgren. Maurice graduated Summa Cum Laude and will be going to Occidental College in Los Angeles though he has not yet settled on a major. Mackenzie was an honor roll student at Mt. Blue and will be attending Central Maine Community College in their Nursing program. Congratulations to both & we wish you exciting post-high school careers!

Temple Planning Board: The Planning Board's meeting have been spotty, thus progress on revamping our Comprehensive Plan has been at a crawl. Our task at the July meeting was to sign documents for Maine Woodland Properties so that they can proceed with additional lot sales in the Mountain View development.

The Planning Board meetings are open to the public and interested individuals are invited to join us at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Monday .

Temple Historical Society: THS is holding its Annual Meeting at the Red Schoolhouse, Saturday, September 7, at 11:00. Officers for the next two years will be elected and a couple changes to the bi-laws will be presented for approval.

Later that afternoon, a Reception and Silent Auction will be held from 12:00 to 3:00 at the Schoolhouse to raise funds for a new roof. More than 50 items donated by residents and friends of Temple and to date among the items donated are a small drop-leaf side table, Riverside Greenhouse and Twice Sold Tales Gift Certificates, a W.A. Mitchell stool, two Jo Josephson photos, a one year membership to the Stanley Museum and a copy of

the book, History of the Stanley Steamer. Join us at the Red School House for a visit, refreshments, and a chance to support the Society by bidding on some great donations!

The current display in the THS cabinet in the Town Hall lobby is of handkerchiefs donated by Adrie Mosher. Some are printed, some intricately embroidered and some are embellished with handmade lace, all beautiful. As disposable tissues became more popular in the 1980s, handkerchiefs fell into disuse. The ones in the display are largely from the 40s & 50s.

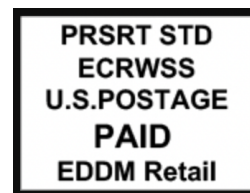
Did You Know? Of Temple's 35.46 square miles, only 0.23 is water. Our largest pond is Staples Pond (aka Santa Clause Lake), followed by Drury Pond. The smaller ponds are Mud, Holman, Grants and Jessie. Four even smaller, more remote ponds have names that Google Maps would not give me. While Temple has a long shore line on Varnum Pond, none of its waters are in Temple.

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PO Box 549
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Covid Test Kits: The Town Office still has a supply of Covid test kits to give away at no charge. They are on the counter in the Post Office lobby.

Boyce Field & Little League: You may have noticed that Boyce Field has gotten little use this year. Temple had too few kids to form a team on its own and found the number of kids from other towns who wanted to play for the Tigers, dwindling. Matt McCarthy, who had coached the Tigers for four years, now coaches the Black Bears and tells me that three Temple kids are playing for the Bears. They do sometime use Boyce Field for practices. The Black Bears is a minor league team and the players are 8, 9, and 10 years old.

Boyce Field continues to be nicely maintained; while largely unused, it is a great facility. Thank you to the folks who have been providing the upkeep!



Postal Patron
Temple, Maine 04984

The third issue of
The Temple Times for 2024