

# STETSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

July - September 2016

*Stetson's Community Newsletter since 1988*



## **SELECTBOARD NEWS**

Well, we finally made it past the trials and tribulations of plowing and a very bad mud season.

Since I wrote about plowing for the last newsletter, I guess we'll go with mud for this one. However, as I think about it, there is not a whole lot to say about mud; it's very wet dirt, as in dirt roads. It happens every year, some worse than others, and this was one of the worst in recent years. Although we received many suggestions, such as "bring a load of gravel", "bring a load of crushed stone", "send a grader", etc (and those are the ones we can print); the only sure cure is sun and wind.

Every summer we try to improve two or three of the worst areas with fabric, gravel, and ditching, but this only means six to eight hundred foot sections at each location - and next year there will be five or six more "worst areas". Please be assured that we will do all that is possible with the available finances at our disposal, but don't expect mud season to go away any time soon.

On the subject of finances, we have put together a budget that is about twenty thousand dollars more than last year; fifteen thousand of which we added for a badly needed exterior painting of the meeting house, including the belfry and steeple. Since I am writing this the first week in May, there are still a couple of unknowns, such as revenue sharing and road assistance from the State. We know it will be less than last year but how much less we don't know. So with two months left in the fiscal year, this may not be the final number, but we think it is close. The aforementioned budget is the *municipal* budget. It does not include the county tax, which went up six thousand dollars, nor our share of the SAD 64 budget. So when all is said and done, after taking out the revenues we receive from various sources, we are looking at approximately one million three hundred thousand dollars (\$1,300,000) to be raised locally. Do you really want thirty-five or forty people to decide how this amount of your tax money is allocated??? Please attend town meetings and participate!!!

As usual, we send out our thanks to all the amazing volunteers who make our town a better place. Also, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize two super ladies who are giving up their positions on June 30. First: Jessica Verrill, who has been a member of SAD 64 Board of Directors for several years and has headed the finance committee for the last couple of years. Also Jeannie McAlpine, who has been our Parks and Rec Director for the past few years and has done a great job. Things have been run very smoothly with her at the helm. Both of these ladies will be very hard to replace. We give you a big THANK YOU from the Town of Stetson. Know that you will be missed and if you ever miss your job, you will be welcomed back with open arms.

Have a great summer, stay safe, and attend the town meetings!

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Carroll, Chairman - Board of Selectmen

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**The Stetson Public Library Newsletter**  
*Stetson's Community Newsletter since 1988*  
can now be accessed by visiting the town webpage:  
[www.stetsonmaine.net](http://www.stetsonmaine.net)

**HOLD FOR TOWN INSERT**

**Stetson - Notices & Information**

**Town Office will be Closed for the following holidays:**

**Monday, July 4**                      Independence Day

**Monday, September 5**              Labor Day



## **STETSON FOOD CUPBOARD**

*Submitted by: Theresa Gray*

The Widows and Orphans Food Cupboard has had tremendous Spring Fundraisers: over \$1100.00 in our bottle drive, \$400.00 from our supper and \$170.00 from Bratt's Store donation jar. Then, to complete our Spring, the Postal Food Drive brought in 690 pounds of food items. A special thanks to our town, volunteers and rural carrier, Val. We are extremely thankful for all you do to help us feed the hungry. We are also getting eggs and greens donated. So much to be thankful for. Don't forget we have another bottle drive and supper in the Fall. We are looking forward to your special help during the holiday season.

To drop off veggies and other items, call Theresa Gray at 296-2452. Our hours are Fridays 6:00 pm - 6:30pm and the first and third Saturdays of every month from 8:30 - 9:30 am.

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## **Town of Stetson – Parks & Recreation Department**

*Submitted by: Jeannie McAlpine*

Check us out on **Facebook: Stetson Parks & Rec**

[JPM52000@hotmail.com](mailto:JPM52000@hotmail.com)

296-2969 / 949-2999

First and foremost, thank you to all of the players for an amazing year!! The Stetson Recreation Department's goal is to actively encourage, provide, and promote fun community activities for everyone. Secondly, thank you to Kevin deWildt for coaching both soccer teams, basketball, and farm league this year. Thanks also to Cindy Chasney for coaching our peewee soccer and T-ball this year. Thank you also to all the other people and businesses that have donated this year, it is greatly appreciated. Without volunteers like you we could not do great activities for our kids!! Parks and Recreation will be looking for new coaches next year; without coaches, activities like we currently have cannot happen. If you are interested in coaching any sport, please let the town office know.

Stetson Parks and Recreation has been busy this year with many activities. We have had our third year of instructional basketball this winter with around 32 kids participating. Thanks to the Stetson Union Church for

letting us use your wonderful facility!! Baseball has just begun and the kid's excitement is overwhelming. Soccer will begin in the fall, be on the look-out in our town newsletter for more details.

I will be resigning as Parks and Rec director this summer (really this time). Thank-you to all the parents I have had the opportunity to work with. I am more than willing to help out in any way to anyone who wants to take this over. Our town needs this position and it would be too bad not to have someone to run fun activities for our kids. Please let the town office know if you would be interested in this great opportunity!

Sincerely,

Jeannie McAlpine



## Stetson Public Library

*Submitted by: Laura Ward  
volunteer@stetson.lib.me.net*

*Visit us on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/stetsonpubliclibrarymaine>*

Well, we tried something new. For a couple of months on Saturdays from 12-2, we extended our regular library hours and offered a Coloring and Legos Group for all ages. Due to lack of community participation, we will simply offer the program during our regular Saturday hours, 10am – noon; we cannot justify using volunteer time to staff an empty Saturday time slot, especially in the summer. We have big legos for young children and regular legos for the older children and adults. We do not have a large collection yet, so donations are happily accepted. We also have a wide variety of both child and adult coloring books, and lots of coloring supplies (markers, gel pens, colored pencils, crayons, etc). We do not have the budget nor size of the Newport Library, but we are trying to offer local programs that bring the community together. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with library activities or staffing, please call or email the library.

Now that summer is here and the children are out of school, BookWorm Wednesdays will be moved to Saturday mornings from 9-10am, starting June 25th. Our bookworms want to make it a “summer reading club,” so we’ll try that this year and see how it goes. All ages are invited to participate. We will have vouchers for Portland Sea Dogs tickets for anyone who signs up, and a free book for every ten books you read over the summer. We offered a free book for every five books read last summer, and the kids read so many books that we were running out of freebies! Hopefully we will also be joining with Pizza Hut again for a free personal pizza for every 20 books read. Help us help our kids by encouraging them to read over the summer!

Once again, we will be combining Summer Reading Program sign-ups with our semi-annual book sale. This year’s book sale/ kick-off party will be on **Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>** from 8am – 3pm. There will be free music, crafts and activities for the kids, and baked goods and snow cones available for purchase. We will be selling our DVD collection and a lot of brand new once-read books that we already have on our shelves, including several large print novels. We weeded all of our sections this past year, including Children’s Fiction and Young Reader books, which have been poorly represented at our previous book sales; there should be a much wider selection of newer books this time.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the library hosted a “Meet-the-Author Tea” with Anne Brinning Oleson, aka Anne Bowman, a

veteran English teacher at Central High School high-school who recently had her novel, "The Book of the Mandolin Player" published. We had a wonderful turn-out of over 20 people(!). Ms. Bowman read selections from her book, explained its background, and answered questions from the audience about everything from the content of the book to creative writing to getting your work published. She sold several autographed books after the tea and a good time was had by all.

In addition to Anne Brinning Oleson's new book, we also have a new batch of (mostly) children's/ young reader and (some) adult books. We have also had many donations of books lately, so come in and see what we have!

With Summer quickly approaching, we hope, most people will have more opportunities to go exploring. The Stetson Library has a few Maine State Park Passes, which are available on request. The Maine State Park Pass will allow free entrance to day-use facilities at most Maine State Parks and Historic Sites for a car-load of patrons (up to 17 people). Call ahead and let us know which day you will be visiting a Park, and we will put you on the calendar. Since the park pass is an actual pass, it may only be picked up the day prior to your trip (unless otherwise coordinated with library staff), and it needs to be returned to the library either the evening you return or the day after, so that it will be available to someone else the next day, if need be. Please leave the pass in the book drop if we are not open. To keep the kids busy over the summer, we also have passes to the Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor, good for up to four people.

Anyone who has comments on the schedule, please call, email, or post a message on Facebook. All of our volunteers have a lot of other activities on their plates, and we try to provide a variety of timeslots when people can come check out books, use the internet, or just sit and read. Suggestions, donations, and new volunteers, are always welcome.

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**Stetson Historical Society**

*Submitted by: Janet Leighton*



Our first scheduled meeting of 2016, planned for Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> was postponed, due to a power outage, until our regular May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. We had a good turnout, with twelve members attending. Although the museum's exterior badly needed to be prepped and painted, the cost of labor and materials, plus loan payments and other expenses had our 2015 bank balance at a record low. The good news is with the sale of calendars, our share of the "Sparkle" program, membership dues and donations, by our first meeting, our bank loan was paid off and we are basically debt free. Other than insurance, utilities (CMP) and lumber to finish the bam interior, 2016 looks to be a good year.

Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, April through November, weather permitting, at the museum at 12 Stetson Road. Everybody is welcome.

Charles Leighton

## Early History of Stetson No. 42

I am sure everyone has really enjoyed the last couple of years of congressional gridlock and our "democratic" system of election year politics; both local and national. If we think that this the exception, and not the rule, we would be sadly mistaken.

Hardball politics (dirty) was used, more or less, for over two hundred years. The following is an excerpt from a letter about an event in Newport in 1861.

The Honorable Lewis A. Barker, was an attorney with his office in Stetson from 1847-1871. He was a Well known character, famed orator and political speaker in this state and beyond. He was a leader in the Democratic Party (all the Barker family were democrats) until the Civil War was declared. They immediately became Republicans. The Democratic press, that had sided with the South, became very bitter, denouncing them as Benedict Arnolds and all other manner of traitors. When the Barkers did not refute these charges in the press, they called them cowards, too low to offer a defense.

Hannibal Hamlin was Vice-President during Lincoln's first term, and in August, 1861, he came home to Bangor for a short vacation. He arranged to visit Newport and talk to the people. On the platform were both Dave and Lew Barker. Soon the presiding officer of the meeting came forward to the front of the stage holding in his hand a telegram from Hamlin, stating that the train was twenty minutes late and asking that the people would be patient etc. Several voices began calling "Barker". Slowly Lew came forward to the front of the stage carrying under his arm a bundle of these Democratic newspapers and delivered the following address:

*"Ladies and Gentlemen: You came here to listen to an address by Hamlin, not Barker. You shall not be disappointed, I am not going to make a speech, yet I am glad you have called me. I have been waiting for this day. I bided my time. (Holding up the bunch of papers that were under his arm, he added), you have all read these editorials. I am looking in the faces of the writers of these articles. They have wondered, and you all have wondered why I have let them go unnoticed. It was because I would sooner tell you why I am now a Republican, than to write you my reasons. (Glancing at his watch) I have but ten minutes in which to do so. I must, therefore, give my reasons by telling you an absolutely truthful incident that occurred in my family.*

*"You all know us from childhood. You knew when my father was killed, leaving my mother with nine small children. In a log cabin in the woods, on a mortgaged farm, without any visible means of support When the news of that fatal accident reached my mother, she was stunned by the shock, and gathering her nine helpless children about her knee she said: I must give them away to be adopted. But, looking into those baby faces, trying to decide which one of them she could part with, she gathered them in her arms, and prayed God to help them as she said; No, we will live together, and if it must be we will starve together. Then, being a business woman, she decided to administer the estate at once, giving each one the share that would come to them. In the belief that Immediate, personal ownership would make them more interested in its success than the usual community method. She did so and the portion that fell to both Dave and me was one sheep. You all know that I am lazy. I never did work and I never will work. Not so with Dave, hence the entire care of that estate fell on Dave. The following spring that sheep gave birth to one lamb, and died. So far as I could see that ended that estate, not so with Dave. The little devil found a bottle; fixed, in it a rag; filled that bottle with milk, and nursed that estate. It became his "cosset" (any small animal kept as a pampered pet) lamb. They were in separate companions. They lived together; they slept together; they drank milk from the same bottle; wherever you saw Dave, you would know the lamb, that he had named Mary, was near at hand.*

*As the years passed, the flock increased, until, I thought its size placed us both above want. I became tired of going barefoot. I wanted to go and see the girls. But, (turning and pointing to Dave, who sat behind him) what did that little devil care about girls or shoes? I proposed to sell the estate in order to get the clothes and the shoes I wanted, and which I was too lazy to earn. Dave was obdurate (not giving in readily; stubborn and inflexible). I could think of no method but to divide the estate, which I immediately proposed. Dave agreed. I thought I could cheat him, therefore I said: Dave, we are brothers. Yes. We want to be honest with each other. Yes. There must be no cheating. No. I have a proposition to make. I will go out and divide the flock, then you go out and take your choice. Is that fair and honest? Dave thought a moment. Yes. I knew I had him. He would never part with Mary. I went out and put all of the old, poor, and unsalable ones in one pen and then put Mary in with them, while at the same time I put an equal number of the young, fat salable ones in another pen. I counted them over three times to be sure that no mistake in numbers had been made, and then called Dave to come and take his choice. The little devil climbed upon the top rail and the tears began to run down his face as he said: Mary, we have always been good friends; we have slept together; we have drunk milk from the same cup; we have been inseparable companions, but you have got in Damn bad company now and we part forever. Lew, I'll take the other flock. It was the same with the Democrat Party. They were my "cosset" lamb. We slept together, we drank from the same cup; we were inseparable companions, but when they were found in the ranks of the Secessionists, they got in Damn bad company and I took the other flock.*

The Barker family was not the only voters to change their political party during the Civil War period. Tens of thousands of other Mainers did the same. This resulted in the state becoming a diehard Republican sanctuary for the next hundred years, especially in the small rural towns.

As an example, I registered to vote in the early 1960s. Myrtle Hartwell was registrar at the time and gave me a republican form to fill out. When I said I was registering as a Democrat she seemed shocked. After a few minutes, she "finally" found a form. Evidently, this did not happen too often.

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### **Department Heads and Vendors**

Please submit invoices for payment by noon Friday  
prior the next scheduled selectmen's meeting

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**Roadside Recycle Dates**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month

June 14    July 12    August 9    Sept 13

**Don't forget to recycle!!**  
**It's easy with Single Sort Recycling!**

**All your recycling goes in one bin.**



**It saves Stetson \$\$money\$\$ and  
helps the environment.**

**ecomaine**

Visit [www.ecomaine.org](http://www.ecomaine.org) for a complete list of recyclables

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Does anyone have a name they would like to add to the **Memorial Wall**? If so, please see the Town Office for more information.

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**Extra! Extra!**

Do you have a community event or news item that people should know about?

Put it in the Stetson Library Newsletter! Bake Sales, fundraising events, public services, community meeting dates... Please submit all items via email to [volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us](mailto:volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us) **by the deadline date** on the back of the newsletter or drop them off at the library/book drop.



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Caring Connections, a cooperative program of the Bangor YMCA and Eastern Maine Medical Center offers mammograms and Pap tests to women who have no insurance or have insurance with a high deductible. Call 941-2808 x 338 to see if you qualify.



**TOWN OFFICE HOURS  
296-3232**

Monday 12:30—3:30 PM  
Tuesday 8AM—Noon and 12:30—3:30  
Wednesday 8AM—Noon and 12:30—3:30  
Thursday 12:00—7:00 PM  
Friday 8AM—Noon and 12:30—3:30

Website : [www.stetsonmaine.net](http://www.stetsonmaine.net)  
Email: [stetson@tdstelme.net](mailto:stetson@tdstelme.net)

*Selectmen minutes are now available on the website to view.*

**STETSON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
296-2020**

Monday: CLOSED Tuesday: 9 - 11am  
Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday: 5 - 7pm  
Friday: CLOSED Saturday: 9am -12  
Sunday:CLOSED

Email: [volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us](mailto:volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us)  
Facebook at [stetsonpubliclibrarymaine](https://www.facebook.com/stetsonpubliclibrarymaine)

*\*When the library is closed, please use the BOOK DROP outside the door.*

**SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS** are held at the Town Office at **6:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month.** The public is welcome to attend.

**PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS** are held are held at the Town Office 7:00 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

**Code Enforcement Officer: Al Tempesta**  
*Thursdays 5:00 PM—7:00 PM*  
**Town Office Assessor: Danielle Smith**  
*Every Other Wednesday 8:00AM – 3:30PM*  
**Town Animal Control Officer:**  
**Noel Sirabella**  
*Home Phone: 379-2776; Cell: 478-4220*  
**Town Website: Jeff Perry**

*This newsletter is a free publication of the Stetson Public Library. The Newsletter will now be published **QUARTERLY**. The deadline for the next issue is **Wednesday, August 17, 2016**. Information may be e-mailed to Laura Ward at [volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us](mailto:volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us) or dropped off at the library or book drop by the deadline.*

Town of Stetson  
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