

The Temple Times

Quarterly Newsletter ~ March, 2026

We most all have our issues with winter and adjust our activities accordingly but we still find enough enjoyable to stick around. Most of what winter throws I can meet with some level of composure and comfort. Pockets, however, seriously disrupt my life. Most of the year I've got the pockets in my jeans and maybe a couple of pockets in a sweatshirt to contend with and they stay pretty organized. But in winter, the pockets in coats can just take over. My Carhart coat has five very convenient pockets that on a busy day collect my wallet, change, keys, notes and to do lists, various parts and small purchases. What's where becomes a mystery. I finally find my wallet but the card I need isn't in it— it's in a different pocket. Dog biscuits are mixed up with gloves. Half a chocolate bar just hides. Then on the coldest, windiest days, the Big Coat comes out. Eight pockets; nine if you count the much needed one for my head. I'm lost.

Janine Winn, Editor

Town Calendar: (also on the Town website)

- Select Board Meeting, Mondays, 6 - 7:30
- Planning Board 5:30pm, 2nd Monday of January, April, July and October.
- Trash & Recycling pick-up: Every Friday
- Temple Historical Society meeting 3:00pm, 3rd Monday
- **Annual Town Meeting, Mon., March 9, 6:30 PM**

Town Office:

Hours: Monday, 11:00 to 7:00 PM
Thursday, 9:00 to 5:00 PM
(closed on major holidays)

When bad weather closes schools, the Office will be closed. In general, the Town Office follows the RSU 9 school calendar. Call ahead to check.

Address: PO Box 549, Temple 04984
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Website: townoftemple.org
Phone: 778-6680; Fax: 778-0183
Facebook page: Town of Temple Maine

Office Staff:

Tax Collector & Treasurer Sue Cantrell
Town Clerk & Register of Voters
Georgia Dubuc
Selectboard Austin Foss, David True,
& Dean Collins

Temple Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 9th, beginning at 6:30. The Annual Report and Warrant will be available both on line and in print by March 2nd. The Budget Committee, made up of a number of residents, the Select Board and the town's Treasurer, met on Saturday, January 31st when the Board and Treasurer, presented a draft budget. Line items were discussed, recommendations made and figures finalized for the warrant. The proposed budget is about \$73,000 less than last year largely because we are not bearing the cost of the revaluation again this year.

We will be voting on two seats for the Select Board. Austen Foss is finishing up his most recent three year term and is running for reelection. Dean Collins, who no longer lives in nor owns property in Temple, is giving up his seat. No nomination papers have been filed for either seat so nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Whether your conversations about Temple are mostly praise or mostly grumbling, the Annual Town Meeting is kinda like a one stop shop to find out and discuss why things are being done as they are and what's being planned for next. It also provides the opportunity to meet up with neighbors you haven't seen in months, support

the Fire Department Auxiliary bake sale, and most importantly vote for your Town officers and our budget. This is small scale governance as practiced in Maine for well more than 100 years and a most convenient way to have a voice in the costs and benefits of living in Temple.

General Town Office News:

The Revaluation process went pretty smoothly and for the most part, people weren't overly upset with their tax bills. Just to clarify, the budget we set drives the amount of funds to be raised from taxes and this is then spread equably among property owners.

Annual State Audit was conducted in February and all our accounts were properly handled and funded. This audit falls on the heels of our annual contracted audit Maine Municipal Audit Services, PA and the audits each follow every transaction from when it comes in to when it leaves. Last year our expenditures were just about \$600,000. The State Auditor's report will be published in the Annual Town Report.

New Building Maintenance Guy: John Stewart has recently retired from his position as the guy who kept out Town Hall and grounds tidy. Our new Facilities Coordinator is Mike Purington of Farmington and he will take over the tasks of general cleaning, shoveling walkways and seeing to minor maintenance of the Town Hall.

Trash Pick Up and Persistent Recycling

Issues: Gregory's Disposal located in Fairfield, began picking up Temple's waste and recycling in early January and there have been lots of questions as we settle into fresh routines. They have been putting everything into one truck and the long range plan is that everything will go to Municipal WasteHub in Hampden where a gargantuan machine takes over, rips open bags, sorts things out, and sends the paper, organic waste and such to a digester. But now, for a very long moment, that's on hold.

Our contract with Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock doesn't run out until January of 2027. And Crossroads does not handle recycling.

(When Archie's was hauling for us, they handled and disposed of the recycling.)

All of this brings us back around to making sure our recyclables are going where they need to go. The solution at hand is to keep a Gregory's dumpster or roll-off at the Town Hall and those of us who find recycling a reflex, can deposit there. Yes, not the best solution, but an economical one.

I spoke with Kyle at Gregory's about this plan. He emphasized that recyclables must be clean when they are put into the dumpsters. Food waste and other contaminants quickly turns a dumpster full of recycling into a dumpster full of garbage. No need to sort, but do remember to not throw rechargeable batteries, bio waste, chemicals, waste oil, fuel, liquid paints, aerosol cans or propane tanks into either the trash or the recycling. Save them for Big Trash Day!

Big Trash Day Traditionally & tentatively, 3rd Sat in May, the 16th. Watch the Town of Temple Facebook page for more information. Some items require a fee for disposal.

Did You Know? Department of agriculture counts bees as livestock. To produce a pound of honey, bees must visit 2,000,000 flowers and travel 55,000 miles. There are at least 6 bee keepers in Temple.

Road Work: Road Commissioner Erik Hellgrin has been noticing rough areas along Varnum Pond & Day Mountain roads as a result of early frost heaves. The long stretch of frigid weather was hard on the roads, but he feels Ryan Sirois lighter trucks have been treating them pretty gently. Erik is still finishing up FEMA funded work on Edes Brook Road. Edging along the roads will get done in coordination with this coming spring's paving projects. Erik, however, doesn't think winter is done with us. He predicts couple 18 to 24" storms before winter is out.

Winter Roads: Lots of small storms have kept Ryan Sirois and crew busy. The number of little events, like the storm that kept on giving, have at times had trucks out every morning, several days

in a row. At least the snow generally has been light and fluffy, probably the only benefit of the nasty temperatures! Ryan's prediction is that we've already seen the worst of this winter.

No idea if either Erik or Ryan will be proven right, but these warmer temperatures in the second half of February sure are nice.

Ryan reminds people to not push snow into or across roads. It's tempting but it is also illegal. Plowed up snow left too close to the roadway can freeze into an icy wall that can catch the blade of the truck clearing the load. It's hard on equipment and the drivers, putting both at risk.

Town Hall Updates: A lot of work was done this year on our now 50-ish year old building. New windows were installed, the old heating system torn out, from the boiler to the radiators to the chimney. Solar panels have been added to the a roof. A new entry is underway and new entry doors have been installed. Work on the entry will continue in the Spring when concrete can be poured again. We now have a security system in the building with several cameras.

The lower level bathroom is moving ahead with a plan to have it functional by the time of our Town Meeting. When I looked in on it last week, it still lacked doors, a sink and toilet. The floor was tiled and Luke Sheldon tiled the barrier free shower over Presidents' Day weekend. Tucked in behind the bathroom, is a utility room with a utility slop sink and a floor mop sink. Because we will have to avoid blocking the new bathroom doors, you will find election day traffic rerouted in the hall. Small price to pay.

Temple Historical Society has not held a regular since planning the annual Tree Lighting party, due in part to winter weather and federal holidays. Printing schedule for the Temple Times precluded capturing the outcome of the late February meeting.

The Society welcomes everyone to their meeting and is always looking for new member. Come check them out!

Did You Know? Bees lives are short with worker bees living only 6 weeks in the summer.

Twelve bees die in the process of making a teaspoon of honey. To keep the population strong, the Queen bee will lay 1,500 eggs a day all summer. When the weather warms up like it did in February, the bees like to get outside, spread their wing a bit, and unload a winter's worth of personal waste products. They insist on keeping their hives clean!

Temple Planning Board did not meet in January. They had yet not received feedback from the Select Board regarding the proposed Site Plan Ordinance. As a consequence, the Planning Board will discuss the Select Board's suggestions at their April meeting.

While the Board is currently meeting quarterly, other meetings will be scheduled when requested by any community member or potential builder.

Neighbors:

A shout out to the office staff, Town Clerk Georgia Dubuc and Treasurer, Sue Cantrell. Most everyone doing business at the Town Office knows that they are both knowledgeable and efficient at jobs where the guidelines and directives are constantly changing. But there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes, especially, for the Treasurer.

This time of year, when our financial records are audited, a huge amount of time is spent tracking income and outgo for the past year. Simultaneously, employee taxes, W-2 and W-3 forms need to go out and the Town Report needs be prepared for publication. The new budget starts with careful scrutiny of last year's expenditures and the science of predicting near-term economics. Formulating the budget is complicated, involves State grants and County and School District assessments, and requires coordination with the Select Board and the Budget Committee. Georgia handles the endless formatting adjustments to make both the budget and the Report presentable. Each and all of these tasks take many steps and involve working productively with a broad range of other folks. So thank you Georgia and Sue for keeping things running smoothly and legally. You put in a lot of

extra hours this time of year and we appreciate you endlessly!

John Stewart has recently stepped down as Temple's Facilities Coordinator, which he says is a fancy name for his position as a handyman and janitor. He has held the position for 12 years and enjoyed it immensely. The work was straightforward and referring to the Office Staff and the Select Board, he says he worked with a great crew, which made "getting stuff done" an easy task. He particularly enjoyed running into various groups in the Town Hall, catching up to date on the latest news, and staying in touch with town activities. As John put it, "it keeps me centered in the town."

While others have referred to John's retirement, he says he is just slowing things down a bit and making choices to free up some extra time and enjoy life. He and his wife Karen Rines have no intention of leaving the Temple community but will continue to farm and stay involved. Among their enterprises are an immense garden, an expanding Christmas tree business, hiring out for tractor work, and caring for their more than two million head of livestock, tiny livestock that produce about 1,400 pounds, or about 120 gallons of honey each year.

There is much about life that John enjoys and he especially enjoys his bees. "They are fascinating and I learn more about them all the

time." The enjoyment outweighs the 12 or so bee stings he gets most years.

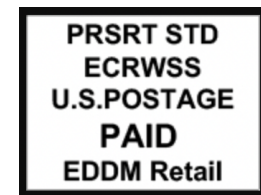
Maine Local Living School, located just off Lake Drive in Temple has an inspiring and lively series of classes and workshops planned for April through November. Coming up first, on April 4, they will be hosting a Community Contra Dance at the West Farmington Grange. A delight after so long a stretch with no public contra dances. With live music, a dance caller and seasoned dancers to guide newcomers, contra dances are designed for everyone to join in.

Classes include the Wild Foods Weekend in May, a four day intensive Hickory Bow Making class in June. July offerings include a work-trade weekend building a Cob Bread Oven, the three-day retreat Yoga and Yarrow: Deepening Connections with Body & Plants, and the Open Homestead & Farm Day. In August and October, there are willow weaving workshops, classes in acorn and mushroom harvesting and prep, and more Yoga.

The bi-weekly homeschool series, The Earth is Our Home, will continue to meet every other Wednesday morning through May and resume again September.

And much more! Visit them at mainelocallivingschool.org to see all they have to offer and to sign up for programs.

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