

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

November 2008

Administrator's Corner

Fall Foliage Festival has come and gone and eventually we'll have to face the fact that winter is around the corner. Fortunately for Warner, winter and the holiday season brings the annual Festival of Trees sponsored by the Warner Business Association. Many hours of work by dedicated members of the WBA go into this event so you won't want to miss it!



Budget Season – The Budget Committee was presented with the Selectmen's proposed 2009 budget on October 23rd and I'm happy to report that in spite of the rising costs of doing business, the proposed increase in the operating budget is below 2%. Prioritizing was a key factor which resulted in some items not being budgeted for in 2009. Some budget highlights are:

- Health insurance costs actually went down .8% this year and a change in the co-pay amount on the plans provided additional savings.
- Although paving costs have gone up, in order to keep the budget low, the item was level funded with 2008 versus adding in over \$35,000 for the cost increase.
- Since the preservation of records money (\$10,000) was not used in 2008, that money will be carried forward to 2009 and additional money will not be placed in the 2009 budget.
- Transfer station disposal cost has increased considerably for the 2009 budget since it includes the estimated amount of \$26,880 to cover removal of the sheetrock and wood ash that had been stored for many years. As part of a State inspection, the Town had been instructed to get the pile off the ground and covered. However, since there is no use for the product, it will have to be disposed of. Demo disposal fees are the second highest increase since we will now be disposing of the sheetrock as it comes in versus storing it. This will increase the weight and frequency of the

demolition loads. The Selectmen will be reviewing the fees associated with demolition material in the coming months. In order to continue to crush glass at the facility and meet DES standards, the old glass crusher has been revamped. This enables us to continue crushing on site and continue saving money.

The Selectmen continue to work on the Capital Budget and anticipate finalizing it by the middle of November. I would like to encourage residents to get involved with the budget process by attending meetings or asking questions about anything you have read or heard. The Budget Committee meeting schedule is on the Town website. Their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13th @ 6:00.

Single Stream Recycling – As many residents know, Warner is a member of the Concord Regional Solid Waste Cooperative (CRSWC) and as a member, must state whether or not we are interested in participating in a single stream recycling program being proposed by them. Since Warner currently does an exceptional job of recycling, there appears to be little benefit to change to single stream recycling. However, the Selectmen will be bringing a warrant article forward to the voters in March in order to find out the desires of the Town. As part of this process, there will be an informational meeting on the single stream recycling project scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. This is not a debate session but merely a presentation by various members of the CRSWC on the project and a chance for residents to ask questions with regard to it. Surrounding Towns will be invited to attend and ask questions as well.

***Selectmen's Meetings ***

November 10 & 25

December 9 & 23

beginning at 6:00 p.m.

located at the Town Hall

lower meeting room

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee and Selectmen have started the process of putting together the Town budget for 2009. Recently we met with representatives from the Kearsarge Regional School District Board and Merrimack County to get a feeling on what both the school district and county budgets would look like for 2009. It appears that both budgets will increase for 2009, so the goal of the Budget Committee is to keep our Town budget as low as possible without a major impact on services the Town provides.

Will the Selectmen and Budget Committee be able to accomplish this? Please come to Budget Committee meetings during the fall and winter and voice your opinions. A complete meeting schedule for the Budget Committee is posted on the Town of Warner's web site (www.warner.nh.us).

News from the Building Inspector

Building permits are now available on the Town's website (www.warner.nh.us), click on Regulations & Forms.

Regulating Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers – New Hampshire State Law

New Hampshire amended its laws in 2008, establishing requirements for the sale, installation, and use of OWBs in the state. In passing the amendments, New Hampshire joins other New England state and local governments in recognizing the potential high levels of particle pollution and adverse health effects associated with OWBs. The law also acts to establish emission standards and prohibit the sale of any units that do not meet those standards.

Components of the law include, but are not limited to:
Sales requirements: Effective January 1, 2009, all OWBs sold in New Hampshire must meet the EPA Phase I emission limits. Effective April 1, 2010, all OWBs that are sold in the state must meet the Phase II emission limits.

Selling and buying responsibilities: Any seller of an OWB is required to provide written notice to a prospective buyer on New Hampshire's law. The written notice must be signed and dated by the buyer and seller, include specific information on the OWB purchased, and be kept on file by the seller for at least three years.

Setback and stack height requirements for installation of OWBs:

* Phase I units: Must be 100 feet from nearest property line; stack height must be two feet higher than the peak of a roof of a residence or business, not served by the unit, which is located within 300 feet.

* Phase II units: Must be 50 feet from the nearest property line; no stack height requirements.

* Non-Phase I or II units: Must be 200 feet from nearest

property line; stack height must be two feet higher than the peak of a residence or business, not served by the unit, which is located within 300 feet.

Permitted fuels: Clean wood and/or wood pellets made from clean wood are the only fuels that may be burned in these devices.

Prohibited fuels: Burning other materials such as household trash, tires or construction debris is strictly prohibited.

Tips to Reduce Air Pollution from Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers

If you plan to purchase an OWB, look for the cleanest models available that are labeled with the EPA voluntary program orange hang tag. Consider all alternatives and choose a heating system that is the most efficient and has the least adverse impacts to your family and neighbors.

If you already own an OWB, you should install, operate, and maintain it according to state law and the manufacturer's instructions.

A few recommended best management practices for all OWBs include:

* Have the unit installed by a professional.

* When determining where to locate the OWB, take into consideration how close it is to neighboring properties, especially residences. Become familiar with setback requirements from property lines or structures as specified by New Hampshire law or local ordinances, and be aware of the direction of prevailing winds and the contours of the land.

* Become familiar with manufacturers recommendations for installation and best management practices for operation, and be sure to comply with stack heights as specified by New Hampshire law.

* Never start a fire with gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch, unless the unit is designed with an auxiliary starting unit for this purpose.

* Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood that meets the definition of "clean" wood. Never burn wet, rotted, diseased or moldy wood.

For More Information

For general information about OWBs in New Hampshire and state law requirements, contact the DES Air Resources Division at (603) 271-1370.

Town of Warner requires a building permit for OWBs.

News from the Health Officer

FLU VACCINE FACTS & MYTHS

MYTH - "The flu isn't a serious disease."

FACT - Influenza (flu) is a serious disease of the nose, throat, and lungs, and it can lead to pneumonia. Each year about 200,000 people in the U.S. are hospitalized and about 36,000 people die because of the flu. Most who die are 65 years and older. But small children less than 2 years old are as likely as those over 65

to have to go to the hospital because of the flu.

MYTH - "The flu shot can cause the flu."

FACT - The flu shot cannot cause the flu. Some people get a little soreness or redness where they get the shot. It goes away in a day or two. Serious problems from the flu shot are very rare.

MYTH - "The flu shot does not work."

FACT - Most of the time the flu shot will prevent the flu. In scientific studies, the effectiveness of the flu shot has ranged from 70% to 90% when there is a good match between circulating viruses and those in the vaccine. **Getting the vaccine is your best protection against this disease.**

MYTH - "The side effects are worse than the flu."

FACT - The worst side effect you're likely to get from a flu shot is a sore arm. The nasal mist flu vaccine might cause nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat and cough. The risk of a severe allergic reaction is less than 1 in 4 million.

MYTH - "Only older people need a flu vaccine."

FACT - Adults and children with conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and kidney disease need to get a flu shot. Doctors also recommend children 6 months and older get a flu shot every year until their 5th birthday.

MYTH - "You must get the flu vaccine before December."

FACT - Flu vaccine can be given before or during the flu season. The best time to get vaccinated is October or November. But you can get vaccinated in December or later.

****PUBLIC FLU CLINICS****

United Church of Warner
46 E. Main Street, Warner

Sunday, November 16 - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Slusser Senior Center
64 Houston Drive, Contoocook

Tuesday, November 18 - 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

To confirm clinic dates and times check

www.crvna.org

Fuel Assistance Program

Am I Eligible?

Eligibility and benefits for the Fuel Assistance Program and the benefits amounts for the federal Weatherization Program are determined by gross household income (i.e. total before taxes), the number of people in the household, and the burden of heating costs on your income. Income eligibility for both FAP and Weatherization usually can be determined during one appointment with your local Community Action Program (CAP).

How Do I Apply?

1. Call your local CAP office (**456-2207-Laura Hall**) to learn how to apply for FAP and/or Weatherization.

2. Find out from the CAP staff where you will need to go and what you will need to bring, and schedule an appointment. To prevent delays in processing, be sure to bring all the materials requested to your appointment.

3. If you are homebound and unable to visit the CAP office, call to arrange a interview over the telephone.

News from Pillsbury Free Library

The Pillsbury Free Library invites community members to learn more about the Board of Trustees and to consider running for election to the Board.

Trustees provide financial oversight to the library and are involved in projects and committees including buildings and grounds, programs, planning, policy development and technology. This is an opportunity to serve the community of Warner and support New Hampshire's Library of the Year for 2007. Trustee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

For more information contact Dianne Bischoff at 456-2630.

From the Fire Department

SECONDS COUNT

WE CAN'T HELP YOU IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU!
You can count on us to show up when you call 911, but if your home or business is not clearly marked, seconds can make a big difference between saving a life or saving a building from fire. Please make sure your address is clearly visible on your house or business. If you have a long driveway, it is also a good idea to have the address marked at the entrance.

From the Highway Safety Committee

A request was submitted to the Highway Safety Committee for a STOP sign at the intersection of Waterloo St. extension and Newmarket Road. The Highway Safety Committee recommended to and received approval from the Board of Selectmen to change the intersection to a 3-way STOP.

The new STOP signs were installed the week of October 20th.

From the Planning Board

One of the duties of the Planning Board annually is to update and prepare the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the town. After a number of meetings with Town Administration and Department Heads, the CIP Committee develops an updated plan in draft form. The drafted CIP is then presented at a joint meeting with the Selectmen and the Budget Committee where

modifications may be made. The final draft is then approved by all parties and is submitted to the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee for their use in preparing the Town Budget and other planning purposes. The updated plan was approved at the Planning Board's Meeting on Monday, October 20, 2008, which was continued from October 6.

The Master Plan Committee, as part of the Master Plan Update, has scheduled a meeting for **Monday, December 8, 2008 at 7:00 PM** to conduct a **VISIONING SESSION**. This meeting is open to anyone and we invite the public to attend and to provide input. The results of the Master Plan Community Survey will be discussed and used as a tool to provide guidance for the plan update. The results of the Community Survey have been posted on the Warner town website. As we continue the update process in 2009, more public meetings will be conducted.

The Sub-Committee on Zoning and Building Code review has been working on various items that will bring us into compliance with the State of NH Building Code Statutes. The committee has also been reviewing an audit of our regulations, looking for discrepancies and potential corrections that may need to be made.

From the Tax Collector

Tax Bills have been issued, if you have not recieved one and expect one please call 456-2298 ext. 4

Warner Tax Collector Office Hours

9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m

on

- Monday December 8th
- Tuesday November 18 & 25
December 2nd
- Wednesday November 5, 12, 19 & 26
December 3rd
- Thursday November 6, 13 & 20
December 4th
- Friday December 5th

Tuesday Evening

November 25th and December 2nd

4 to 6 PM

Saturday

December 6th

10 to 2

Due Date is December 8, 2008

Payments may be mailed to:

Tax Collector

P O Box 264

Warner, NH 03278

From the Assessing Clerk

“WHY DID MY TAXES GO UP”

The most asked question at this time of year is “Why did my taxes go up?” This year the short answer to the question is because of what was voted for at Town Meeting in March of 2008 and what was discussed at the deliberative session of the school meeting (January 2008) and voted on the school ballot (March 2008). It is at the deliberative session where amendments to the budget are voted on to go on the ballot in March. The town tax rate is figured by taking the approved budget for the town minus the expected revenues and dividing it by the value of the town assessments.

TAX RATES

	2006	2007	2008
Town	\$7.33	\$7.49	\$8.75
School	\$8.46	\$8.61	\$10.19
State	\$2.29	\$2.19	\$2.34
County	\$2.01	\$2.39	\$2.44
Total	\$20.09	\$20.68	\$23.72
Precinct	\$2.39	\$2.46	\$2.01

From the Conservation Commission

Storm water pollution is one of the leading causes of water pollution nationally. Rainwater and snow melt run off streets, parking lots, lawns, farms, and construction and industrial sites and pick up fertilizers, dirt, pesticides, oil and grease, pet waste and many other pollutants on the way to our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

During a precipitation event, either rain or snowfall, a portion of the fallen water infiltrates into the ground to be taken up by vegetation or to recharge the groundwater. The remaining portion flows overland, ultimately discharging to a water body; brook, pond, river, lake or coastal water.

In developed portions of Warner; storm water runoff is collected in catch basins that are connected to storm drains that ultimately discharge the runoff, **without** treatment, to the Warner River.

Catch basins are designed to slow storm water flow and allow the sediment in storm water to settle in the bottom of the catch basin. Their ability to trap sediment varies with the volume and flow of runoff entering the catch basin. That is, a greater volume and flow of runoff reduces the capacity of a catch basin to allow sediment to settle. This sediment remaining in the catch basin

provides a good environment for bacteria to grow. So even a small amount of bacteria from pet waste can multiply in a catch basin and be washed out during the next large storm event.

As the percentage of impervious surfaces increase, pavement, side walks, roofs, so does the percentage of storm water runoff. For example, a one acre parking lot can produce 16 times more storm water runoff annually than a one acre meadow. This fact points to the importance of parking lot drainage solutions which trap pollutants so that they don't reach the river. Parking lot drainage that leads into grassy swales and detention areas, or created wetlands, such as those at Market Basket, allows pollutants to be filtered out of the runoff.

Many of our daily actions contribute to storm water pollution; driving a car, fertilizing lawns, building a home/business or even taking our pets for a walk. Consider, in general, that the negative impact of pollution on aquatic critters (turtles, fish, etc.) is much greater than on humans just based on size. Who wants to swim or walk along a river clogged with sediment, covered with foam, or that smells? As Warner continues to grow and develop, the negative impacts of storm water pollution will increase unless measures are implemented to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces and the amount of pollution impacting the storm water.

Here are ten simple actions we can take that will reduce storm water runoff and storm water pollution:

- * Pick up pet waste.
- * Wash vehicles on grassed areas or on pavement where wash water does not reach a catch basin.
- * Use a commercial car wash where wash water is collected, treated and recycled.
- * Do not dump water (contaminated or otherwise) down or allow wash water to flow to catch basins.
- * Sweep up sand, soil, leaves etc. from paved surfaces so that it does not flow into streets or catch basins during a storm.
- * Compost yard and food waste and use this compost on plants to encourage water retention.
- * Use slow release lawn or garden fertilizer and only in the amount needed.
- * Calibrate irrigation systems or sprinklers so that water does not reach paved or other impervious surfaces.
- * Properly maintain vehicles so that they do not

leak fluids.

- * Walk or ride a bicycle to work or for errands, and combine errands.

Resources

Best management Practices to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution: A Guide for Citizens and Town Officials, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, January 2004.

Managing Storm Water as a Valuable Resource: A message for New Hampshire municipalities and water suppliers, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, September 2001.

Community Car Washes and Water Quality, Environmental Fact Sheet, WMB-14, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 2003.

Wastewater Discharges from Vehicle Washing, Environmental Fact Sheet, WD-DWGB-22-10, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 2007.

Above documents are available on the NH Department of Environmental Services website at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/index.htm>

Why Storm Water Matters, Article 63, Chapter 1 of the Maryland Department of the Environment Storm Water Manual.

TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
VETERANS DAY
&
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28
THANKSGIVING

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY - WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
TUESDAY
8:00 A.M - 6:00 P.M.

Town Administrator
Laura Buono - 4562298 ext.1
administrator@warner.nh.us

Selectmen's Office
456-2298 ext. 2
selectboard@warner.nh.us
WEBSITE: www.warner.nh.us