

# September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Select Board Meeting 6:00 PM	2 Richmond Area Food Pantry 4:00 – 6:00 PM Fire Department 6:30 PM Dresden Fire Association 7:00 PM	3	4	5 TOWN OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND
6	7 HOLIDAY No Planning Board meeting	8 Special Town meeting 6:00 PM Pownalborough Hall Masonic Lodge (Special) 6:30/ (Stated) 7:30 PM	9 Fire Department 6:30 PM	10	11	12 TOWN OFFICE OPEN 9:00 – 12:00
13	14 Dresden Historical Society 6:30 PM Dresden Sno-Valley 6:30 PM	15 Select Board Meeting 6:00 PM	16 Fire Department 6:30 PM	17	18	19 Richmond Area Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00 am
20	21 Planning Board 6:30 PM	22	23 Fire Department 6:30 PM	24	25	26
27	28	29 Select Board Meeting 6:00 PM	30 Fire Department 6:30 PM	1 Tax Payment Due		

Your Monthly Community Newsletter

## The Dresden Communicator

Town of Dresden, P.O. Box 30, Dresden, ME 04342

# September 2020

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Photo by: Karen Vitelli

**IMPORTANT:** If you would like to continue to receive the Communicator by mail please call the Town Office at 207-737-4335 or email Clerk@townofdresden.com and provide your current mailing address.

The Dresden Communicator is now assembled and distributed by the Town of Dresden. If you have any interest in contributing to the *Communicator* please contact our Town Clerk at the Town Office at 207-737-4335 or clerk@townofdresden.com. The deadline for submission is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### Seen in Dresden, August 2020

August has been really hot and humid, but short on rain. Some of us have cut back on watering the garden out of concern for our wells, and many plants are withering or not producing well. But Queen Anne's lace and goldenrod (not the source of allergies—its heavy pollen is insect pollinated, not windborne) are blooming everywhere around town, even from our dry soils. No wonder the Botanical Garden is highlighting it as a fine plant for late summer gardens. Mine are entirely volunteers, in amongst the milkweed. While I haven't seen the number of monarchs that we had last year, the occasional beauty has floated among the blooms in recent weeks. I've found four monarch caterpillars so far, a surprise since I've only ever seen one monarch at a time. Two of the caterpillars were newly hatched, less than a half inch long, but with the typical stripes and hungry mouths chewing on leaves. One of the larger ones disappeared the other day and I have yet to find its chrysalis, but while looking for it, have seen more than a dozen black and gold garden spiders, *Argiope aurantia*, on their knee-high webs with the silky zigzag, called the *stabilimentum*, down the center. These spiders show up in late summer and go by many names, including, for obvious reasons, zigzag spiders. They are not aggressive (Maine has no native poisonous spiders—or snakes) and will either drop to the ground or jump in their webs if disturbed: it is pretty wild to see the vibrating web, which effectively takes your focus off the spider. The females are about 4 times larger than the males. They'll eventually lay up to 1000 eggs in a brown papery sac on the edge of the web and die before they hatch. The spiderlings hatch in fall but overwinter in the sac, waiting for spring to exit and go their separate ways. They have many predators, but clearly quite a few survived in this garden and are busy catching lots of insects in their webs.

A kayaker reports multiple kingfisher sightings along the Eastern River, as well as cedar waxwings and phoebes, and a possible eagle nest in a pine opposite the library. A crane and a young merganser made visits to local ponds. Most birds were pretty scarce during the hottest days, probably off in the woods staying cooler, molting and growing-in fresh feathers. Some of the youngsters, including song sparrows, various finches, and a yellow warbler took regular advantage of a refreshing birdbath. One young titmouse decided the small hanging bowl used for feeding jelly to the orioles, was a perfect nest size, and jumped in, nestled down and rode the swing until it stopped. Then it jumped out, making it swing again; so it hopped back in and nestled down for another ride. This happened 4-5 times. Made me happy just to watch. Another fun bird sighting came when a neighbor was throwing a ball for her dog—and an eagle made a stab at grabbing the ball mid-air! A whole family of yellowthroats ventured out together, and curious chipping sparrows followed their humans around the gardens and woods.

Mid-month we had a welcome cooling off, with a definite fall feel to the air, but more hot summer days are still ahead. Let's enjoy every one while they last, and hope some of those dark clouds that keep passing over us finally decide to open up and drench the parched ground.

# The Dresden Communicator

## Town of Dresden

### Town Office

The Town Office is open to the public. Face-coverings are required for all staff and visitors. We will only permit two visitors at a time and ask that others wait outside until their turn at the counter.

### Hours:

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 9:00 – 4:00 PM  
Wednesday 9:00 – 4:00 PM  
Thursday 9:00 – 6:00 PM  
Friday 9:00 – 4:00 PM  
Saturday 9:00 – Noon

**Closed September 5 for Labor Day Weekend**

**Open September 12**

### Administration

540 Gardiner Road Demolition Project RFP  
BIDS DUE: September 24, 2020 at 4:00 PM

Notice is hereby given that a request for proposal to demolish the building at 540 Gardiner Road, Dresden, ME 04342. The full RFP can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yyrybfxp> or visit our website [TownofDresden.com](http://TownofDresden.com).

To be considered, submit a proposal in an envelope clearly marked "Town of Dresden 540 Gardiner Road Demolition Project" by 4:00 PM, Friday, September 24, 2020 to the Dresden Town Office, 534 Gardiner Road or mail it to P.O. Box 30, Dresden, ME 04342.

All inquiries concerning this request for proposal shall be directed to: Town Administrator Michael Henderson, P.O. Box 30 Dresden, ME 04342; telephone (207) 737 – 4335; Fax (207) 737-2191; e-mail [Michael.henderson@townofdresden.com](mailto:Michael.henderson@townofdresden.com);

### Assessing

Our Assessing Agent David Ledew can be reached at [assessor@townofdresden.com](mailto:assessor@townofdresden.com). He is available in the Town Office on the first Thursday of each month.

### Codes Enforcement

Our Codes Enforcement Officer, James Valley can be reached at [James@townofdresden.com](mailto:James@townofdresden.com). He is available in the Town Office on Wednesdays 9:00-11:00 AM.

### Clerk

#### Special Town Meeting

There will be a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at Pownalborough Hall at 6:00 PM. There was a clerical error on two Articles on the July 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting and this meeting will be held to correct those errors. The Articles are:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$16,553 from Surplus to the Ambulance Account.

Note: The cost of the Wiscasset Ambulance Contract is \$25,053.00. The July 18, 2020 Town Meeting Warrant Article 6 appropriated \$126,060.00 in error, instead of \$142,613.00. This Warrant Article is to correct that error.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,075 from Surplus to the Donations Account.

Note: There was a clerical error Article 15 of the July 18, 2020 Town Meeting Warrant. Article 15 appropriated \$14,200.00 in error, instead of \$15,275.00. This Warrant Article is to correct that error.

**Note: The total of amount of the Special Town Meeting Warrant is \$17,628.00. These funds are all coming from Surplus and would not affect the 2020 Tax Commitment.**

### Tax

Tax bills will be mailed out early September. The first half of the tax due is October 1, with the second half being due April 1, 2021.

### Fire Department

Meetings are at the Pownalborough Station. All training, truck and station maintenance and other events will be posted on the first of the month. Remember that you can obtain an open-burn permit at no charge from [www.wardensreport.com](http://www.wardensreport.com) or from an issuing agent. New members are always welcome.

### Transfer Station

The Transfer Station is has returned to the former hours. Please do not visit the Transfer Station if you have any symptoms of COVID-19.

### Hours:

Thursday 1:00 – 4:00 PM  
Saturday 9:00 – 4:00 PM  
Sunday 9:00 – 1:00 PM

### Swap Shop

Closed until further notice.

## Boards and Committees

### Board of Appeals

Public hearings will begin on the Beasley Gravel Pit appeal. As per the public notices, all Covid 19 guidelines for social distancing / face coverings will be required. The meeting times, dates and location will be posted in the town office (and website), the Post Office and Dresden Take Out.

### Planning Board

Members meet on the first and/or third Monday of each month if there is any pending business. If you have a question in regard to a project or just need some information, please contact the

Chairman, Jeff Pierce, at 441-3006 or leave a message at the town office.

## Community Organizations

### Bridge Academy

#### New Titles in the Spotlight:

**The Testaments** by Margaret Atwood- Travel back to Gilead, more than fifteen years after the events of The Handmaid's Tale. Winner of the 2019 Man Booker Prize.

**Golden in Death** by J.D. Robb- Homicide detective Eve Dallas is back, investigating a murder with a mysterious motive and a terrifying weapon! Book 50 in this long running popular series

**The Lost and Found Bookshop** by Susan Wiggs- Natalie Harper feels she must sell the bookshop she's inherited to pay for her grandfather's care, but he refuses to acquiesce, and renovation of the store and its studio apartment push her life in a whole new direction.

#### Celebrate African-American Authors:

Check out our special display featuring titles by Colson Whitehead, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Maya Angelou and many more!

Ancestry Home Access: Ancestry has extended remote free at home access to Ancestry Library again, now through September 30, 2020. Ancestry will continue to evaluate the need for remote access monthly.

<https://libraries.maine.edu/mainedatabases/authmaine.asp?db=ancestry>

### Dresden Historical Society

Meeting will be held at the Yellow Schoolhouse lawn following Covid 19 guidelines of social distancing/ face coverings. We are looking for people who are interested in helping with archiving of our many historical items or data, be a docent (attendant) at the Brick School Museum (open only on weekends until October) or help with cleaning of our

ancient cemeteries, or if you have any other interest you would like to share.

### Dresden Sno-Valley Riders

The fall organizational meeting will be held on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Old Town House. We will begin plans for the upcoming winter season, begin renewing our memberships and gather information of any trail maintenance areas that need to be done first. New members are always a welcome addition, so drop by, have a coffee and snack.

### Dresden Masonic Lodge

#### Dresden Masonic Lodge #103

Meetings are held at the Masonic Lodge.

Special Communication - FC Degree, 6:30pm start, no meal.

Stated Communication, 7:30pm meeting, no meal. Website:

<https://103-me.ourlodgepage.com>

Facebook: @Dresden103

### Fire Association

Monthly business meeting will be Sept. 2 at the Pownalborough Hall. The discussion will be about participation in any possible upcoming events. All members are requested to follow the Covid 19 guidelines.

Pets in Dresden, August 2020 by Peter Gaczi

After 5 years, finally, the little one can go outside. A cat, accompanied by a 65 lb. dog. They have been outside 20 times, for about 1 hour with me, so far this Summer. Deux filles, deux amies. For now, only bugs are on the menu. Shadow in shade, watching bugs in the Sun at 4 o'clock. As ever, ready to pounce. While Strider senses with nose, and ears, and eyes, and hears the birds and the breezes, and protects the cat. Strider, she is a hunter. Mice, beware! And like all cats, Shadow is not curious: she prowls.