

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

SIMONE BOISSONNEAULT, TOWN CLERK

How coincidental that Downeast Magazine featured Arundel as one of the "Best Places to Live In Maine"... and just last year I wrote in my report "Arundel is a wonderful place to live and has always been friendly, welcoming and accepting of new residents into the community." I think we all knew Arundel is a "best kept secret" but nice to know others acknowledge it too!

The June Elections and Town Meeting were fairly quiet. I want to thank the Arundel Historical Society for their great displays as well as their baked goods that seem to be very well appreciated by the voters. Thanks also to the "Snack Shack", coaches and field crew volunteers for their time and efforts. This is part of what makes "community". What better way to get to know folks around town than by participating in events and activities.

The November State Bond Referendum and Local Referendum drew 496 voters. Arundel voted to adopt the Camping Vehicle Temporary Occupancy Ordinance which would prevent year round use of campers for permanent housing.

In January, the Regional School Unit #21 chose to hold a referendum election to vote on construction and bonding for renovations on school facilities. Luckily the weather held off and 984 votes were cast which is very impressive for a winter election! The questions failed in all three RSU towns by a significant majority.

As many of you may have noticed, the State has provided all towns and cities with new voting machines to be consistent throughout the state. Previously, each municipality had to either purchase or rent machines. This added printing costs as the ballots varied depending on the types of machine used. Under the funding from the Help America Vote Act, the State has signed a lease agreement with ES&S to provide machines to each municipi-

pality. By using the same machines throughout Maine, printing costs are reduced significantly as only one ballot style is needed.

We are still in the learning stages and appreciate your patience. Since the machine actually "reads" the ballot, there is a little pause as it processes your vote. We ask that you wait that extra second until the screen gives you the OK so that your ballot gets counted properly before you step away. If you leave and your ballot is marked wrong, you do not have the opportunity to correct the error which may cause some of the questions to not be counted. Your vote does matter. This is a great time for me to thank all of the people who work at the elections. They are always willing to help - early morning and late evening hours - to staff and tabulate so that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the process.



Our staff continues to be busy processing tax payments, Motor Vehicle registrations, Vital Records, Hunting and Fishing Licenses and registrations for boats, snowmobiles and ATVs, dog licenses along with keeping up with meeting records and elections. We now accept debit and credit cards for transactions, however, we want to be certain that you understand that you will be paying the "fee or charge" as it would not be fair to pass these along to the other taxpayers.

Changes have also been made to Birth and Death records which are now processed online through the State's DAVE system. Due to the increased incidences of identity theft, we are now required to check ID and you must have a direct lineage or right to the record in order to obtain copies of birth, marriage and death records.

As you can see, things are continually changing and we have to adapt and keep up with the times! We appreciate your patience, especially when we have to take that extra minute to verify data so that we can process something correctly for you. Thanks to Ann Tardif and Wendy Lank for all the customer service that they do. We hope that we make this small office a comfortable place for all of our residents to do business!