

# MAINELY RICHMOND

SEPTEMBER 2009

TOWN OF RICHMOND

## Administrator of the Year!

**TAX BILLS OUT IN  
SEPTEMBER**

**OCTOBER 12TH  
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED**

**NOVEMBER 3RD  
ELECTION DAY**

**NOVEMBER 10TH  
1ST HALF TAXES DUE**

**NOVEMBER 11TH  
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED**



Photo By: Ramona du Houx

**IMPORTANT NEWS  
PAGE 13-EXCISE TAX  
QUESTION**

## Reminders:

**TAX PAYMENTS:** Affordable tax payment options are available either weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Please contact Sharon Woodward, Tax Collector at 737-4305 ext 201 to discuss payment options.

**MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS:** Please bring your old vehicle registration, proof of insurance, mileage and monies. If your registering the vehicle for the first time please bring; Dealer Sale: Title Application (blue copy), Use Tax Certificate (green copy), Monroney label, Proof of Insurance and Mileage. Private Sale: Bill of Sale, Title (only if vehicle is 15 years old or newer), Proof of Insurance, Mileage and Old Registration if transferring credit over to the new vehicle.



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**TOWN OF RICHMOND**

**26 Gardiner Street**

**P.O. Box 159**

**Richmond, Maine 04357**

**(207) 737-4305**

**TOWN OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**

**7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Closed Friday**

**[www.richmondmaine.com](http://www.richmondmaine.com)**

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

**737-4423**

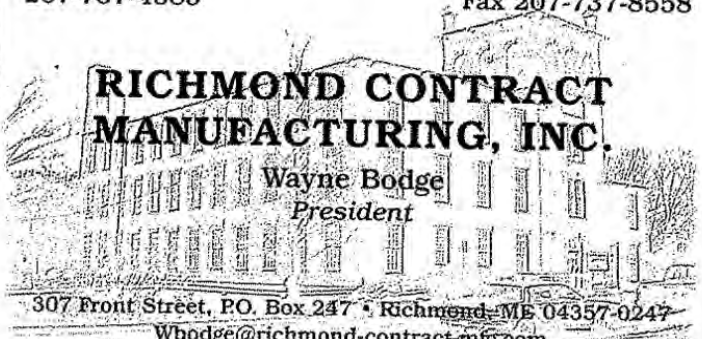


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- ◆ Insurance Denials
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**Alice E. Knapp**  
Attorney at Law

21 Main Street • Richmond, Maine 04357  
Phone: 207.737.4603 • Fax: 207.737.4304  
Email: aknapp@gwi.net


**Schedule of Events**

- } 9/1/09 CDBG 6:00p.m.
- } 9/7/09 Labor Day
- } 9/10/09 Selectmen 6:30p.m.
- } 9/12-13/09 Holding Area 9-3p
- } 9/14/09 Fire Dept. 6:30p
- } 9/15/09 Trustees 5:00p
- } 9/16/09 RUD 7:00p
- } 9/19-20/09 Holding Area 9-3p
- } 9/21/09 Fire Dept. 6:30p
- } 9/22/09 Planning Board 6:00p
- } 9/24/09 Selectmen 6:30p
- } 9/26-27/09 Holding Area 9-3p
- } 9/28/09 Fire Dept. 6:30p

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**OCTOBER 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 

**Schedule of Events**

- } 10/3-4/09 Holding Area 9-3p
- } 10/5/09 Fire Dept. 6:30p
- } 10/6/09 CDBG 6:00p
- } 10/8/09 Selectmen 6:30p
- } 10/10-11/09 Holding Area 9-3p
- } 10/12/09 Columbus Day
- } 10/17-18/09 Holding Area 9-3p
- } 10/19/09 Fire Dept 6:30p
- } 10/21/09 RUD 7:00p
- } 10/22/09 Selectmen 6:30p
- } 10/24-25/09 Holding Area 9-3p
- } 10/26/09 Flu Clinic 9-11p
- } 10/27/09 Planning Board 6:00p
- } 10/31-11/1/09 Holding Area 9-3p

**October 26th "Seasonal Flu Clinic" 9-11a.m. @ Town Office**

**October 28th "Seasonal Flu Clinic" 10-12p.m. @ Senior Center**

# Richmond Days 2009

Looking for 2010 Richmond Days Committee Members, please call: 737-4305 if you would like to join!



SELECTBOARD CHAIRMAN DAVID THOMPSON



## Property Tax and Rent Refund: YOU COULD QUALIFY!

Maine residents Property Tax and Rent Refund “Circuitbreaker” applications are available at the Town Office or online at [www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/homepage.html](http://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/homepage.html). Applicants who would like to have a booklet mailed directly to them may: Call the forms line at 207-624-7894 (leave your name and mailing address) or write to Maine Revenue Services, SHS 24, Augusta, Maine 04333-0024. You may qualify for a refund up to \$1,600 if: You do not have a spouse or dependent(s) and your 2008 household income was \$61,400 or less; or You have a spouse or dependent(s) and your 2008 household income was \$81,850 or less AND Your 2008 property tax was more than 4% of your 2008 household income; or, The rent you paid in 2008 was more than 20% of your 2008 household income. Note: Low-income Seniors do not need to meet these requirements. Applications **must be filed by June 1, 2010.**

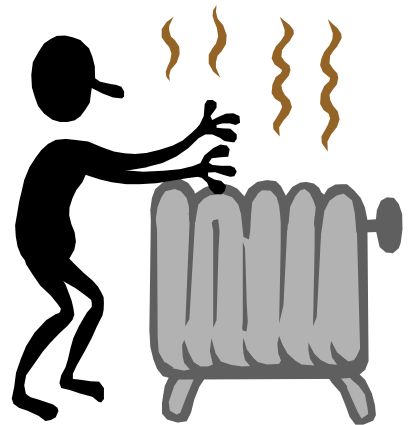


## New Agencies providing Heating Assistance

Low income residents of Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties and four other mid coast communities will have their heating assistance and weatherization needs met by new organizations this fall. The Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP) will provide these services to eligible residents of Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties. Residents

of Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties interested in scheduling an appointment to complete an application or for more information should contact KVCAP by calling toll free 800-542-8227. KVCAP has opened an office in Wiscasset in August, and will be making appointments to meet with families and individuals applying for these programs in all their service ar-

reas. Last heating season the community agencies distributed more than \$66 million in heating assistance to over 61,000 Maine Low-income households.



## Thank You Richmond!

The Richmond Nazarene Church Quizzing Team would like to thank Richmond for all of the flower bulbs and candy bars that you purchased and for participating in our spaghetti dinner. Without your support our teams would not have been able to participate in the World finals, which was an invaluable experience. Our new quizzing year starts this September, kick off on the 19th!

# News from the Richmond Utilities District

The Richmond Utilities District has made a lot of progress on our redundant well project. In March the District was notified that we had received \$200,000 of stimulus money to install a redundant well and pumping system near the District's current well site in Dresden. The new well should be on line by this fall, which will allow us to take our current well off line for cleaning and inspection.

Phase I construction of the sewer infrastructure improvements is slated to begin in the next couple of weeks, construction will begin on North Front Street, Lincoln, Kimball, Alexander Reed Rd, Williams and a small portion of Main Street. Home owners in this area will be getting a letter from the District explaining the work and giving the home own-

ers the option to replace the entire sewer service line to the home. If you receive one of these letters please respond to it as soon as possible.

As part of the District's Administrative consent agreement with Maine DEP the District has begun re-inspecting all homes that at one time had either a cellar drain, sump pump or roof drain that pumped clean water into the sewer system. If we can verify that your sump pump is not pumping into the sewer without going into your home or business you will not hear from us. If we can no longer verify where your water is going we will leave you a notice explaining that we will need to re-inspect your cellar. This continued work is part of a written commitment that the District has with the DEP to reduce the

frequency and amount of sewerage overflows to the Kennebec River.

The District would like to start preparing rate payers for rate increases that will be coming in the fall of 2010. The rate increases will likely be small but the District wants to give rate payers as much notification as possible.

The District has had to close its office a lot more than normal due to an illness of an employee's family member. If you try to make a payment and the office is closed please leave your payment in the Drop slot. If you have any questions regarding your bill please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

## Burning Permit Info

Burning permits are issued after 9:00a.m. for Class 1 and 2 days only. Permits are issued at the Town Office on the day of burning Monday-Thursday from 7:00a.m.-

5:00p.m. Permits are issued at the Police Department at 737-8518 or from Andrew Pierce, Fire Chief at 737-4366 any day of the week.

### **BURNING HOURS**

**Monday-Friday**  
**4:00p.m.-12:00a.m.**  
**Sat, Sun & Holidays**  
**8:00a.m.-12:00a.m.**



# SENIOR NOTES FOR SENIOR FOLKS

## 314 FRONT STREET \* 737-2161

**September 15, 22 & 29**-Vegan Cooking Classes: 10:30a.m. to Noon. Cost: \$5.00 per class to cover cost of food. Hands on nutritious cooking, join the fun of preparing and enjoying these delicious recipes. Sign up fast each class is limited to four. Instructor: Janet Clement

### OCTOBER

**Saturday-October 10th**-Fall Foliage

Trip: Bus will leave the center at 9:00a.m. Join us for our Annual Foliage

Trip. This year we will be heading to the Camden area for a breathtaking view of Camden Harbor from the top of Mount Battie State Park. There are many opportunities to shop and choose a restaurant of your choice for lunch in the Town of Camden.

**Wednesday-October 14th**-Medicare Presentation by Tim Cole from the Southern Maine Agency on Aging: 10:30a.m. Annual enrollment begins November 15th and ends December 31st. Everyone enrolled in Medicare has the opportunity to join, switch, or drop Medicare Part D and/or Part C. Information on benefits and cost will be provided. Information on Maine Senior benefits will be provided.

**Wednesday-October 14th**-2:30p.m.-Nancy Cote at River is pleased to offer 6 weeks senior exercise program, designed to get you moving and motivated. Nancy will introduce you to the wide variety of equipment. Check with your doctor before beginning any exercise program.

**Wednesday-October 21st**: 11:30a.m.-Our Pot Luck Dinner this month is in celebration of the Senior Centers 2nd Anniversary. There will be entertainment and prizes for all.

**Mondays-October 26th-November 16th**: 4 Week Quilting Class-1:30-3:30p.m. Make a 42"x54" Brick Wall Lap Quilt that derives its dazzle and sparkle from the contrast of light and dark fabrics. An easy and fun project. As class size is limited to six, students are asked to consider whether they can make a 4 week commitment to attend all sessions. Instructor: Janet Clement

**Saturday, October 31st-Halloween**-5:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. The Senior Center will be holding a Halloween Haunted House for Richmond's Goblins. Fun & Treats for all tricksters!

### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday, November 4th**: 10:30a.m. Ann Bean of the Bureau of Financial Institution to speak on financial scams and new credit card rules.

**Saturday, November 7th**: 9:00a.m.: Maine Mall & Christmas Tree shopping and lunch.

**Saturday, November 14th**: 11:30a.m.: Veterans Appreciation Day. To honor our Veterans from the surrounding communities. All are welcome to attend a free chicken dinner.

**Wednesday, November 18th**: 11:30a.m.: Pot Luck Dinner, bring a dish to share. Game Day follows at 12:30p.m.

**Friday, November 20th**: 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Medication Collection. Unused, unwanted, outdated household and veterinarian medications. Must be in original containers with labels.

**Sunday, December 6th**: A Very Ida Christmas-at the Public Theatre in Lewiston. Cost \$15.00, Sign up at the Town Office by November 11th.

PLEASE CALL THE SENIOR CENTER FOR ONGOING ACTIVITIES  
OR CHECK YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS!

## Farewell to “Jack” Hurley

John “Jack” Hurley was born in Richmond and attended Richmond Schools graduating in 1953. He was an active community member serving as the treasurer of the Richmond Cemetery Association for more than 40 years. A member of the School Committee for nearly

10 years, at times serving as Chairman. He also was a past member of the Richmond Lions Club and the Richmond Sportsman’s Club.

He was a terrific neighbor and even better friend to most of the community. He will be dearly missed.



## Farewell to Burt Batty



Burt Batty dedicated his time and energy serving the Town of Richmond. His attentiveness, persistence and hard work helped make Richmond a better place to live.

He served as Town Selectboard Chairman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for 3 years always offering a fair and firm approach towards town policies and important town issues. His friendly, relaxed and engaged approach helped advance a public process that was open, positive and constructive. Burt dedicated a significant amount of time as a member and Chairman of the Waterfront Committee working hard to improve the waterfront for the citizens and boaters alike.

Burt was a great leader, teacher, advisor and from what I hear a great sailor not to mention a friend who will be dearly missed.

**Left to Right: Commissioner John Richardson, Leighton Carver and Burt Batty-discussing the \$500,000 CDBG Grant.**



## Code Enforcement: Brian Morse

I would like to take this time to introduce myself as Richmond's new Code Enforcement Officer. I am from Baldwin, Maine a small town near Sebago Lake. I have spent most of my adult life in the construction field building residential and commercial structures. In 1999 I started my career in Code Enforcement. I look forward to meeting many residents and providing guidance and help to those who need it. I also would like to thank everyone at the Town Office for their help in my transition. I can be reached at 737-4305 ext. 205 or email at: [ceo@richmondmaine.com](mailto:ceo@richmondmaine.com)



## Tree Day Giveaway!

All residents interested in obtaining trees may call Clarence and Dee Cummins at 737-4175 at 503 River Road, Richmond. An assortment of hardwood and softwood trees will be available for the taking. There are between 60-65 deciduous trees mostly Ash at 15' in height and a few other variety of species ranging from 5 to 6' tall. Please bring your own shovel and container or bag to remove the tree.

### Online Services

**Burning Permits:** [www.maine.gov/informe/municipal/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/informe/municipal/index.htm)

**Certified Copies of Marriage, Birth & Death Certificates:** [www.vitalchek.com/?clicked=1](http://www.vitalchek.com/?clicked=1)

**Dog Licenses:** [www.maine.gov/informe/municipal/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/informe/municipal/index.htm)

**Driver's Licenses or State ID Cards (renewal or replacements):** [www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/licenses/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/licenses/index.html)

**Hunting & Fishing Licenses:** [www.state.me.us/ifw](http://www.state.me.us/ifw)

**Motor Vehicle Forms:** [www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/forms/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/forms/index.html)

**Motor Vehicle Registrations (renewals only):** [www.sosonline.org](http://www.sosonline.org)

**Motor Vehicle Registration Reminders:** [www.informe.org/cgi-bin/bmv/rapid-renewal/rr-remindme](http://www.informe.org/cgi-bin/bmv/rapid-renewal/rr-remindme)

**Pine Tree Legal:** [www.pinetreelegal.com/](http://www.pinetreelegal.com/)

**Property Tax Exemption Forms:** [www.state.me.us/revenue/forms/property/appsformspubs.htm](http://www.state.me.us/revenue/forms/property/appsformspubs.htm)

**Property Tax Payments:** [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com)

**Property Tax & Rent Refund & BETR Applications:**

[www.state.me.us/revenue/propertytax/propertytaxbenefits/propertytaxbenefits.htm](http://www.state.me.us/revenue/propertytax/propertytaxbenefits/propertytaxbenefits.htm)

**Property Tax Card Information:** [www.visionappraisal.com](http://www.visionappraisal.com)

**Snowmobile & ATV Registrations (renewals only):** [www.state.me.us/ifw](http://www.state.me.us/ifw)

**State Statues (Law Books):** [www.maine.gov/portal/government/law.html](http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/law.html)

**Unclaimed Money:** [www.maine.gov/treasurer/unclaimed\\_property/search/](http://www.maine.gov/treasurer/unclaimed_property/search/)

# Community & Economic Development



Photo By: Ramona du Houx

*“CDBG Administration can be really challenging; and at times, you have to take some risks....”*

The Town of Richmond's Economic Development Director, Darryl Sterling was presented with the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development Governor's Award, CDBG ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR! In recognition of his on-going

dedication to excellence and professionalism in administering several CDBG projects including, Public Infrastructure, Downtown Revitalization, Community Enterprise, Business Assistance and the Riverfront Community Development Bond. He has made a truly positive impact on the Town of Richmond and its residents.

Darryl's response to receiving the award, "I am really honored to receive the Governor's Award - CDBG Administrator of the Year. I have worked in the Community Development arena for 21 years and to be recognized by the Governor, DECD Commis-

sioner John Richardson, and Mike Baran and the dedicated staff at DECD is deeply touching. Some of my colleagues know that CDBG Administration can be really challenging; and at times, you have to take some risks while trying to balance several projects within the public/private sector framework. In Richmond we are doing just that; and it's working. We have been successful in securing several CDBG grants which have beautified and revitalized our town. Thank you very much."

## Construction Projects Underway



Fairpoint Communications crew relocating utility poles on N. Front St.

The Town will be a beehive of activity this fall, as several construction projects are underway! The long awaited North Front Street Sidewalk Project will begin September 1st with the initial work of relocating utility poles and laying out the new sidewalks and granite curbing from Front and Main Streets to Front and Bridge Streets; to be followed by a coordinated project to extend the sidewalks from Front and Bridge Streets to Front and Tulip Streets as new sewer lines are installed. The Riverfront Improvements Project will commence on September 21st. The work will include; shoreland stabilization, a comfort station with site amenities, pedestrian lighting and parking improvements. The RUD Phase I Sewer Line Improvements Project will begin September 28th which will include work on Main Street and Alexander Reed Road. This Fall, Micro Technologies will begin their expansion into three buildings on Main Street. More construction projects are coming (and some new businesses too)!

# Waterfront Committee Update By: Leighton Carver

It is with great sadness to report the passing of Committee Member Burt Batty. Burt was the Committee member who took the leadership of our group. He had the knowledge and the vision to ensure our citizens and guest that our park and waterway will enjoy in a healthy and safe environment. His involvement will benefit all that use them in the future.

Burt was able to acquire grants to enhance our needs in the park. They included funds for the operation and maintenance of the Pump-Out Station. He also took the lead to go after River Bond funds working with

Darryl Sterling. Our Town was awarded these funds for much needed shoreland stabilization and erosion control, additional boat trailer parking and bathroom facilities. These projects will be a great improvement in the park. This work will get underway in September 09'.

Burt has provided outstanding service to this community and will be greatly missed.

Chris Smith was hired as our Harbormaster. You will often see him tied up at the docks or in his lobster boat in the river. Please stop by and say hello to him. He is most knowledgeable of our rules and regulations of

the Harbor activities. He can also be reached at 737-8662 or (C)650-8917.

All moorings were inspected and passed in June.

Due to the construction taking place at the waterfront park over the fall the docks will be removed by mid-October.

### Waterfront Committee Members Include:

- Leighton Carver, Chairman
- Robin Thayer
- Mark Johnston
- Gordon Sherman
- John Vear
- Jim Margetts
- Lois Legendre

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# RICHMOND ELDERCARE COALITION



**Richmond Eldercare Coalition** is a community-based, non-profit organization formed about 15 years ago to help address a growing need of increased services and support for our elders. It began with a meeting of local community members at the Richmond Area Health Center back in 1993 to discuss what could be done in our area to help our seniors living among us. The result was the development of an assisted-living care facility right in the heart of Richmond.



The founding volunteer members of REC, with the assistance of other community-based organizations such as the Genesis Community Loan Fund, borrowed money to buy the site, was awarded grants to assist with the planning process, and hired a consultant to lead the group through state approval to

operate a assisted-living home, help gain approval for construction financing, and assisted with the hiring of architects and contractors to build our facility. The Town of Richmond was extremely supportive of our goal and loaned the organization \$20,000 from its community development loan fund to provide construction of the large community room. The loan is now nearly paid off.

The original members of the group worked hard for nearly two years to develop the residence, and some are still involved today. Residential care is available for our elder community members and others who can no longer live alone. Richmond Eldercare is their home, and the dedication and devotion of our staff has created and maintained an environment of compassion, caring, and comfort in a clean and safe setting. Healthy meals throughout the day, assistance in daily life tasks when needed, dispensing of medications, arranging trips to appointments, and offering an active social calendar are all part of living at Richmond Eldercare.

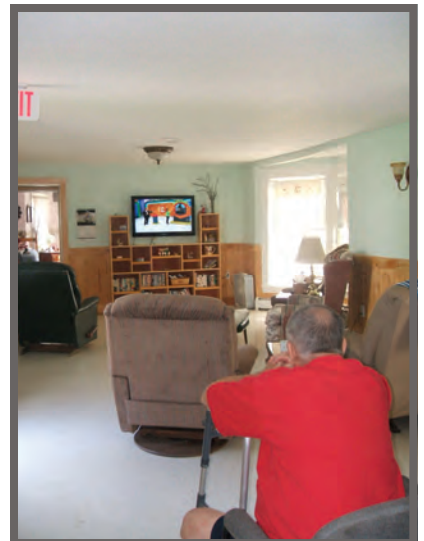
You may not know that many local residents unselfishly volunteer their time at our facility, that a local hairdresser sets up shop weekly in our building, that local churches and organizations regularly provide support and services, that the local business community provides much support, and that the schools visit regularly and often have provided entertainment with their song, art and company.

Richmond Eldercare is a vibrant, busy home to 16 residents of Richmond, and as one of the largest em-

ployers in town, it provides employment to about 15 local people, many who live in Richmond as well. Around the clock, at least two full-time staff are always on site. These jobs come with health benefits, paid vacation and sick time, a retirement program and other options. Much of the \$500,000+ annual budget is spent in the Richmond area. When you drive past the corner of Hathorn and Kimball Streets, realize that there are at least 18 people living and working within those walls 24 hours a day, and the population grows significantly during the day with cooks and other staff, visiting clergy members, family members, and other visitors and service providers.

Richmond Eldercare is a public, community-based organization, a wonderful benefit to the community of Richmond, and one and all are welcome to visit, volunteer, or maybe join the devoted board of directors. They can always use the help!

Mark Johnston, President





## ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

In 2004 the Town of Richmond amended the Animal Control Ordinance to state that no person shall allow any dog owned and/or under control to defecate upon a public street, road, sidewalk, park, or other public property within the Town of Richmond, or upon private property within the village district as defined on the Town Zoning Map (except for property owned by the owner of the dog) unless such feces is immediately removed and disposed of in a sanitary manner in a proper waste receptacle by said owner or controller of the dog. Any

person who violates any provision of this Section shall, upon adjudication, will be fined not less than \$10.00 for the first offense, and not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00 for each subsequent offense, plus the costs and expenses of prosecution including but not limited to the Town's attorney's fees and expenses, and the salaries and wages of Town personnel involved in investigating, preparing, and prosecuting such violation. All such fines, fees, costs and expenses shall be paid to the Town of Richmond. Also please be aware there is a provision for the habitual disturbance exceeding an hour for barking dogs, which will be enforced by the Animal Control Officer.

## Municipal Views on the Excise Tax Initiative

Municipalities including Richmond face two referendums this November that would directly affect the ability to maintain spending on services and reduce pressure on property taxes. Of the two questions relevant to municipal budgeting, the one that proposes the most direct challenge would reduce vehicle excise tax revenues by about 40%, sharply cutting rates during a car or truck's first five years of ownership. The excise referendum would reduce the first year \$24 per thousand rate by half, and the second year by even more. Under the new system, the rates would be \$12 for the first year, \$8 for the second and \$4 for every year after that.

The \$4 rate, which currently kicks in during the sixth year and remains constant for the life of the vehicle, which would not provide any tax break for those who own older cars. The state estimates that 68% of all cars registered in Maine are older than five years, so less than a third of current vehicle owners would see a reduction. Some say that they believe the public perceives it as a state tax-**which it is not**-because it's paid at the time one registers a vehicle. Former State Senator Jill M. Goldthwait states, "Any hope of a strong economy in rural Maine depends on a safe and reliable transportation infrastructure." "Keeping taxes as low as possible is also important,

but **Question ?** may provide no tax relief at all." It will more likely just shift the costs of maintaining our roads onto the real estate property tax. The initiative will only benefit people who own newer cars, hybrid-type cars and motorcycles.

The Board of Selectmen at their August 27th meeting passed a resolve opposing the excise tax question, other municipalities have and are expected to do the same. If passed in November approximately \$189,000 would be cut from the Towns Budget which in turn would result in higher property taxes, lay-offs, and a decline in services offered by the town.

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