

The Arrow

Spring 2011
Newsletter

The Arrow
Volume 21 Issue 1

Why are reserve accounts a good idea for Arundel?

By Scott Tilton, Interim Town Manager



The Town of Arundel has many needs in the area of future replacement and purchase of capital equipment and vehicles. There are currently three commonly used methods that provide a way to make these purchases. The first two methods, leasing and borrowing, both require the payment of interest to a bank or other financial institution. The third method, a reserve account, is similar to a household or business savings account and allows the town to earn and accumulate interest rather than paying it.

Arundel has several reserve accounts but has recently stopped funding the accounts at the level required to keep up with the needs. This lack of funding will place future burdens on the town tax rate if it continues to be neglected. Properly funded reserves provide a means to stabilize the tax rate while at the same time providing a way to properly manage town infrastructure. Reserve accounts and the balances held in them also improve a community's credit rating and help improve its overall financial strength.

Eastern Trail Officially Open!

By Tad Redway, Town Planner and ETMD Vice President

On a crisp morning this past November, local, State, and Federal dignitaries gathered at the Southern Maine Medical Center trailhead to celebrate the official opening of the new 6.1 mile off-road section of the Eastern Trail, extending from West Cole Road in Biddeford to Rte 35 in Kennebunk. Arundel Selectmen Vice Chair, Velma Hayes was on hand to help cut the ribbon and accept an award on behalf of the Town. Town Manager John Fraser also received an award from the ETA for his years of steadfast support. But the biggest winners of the November 30th opening were and continue to be the citizens of Arundel.



Arundel residents have much to celebrate. The Eastern Trail is a 3.5 mile linear park that runs the entire width of the Town and provides local residents with unending recreational opportunities. Membership in the Eastern Trail Management District provides Arundel with special privileges on the trail, and Recreation Director and Registered Maine Guide Jen Dumas wasted no time to immediately launch several highly successful programs. During February vacation, Jen installed a *Story Walk* on the ET in which families could wander through the winter landscape while reading the classic children's book "The Mitten". In March, Jen and Maine Game Warden Rick Laflamme led Arundel kids on the trail teaching animal track identification and outdoor skills such as winter fire and shelter building. In the upcoming months, look for a host of new recreation programs that will focus on organized fitness walks, plant identification tours, and outdoor survival skills for kids and adults.

Official parking for trail users is available at the Arundel Town Hall, at Southern Maine Medical Center and at the Kennebunk Middle School, after the bridge over the Turnpike is completed later this summer. In addition, the Arundel Selectmen are contemplating development of parking along Limerick Road at the Trail crossing.

Mountain Road resident Ethan Davis has started the *Eastern Trail Boosters* – a new group of local volunteers who support the maintenance and promotion of the Arundel section of the Eastern Trail. The Eastern Trail Boosters have scheduled an Earth Day clean-up event along the Eastern Trail on Friday, April 22nd from 12 PM to 4 PM. All Arundel residents are invited to attend, pick up few cans, and enjoy exploring the Trail. For more information on the Boosters or the Clean-Up event, contact Ethan at (207) 284-7572 or the Arundel Recreation Department at (207) 286-9241.

2010-2011 Revised Tax Percentage Information

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Board have asked for a correction to be placed on the website regarding the tax breakdown percentages listed on the tax bill attributable to the three tax centers used to determine the towns tax mil rate. The three tax centers are: RSU #21, Municipal Operations and York County Government. On the tax bills mailed to taxpayers last September the percentages read:

		Per \$1000 of property value
RSU #21	56.11%	\$7.41
Town	40.42%	\$5.34
County	3.47%	<u>\$.45</u>
		13.20 mil rate

Due to an error in computing the breakdown the correct numbers are as follows:

		Per \$1000 of property value
RSU #21	74.00%	\$9.80
Town	21.00%	\$2.80
County	5.00%	<u>\$.60</u>
		13.20 mil rate

These calculations show how your tax dollars are distributed, they do not change the amount billed.

Ordinance Revision Update

By Tad Redway, Arundel Town Planner



Last spring, the Arundel Planning Board set the ambitious goal to completely rewrite the current Land Use Ordinance in time for adoption at this year's Town Meeting. Due to a flush of particularly complex development proposals in the last 10 months, the Board has been unable to devote as much time to the Ordinance rewrite as necessary. As a result, the Board has scaled back on its expectations and focused on tackling the longstanding and thorny problem of conditional uses. The current Land Use Ordinance classified all activities in Town except for single family and duplex residences as "conditional uses" that required Planning Board review. This situation could be particularly burdensome to new and expanding business enterprises.

To correct this problem, the Planning Department has developed a program in which non-residential land uses can be classified as "permitted" and more intense and higher impact uses would be classified as "conditional uses."

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MLD School Update by Dr. Kevin Crowley, Principal



In October of this school year, students in Grades 3-8 throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island participated in the New England Common Assessment Program. This is the second year in which Maine students have participated in this regional, standardized test. This program assesses students in the areas of reading and math at each grade level. At Mildred L. Day School some of our highlights include:

The number of students scoring proficient or better improved in every single grade and subject area. The number of students scoring proficient or better exceeded the state average in every single category (by as much as 25 percentage points), as opposed to 2009 when we exceeded state averages on only two tests. These improvements are dramatic, however, are consistent with the quality teaching and learning we see in our classrooms each and every day. The teachers, support staff and students at MLD are to be commended on a fantastic job!

Providing professional development for staff is the cornerstone of outstanding schools. This year our focus has been in two primary disciplines. Written expression is the first area we have been working on. Through the generosity of an Education Foundation Grant, our teachers in grades 2-5 have been working with renowned writing coach Pamela Taylor. Pam has helped lay the foundation which allows our school to provide a consistent approach to writing throughout the grade levels. This past week Pam presented a workshop for parents. She has visited our school three times this year and is scheduled to return next year as well. We are very pleased with the growth we have seen to date. Mathematics is the second area of professional development for our staff. All of our Educational Technicians have completed a course in early mathematical thinking. Additionally, all of our teachers will be working to complete the entire Every Day Math program this year. Also impressive has been the MLD staff participation rate in other PD opportunities. Currently, RSU 21 is offering a Core Literature class after school for teachers; 13 of the 17 participants are from our school!

In addition to our core academic program, we have also been fortunate to be able to offer the following: MLD now has a math team which competes against teams from across the state. In March the team finished in the top 25% of all schools and fifth grader Chandler Bilodeau finished second out of over 220 contestants. The Talented Artist Program is offered to students in grade 5; Our Destination Imagination took second place in the regional competition and has qualified for the state meet; The Civil Rights team continues to serve our community in many ways; Our Gifted and Talented teacher meets with students in reading groups and creative problem solving groups on a weekly basis; A number of our students are enrolled in online courses to enhance their mathematics instruction; Our band will perform in May at the All-Band Night Celebration at KHS; Recently the art work of all of our students was on display at the River Tree Arts Studios in Kennebunk for two weeks; this past month MLD was featured on Channel 13's Kid Correspondents segment. Kudos to fifth graders Jack Webb and Lexus Dubois for their outstanding work on this project.

We continue to invest in our building in terms of facility upgrades. Over the past few months our gym has undergone an "Extreme Make Over" and now shines like it is new. Currently, 70% of our classrooms have had new Smart Boards installed. All of the emergency lights and life safety systems have been replaced with new units. Finally, two new pumps and the associated controls have been installed to help maintain our consistent access to the water supply.

As you can see this is a busy place! Our staff and students are thriving and we thank the entire community of Arundel for your continued support.

York County Sheriffs



I would first like to welcome everyone to the New Year. As many of you may already know Deputy Matt Nadeau was promoted last November to a Detectives position. He has expressed to me his sincere thanks to the Town of Arundel for their hospitality during his term. Deputy Nadeau has served the Town of Arundel proudly with his dedication to the residents of Arundel and the quality of his work.

I started in the town in late November and have been getting used to the operations of the town. Together the Sheriffs Department and Town of Arundel have worked together to change the scheduling to provide more coverage at varying hours for the residents of the town. After reviewing the statistics from 2009 to 2010, the overall calls for service are down. This is a positive outlook to see that crimes against other persons and property are on the decline.

I have heard some of the concerns from the towns people about some of the ongoing issues in the town. The Sheriffs Department is aware of the towns concerns and are looking at new alternatives to our policing methods to help with issues. We encourage feed back from the town and would like to see what your concerns or thoughts are. Feel free to contact me at

clroux@co.york.me.us

Christopher Roux, Deputy Sheriff YCSO
Arundel Contract Deputy

Ordinance Revision Update

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A proposed new compliance process called "Site Plan Review" will insure that permitted uses are in compliance with the technical requirements of the zoning standards, while the current conditional use review process will continue to determine whether a higher impact conditional use is suitable for the location. The new Site Plan Review process will also delegate more review authority to Town Staff and will operate within a predictable review timetable.

In the next, month the Planning Board will be finishing its refinements on the proposed new Site Plan Review process, and will be defining what land uses are conditional and permitted in the existing zoning districts so that the required public hearings can occur in May in time for June's Town Meeting.



A NOTE ABOUT ASSESSING

By Beth Newcombe, Assessor

All municipalities in Maine are mandated by State Law to achieve minimum assessing standards. The minimum standards are: a minimum assessment ratio of 70% and a maximum quality rating of 20. The assessment ratio is the actual percentage of assessed value as compared to market value. The quality rating measures equity amongst properties. Last year the town was assessing at 87% of market value and the quality rating was 9. This year's preliminary studies show the ratio at 91% of market value and a quality rating of 8.

Assessed values are directly compared to selling prices every year and must be registered with the State annually. The State registered and verified comparison is known as the 'Certified Ratio.' It determines what the basis is for any state revenues we may receive and what our portion of the County taxes will be. The State Valuation differs from the Municipal Valuation.

For a more in depth understanding of State Valuation visit the following link on the State's website: <http://www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax/sidebar/statevaluation.htm>

The tax rate is calculated by dividing the amount to be raised from taxation by the value of the town (Municipal Valuation). The tax rate is multiplied by the assessed value on individual properties to determine their share of taxes. As operating expenses increase, and State Revenue sharing decreases, the burden on property taxpayers increases.

FY2010-2011 Tax Mill Rate \$13.20 per \$1,000 at 95% Certified Ratio

FILING REMINDER: Any **NEW** applications for Homestead Exemptions, Veterans Exemptions, Blind Exemptions as well as **NEW** Tree Growth, Farmland, & Open Space current use applications must be filed by April 1, 2011 in order to be applied to the upcoming 2012 tax year.

Parks & Recreation Update

by Jenn Dumas, Director

The Rec Department continues to be a busy and fun place to be. The Eastern Trail has afforded us with a number of opportunities for Outdoor Recreation programs, for children and families (see included article by Tad Redway). We hope to add more adult programs in the future, utilizing the ET as a base for outdoor fitness and fun.

Please see our website for a full run-down of the latest Rec Department program offerings <http://arundelmaine.org> Also, please consider joining the "Arundel Recreation Department" Facebook Group to stay up to date on the latest happenings, photos of program fun, and more.

Registrations for Summer Rec, (our awesome day camp for children entering K-5th grade), are currently being accepted from Arundel residents only. \$500 for 8 weeks from 8am-4pm, with \$15 per week for extended care between 7:00am-5:00pm (extended care is optional). Payment plans are now being accepted (choose your own payment amount & intervals), with payment due in full for all participants on or before May 19, 2011. We are currently putting some great plans together for the Middle School Summer Trips program for children entering grades 6-9 in the fall, and will have registration information and fees published by 5/13. 2011 dates for Summer Rec and Middle School Summer Trips are June 20-August 12.

For children in **grades K-8** seeking some adventure on the upcoming **April** no school days, & vacation days, and half-day of school, visit our website to get more information about our plans, and how you can register to join in.

Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming adult **Hula-Hoop exercise program**, and this year's **Family Night at the Arundel Barn Playhouse** featuring "The Wizard of Oz!"



As always, Be Active-Be Healthy-Be Happy!

November 2010 Newsletter Straw Poll Results

Last fall the Administrative Review Committee conducted a straw poll regarding **Arundel's newsletter, The Arrow**. A total of 1518 voters were kind enough to complete the survey. Just over 10% of those responding [153 voters] also added their written comments.

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1 – Do you read *The Arrow*?

- 38.08% Always
- 38.27% Sometimes
- 23.39% Never
- 0.26% No Answer

Question 2 – Should the town continue to publish *The Arrow*?

- 64.25% Yes
- 7.77% No
- 27.97% No Opinion

Question 3 – *The Arrow* should be available...

- 23.65% Only on the Town Website
- 13.79% Only as a paper Newsletter
- 62.56% Both

Question 4 – *The Arrow* should be published...

- 37.96% As needed to address Town Issues
- 30.53% 4 Time a Year
- 31.51% Every Other Month

Question 5 – Are you in favor of the town spending additional funds to have *The Arrow* professionally prepared?

- 28.22% Yes
- 71.78% No

Question 6 – Would you be in favor of local businesses placing ads in *The Arrow* to cover some of the costs of publishing and mailing the newsletter?

- 89.54% Yes
- 10.46% No

The Administrative Review Committee presented the results of the straw poll, including the comments, to the Board of Selectmen. After some discussion, the selectmen recommended the formation of a committee to review the current procedure used in publishing *The Arrow* and to make proposals for a procedure to be used in the future.

The Administrative Review Committee appreciates the input from the voters who completed the straw poll, especially the information provided by the written comments. It is obvious from the results that Arundel citizens value and appreciate *The Arrow*. We are hopeful that *The Arrow* will continue to be an important resource and means of communication for Arundel residents.

A complete copy of the straw poll results is available at Town Hall.

Administrative Review Committee
Donna der Kinderen, Chairman



Important Dates

Nomination Papers Available:

Nomination Papers for the upcoming June 14, 2011 Municipal Elections will be available at the Town Office beginning Monday, March 21st, for the following positions:

- One Selectman for a 3 year term;
- One RSU#21 Director for a 3 year term;
- Two Budget Board members for 3 year terms.

To qualify for a municipal office, a person must be a resident of Arundel, 18 years of age or older and registered to vote in Arundel. A minimum of 25 signatures of registered Arundel voters must be submitted prior to the close of business on April 29, 2011 in order for a candidate's name to be placed on the June ballot. FMY please call 985-4201 or stop by the Town Office.

MAY 10th, 7:00 pm. At Kennebunk High School Gym RSU #21 Budget Meeting. Voters from Arundel, Kennebunk & Kennebunkport vote in an open town meeting format on the RSU School Budget. Warrant articles can be approved or lowered and require a majority vote by a show of hands. This meeting will ask all voters present to vote on each of the warrant articles of the FY12 budget, as well as the buy-out of the Arundel Middle School Contract with Thornton Academy.

approve the entire budget. On this date, all voters in the district will cast their ballot on the FY12 budget, the TAMS buyout, the KHS and MSK renovation funds, and the proposed cost-sharing formula.

May 24th: 8 am to 8 pm Budget Validation Referendum at Arundel Fire Station. Voters cast a secret ballot at the polls to validate the RSU Budget approved at the May 10th meeting. This is one vote on a "yes" or "no" question to

June 14th: 8am to 8 pm Municipal Election at Arundel Fire Station. This is the annual municipal election. Voters will elect one Selectman, one RSU Director and two Budget Board members.

June 15th: 7 p.m. at the Annual Town Meeting MLD School Gym. This is an open town meeting format to vote on the Town portion of the Budget. The vote is a majority vote by a show of hands.

Specimen Ballots and copies of all the warrants to be voted on will be available online at www.arundelmaine.org

Arundel Board & Committee Meeting Schedules



Regular meeting of Arundel Boards and Committees are listed on the Town's Website at www.arundelmaine.org on the Town Calendar as well as links to copies of the agendas and approved minutes. Currently the following

Boards and Committees that meet on a regular basis are:
 Selectmen: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7pm at the MLD Library
 Planning Board: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 pm, at MLD Library
 Budget Board: 1st Tuesday at 7 pm at the MLD Library
 Recreation Committee: As needed at the MLD

Rec office.

RSU #21 Board: 1st & 3rd Mondays at 7 pm. Meeting location can be found on their web site at www.rsu21.net

Strategic Planning Committee: 3rd Wednesday, 7 pm at the MLD Library.

All meetings are open to the public except for business which must be conducted in executive sessions. FMI call 985-4201

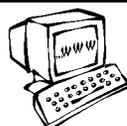
Town of Arundel
 468 Limerick Rd
 Arundel, ME 04046

PRST STD
 U.S. Postage Paid
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**ARUNDEL RESIDENT
 ARUNDEL, ME 04046**



Visit the Town's WEBSITE at www.arundelmaine.org
 State of Maine Online services at <http://www.state.me.us/>