

# BELGRADE NEWSLETTER

Town Office: 495-2258

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Center For All Seasons: 495-3481

Belgrade Library: 495-3508

Website: [www.belgrademaine.com](http://www.belgrademaine.com)

Belgrade, Maine

September, 2007

## **UNIVERSAL WASTE DISPOSAL FEE** **PUBLIC HEARING**

**On Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. the Board of Selectpersons will be holding a Public Hearing at the Center for All Seasons on a proposed fee schedule for the acceptance of Universal Waste at the Town's Transfer Facility.**

*Universal Waste also referred to as E-Waste (electronic waste) consists of computer monitors, television sets, fluorescent light bulbs, Mercury-containing thermostats, Non-leaking PCB lighting ballasts, certain batteries (i.e., those containing lead, cadmium and mercury), non-leaking PCB lighting ballasts, mercury thermometers, etc.*

Maine State law, P.L. Chapter 661, passed in 2004, requires the recycling of universal wastes because of their known adverse environmental and public health impacts. *Everyone* has a role in the recycling of these types of wastes because *everyone* generates them. By law towns are required to provide for the management of universal wastes from households. Before the change in law, these wastes were disposed of with our regular "trash". After the law, we stopped accepting these wastes at the Transfer Facility. Instead we told our residents to take them to Pine Tree Waste in Waterville. This has proven not to be an acceptable alternative for our citizens. As a result of a number of complaints and concerns about what was actually happening to these wastes, the Transfer Facility and Recycling Committee (the Committee) recommended to the Selectpersons that we begin to accept these wastes at our facility to minimize costs and travel and increase the recycling rates for these types of material that pose serious environmental and health risks.

In development of this Universal Waste Fee Schedule the Committee's intent was to **increase the convenience to our residents but not to increase costs (see table below)**. Please review the schedule and COME to the Public Hearing with your

questions. If you have a question prior to the Public Hearing stop in to the Town Office and we will get an answer for you.

## **UNIVERSAL WASTE FEES**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Price - \$</b>
Computers / Computer Monitors	5
Televisions (13-31")	5
Televisions (Floor Consoles & Big Screens)	8
Rechargeable Batteries (AAA-AA-C-D)	Free
Fluorescent Bulbs	Free
Printers	5
Fax Machines	5
Scanners	5
Mercury Containing Devices	5
Keyboards	3
Ballasts	1

## **SELECTPERSONS CORNER**

### **SELECTPERSONS:**

Meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**Please** have any items you want on the agenda to the board secretary (Mary) so she may get the agenda ready in a timely manner.

### **PLANNING BOARD:**

Meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:**

Gary Fuller every Thursday 5 to 7 P.M.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, Lakes Station, 7P.M.

### **BOARD OF APPEALS:**

Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7P.M. Town Office

### **TOWN OFFICE:**

Open Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri. 8-4:30, Thurs 8 to 7  
Closed daily 11:00-11:30 for lunch. Open last  
Saturday of the month through September 9A.M. to  
12 noon.

## Notes from the Town Manager

I cannot believe it...the summer is almost gone! While the birds are not yet flying south, fall and winter are on their way. It has been a busy summer with a number of things taking place as a result of the Town Meeting Warrant Articles and long overdue work by the State of Maine. Here are some highlights:

**Bartlett Road Railway Crossing Repairs** – These repairs are currently underway. While there may be some inconvenience over the next few weeks due to the construction activity, I believe that we will all benefit significantly from the end results of the repair.

**Transfer Facility** – As a result of the support of the townspeople at the Town Meeting we are moving forward with a number of changes to improve the operations at the station. Among these are:

- **New Wednesday Hours:** We changed the hours the facility is open as a result of a number of requests from our citizens and only after an extensive survey of the Transfer Facility users. The new hours (**for Wednesdays only**) are from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We have received many positive comments on the new hours apparently because it provides many working town residents more flexibility in when they dispose of their household rubbish and recyclable products. The increased use of the facility during the new hours show its popularity, with over 100 vehicles now entering the facility from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Also, according to staff the end result is that the amount of traffic on Saturdays is reduced.
- **Composting:** As many of you know, the compost pile was closed in the fall of 2006 because some people were placing materials in the pile that limited its use as compost or created a safety problem for employees. However, as a result of new controls in place at the facility the compost pile was reopened on July 5<sup>th</sup>. So far all is going well! *Remember, we accept only leaves, pine needles and grass clippings on the pile. We need everyone's help to ensure that this rule is followed so that we can continue to provide this service to town residents.*
- **New Fee Program Update:** As you know, we initiated a new fee program this past May. This new fee program was established for demolition debris and bulky waste items. Thus far we have

seen a considerable reduction in these types of products. We believe that the fee program is, in part, responsible for the reductions in these materials that we believe were coming from sources outside of Belgrade. The end result should be lower costs for the disposal of our municipal solid waste from Belgrade.

We will be able to provide more complete information on the impact of our fee program and other changes to our Transfer Facility at the end of the year.

- **Transfer Facility Consultant Study:** In June we hired "Renaissance Planning Associates" as the consultant to analyze strategic options for the Town to consider taking in its solid waste management practices. The study is nearing completion and the final report should be available in mid-September. We will post it to the website and have copies available in the office for people to read. We will also be holding a meeting for the public to come to and ask questions of our consultant and the Transfer Facility and Recycling Committee members. The Committee will be reviewing the report in hopes of making recommendations for the Town to act on prior to the March 2008 Town Meeting.
- **New Skid Steer:** The Skid Steer approved at the March meeting is now at the Transfer Facility. The equipment should improve our ability to manage the site and to process recycled materials. Stop by and check it out!

**Ad hoc Building Committee** – The Board of Selectpersons established this Committee to investigate whether or not the Town should proceed in the construction of a multipurpose building to house the municipal offices, library, a small museum, the food pantry, and a new fire station. The 1998 Comprehensive Plan identified the need for a new town office, library, and fire station. Depending on the Committee's findings, a recommendation may be brought to the townspeople for action at the March 2008 Town Meeting. The next meeting of the Ad hoc Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office. Please join us in the discussion.

### **North Belgrade Community Center (NBCC):**

During the summer we uncovered problems with the NBCC requiring expenditures to control both a rodent infestation and carpenter ants. More costly however, is the fact that the facility has had extensive water intrusion into the basement creating an unhealthy situation from the resultant mold contamination.

Estimates to repair the foundation and mitigate the mold problem currently are \$40,000 or more. The Selectpersons and I are investigating what actions to take and will provide more information when we have resolved the issue. However, it is likely that the facility may be closed for the winter due to these problems. If you have any questions please contact me at the Town Office.

Before I end my "notes" in this newsletter, I want to comment on the issue of litter and request your help to resolve the problems it creates. As you may know, we have experienced some serious problems with litter at our Town Beaches on Lake Shore Drive and at Peninsula Park. For whatever reason, some people are using the beaches as a disposal area for dirty diapers and other trash. The signs clearly note that the beaches are "carry in/carry out". Please help me resolve this problem. If you see others showing disregard for your beach, call me.

Also, I have been trying to do my best to reduce roadside litter...it is not just unsightly, but can be unhealthy for wild animals, and even a safety problem for people driving on our roads. First, it is illegal to litter, but laws don't prevent people from doing bad things. Littering is a perennial problem and it will take the whole community to resolve it.

***Therefore, I dare you to "care" about Belgrade...if you see roadside litter, please pick it up. If you are thinking about tossing something out of the car...please don't.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTICE FROM THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

The Cemetery water system will be shut off and drained on October 15, 2007. Plants that people want to keep should be removed prior to that date. Those people who have flower holders or permanent type wreaths should remove these items from the Cemetery so that they have them available for next year. The Sexton will remove all imitation flowers shortly after October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Belgrade Public Library**  
**495-3508 August 2007**

**MARVEL** – have you tried it yet? Maine's Virtual Library may be accessed at [www.maine.gov/marvel](http://www.maine.gov/marvel). This online collection of databases and journal articles is available to all Maine citizens. It includes thousands of magazines, newspapers and digital reference books. If you are interested in a demonstration, visit the Library on Tuesday or Thursday and our knowledgeable librarian Sandra Fowler will give you a virtual tour.

In June, the Large Print, Biography, and Reference collections were moved into the Library office space. The beautiful shelving was built and donated by John Willey, Chuck Lakin and Nan Mairs.

**New story time**- We will offer an evening story time on Thursdays at 6:30pm from September 6<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer Lucy Mignone will read children's books as part of the RSVP *Born to Read* program. We will continue to offer the Thursday morning story time at 10:30.

**Summer reading program** had over 69 children participate. Stickers, prizes, and great books were all part of the "Get a Clue @ your Library". The Library presentation of the Bugmobile by the Chewonki Foundation and Gene Roy's CSI science program were a hit with the older children, and the Teddy Bear Picnic with music by Mr. Harley had the younger ones shaking their sillies out. Special thanks to library volunteers Margaret McMorrow, Lily Schubert, Nancy Allen and Lucy Mignone for helping staff to keep up with the flow of books. Belgrade citizens are very fortunate to have these generous volunteers.

**Book Group** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. September's book will be "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen.

**Board of Trustees** meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm

**Friends of the Belgrade Public Library** meets the third Wednesday of each month.

Public computers are available during library hours and the library's **wi-fi** Internet signal is available on the porch 24/7.

Our catalog may be searched at [www.libraryworld.com/opac](http://www.libraryworld.com/opac). Enter *Belgrade Public Library* and select Sign in (no password required). Search by keyword, title or author.

**Library hours:** Tuesday 12-7; Wednesday 3-7; Thursday 10-7; Friday 9-1 **495-3508**

## **NOTES FROM THE BELGRADE REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER**

Labor Day is behind us along with the official end of summer in Maine...but not the end of two summer spoilers: poison ivy and deer tick bites.

### Poison Ivy

"Leaves of three, let it be" is an old saying that rings true. The poison ivy plant can sometimes be recognized by 3 shiny leaves, but not always. Skin or clothing contact with the plant or even bare vines can cause the red, itchy rash. And never assume that since you have never reacted to the plant before, that you will not now.

The rash is caused by an allergic reaction to the plant's oil, urushiol. The oil can be on pets, gardening tools, clothing, sport gear, or anything that has come in contact with the plant.

Symptoms can be itchy skin, red streaks or lines, or general redness, small bumps, and/or fluid filled blisters where the plant contacted with the skin. These symptoms usually appear in 8 to 48 hours after contact with the plant's oils.

Once the oil has been washed off with a drying soap such as Ivory or Safeguard, the rash itself is not contagious. Scratching does not spread the rash, even if it is weeping. The more urushiol you come in contact with, the more severe will be your reaction. Some people are highly sensitive to the oil.

If you think you've come in contact with the plant, immediately wash the area with soap and water. To relieve the itch, use cool wet compresses and take cool baths. Non-prescription antihistamines and calamine lotion may help relieve symptoms. For moderate to severe cases, you should see your healthcare provider for treatment, especially if involving the face or genitals. They may prescribe pills, creams, or lotions.

### Tick Bites

There was a time when we in Maine did not have to worry much about deer ticks, but that is no longer true. The staff at BRHC has seen an increased number of tick bites. According to the Maine Medical Research Institute Vector-borne Disease Laboratory personnel, the number of deer ticks in Maine that transmit Lyme Disease have increased in inland river areas, including that of the Kennebec River. The risk of contacting Lyme Disease is greatest in June and July, but is still possible in autumn.

Take these precautions when in the woods, tall grass, or brushy areas:

- Tuck your pant legs into socks.
- Wear light-colored clothing so the tick will be seen more easily.

- Use a repellent containing DEET on shoes, socks, collars, and pant legs. Follow product directions carefully when applying to skin or on children.
- Check yourself, your children, companions, and pets when you come in from woods or fields. Check again in a few hours. Ticks like folds in the skin, hair, and behind the ears. Shower as soon as possible after coming indoors.
- Keep lawns and brush mowed to reduce tick habitat.

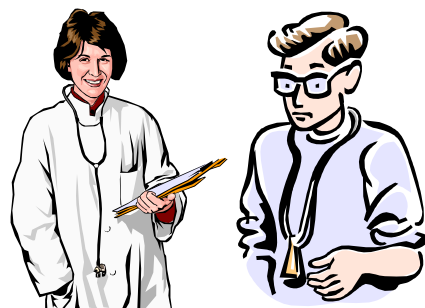
If you find a tick, remove it quickly. The disease is rarely transmitted if the tick has been attached for less than 36 hours. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible, preferably using tweezers, and pull gently but firmly until the tick lets go. Do not squeeze the tick. Do not use methods such as burning with a match, applying Vaseline or nail polish. Save the tick in a small bottle with 70% alcohol if you have it on hand. If you do not have a bottle or alcohol, gently wrap it in white paper such as tissue and tape it enclosed. Contact your healthcare provider. He or she may want you to bring in the tick for identification. You will probably have a small red area of irritation and some discomfort for a few days.

The first symptoms of Lyme Disease in humans is usually a ring of rash in the site of the bite. The rash may be preceded by flu-like symptoms such as fever, nausea, chills, headaches, and pain in muscles and joints. If you have any of these symptoms after being bitten, contact your healthcare provider.

If you think your pet has been exposed to ticks and may have been bitten, and is lame, has lost its appetite, or is lethargic, contact your veterinarian.

Dr. Diane Campbell, Dr. Marvin Lee, Vickie Chapman, APRN, and all the staff at the Belgrade Regional Health Center hope you enjoy our beautiful lakes region during this special time of year. Be happy and healthy.

Thanks to WebMed and to the Maine Medical Center Research Institute Vector-borne Disease Laboratory for some of the information contained in this article.



WE WILL BE HOLDING VOTING ON NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, FROM 8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM AT THE CENTER



**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**

**THE PARKING SPACE TO THE RIGHT OF THE EMPLOYEES ENTRANCE IS CLEARLY MARKED FOR HANDICAP ONLY. PLEASE BE KIND TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.**

FOR ALL SEASONS. WE WILL HAVE 1 CITIZEN INITIATIVE, 3 BOND ISSUES, 1 REFERENDUM QUESTION FOR THE STATE. ALSO THE TOWN WILL HAVE 3 REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AND 1 BALLOT FOR SELECTPERSON, TERM ENDING MARCH 09. NOMINATION PAPERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICE. WE WILL BE OPEN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> FROM 9:00- NOON. THIS IS THE LAST ONE UNTIL DECEMBER. ONCE AGIN, WE ARE ONLINE FOR RE-REGISTERING YOUR VEHICLES, ATV'S, SNOWMOBILES, DOGS AND AIRPLANES. EITHER USE MAINE.GOV AND PICK THE TOWN LINK FOR BELGRADE, OR US [www.belgrademaine.com](http://www.belgrademaine.com), AND CLICK ON THE ONLINE LINK ON THE LEFT. WITH VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS, YOU WILL NEED YOUR INSURANCE, REGISTRATION, AND MILEAGE. THEY USE E-CHECK AS PAYMENT- NO CREDIT CARDS.

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**NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK**



**Community Tree Ordinance**

The Belgrade Tree Committee hopes to present a Community Tree Ordinance to voters again in March of 2008. Between now and then, we hope to reach each voter with this message: The Tree Ordinance is about planting, caring for, and removing trees *located on public land*. The ordinance does not propose to regulate activities related to private trees or shrubs located on private land.

The proposed ordinance recognizes the Town Tree Warden and the Tree Committee. These volunteers recommend work that's needed (to the Select Board), identify sources of State and Federal funding for tree-related projects, and may even plant/maintain new trees until they are established. The Maine Forest Service Project Canopy Grant of \$2,500, for example, was initiated by the Town Tree Warden and used to purchase new town-owned trees and shrubs. This year the Tree Committee, along with Girl Scouts and other community volunteers, planted trees and shrubs at Loon Call, Hayden Park, Belgrade Central School, and in the downtown area of Belgrade Lakes.

The proposed Community Tree Ordinance gives the town authority to require a permit before tree and shrub work can begin *on public land* and makes reasonable accommodations for citizens who already voluntarily maintain a tree lawn abutting their private property and for citizens who voluntarily maintain a cemetery plot. Any citizen or group who has a plan to perform tree and shrub work on other public land may request a permit at the Town Office. The proposed permits are free. The purpose of this provision is to ensure accountability for the type of work that is performed and the type of materials that are applied. It's a preservation issue, an aesthetic issue; and it's a public safety issue.

In addition, the Tree Ordinance prohibits abuse of publicly owned trees—i.e., cutting, carving, moving, nailing, wiring, roping, or spraying public trees. The Tree Ordinance requires that publicly-owned trees be protected during construction and prohibits snuffing out water, air, or sunlight to publicly-owned trees.

These are preservation issues. The Tree Ordinance provides for enforcement, for penalties, and for appeals.

If you have questions, send us an e-mail at [www.belgrademaine.com/treecommittee](http://www.belgrademaine.com/treecommittee). Or come to our meetings. We meet monthly at the Town Hall, third Tuesdays, at 5:30. Volunteer to serve on our committee! We have a vacancy right now. In March 2008 we'd like to see a community tree ordinance on the ballot again. Meanwhile, we are working hard to be sure every voter knows how a community tree ordinance will work to help protect one of the town's most valuable and beautiful assets—its trees.



**BELGRADE PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

The Trustees and Friends of the Belgrade Public Library would like to thank the volunteers and supporters who have generously given of their time and talents to help raise funds for the new library. This summer, Dee Cooke, a Belgrade actor, Lou Parnell and Lee Kerr entertained us with a dramatic performance and the Gawler Family delighted a full house with their music. We also held a successful book sale and kayak raffle (won by Stu McConnell). The number of people helping with these projects was overwhelming, from bakers to book movers. Thank you very much!

During the past few months important steps have been taken to help move the library project ahead. With donations from fundraisers, banks, the Davis Foundation and private funds we have completed a Building Program study which determined the needs of the library through the year 2030 and we are in the process of completing a fundraising feasibility study. We continue to look for a centrally located parcel of land.

After three spring visits to the Searsmont Municipal Center, a facility housing a town office, library, heritage center and three community meeting rooms, the selectboard has approved an ad hoc Building Committee to research the possibility of a similar center for the town of Belgrade. This was an incredible community project where residents helped throughout the entire process in many different ways and are very proud of the work they did together.

(You can view the website of Bruce Laukka for three pictures of the facility.)

We are very excited about the work of this committee and the collaboration of different groups and would like your input as we work in the coming months. Please contact Dennis Keschl or Cheryl Cook at the town office or call the library at 495-3508 if you would like to be involved or have ideas to share.

## **NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

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