I hope everyone is enjoying this great Maine winter! This year is certainly putting us to the test. I would like to extend our gratitude to all town personnel for their service during these brutal months of cold and snow.

I recently had the opportunity to ride along with Public Works as they worked through one of our biggest storms of the year and was impressed with the skill and determination for which they operate their equipment. The Board wishes to extend a huge thank you for keeping our roads in such great shape.

The board would like residents to be aware of a newly enacted ordinance. It is the “Pace Ordinance” for Energy Efficient Home Improvements.

Maine’s Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program offers 5, 10 or 15 year loans of between $6,500 and $15,000 at a 4.99% fixed interest rate. PACE will be available to homeowners in communities that have passed a PACE Ordinance and are eligible for Efficiency Maine’s Energy Savings Program (HESP).

HESP offers incentives of up to $2,000 for pre-approved energy efficiency projects, regardless of income, (up to $1,500 in rebates from Efficiency Maine and up to $500 from federal tax credits). Eligibility requires participants to conduct a home energy assessment (energy audit) by a Participating Energy Advisor, with a minimum energy savings of 25%. Eligible buildings include homes or 1-4 unit buildings of between 1-3 stories.

As of 12/31/10, HESP has experienced 36% in average annual energy savings, or approximately $1,000 in total annual savings per homeowner. For more information on HESP, visit www.efficiencymaine.com/athome/hesp_program or call 866-376-2463 or email efficiencymaine@efficiencymaine.com

The board hopes this will help residents to make improvements to their homes in an economical and energy efficient manor.

Another topic that is a concern to the town is a renewed push to lower or eliminate Excise Tax in Maine. I’ll be the first in line to say I despise paying this tax every year, however, with Maine’s current tax and funding set up, this is Richmond’s second largest source of revenue. A vote to cut or eliminate Excise Tax is a vote to cut town services or raise property taxes. Due to the current economic conditions we will not be able to replace this revenue. Please remember this as you make your choice at the polls.

The board is starting to have meetings to discuss the 2011-2012 budget and would appreciate any input from you the citizen. Please call any member of the board or attend a meeting and see what is happening. Please also consider filling a vacant seat on one of the boards in town.

REMINDERS

- March 13th Daylight Savings Begins!
- Nomination Papers available March 21st!
- Town Meeting June 7th
- Elections June 14th
NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE MARCH 21ST

June Election Openings
BUDGET COMMITTEE: 1 OPENINGS/2 YEAR TERM
SELECTMEN: 2 OPENINGS/3 YEAR TERMS
SELECTMEN: 1 OPENING/1 YEAR TERM
UTILITIES DISTRICT: 1 OPENING/3 YEAR TERM

Board & Committee Opening
Appeals Board 1 OPENING/3 YEAR TERM

Nomination papers available **March 21, 2011** and must be returned to the Town Office by **April 24, 2011**.

Elections to be held **June 14, 2011** at the Richmond High School Gymnasium 8:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. Absentee ballots to be opened at 8:00p.m.

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**Richmond Insurance Agency**
94 Main Street  Richmond, Maine 04357

207-737-4321
1-800-224-6658
Stop in and see us in our new location, for all your insurance needs.

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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

[Website Link]

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**LAW OFFICES OF ARTHUR J. LAMOTHE**
Bowdoinham
666-5713 or 721-9911

[Website Link]
Featured Business: Jim’s Cabinet Shop

Located in Richmond on the Beedle Road, Jim Decker has been customizing home cabinetry for 28 years. Jim’s Cabinet Shop offers free in-home design consultation. Custom made kitchen and bath cabinetry, designed and built to meet your budget. Made from any type of wood. Plain and simple. Made the way you want. You can setup a free, no obligation, no hassle design and price quote. You will receive: Floor Plans, Elevations with dimensions, 3D Color photo of your project before it is even built and an itemized price list of each piece used. You can check them out on the web at www.jimscabinetshop.com or call 737-2520 for more information.

SENIOR NOTES FOR SENIOR FOLKS

March
3rd-10a.m. AARP Free Tax Help
9th-11:30am-St. Patrick’s Day Dinner $6.00 at the (Shepherd of Faith Church)
16th-10a.m.-Dave Brown of Brunswick Spectrum to speak on activities
21st-10a.m.-Noon-Savvy Caregiver Classes Begin. Call 1-800-3282-0764 to sign up!
30th-10:30am-Noon-Joanne Joy of Healthy Communities speaking on Living Well

April
9th 9a.m.-Tour of Wilburs Chocolate Factory in Freeport, lunch and shopping!
12th & 26th 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m.-Down Memory Lane with the 3rd Grade!
13th-11:30am-Free Spaghetti Dinner. Deserts are welcome!
20th-10:30am-Noon-Joanne Joy of Healthy Communities speaking on Living Well
26th-6:30pm-Ice Cream Social
30th -10a.m.-2p.m.-Medication Collection-Unused, over the counter, veterinary medications should be in their original containers with labels.

May
5th-8am AARP Safe Driving Class $12.00/AARP Members, $14.00/Non-members.
11th -11:30a.m. Pot Luck Dinner-Bring a dish to share.
REMINDERS & UPDATES AT THE TOWN OFFICE

TRANSFER STATION
2011 Sticker Prices
$10.00 Richmond Residents
$15.00 Dresden Residents
$30.00 Commercial

Hours will be 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Saturday and the first Sunday of the month starting April 1st through November 30th.

- Applications for Homestead Exemption and Veteran Exemption must be on file before April 1, 2011. Questions call 737-4305 ext. 201
- April 1st is the assessment date of your property taxes.
- The second half of property taxes are due May 10, 2011
- 30 Day notices go out in June for unpaid taxes and liens are issued in July.

Property Assessment:
If you have questions on the assessed value of your property you can make an appointment to see the Assessor please call Laurisa at 737-4305 ext. 208 we are currently scheduling appointments for March 9th.

Notary Services available, please make sure you bring your photo ID with you and you must sign the document in front of the notary. There is a $2.00 fee per signature.

Need a Loan?

The Town of Richmond has community revolving loan funds that are available to provide low interest loans to eligible property owners and businesses throughout Richmond. Applications are available at the Town Office for anyone interested in borrowing money.

CDBG Loans
Are available to: Make energy conservation improvements, install septic or water systems, replacement heating systems, repair roof’s and other home repairs.

The maximum aggregate amount to borrow is $20,000 with repayments up to 10 years at 4% interest.

TIF Loans
Are available for Richmond Businesses to make building improvements or repairs, purchase business equipment and business marketing cash flow.

The maximum aggregate amount to borrow is $25,000 with repayments up to 5 years at 5% interest. For more information please stop by the Town Office and pick up an application or call Laurie Boucher at 737-4305 ext. 200.
Library hours are Monday and Tuesday 2-8p.m., Wednesday 9-2p.m., Thursday 2-8p.m., and Saturday 9-12p.m.

New books are on the way! While you are patiently waiting for the new one, come in, browse and select an old favorite to curl up with during the many snow days we seem to be having. How about checking out one of our beautiful perennial flower books, you can almost smell spring as you gaze at the beautiful photographs. We have some truly wonderful books on our shelves, we also have a comfortable chair and three oversized bean bag chairs to curl up in if you would like to read here. Don’t forget we have three public computers for your use. They are always busy. If you want to be assured one, call ahead and reserve one, or let us know if you would like to use it for more than 1/2 hour.

Story hour is still Wednesday morning from 9:30-10:30a.m. We do stories, crafts, sometimes games and a small snack. Our regular kids are great, but we always welcome new ones with open arms.

Wish List (Donations Appreciated)
- Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother - Amy Chuya
- Strategic Moves - Stuart Woods
- The Inner Circle - Brad Meltzer
- Gideon’s Sword - Douglas Preston
- One Thousand Gifts - Ann Voskamp
- Dead or Alive - Tom Clancy
- The Judas Gate - Jack Higgins
- Breaking the Rules - Suzanne Brockman
- Love You More - Lisa Gardner
- Live Wire - Harlan Coben

The Richmond Utilities District will be raising the sewer rates by 12%. This increase will likely go into effect July of this year. The increase is to cover the cost of the loan payments for the Sewer infrastructure improvements that have been going on for the last couple of years. The average bill will likely go up around $9.00/Quarter.

The Board of Trustees agreed to a change to Article X, section 9 of the District’s Sewer Use Rules and Regulations. The new change will go into effect immediately and will allow the District to fine customers who have illegal connections quarterly rather than annually. This measure was taken to accomplish two goals; one is to prevent people from re-connecting cellar drains, roof drains and/or any other source of un-polluted water back into the sewer system. The District’s second goal is to prevent new illegal connections. All of this is part of the District’s efforts to avoid “Financial Disincentives” from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The District has been threatened with fines if we do not enforce our Sewer Use Rules and Regulations which prohibits illegal connections.

The District will be replacing a number of sewer service lines this summer that have been found to be faulty. The projects will begin this summer and last until fall. All affected customers will receive notification from the District and will be asked to attend a public hearing later this spring. Homeowners are responsible for service lines from the foundation to their connection to the Sewer main. If you do not receive a letter from the District but would like to have your service line replaced please call the office by May 1st.
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT By: Darryl Sterling

The Town completed the ConnectME Grant Project to install broadband high speed internet in rural areas of Richmond on January 27, 2011. The contractor, Time Warner Cable, has placed cable in the Pitts Center-New Road-Lincoln Street Target Area. Approximately 21 homes will now be able to have access to high speed internet service. The $66,010 ConnectME Project is a major step toward meeting the Town’s goal to bring high speed internet to all residents.

The MidCoast Regional Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Initiative (MRWEEI) Project to make energy improvements to the Town Office has gone out to bid. The energy conservation measures will include replacement of windows and doors; heating, ventilating, air conditioning system; and hot water heaters. The $20,400 project will result in energy usage savings and fuel savings. The Town has also applied for $17,000 in Round 2 MRWEEI Grant Funds to make energy improvements to the Police Station. If approved, both projects would be completed by April 30, 2011. The Director continues to explore other grants and resources to create jobs in Richmond.

Richmond Downtown Revitalization Plan Update

The “Richmond Village Downtown Revitalization Plan” was completed in 2004. The Plan identified five (5) strategies for guiding the community’s vision for downtown revitalization:

1. Improve the Downtown and Waterfront
2. Enhance the Streetscape of Main Street
3. Develop a Master Plan for the RBMC and High School Area
4. Make Richmond the most Walkable Village in Maine
5. Expand Housing Opportunities in and around the Village

Since 2004, the Town has made significant efforts to implement the community’s revitalization goals. Accomplishments to date include:

- **2005 Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District**
- **2006 – 2011 Business Expansion Assistance along Main Street**
- **2006 Downtown Parking Master Plan**
- **2006 Downtown Storm Drain Infrastructure Improvements**
- **2007 Downtown Façade Improvements**
- **2007-2009 Streetscape Improvements on Main Street, Front Street, and Lane Field**
- **2007-2008 Business Retention/Attraction/Facilities Improvements at the RBMC**
- **2008-2009 Streetscape Improvements on Main Street, Front Street, Pleasant St.**
- **2008-2010 Waterfront Zoning and Master Plan and Waterfront Improvements**

As Richmond moves forward with the success that it has, it is important to re-examine and update the original Plan as downtown continues to evolve. The Town is working with Wright-Pierce in the Downtown Plan Update process to evaluate implemented efforts for community improvement goals as identified in the prior Plan, opportunities to further implement prior Plan goals, receive additional public input, and make new planning considerations.

2011 CDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant Application

A Public Hearing at the Meeting of the Richmond Board of Selectmen was held on February 9, 2011 to discuss the Town’s application for a 2011 CDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant in the amount of $600,000 to continue streetscape improvements including rehabilitation of sidewalks on Main Street and continuation of pedestrian lighting and installation of site amenities from Front Street to Williams Street. The private sector is investing $1,250,000 as leverage match for the Project. It is expected that these investment incentives will create 50 new jobs in the downtown area. The grant application is due on March 4, 2011 with funding notification to be in April. If the grant application is funded, the project would be completed by June 30, 2012.

The Town should also receive notification in April from the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), on the funding status of the Town’s Quality Communities Program Grant Application to construct the first leg of the Merry Meeting Regional Trail in Richmond. The Project would include trail improvements to connect the High School/Middle School to High Street.
A Message from the Richmond SnoRovers By: Phil Dehetre

Happy Trails Everyone! I trust everyone has enough snow. The trails saw an increase in activity this year. Unfortunately, we lost valuable grooming opportunities, while two of our groomers spent time in the repair shop. On a good note we acquired four new drags to improve on our volunteer grooming efforts. March 10th is an important date, and a meeting you don’t want to miss! We will gather at the Sportsman’s Club. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Nominations will be accepted right up until the vote. Votes will be taken by membership for the elected positions, in hopes of avoiding a vote being taken under new business for dissolution of the club and its trails. We want to thank everyone that joined our membership this year in support and helping us to receive an all time historical count. We look forward to seeing you on the 10th!
Richmond Police Department By: Chief MacMaster

The Richmond Police Department would like to thank the community for all the positive comments on the newest vehicle to our department. The 2011 black 4x4 Chevy Tahoe has been on the streets for a few months and has been proven to be a wise investment for the town after all the snowfall we have had. The Police Department hopes to get the new vehicle marked soon.

Please do not forget to license your dog with the town. This helps in a speedy return should a K-9 get lost and saves you from expensive animal shelter fees and Town penalties.

The Police Department along with the Sagadahoc Sheriff’s Office will be part of a prescription drug take back program on April 30, 2011. This will be a time to safely discard unwanted or unneeded prescriptions.

Richmond Public Works Department

A reminder that under law Title 29-A. A person may not place and allow to remain on a public way snow or slush that has not accumulated there naturally.

Placing snow or slush in a public way can result in a $165.00 fine.

This will be strictly enforced. Also a reminder the parking ban remains in effect until April 15th from 11:00p.m. to 7:00a.m.

The Public Works Department has been working steadily this winter to keep your local roads clear of ice and snow. We would like to thank the residents of Richmond for your patience.

After a busy winter we will be preparing for spring clean up, road sweeping, brush trimming and clean up. If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Allan Moeller at 737-2035 or email at: publicworks@richmondmaine.com
Innovative Physical Therapy

728 Main St. Richmond

PHYSICAL THERAPY

***LOCATED IN RICHMOND***

728 Main Street
RIGHT NEAR SUBWAY AND DUNKIN DONUTS
SERVICING AREAS FROM AUGUSTA TO BRUNSWICK WITH EASY ACCESS EXIT 43 OFF I-295

For any *first time* patient receive a

***GIFT CARD FOR $15.00 OFF FOR THE USE OF ANY SERVICE OR PRODUCT OFFERED IN OUR CLINIC***

207-737-7000
March is here, spring will be here soon! The winter weather we have had has stopped most of the outside projects that were underway here in Town.

As a reminder we are under new building codes, if you are not sure if your project needs a permit please call 737-4305 ext. 205 or email at: ceo@richmondmaine.com. The charge for work started before the issuance of a building permit is presently DOUBLE the permit fee.

2009 Uniform Plumbing Code

2009 International Building Code (IBC)

- 2009 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
- 2009 International Residential Code (IRC)
- 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
- 2007 ASHRAE Standard 62.1 (Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality)


The CEO has been studying and completing online training for the new building codes as well as health training for various issues.

A reminder to all residents E-911 requires all residences to be numbered with 4” numbers of darker color than the façade of the residence. This is for your safety, for Fire, Police and Rescue so that they may find your residence.

Effective January 18, 2011 the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Fees are as follows:

- Engineered System $200.00
- Non-Engineered $250.00
- Primitive/1 alt toilet $100.00
- Separate Grey Waste $ 35.00
- Seasonal Conversion $ 50.00
- First-Time System $ 20.00

Department Reviews

- Engineered System $100.00
- Min. Lot Fee $ 50.00
- Multi-user Fee $100.00
- Licensed Review $ 20.00
- Microfilm Record Search $ 5.00

Effective January 7, 2011 Internal Plumbing Fees are as follows:

- Min Fee up to 4/Fix. $40.00
- Individual 4+ $10.00
- Hook-up to Public Sewer $10.00
- Hook-up to subsurface $10.00
- Piping w/no fixtures $10.00
- Permit Transfer $10.00

Building Permits Issued 12/1/10

Tom Connelie 66 Mansir Lane- Foundation
Bob Soucy 73 Sunset Lane-Tree Cutting
Ryan Chandler 398 Lincoln St.-Deck
James Peacock, 292 Alexander Reed Rd. -Addition
KJK Wireless, 41 Alexander Reed Rd- Antenna
Larry Donahue, 430 Brunswick Road- Demolition
LaVallee Chiropractic & Family Wellness
“Health by Choice, not by Chance”

Dr. James LaVallee is committed to helping families in the community experience improved health and vitality. He speaks regularly to local schools, businesses, and organizations on health, wellness, safety topics, weight loss and management, sleeping disorders and topics regarding children. He enjoys educating others on how to manage stress, how to prevent injury in the workplace and at home, and how to maintain peak performance in all facets of life. His mission is to empower as many people as possible to experience their optimal health potential through genuine care and education. Dr. LaVallee hopes to teach others about the body’s innate intelligence and its ability to heal itself if allowed to function properly.
The Richmond Fire Department will hold a Craft Fair on April 2nd from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. at the Richmond Fire Station. Tables are $20.00 each. For more information or to reserve a table please call Ian Alexander at 841-0608.

Calendar of Events

- 3/7 Fire Dept. 6:30p.m.
- 3/8 RUD 6:00p.m.
- 3/9 Selectmen 6:00p.m.
- 3/13 Daylight Savings Time
- 3/14 Fire Dept. 6:30p.m.
- 3/21 Fire Dept. 6:30p.m.
- 3/22 Planning 6:00p.m.
- 3/23 Selectmen 6:00p.m.
- 4/4 Fire Dept. 6:30p.m.
- 4/6 Selectmen 6:00p.m.
- 4/11 Fire Dept. 6:30p.m.
- 4/12 RUD 6:00p.m.
- 4/18 Town Office Closed
- 4/20 Selectmen 6:00p.m.
- 4/25 Fire Dept. 6:30p.m.
- 4/26 Planning 6:00p.m.

The Fire Department meetings are held at the Richmond Fire Station.

RUD meetings are held at the Sewer Plant on Water Street.