

## NEWS FROM THE TOWN OFFICE

### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON AUGUST 23, 2011**

The Board of Selectmen set a Special Town Meeting referendum vote for Tuesday, August 23, on whether to accept the West Harpswell School property from M.S.A.D. # 75. The article is worded as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to accept the transfer of ownership of the West Harpswell School property at 9 Ash Point Road (Map 16, Lot 92) by acceptance of delivery of a deed from School Administrative District No. 75 on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems to be in the best interests of the Town and to appropriate \$25,000 from undesignated fund balance for the repair and maintenance of the property upon transfer until the 2012 Annual Town Meeting.”

Polls are open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at three locations: (1) Merriconeag Grange for Harpswell Neck and Mountain Road area voters; (2) Orr's Island Schoolhouse for Orr's and Bailey Island voters; and (3) Cundy's Harbor Community Building for Great Island voters except for the Mountain Road area. Absentee ballots are now available from the Town Clerk's Office.

As part of its due diligence, the Selectmen contracted with Ransom Environmental to perform a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for \$2,400. While there were no major red flags as a result of the initial assessment, it did call for follow-up action with regard to researching the removal of an underground fuel tank, performing test pits of the soil, and conducting lab tests for asbestos and other potential hazardous materials. The follow-up action is being funded by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, with results likely to be available prior to voting. The Phase I ESA is posted on the Town's web site at [harpswell.maine.gov](http://harpswell.maine.gov).

The West Harpswell School Re-use Task Force has been holding a series of forums to educate the public about possible re-use ideas which have included housing, recreation, education and commercial activity. (See their power point presentation on the Town's web site).

It will cost the Town in the neighborhood of \$35,000 per year to maintain the building and cover minimal operational expenses. For the period from September 2011 through March 2012, it is estimated to cost the Town approximately \$25,000 for these purposes.

### **PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) LOAN PROGRAM**

With a Maine PACE loan, residential property owners may borrow up to \$15,000 at 4.99% for energy upgrades that will make their home more affordable to heat. Loan terms are up to 15 years. Cut energy bills, be more comfortable in your home and save month after month. Who is eligible to participate in the Maine PACE Program? A homeowner with a debt-to-income ratio of not more than 45%, who is current on property taxes and has no outstanding tax lien or notice of default, foreclosure or delinquency. What are eligible energy savings improvements? An eligible energy saving improvement is a measure to improve the energy efficiency of a home. Common examples include insulation, air sealing (foam and caulk), heating system upgrades, efficient hot water heaters, and better controls and thermostats for furnaces and boilers. Get started at [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com) or call 1-866-ES-MAINE.

### **COMCAST SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT**

Comcast offers a \$2.00 reduction on the expanded basic level of service if you are 65 year or older, head of household and receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid. Applications are available at the Harpswell Town Office.

**PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Town Meeting voters approved a local Property Tax Assistance ordinance to provide relief to income-qualifying households in Harpswell. In order to be eligible for the Town’s program, one must have applied and received a benefit from the State of Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund “Circuitbreaker” Program. Applicants may receive a 50% match of the State reimbursement up to \$800 as long as the Harpswell applicant has had a homestead for the previous two years and paid taxes in full for the year for which reimbursement is sought. The application for the 2009 tax year is available on the back-side of this notice.

**TOWN OF HARPSWELL  
PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE  
Reimbursement for 2009 Circuit Breaker Program**

**Application Deadline – October 15, 2011**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Map and Lot Number (on Property Tax Bill): \_\_\_\_\_

If different from property address please provide mailing address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proof of Residency: Ownership \_\_\_\_ (Assessor to Verify)  
Rental \_\_\_\_\_ (Please provide copy of lease or, if no lease, other evidence of rental.)

**PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR STATE CIRCUIT BREAKER  
REFUND CHECK OR CONFIRMATION FOR 2009**  
**(YOU CAN CONTACT THE STATE AT 207-626-8475 IF YOU NEED TO OBTAIN PROOF)**

If you need any assistance with the completion of this form or if you need help with the State form, please call the Town Treasurer at 833-5771 to schedule an appointment to review the form(s).

Return to: Attn: Property Tax Program  
Town of Harpswell  
PO Box 39  
Harpswell, ME 04079