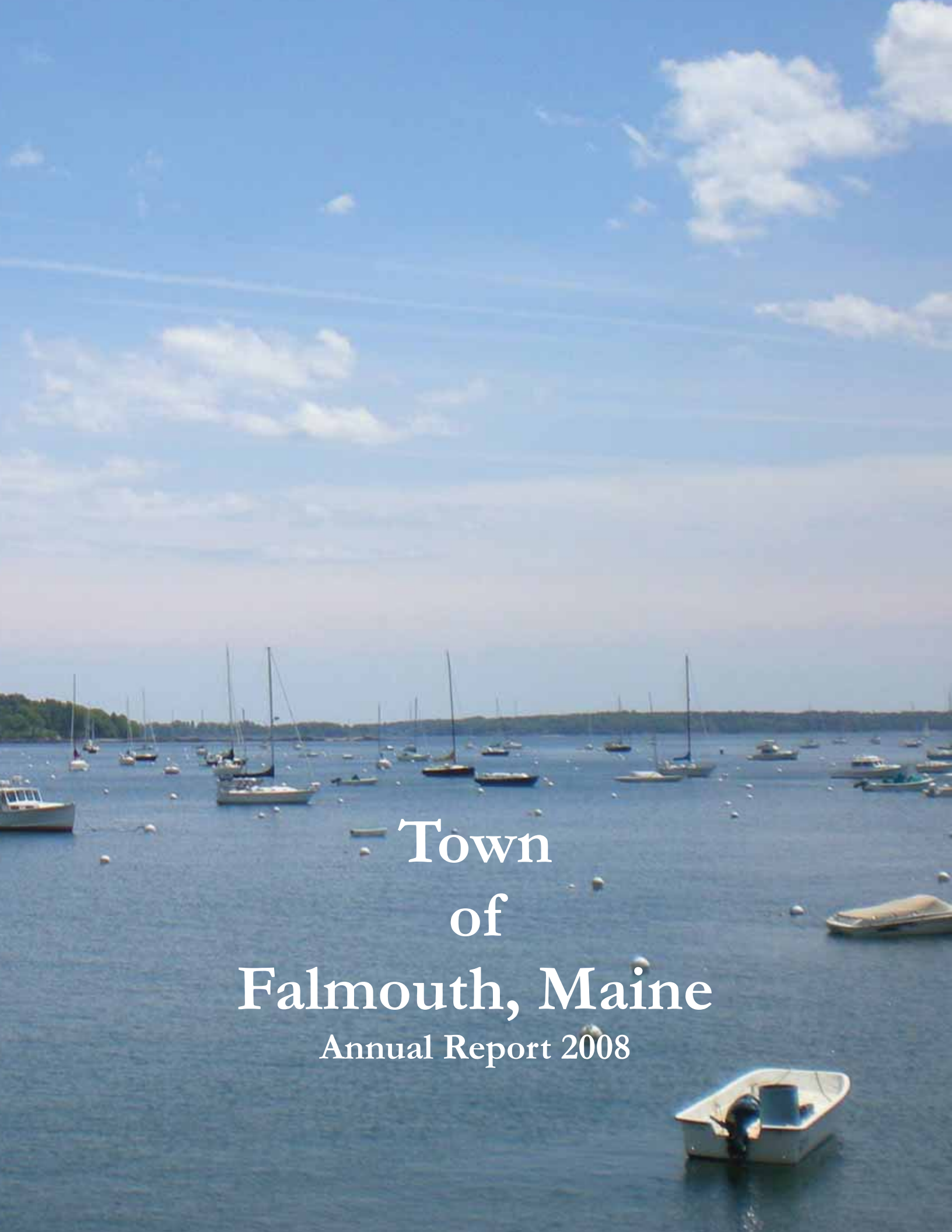

Town of Falmouth, Maine

Annual Report 2008

Citizen of the Year: Jane Sudds

The Town of Falmouth dedicates its 2008 Annual Report to **Jane Sudds**. On June 25, 2008, Jane was recognized as the **Citizen of the Year** at the annual municipal banquet.

A former school nurse, Jane inspired others to become involved in community service. She ran the Falmouth Food Pantry for 25 years, using her personal home and vehicle for that purpose. She has been an active member of town committees, including her current position on the Human Services Committee.

The Town of Falmouth would like to express its gratitude to Jane for her ongoing contributions to the community.

Service and Recognition

The Town of Falmouth has many dedicated employees. We are pleased to recognize the following individuals for their hard work and commitment to the town.

In 2008:

25 Years	Thomas Brady
20 Years	Carol Kloth
15 Years	Jennifer Phinney
10 Years	Beverly Chandler Heidi Hugo
5 Years	David Baker Clifford Dudley

TOWN OF FALMOUTH INCORPORATED 1718 MAINE

Town of Falmouth

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Cover Photo: Lucky D'Ascanio
Layout/Design: Lucky D'Ascanio
Editing: Amy Lamontagne
Printing: Franklin Printing
Other photos: Gail Osgood, Falmouth Town Staff

Letter of Transmittal

Nathan Poore,
Town Manager

To the Honorable Town Council and Citizens of Falmouth,

It is my privilege to submit the 2008 Annual Report for the Town of Falmouth. This report provides information about the operations, fiscal condition, activities and accomplishments of our organization. Each department has included an excerpt of their operations and activities during the past year. A detailed account of our financial status is available in the enclosed audited financial statements.

Quality of life, strong fiscal condition, quality programs and services, and high level of citizen involvement are attributes of a vibrant community and effective municipal government. Falmouth certainly has all of these attributes but what impresses me the most, despite all of our successes, is the constant need to improve our services. Falmouth continues to benefit from dedicated volunteers and elected officials; excellent municipal and education services; innovative programs like open space acquisition, energy efficiency, and progressive land use planning; and strong fiscal capacity/management.

Local, state and national news about the economy has been discouraging but I have not met one person that does not believe better times will be here soon. The Town of Falmouth is not immune to the current economic challenges. Fortunately, our historically strong fiscal condition has enabled us to endure these challenges without having to dismantle our overall levels of service. This is not to say that there will not be any changes in how we perform or deliver services to the public.

Although the 2008 Annual Town Report is intended to cover activities occurring through December 31, 2008, I am taking this opportunity to discuss some of the unique challenges which we faced while preparing the fiscal year 2010 (FY10) budget. The Town Council approved the 2010 budget on May 11, 2009. The entire budget and presentations can be found on our website at www.town.falmouth.me.us . The FY10 budget included several substantive changes from how we have funded some programs in the past. A sample of these changes include the following: eliminated funding for approximately 4 full-time positions; innovative and cost saving adjustments in how we operate the transfer station on Woods Road; deferring full funding for open space acquisition; several projects were eliminated from our capital plan; reduced hours at the Town Office; and potentially the closure of the Pleasant Hill Fire Station. The most significant challenge in the FY10 and possibly future budgets is the declining “non-property tax” revenues. These revenues include categories such as: excise tax collections; building permit fees; investment income; and state revenue sharing sources.

The Town Council, staff, and appointed committees, boards and commissions were very busy this year. It is impossible for me to list everything in this report but I will offer a sample of the many projects that our team worked on in 2008: community facilities analysis; school consolidation; town services consolidation with the Town of Cumberland; new elementary school; energy efficiency efforts through the new Green Ribbon Commission; long range harbor management planning; new integrated asset management systems; website enhancements; property revaluation; food pantry partnership; ice

storm response; Falmouth Shopping Center redevelopment discussions; regional crime lab; workforce housing; open space acquisition and related grants; METRO Bus service enhancements; many land use policy amendments and enhancements; and an amended Town Charter. For additional information on a number of these topics and much more, please read this 2008 Annual Town Report or visit our website at www.town.falmouth.me.us.

It is important to submit information about two particular efforts, supported and lead by the Town Council, that are not described in other parts of the Annual Town Report. First, the Town Council unanimously agreed to have Falmouth join METRO Bus (Greater Portland Transit District). The town has been affiliated with METRO since 2004 but in the past year, the town formalized its relationship by becoming the third community partner in METRO, joining the cities of Portland and Westbrook.

Second, in 2007, Falmouth voters agreed to authorize up to $5,000,000 to purchase open space. The Open Space Sub-Committee and the Town Council have developed a 10-year action plan that will include the use of town funds and other funds to implement the Greening of Falmouth report. In the past year, 218 acres of land were protected from development, with $377,790 in grants and donations acquired to supplement town funding. The Falmouth Conservation Corps was created, with 22 volunteers donating a total of 256 hours of time to trail building and other management work on these conservation properties.

We are only printing 1,500 copies of the 2008 Annual Town Report compared to 3,000 in 2007 and 6,000 in 2006. We are gradually moving toward a paperless report. This is a change that will save money but also is a sign of our times. This report and past reports are available on the town's website at www.town.falmouth.me.us. It is amazing how much communication and information distribution has changed in our society. The following statistics display our reliance on electronic communication.

Hits to the town website	1,975,170
E-mails through town accounts	348,432
Telephone calls through all town lines	162,648
Estimated cell phone connections	40,000

Our website is very dynamic and offers a tremendous opportunity to stay informed and conduct business transactions. You may have noticed that I referenced the website address three times in this report. We are constantly adding information and enhancing business transaction (online services) so please consider this tool as a way to save you time and keep you informed.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Town's volunteers, elected officials, and employees who work hard to represent the values and expectations of our community. I look forward to working with everyone during the next year.

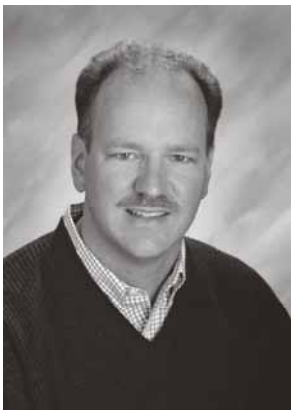
Sincerely,

Nathan A. Poore, *Town Manager*

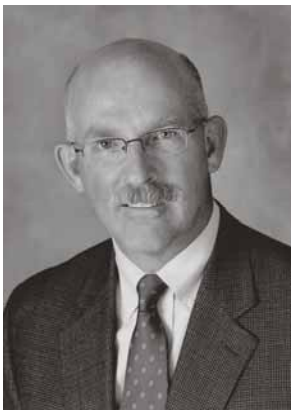
Town Council 2008-09

Will Armitage, Chair

Catherine Breen



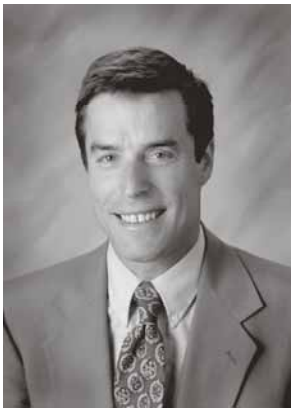
David Libby



Tony Payne

Teresa Pierce

Bonny Rodden



Joe Wrobleski, Vice-Chair

Town Meetings

Town Council
Workshop: 7:00 pm
2nd Monday of the month

Meeting: 7:00 pm
4th Monday of the month

Board of Zoning Appeals
6:30 pm
4th Tuesday of the month

Cable Television Committee
Monthly
Call for Schedule

Conservation Commission
7:00 pm
1st Monday of the month

Harbor Waterfront Committee
Call for Schedule

Long Range Planning Advisory Committee
7:00 pm
2nd Tuesday of the month

Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee
Monthly
Call for Schedule

Planning Board
6:30 pm
1st Tuesday of the month

Recycling Committee
Call for Schedule

School Board
7:00 pm
1st and 3rd Mondays of the month

Most meetings are held at the Town Hall, 271 Falmouth Rd. The time and date of these meetings are subject to change. Contact the Clerk's Office at 781-5253 for confirmation of dates, times, and locations or visit www.town.falmouth.me.us

Boards and Committees

as of April 2009

APPOINTED

ASSESMENT REVIEW AND SEWER APPEALS
Lois Lengyel
Michael O'Connor
Tim O'Donovan
*Richard Olson
Mark Porada

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
Willie Audet
*Rich Bayer
Jonathan Berry
Stan Given
Dennis Keeler
Fred Jay Meyer
Jim Thibodeau

BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPEALS
Sandra Davis
*Dorothy Melanson
Faith Varney

CABLE TELEVISION COMMITTEE
James Demer
Jane Manheimer
Bonita Marchetti
*Kathleen Parr
Steve Tietjen

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Mel Dickenson
Jerry Goodall
Caleb Hemphill
Christopher Kittredge
Sean Mahoney
*Lissa Robinson
Frank Ruch

FALMOUTH TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Kevin Browne
Caleb Hemphill
Margaret Paine
William Robinson
Richard Scala
Tim VanderMel
*Jeff Walker

HARBOR/WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
*Steve Archambault
Paul Dobbins
Richie Garrett
Jay Hallett
Manny Kourinos
Pete Leavitt
Bill Oliver

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Susan Love
Diane Moore
*Jane Sudds

LONG RANGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
David Chase
Hugh Coxe
Karen Farber
Kurt Klebe
Lissa Robinson
*Hugh Smith
Jim Thibodeau

OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE
John Adelman
Sarah Boudreau
Mel Dickenson
Dave Gagnon
Elaine Klain
Carol Power
Dave Sawyer
Tim Vandermel

PARKS AND COMMUNITY PROGAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Janet Lane Dye
Ana Gabor
Karen Jones
Dominic Sette-Ducati
Steven Tenney
Bonnie Troubh
*Faith Varney

PLANNING BOARD
Stan Bennett
*Tony Calcagni
Becca Casey
David Fenderson
Bill Lunt
Jay Moody
Bernard Pender

RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Sally Bitan
*Steve Hendry
John Hensen
William McMahon
Satoria Pelton
Kelly Thompson - Fernald

SHELLFISH CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Donna Cheney
Richard Garrett
Wing Goodale
*Lyman Kennedy
Brian Preney

FALMOUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Allison Bishop
India Broyles
Rebekah Bucci
*John Capasso
Rob Donovan
Cliffird Gilpin
Sean Joyce
Lisa Preney
Susan Tartre
Elisabeth (Betsy) Tod
Chantal Walker

* DENOTES CHAIR

Ellen Planer, Town Clerk

Town Clerk

Responsibilities of the Clerk's Department include:

- Supervising and coordinating elections
- Maintaining all voter registration information
- Recording vital records
- Providing administrative support to the Town Manager, Town Council, boards and committees
- Noticing all public meetings on the town website and community access cable
- Administering the General Assistance program

General News

The Town had record voter turnout in 2008. The first School Budget Referendum was held in May and the budget was approved. The June municipal election included the election of two Town Councilors, three School Board members, and six members of the Charter Review Commission. Voters approved a new elementary school in October and decided against school consolidation in November. The participation rate for the Presidential election was 84%; including an absentee voting rate of 53%.

The Town Council held 31 meetings in 2008. The Town Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chambers of Town Hall.

The Human Services Committee provided $15,500 to 16 different local service agencies that serve our residents. Because of increased General Assistance requests, the Town is working with PROP to administer the program.

We encourage residents to visit our website where you will find many functions of the Town Clerk Department: http://www.town.falmouth.me.us/Pages/FalmouthME_Clerk/index

Elections Require the Work of Many Volunteers – THANK YOU!

We would like to recognize and thank all the citizens who took time out of their busy lives to serve as election officials in 2008. The success of our elections relies upon the dedication and work of our election workers.

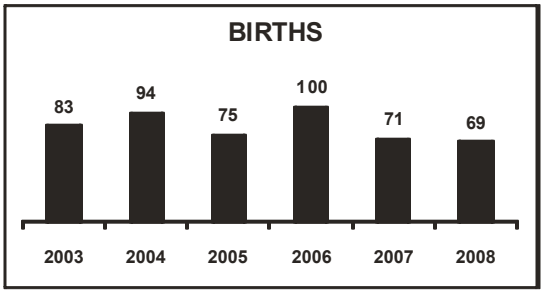
Special thanks to: Bonnie Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Karen Anthony, Ann Barnicle, Dorothy Baldwin, Karen Bennett, Mary Bloom, Polly Burke, Susan Chapman, Constance Dayton, Colleen Donovan, Maratha Dudley, Richard Dudley, Donna Enking, Theresa Forestell, Audrey Grassman, Elvira Hall, David Harmon, Joyce Harmon, Marjorie Hodges, Truth Holden, David Humphrey, Barbara Ivers, Joan Jensen, Carol Katz, Dolores Kehoe, Dick Klain, Arlene Lano, Jana Lapoint, Susan Love, Shirley MacMaster, Donald McCrann, Nancy Merrill, Barbara Merten, Bill Merten, Jane Miller, Julie Motherwell, Shirley Mumford, Tazewell Mumford, Charlotte O'Connor, Pat Parker, Mary Pasmore, Susan Payzant, Roger Pushor, Eydie Pryzant, John Radebaugh, Deborah Reed, Bruce Richards, Nancy Richards, Dolores Rimkunas, Nancy Riter, Marion Ross, Lynne Russell-Johnson, Lee Shenton, Nancy Lee Snow, Susan Soule, Maytha Southard, Robert Stakel, Susan Tartre, Doris Thomas, Joanne Van Loenen, Faith Varney, Deborah Walker, Sherry Welch, Betsy Jo Whitcomb, Jean Whiting, Mary Agnes Wine, Peggy Wood.

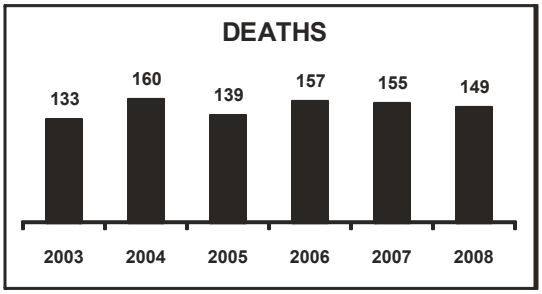
A welcome to those who began their lives in 2008

Auritt, Max Joseph, 9/9
Auritt, Jack Jackson, 9/9
Binette, Wyatt Linn August, 6/5
Bois, Jordyn Rose, 11/29
Browne, Nolan Kingsley, 3/20
Buchanan, Henry Isaac, 8/29
Burns, Frank Ryan, 3/3
Buser, Madeleine Grace, 12/31
Buxton, Brooke Adeline, 7/8
Casey, Clayton Oakes, 3/22
Cleveland, Dylan Judson, 5/30
Connor, Lilah Marie, 7/15
Cunha, Mason Nathanel, 1/15
Cushman, Sadie Katherine, 6/16
Davis, Edwin Jones, 4/1
Davis, Riley Elizabeth, 12/1
Doolittle, Brooks McElroy, 7/12
Farnsworth, Sophia Violanda, 11/22
Forato, Mia Regal, 7/10
Frueh, James Benjamin, 6/16
Gallagher, Lauren Yvonne, 12/6
Gerding, Molly Elizabeth, 4/12
Goodman, Anna Rose E., 3/21
Graceffa, Anthony Siciliano, 6/17
Hansen, Joseph George, 2/24
Hawkes, Kailey Sara, 5/7
Hayman, Grayson Evelyn, 12/23
Hesson, Margo Amelia, 8/25
Hill, Andrew Francis, 5/27
Hopperstad, Jakob Kingston, 11/13
Kearns, Peter Rost, 5/10
Kelly, Abigail Mary, 12/23
Knudsen, Elliot Neils, 5/17
Kyles, Benjamin Carter, 6/21
Labbe, Sawyer Dustin, 7/23
Leeber, Logan Brooke, 9/10
Leighton, Colby John, 3/20
Lowery, Madeline Olivia, 11/16
Lund, Connor McCarthy, 2/11
McLain, Cassandra Leona, 8/2
Mellow, Madalyn Jane, 12/9
Metivier, Evan Cyrus, 3/16
Mick, Afton Marie, 1/22
Morris, Aidan Michael, 6/8
Morrison, Jett Campbell, 8/14
Murdick, Cooper Reed, 9/18
Nanovic, Kasey Arthur, 10/29
Newsom, Brynn Elizabeth, 7/19
Piveronas, Katherine Anne, 6/18
Purves, Maverick Mason, 4/4
Rand, Helen Bea, 6/17
Rose, Barrett Emerson, 4/7
Ruminski, Robert David, 6/1
Sanborn, Elizabeth Rose, 3/7
Severino, Ava Danielle Marina, 8/14
Sheldrake, Nathan Evans Lamb, 8/18
Sholl, John Wyatt, 8/21
Smith, Colson Porter, 9/12
Sparrow, Quinn David, 7/22
Talty, Sophia Marie, 1/1
Templeton, Liam Edward, 6/10
Thacker, Kate Elizabeth, 4/8
Torres, Pablo Joevany, 6/14
Tracy, Julia Katherine, 2/18
Weiss, Hunter Martin, 3/28
Wiebus, Imogen Francis, 6/6
Wilkinson, Ava Grace, 7/11
Wolak, Annika Frances,8/1
Woolworth, Chase Bailey, 8/10

In memory of those who left us in 2008

Adler, Aron Olof, 10/9
Ashley, Geraldine Judith, 6/18
Ayers, Eugene, 8/22
Barber, William Lee, 8/13
Barker, Nancy D., 1/22
Beaumier, Philip 11/22
Blake, Dorothy Evelyn, 9/25
Boehm, Charles Herbert Gamble, 7/1
Boudreau, Marie Andrea Janiska, 12/30
Bousquet, Jacqueline 12/4
Brooks, Germaine Y., 1/15
Buffington, John Shearson, 11/21
Burke, Walter C., 8/28
Burner, Richard Albert, 7/2
Burns, Joan Kathleen, 12/24
Carlson, William Stanley, 8/26
Carmichael, Geraldine Leona, 3/4
Cavallaro, Carmine, 11/9
Chase, Stella Hincks, 12/8
Cleaves, Eva Louise, 9/12
Conant, Grace I., 9/22
Conley, Patrick Stephen, 11/12
Connors, Christopher Brett, 12/19
Cooper, Thurlow Sheldon, 2/14
Corthell, Arnold Lee, 4/3
Cotes, Priscilla Small , 8/5
Coyne, Celestine H. , 3/31
Creighton, Jessie M., 11/21
Creighton, Daniel Clinton, 9/7
Crowley, Raymond, 2/9
Curran, Arthur C., 12/8
Daigle, Barbara R., 3/21
Damm, Dorothy Elaine, 4/10
DesAlliers, Rosaire, 3/26
Dillenback, Alvah, 10/29
DiSanto, Carmela Theresa, 7/17
Dobson, Laura A., 11/8
Donald, Doremus, 10/27
Donovan, Virginia M., 5/22
Duchesneau, Paul G., 3/12
Dunn, Ina Loemma, 3/15
Durgin, Karl, 11/15
Durst, Marilyn C., 4/15
Duston, Charles Herbert , 2/21
Dyk, Robert Peder, 3/22
Eliscu, Laurence, 6/27
Emery, Patricia Louisa, 7/24
Felton, Onalee Dorr, 12/19
Fenno, Timothy R., 1/22
Findlen, Beth Anne, 12/29
Fitzgerald, Madeline Dorothy, 8/30
Fontaine, Emile Joseph, 5/16
Foster, Rolland E., 11/21
Fraser, Geraldine B., 12/19
Gaudet, Helen T., 3/21
Gifford, Stanley E., 12/19
Goddard, Donald A., 1/11
Goodwin, Norman A., 2/16
Gordon, Stanley Lee, 10/17
Greenhill, Richard T., 10/6
Hall, Edna Green, 2/25
Handy, Herbert E., 8/21
Hanson, Marion Louder, 6/10
Harmon, Harold C., 2/5
Harrison, Marie Keenan, 7/1
Hildreth, Hasket Derby, 2/27
Hoey, Sylvia B., 2/12
Howard, Marguerite E., 1/23
Howe, Raymond, 3/13
Johnson, Robert Bruce, 9/24
Jongerden, Theodora, 6/2
Karn, William Nicholas, 2/12
Kelley, Kathleen M., 11/19
King, Nancy L., 3/7
Kluger, Dara Ellen, 2/13
Knight, Mary T., 8/19
Kopans, Edith G., 2/13
Kyros, Alice W., 2/14
Lawton, Elaine A., 1/21
Libby, Rita L., 10/6
Libby, George E., 2/4
Libby, Dorothy Q., 6/4
Lowicki, Edward M., 7/25
Luccock, Barbara T., 12/9
Lynch, Anna C., 12/18
Lynds, Janet B., 12/7
Lyon, Arlene B., 9/5
MacDonald Dorothy, W., 7/24
Maguire, John King, 1/17
Malloch, Donald P., 7/5
Marcocci, Norman, 8/25
Marks, Leann K., 1/7
Marshall, George Leverett, 10/24
Marston, Violet Rose, 4/6
Martindale, Ross, 9/19
Maxell, Madge E., 11/2
McCann, Carl Franklin, 10/25
Melville, Barbara Ann, 11/22
Messer, John P., 5/25
Milstein, Max, 12/22
Mooradian, Agnes, 7/12
Moore, William F., 3/10
Morton, Constance Lee, 12/26
Nishiyama, Ronald H. , 9/12
Norton, Marlene, 10/16
Parker, Helen, 3/27
Pearson, Albert Francis, 1/31
Pecoraro, Ernestine Mary Theresa,12/24
Perry, Robert A., 3/28
Peterson, David E., 2/24
Piergrossi, Anne G., 5/16
Pryor, Donald Vincent, 9/15
Pulsifer, Paulyne Ann, 11/1
Racine, Robert Adelard, 4/7
Ragen, Peggy-Lee, 3/9
Reali, Mary Louise, 5/22
Repici, Antonette Pisano, 9/16
Robinson, Gladys Elizabeth, 1/16
Rowe, May H. ,12/7
Sabaka, Doris Adams Gamage, 5/4
Salzberg, Ruth G., 1/7
Sampson, Elsie, 11/9
Shulman, Adeline, 4/8
Siteman, Rita B., 7/7
Smith, Richard Weston, 10/16
Smith, Mildred M., 7/7
Somes, Shirley M., 12/14
Stoler, Peggy Anne, 6/6
Swift, Richard Hamblin, 11/5
Taggart, James Edward, 5/3
Taylor, Isabelle M., 8/9
Thomas, Nicholas, 3/10
Tibbetts, Connie Alice, 1/13
Tobiassen, Michael Eugene, 4/6
Tolford, William Ronald, 10/11
Tucker, Lelia May, 10/13
Tymoski, George, 12/2
Urban, Leonard J., 4/14
Vallely, Marjorie C., 3/9
Ventresca, Mary Marconi, 3/15
Verleur, Hans W., 12/7
Ward, Jeannette L., 5/21
Weston, Eleanor Reed, 5/22
Whittier, Nancy G., 5/24
Willis, Rita Sacknoff, 11/27
Willis, Meta P., 2/18
Wood, John M., 8/10
Yandell, Charles Michael, 11/7
Zaimes, Beulah Ellen, 3/14





In memory of each deceased person, the Falmouth Lions Club donates funds to the Falmouth Memorial Library for book purchase.

Finance Department

The major indicators of the Town's financial condition are presented below and on the following pages. The Finance Department has also prepared a separate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2007-08, which contains a complete analysis of the Town's financial position. This report is available at Town Hall and on the Town's website, www.town.falmouth.me.us.

The Finance Department is responsible for:

- Recording and managing all financial transactions, revenue, and disbursements of the Town; which include processing accounts payable and payrolls, managing cash and investments.
- Performing all accounting functions for the Town; including preparation of the Town's award-winning annual financial reports, audit management and day-to-day internal account oversight.
- Collecting over $40 million in revenues annually, and handling of more than 10,000 property tax transactions and 10,000 vehicle registrations each year.
- Administering the Town's purchasing, budgeting and insurance programs.
- Administering the Town's debt service program, including bond issues, credit ratings and debt service payments.

In addition to these activities, the Finance Department staff handles numerous inquiries from citizens, employees and vendors. The department is committed to providing friendly service to all residents. Because of their efforts, the Town remains in solid financial condition.

Fund Balance

The key indicator of the Town's financial condition is the size of its unreserved, undesignated fund balance. Falmouth's unreserved, undesignated general fund balance as of June 30, 2008, was $10,012,721, or a healthy 26% of total general fund expenditures. Nonetheless, this represents a $306,437 decrease over last year's balance.

The decrease was caused primarily by $383,100 in one-time supplemental appropriations authorized by the Falmouth Town Council in accordance with the Town's written fund balance policy, which authorizes funds in excess of the Town's required minimum undesignated fund balance of two months (or 16.7%) of operating expenditures to be appropriated for "one time" capital or non-operating uses.

Additionally, the Council authorized $220,000 in fund balance to be used to offset one-time capital expenditures made in accordance with the Town's five-year Capital improvements program. The bulk of the supplemental appropriations ($230,100) were for unforeseen expenses relating to the severe (over 100 inches of snow) winter storms of 2008. Without the supplemental appropriations, the undesignated fund balance would have increased by $296,663.

The Town's continuing solid financial condition is the result of prudent budgeting and monitoring of expenditures, along with actual revenues exceeding the estimated amounts. The ending fund balance provides the Town with adequate coverage for various liabilities, accounts receivable, and unforeseen expenses or shortfalls in revenues.

The fund balance should not be understood, however, as cash on hand or a pure "surplus". There are a number of encumbrances against the fund balance, such as reserves for receivables (unpaid taxes), transfers to operating accounts authorized by the Town Council to reduce tax requirements, and a recommended minimum cash reserve to cover potential emergencies.

Tax Rate

The property tax rate for fiscal year 2008-09 is $12.35 per thousand dollars of valuation. This represents a 3.7% increase over the prior year's (restated for the revaluation) rate of $11.91 per thousand. The components of this tax rate are Town--$2.95, School--$8.85 and County--$0.55.

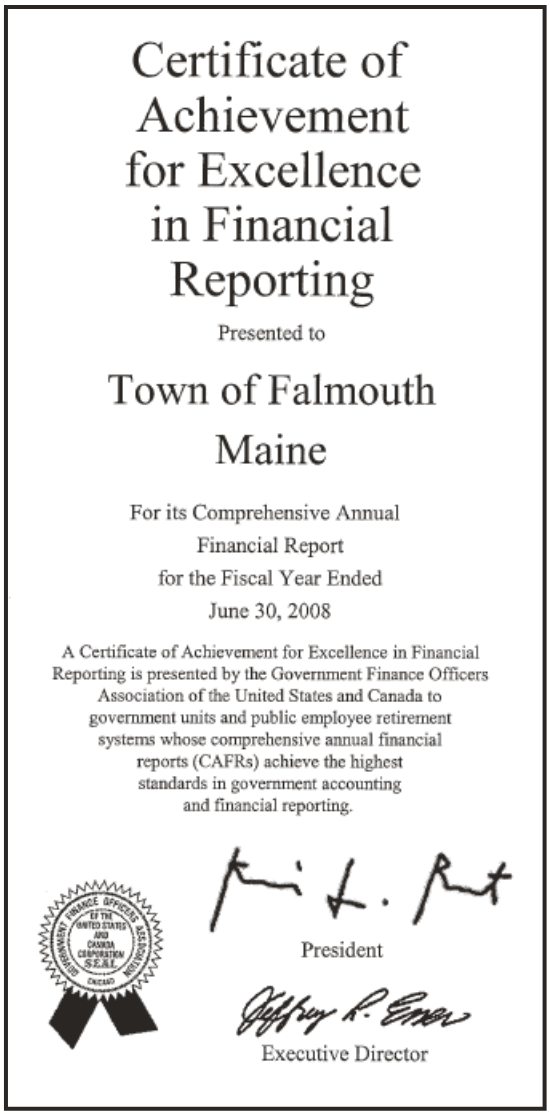
Like other municipalities, Falmouth continues to rely too heavily on property taxes for the support of municipal services. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, property taxes will account for over 68% of total general fund revenues.

The Town's tax collection rate remained high during 2007-08. Collected taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, were 97.8% of the Town's total tax commitment..

Debt Service

During fiscal year 2007-08, the Town incurred no new general obligation debt and retired $1,583,500 in general obligation debt principal. Also in 2007-08, the Town retired $324,000 in revenue bond debt associated with the recent sewer plant upgrade. These bonds are being repaid entirely from sewer user fees. Finally, in November 2007, voters authorized the issuance of $2 million in general obligation bonds to cover the costs of future land acquisition. These bonds have not yet been issued.

At December 31, 2008, the Town's total general obligation bonded indebtedness is $16,869,000 (of this total, $13,215,000 are bonds associated with the construction of the new high school). As of December 31, 2008, Falmouth's gross (before state school aid debt subsidy) debt/valuation ratio was 0.77%. Including the state subsidy, the ratio is approximately 0.52%. A 5% debt/valuation ratio is the maximum debt burden that prudently should be carried. The total outstanding sewer revenue bond debt is $5,832,000



Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

Town of Falmouth
Maine

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2008

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

President

Executive Director

Credit Rating

As part of the Town's borrowing process, the Town has its credit rating reviewed periodically by the two major credit rating agencies, Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service. We are pleased to report that in 2007 the Town received a rare credit rating upgrade from Standard & Poor's (from "AA" to "AA+"), making Falmouth the only "AA+" credit in the entire state of Maine. Falmouth also maintained its high "AA2" credit rating from Moody's. These rates were continued in 2008.

Awards and Recognition

For the sixteenth consecutive year, the Town received the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is a national award that signifies that a town's financial report conforms to the highest standards of government accounting. Falmouth is one of only nine municipalities in the State to attain this distinction. Our goal is to maintain this honor every year.

In summary, the figures above show that the Town remains in solid financial condition, relative to State and national trends.

Special thanks go to the Finance Department staff, Peter Lund and Randy Davis, for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Town of Falmouth Maine
Balance Sheet: Governmental Funds
June 30, 2008

Statement 3

		General	Capital Projects	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	$	16,359	-	79,498	95,857
Investments		19,991,884	39,996	2,845,493	22,877,373
Receivables:					
Taxes		558,745	-	-	558,745
Liens		91,009	-	-	91,009
Accounts		135,802	-	2,587	138,389
Due from other funds		57,415	-	-	57,415
Inventories		3,792	-	8,010	11,802
Tax-acquired property		6,950	-	-	6,950
Total assets	**$**	**20,861,956**	**39,996**	**2,935,588**	**23,837,540**
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilitie		677,784	39,996	113,271	831,051
Teachers accrued payroll		1,935,562	-	-	1,935,562
Deferred revenues		440,563	-	-	440,563
Total liabilities		3,053,909	39,996	113,271	3,207,176
Fund balances:					
Reserved for:					
Unemployment		65,100	-	-	65,100
Inventory		-	-	8,010	8,010
Perpetual care		-	-	9,569	9,569
Unreserved, reported in:					
General fund:					
Designated		7,730,226	-	-	7,730,226
Undesignated		10,012,721	-	-	10,012,721
Special revenue funds		-	-	2,804,738	2,804,738
Total fund balances		17,808,047	-	2,822,317	20,630,364
Total liabilities & fund balances	**$**	**20,861,956**	**39,996**	**2,935,588**	
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:					
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.					44,368,081
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.					440,562
Internal service funds are used by management to charge the costs of fleet management to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are included in governmental activities in the statement of net assets.					21,046
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore, are not reported in the funds.					(19,937,094)
Net assets of governmental activities					**$ 45,522,959**
		The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.			
Net assets of governmental activities					**$ 70,415,554**
		The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.			

Town of Falmouth Maine
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

Statement 4

		General	Capital Projects	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Taxes:					
Property	$	24,158,616	-	1,247,442	25,406,058
Excise		2,399,624	-	-	2,399,624
Licenses, fees and permits		388,645	-	-	388,645
Intergovernmental		10,085,461	-	1,263,182	11,348,643
Charges for services		528,255	-	-	528,255
Fines and forfeitures		44,538	-	-	44,538
Investment earnings		875,206	74,237	19	949,462
Miscellaneous / reserves		70,667	-	1,162,442	1,233,109
Total revenues		38,551,012	74,237	3,673,085	42,298,334
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government		771,415	-	-	771,415
Financial management		1,015,760	-	-	1,015,760
Public safety		2,823,757	-	-	2,823,757
Public works		2,182,049	-	-	2,182,049
Community development		546,948	-	-	546,948
Community programs		472,805	-	674,437	1,147,242
Education		24,997,984	-	1,164,533	26,162,517
Non-departmental		461,476	-	361,455	822,931
County tax		1,051,052	-	-	1,051,052
Debt service:					
Principal		1,545,000	-	38,500	1,583,500
Interest		930,580	-	2,922	933,502
Capital outlay:					
Capital improvements and reserves		2,219,456	3,827,101	950,165	6,996,722
Total expenditures		39,018,282	3,827,101	3,192,012	46,037,395
Excess (deficiencies) of revenues over (under) expenditures		(467,270)	(3,752,864)	481,073	(3,739,061)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in - capital projects fund		21,889	-	-	21,889
Transfers out - general fund		-	(21,889)	-	(21,889)
Total other financing sources (uses)		21,889	(21,889)	-	-
Net change in fund balances		(445,381)	(3,774,753)	481,073	(3,739,061)
Fund balances - beginning		18,253,427	3,774,753	2,341,244	24,369,424
Fund balances - ending	**$**	**17,808,046**	**-**	**2,822,317**	**20,630,363**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Town of Falmouth Maine
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Budget and Actual
General Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

Statement 6

		Budgeted amounts			Variance with final budget positive
		Original	Final	Actual amounts	(negative)
REVENUES					
Taxes:					
Property	$	24,273,695	24,273,695	24,158,616	(115,079)
Excise		2,395,000	2,395,000	2,399,624	4,624
Licenses, permits and fees		422,525	422,525	388,645	(33,880)
Intergovernmental revenues		7,304,791	7,304,791	7,552,488	247,697
Charges for services		487,900	487,900	528,255	40,355
Fines and forfeitures		30,650	30,650	44,538	13,888
Investment earnings		350,000	350,000	875,206	525,206
Miscellaneous		31,000	31,000	70,667	39,667
Total revenues		35,295,561	35,295,561	36,018,039	722,478
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government		782,274	777,274	771,415	5,859
Financial management		1,014,446	1,044,446	1,015,760	28,686
Public safety		2,832,253	2,832,253	2,823,757	8,496
Public works		1,939,448	2,222,448	2,182,049	40,399
Community development		495,638	548,638	546,948	1,690
Parks and community programs		456,950	474,050	472,805	1,245
Education		23,537,079	23,537,079	22,465,011	1,072,068
Non-departmental		576,707	576,707	461,476	115,231
County tax		1,051,052	1,051,052	1,051,052	-
Capital outlay:					
Capital improvements and reserves		8,229,461	8,234,461	2,219,456	6,015,005
Debt service:					
Principal		1,545,000	1,545,000	1,545,000	-
Interest		930,815	930,815	930,580	235
Total expenditures		43,391,123	43,774,223	36,485,309	7,288,914
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures		(8,095,562)	(8,478,662)	(467,270)	8,011,392
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
Transfers in - capital projects fund		-	-	21,889	(21,889)
Utilization of carryforward balances		7,875,562	7,875,562	-	7,875,562
Budgeted use of fund balance		220,000	220,000	-	220,000
Supplemental appropriations		-	383,100	-	383,100
Total other financing sources		8,095,562	8,478,662	21,889	8,456,773
Net change in fund balance		-	-	(445,381)	(445,381)
Fund balance - beginning		18,253,427	18,253,427	18,253,427	-
Fund balance - ending	**$**	**18,253,427**	**18,253,427**	**17,808,046**	**(445,381)**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Town of Falmouth
Outstanding Real Estate Taxes—March 31, 2009

2004-05 LIENS RECEIVABLE

ROY, WILLIAM V & LOIS L	12 CHURCH ST	2,006.00

2005-06 LIENS RECEIVABLE

COUTURE, JANICE	4 KELLEY RD	6,236.47
ROY, WILLIAM V & LOIS L	12 CHURCH ST	2,038.45

2006-07 LIENS RECEIVABLE

COUTURE, JANICE	4 KELLEY RD	5,983.63
HASKELL, JAMES L	SUNSET RD	317.47
HASKELL, JAMES L	41 SUNSET RD	2,571.03
ROY, WILLIAM V & LOIS L	12 CHURCH ST	1,949.99
SMALL, DON	2 UNDERWOOD RD	326.69
TINSMAN, DOUGLAS A & SANDRA E	LONGWOODS RD	448.38
TINSMAN, JENNIFER	LONGWOODS RD	812.45
TYZZER, RICHARD E	1 FALLS RD	691.58
ZACHARIAS, PETER M & CORRIE LEE	31 EUREKA RD EXT	3,808.48
ZACHARIAS, PETER M & CORRIE LEE	EUREKA RD EXT	1,442.72

2007-08 LIENS RECEIVABLE

325 LLC	325 US ROUTE 1	7,501.00
ANDERSON AVE LLC	226 GRAY RD	311.40
ARBER DEVELOPMENT INC	11 WISTERIA CIR	70.54
BEAL, JAMES & LINDA J	7 STAGECOACH RD	1,024.45
BEAL, JAMES & LINDA J	BLACKSTRAP RD	1,143.57
COUTURE, JANICE	4 KELLEY RD	6,126.59
CHASE, PHILLIPS F JR & DOLLIE M	33 WOODVILLE RD	350.60
CLARK, GEORGE W & CATHY L	HARDY RD	211.19
COBLEIGH, KAREN	88 LEDGEWOOD DR	1,982.53
CONSIDINE, CHRISTOPHER J	18 GLEN RD	798.15
CORCORAN, ESTHER E	191 HURRICANE RD	1,974.45
DAVIS, WILLIAM J	481 GRAY RD	1,804.10
DR PHILMOORE INC	WOODS RD	418.71
FASSETT HOUSE LLC	18 FRSD COMM.	2,037.42
FASSETT HOUSE LLC	18 FRSD COMM.	2,067.93
FEIGLESON, STEVEN J & LISA J	3 MARSTON ST	2,510.13
FOSSETT, MADLYN PORTER & PORTER, MICHAEL O	350 FALMOUTH RD	3,366.78
GIGLIA, STEPHEN & PAMELA V	3 ST ANDREWS CIR	2,909.21
GUO, LIANGPING	94 MIDDLE RD	210.68
HASKELL, JAMES L	SUNSET RD	323.00
HASKELL, JAMES L	41 SUNSET RD	2,623.10
HODGKINS, BRADFORD L & BEVERLY L	TROLLEY FARM RD	1,719.38
HODGKINS, BRADFORD L & BEVERLY L	37 TROLLEY FARM	3,801.38
HUTCHINSON, COLLEEN A & SARA P	LONGWOODS RD	128.45
HUTCHINSON, COLLEEN A & SARA P	68 LONGWOODS RD	12.81
KIM, DAEHWAN & LEE, SONGMI	4 HURLEY LN	2,269.28
LAPLANTE, MARCEL	14 LEIGHTON RD	2,544.65
LOOK, JANE A	373 MIDDLE RD	3,124.76
LORDS BROOK INVESTMENTS	333 GRAY RD	76.30
LYDEN, SHAWN P	ANNA'S WY	1,063.55
MCDERMOTT, SARAH ANN	MCDERMOTT WY	836.30
MITSCHELE, PETER M & ELIZABETH J	240 WOODVILLE RD	9,402.58
NORTHLAND REALTY MGMT	BLACKSTRAP RD	97.07
OBRIEN, C	BRAYTON AVE	1,280.07
OLD ROUTE 202 ASSOC	WINN RD	114.33
PADDOCK WAY LLC	PADDOCK WY	2,086.51
POLLEY, CARL H & JANNETTE E	83 JOHNSON RD	3.79
PROCTOR, AMANDA	US ROUTE 1	1,499.72
ROY, CATHY N & MAURICE J	14 INVERNESS RD	3,599.33
ROY, WILLIAM V & LOIS L	12 CHURCH ST	1,997.08
SMITH, JACOB T	30 KELLEY RD	62.70
SYLVESTER, MICHAEL S & SUZANNE V	103 FORESIDE RD	4,946.45
TINSMAN, DOUGLAS A & SANDRA E	LONGWOODS RD	793.69
TINSMAN, JENNIFER	LONGWOODS RD	828.21
TIRABASS,I GARY M & COLLEEN D	8 TERRA WY	3,423.27
TIRABASSI, GARY M & COLLEEN D	TERRA WY	111.19
TRAIN, DEBORAH A & WILLIAM D	LONG CREEK WY	1,551.50
TYZZER, RICHARD E	1 FALLS RD	2,660.75
WEINER, BARBARA A	47 FRSDE COMM.	2,070.23
WITKOWSKI, BRENDA S	121 HARDY RD	3,718.26
ZACHARIAS, PETER M & CORRIE LEE	31 EUREKA RD EXT	3,906.51
ZACHARIAS, PETER M & CORRIE LEE	EUREKA RD EXT	1,471.48

Personal Property Taxes—March 31, 2009

2005-06 TAXES RECEIVABLE

BROWN, DUANE.	410 MIDDLE RD	95.23

2006-07 TAXES RECEIVABLE

BARROWS, SALLY	240 US ROUTE 1	100.80
COUTURE, JANICE	4 KELLEY RD	63.36
FANNON, PETER	170 US ROUTE 1	86.40
BROWN, DUANE	410 MIDDLE RD	28.80

2007-08 TAXES RECEIVABLE

BARROWS, SALLY	240 US ROUTE 1	97.82
CAPOBIANCO, JAMES	284 GRAY RD	55.48
CHRETIEN, JOEL	196 US ROUTE 1	51.10
COFFEE PAUSE	271 FALMOUTH RD	21.90
COUTURE, JANICE	4 KELLEY RD	78.84
DOUGLAS, BRIDGETT	65 GRAY RD	481.80
FANNON, PETER	170 US ROUTE 1	102.20
BROWN, DUANE	410 MIDDLE RD	26.28
FOX, SCOTT & SHIRLEY	215 FORESIDE RD	27.74
L W GRUBB EXCAVATING	94 LEDGEWOOD DR	233.60
MIZNER'S AUTOMOTIVE	361GRAY RD	24.83
MOODY, JOHN	240 US ROUTE 1	169.36
PERSONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE	202 US ROUTE 1	420.48
PORTLAND ATHLETIC CLUB	196 US ROUTE 1	1,005.94
ROBINSON, JOHNNY	204 US ROUTE 1	13.69
SARGENT, NANCY DDS.	251 US ROUTE 1	6.90
SEACOAST BUSINESS MACHINES	VARIOUS LOCATIONS	64.24
STREET CYCLE INC	405 US ROUTE 1	9.65
STRYKER	417 US ROUTE 1	73.00

Amanda L.Stearns, AICP
Community Development Director

Community Development Department

Planning Offices
Division of Code Administration and Building Regulation
The Community Development Department is committed to superb service to the citizens of Falmouth and its service providers by providing prompt, friendly service and technical assistance.

Planning Office

- Provides research, administrative and technical assistance to the Town Manager, Town Council, Planning Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, Long Range Planning Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Council sub-committees, Community Facilities Committee, Open Space Committee, Workforce Housing Group, other department heads, and citizens.
- Provides long-range planning expertise to the Town Manager and Town Council including the Comprehensive Plan as well as special studies and reports.
- Implements and enforces land use regulations through site plan and subdivision reviews.
- Assists the Town Council in the development of land use policy for the Town.

Codes Office

- Guidance, permitting, investigation and prosecution of violations for: Building codes, National Electrical, Fire, International Energy Conservation, Heating Appliance, Fuel Gas, Chimney and Fireplace, and Internal Plumbing Codes, Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules and sanitation of food establishments;
- Administers and enforces a variety of state and federal land use regulations, including the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act, the Clean Water Act Erosion Control Rules, FEMA Regulations on Floodplain Management, Americans with Disabilities Act and the Maine Human Rights Act.
- Provides official Zoning Ordinance interpretations and technical support for the Board of Zoning Appeals, including review of applications and providing pre-application guidance to applicants.

Code Enforcement Officer Certification and Training

Code Enforcement Officers are certified by state statute and have a legal obligation to maintain minimum Continuing Education Units for their certifications.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Activities

The BZA hears and decides appeals where it is alleged there is an error in any decision or interpretation made by the Building Inspector or Code Enforcement Officer in the enforcement of the Zoning and Site Plan Review Ordinance. The BZA also grants conditional use permits after considering the characteristics and location of a proposed use, and grants variances from Zoning Ordinance restrictions on height, lot size, lot coverage and setback. The BZA heard 57 cases in 2008.

Long-Range Planning

The focus in long-range planning has been on the Route One corridor and a review of the 2005 study. Staff is working with the Community Development Committee to review and make recommendations to the Town Manager and the Town Council. It is expected that the Comprehensive Plan update will begin in 2009. Also queued up for 2009 are an update of the Transportation Plan and the Bike and Pedestrian Plan.

Special Projects

Guided by the Town Council's Annual Work Plan and other initiatives of the Council and Town Manager, the Department has participated and provided staff assistance and advice for numerous projects:

- **Greater Portland Transit District (METRO)** – assisted with the study of an expanded bus route in Falmouth and formal town representation on the METRO Board.
- **Workforce Housing** – with guidance from the ad-hoc Council committee, staff developed proposals for a developer to partner with the Town in the design of a town-owned parcel off Woods Road for up to 48 units of housing.
- **Communities Facilities** – with guidance from the Council, the committee has researched and explored the use and reuse of several facilities: Town Hall, Plummer-Motz and Lunt schools, Pleasant Hill Fire Station and the Memorial Library.
- **Tidewater Master Plan Amendment –** assisted the Manager and Town Council by facilitating the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tidewater Conservation Foundation to accommodate an agricultural learning center as a new use in the Conservation Area.
- **Economic Development –** as directed by the Council, staff are developing a series of tools for potential buyers or leasers of commercial land and building space within the Town.
- **Falmouth Shopping Center –** with guidance from the Community Development Committee and cooperation with the property owner, staff are organizing a design charrette to develop conceptual ideas for build-out of the Shopping Center properties on Route One. The charrette will convene all interested parties in the community, discuss the possibilities for the site while understanding its limitations, identify acceptable and unacceptable uses, and will hopefully result in a conceptual sketch plan for a possible development scheme subject to future negotiations with the Falmouth Town Council and future tenants.
- **Street Acceptance –** at the direction of Council, and working with the Ordinance Committee, staff has prepared a re-write of the existing Street Acceptance ordinance and are developing a policy for street connectivity.
- **Tax Increment Financing –** working with other departments and the Town Manager, staff prepared a comprehensive update of the Route One and Exit 10 TIF Districts. The update has been approved by the Council and is awaiting approval from the state.
- **Highland Lake Watershed** – in conjunction with the Town of Windham and Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, staff have been assisting in the development and implementation of a state grant for water quality improvements in the Highland Lake Watershed**.**
- **US Census** – Assisted by Assessing staff, worked with the US Bureau of the Census to update street addressing data for the upcoming decennial census.

Ordinance Amendments

The following amendments were researched and prepared by staff with initiation and policy direction from the Council:

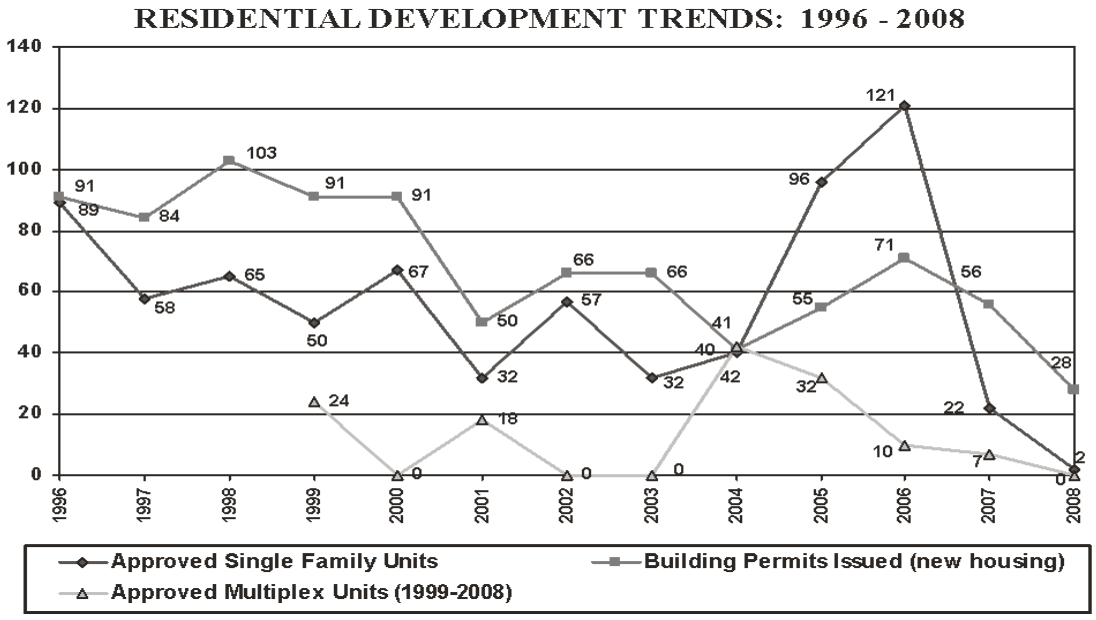
- **Commercial Schools –** Staff researched and prepared an amendment to permit limited commercial schools in the BP District (Adopted April 28, 2008)
- **LPAC Creation** – Staff prepared ordinance amendments to dissolve the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee and replace it with the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee to assist the Council in its land-use planning policy. (Adopted May 27, 2008)
- **Tidewater Master Plan Development District (TMPDD) –** Staff reviewed amendment requests for changes in the District for permitted uses in the Tidewater Village areas. (Adopted September 22, 2008)
- **Residential Allowance for Keeping Poultry –** Staff researched and developed ordinance language for the keeping of poultry in all residential districts (Adopted October 27, 2008)
- **Conditional Rezoning Cell Tower** – Staff reviewed and provided technical input for request by AT&T for a tower expansion on Route One. (Adopted October 27, 2008)
- **Development Fees –** Staff initiated a study on development fees for subdivision and site plan applications and proposed fee amendments to the Council to better reflect the town's actual costs (Adopted November 10, 2008)
- **Conditional Rezoning for 234 Middle Road** – Staff prepared a conditional rezoning for this property to address the unique physical qualities of the building and use. (Adopted November 24, 2008)
- **Mislocated Dwellings –** Staff researched and prepared an amendment to provide an opportunity for property owners to appeal to the BZA in instances where a dwelling unit was improperly located on a lot. (Adopted November 24, 2008)
- **Electrical Code Amendments** – Staff prepared amendments to update town ordinances to reflect the changes in electrical codes adopted by the State. (Adopted November 24, 2008)
- **Outdoor Wood Boilers** – Staff researched and developed ordinance language to remove the moratorium and permit outdoor wood boilers with certain restrictions. (Adopted November 24, 2008)
- **Municipal Review Authority Designation –** Staff prepared an amendment to (Adopted Dec. 08, 2008)
- **Shoreland Zoning Amendments –** As required by the state, staff worked with LPAC to develop amendments to conform with the state required updates (Scheduled for Introduction April 13, 2009)
- **Other Amendments** – staff also researched ill-kempt properties, need for amendment to the Shoreland Zoning Map for Tidewater Master Plan Development District, changes in allowed uses in the VMU District and expansion of allowances on temporary signs.

Inspections

In 2008, project site construction inspection services were consolidated within the Community Development Department Planning Division whereas formerly subdivision construction and private way inspections were the responsibility of Public Works and Site Plan construction inspection was a Code Office responsibility. The Code Office continues to inspect all building construction. With the economic slowdown most active projects involved completion work on projects begun several years ago, however, significant newer projects included Rite Aid, the 75-unit Ridgewood Estates project on Falmouth Road, the 23-lot Stoneridge Farm on Blackstrap Road and the Tidewater Village commercial project on Clearwater Drive. Inspection services are funded through project developer fees.

Planning Board Activities

Reflecting the national and regional slowdown in housing starts, Falmouth experienced a significant decrease in residential development activity as indicated in the graph below.



- In 2008, the Planning Board approved two new lots and one new private way.
- Mirroring the decline in residential activity, non-residential development similarly declined in 2008. Commercial projects approved in 2008 include:
- A new 5,500 square foot office building at 75 Leighton Road;
- The Town's first Tier III Wireless Service Facility at 356 U.S. Route One; and
- Site improvements (lighting, landscaping, architecture) to the existing Morong Sales Facility at 187 U.S. Route One.

5,500 square foot office building
75 Leighton Road

Morong Sales Facility Improvements
187 U.S. Route One

Fees

Gross fee revenue for 2008 was higher than expected, even with fewer new single family dwellings being constructed. Commercial projects, condominiums, renovations, and additions provided the remaining revenue. See the chart below for a history of permit activity over the past 10 years.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Building Permits	343	333	274	361	315	307	235	228	216	194
Other Permits	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	608	466	378	671	490
New Single Family	91	91	50	58	51	43	55	71	61	28
New Commercial	5	5	2	4	1	3	1	3	8	18
BZA Applications	61	58	43	86	63	63	42	52	88	57
Building Permit Fees (in $)	101,693	90,697	90,976	110,925	129,070	190,570	231,924	121,317	139,511	78,914
Other Permit Fees (in $)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	54,121	89,341	45,120	63,520	78,020	50,225

Summary

The Community Development Department looks forward to serving the town in the coming year. It is the goal of the Department to develop an efficient and effective process for land development and planning that supports the policies of the Council, implements the ordinances and regulations adopted by the Town, and is transparent and predictable to our customers.

Information Systems

Jen Phinney,
Information Systems Director

The mission of this department is to provide development, maintenance, training and oversight of the town's computer and information systems.

This includes hardware and software, GIS administration, website maintenance, phone system management, security system maintenance, and the town's wide-area network. Falmouth's Cable TV Channel 10, operated by Station Manager Mike McDade, is also part of the department.

Department Accomplishments:

- Provided full-time computer support to the town's 125 users, 10 remote sites, and 24 network servers.
- Upgraded Town Hall and Police internet services to fiber. Also upgraded cable modems to Business Class modems at Public Works, Wastewater, and Fire.
- Moved and upgraded the Town's computer servers to the new Police station. Additional upgrades included a new Virtual Center with a SAN, Citrix Presentation Server 4.5, IMC virtual server, conversion of file and print servers to VM, implementation of a new backup device, and installation of new switches throughout town facilities.
- All town facilities received a phone upgrade to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).
- Redesigned the Town's homepage and department pages. This is an ongoing process with new features and online services. These services can be accessed at www.town.falmouth.me.us/pages/onlineservices.
- Selected VUEWorks® Asset Management software. This software uses the town's existing mapping software and will allow town departments to evaluate and track any type of asset or facility equipment.
- Hired a new Cable TV Station Manager who also assists with computer issues. In addition to broadcasting meetings and managing the station, the manager also produces short videos for various committees and projects.

Anne Gregory,
Assessor

Assessing Department

Pamela Given, Administrative Assistant
Diana Calder, Data Collection & Revaluation Consultant

The Assessor is responsible for the discovery and determination of market value of all real and personal property for the collection of property taxes. These duties and responsibilities are completed annually and must comply with Maine's property tax laws.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SALES & ASSESSMENT HISTORY					
YEAR	# OF QUALIFIED SALES	AVERAGE SALE PRICE	AVERAGE ASSESSMENT	AVERAGE RATIO	REVALUATON HISTORY
2000	210	$288,000	$242,400	91%	Residential
2001	196	$337,000	$240,100	82%	Commercial
2002	220	$345,000	$264,300	75%	
2003	197	$382,000	$370,900	96%	Residential
2004	232	$425,000	$350,700	87%	Commercial
2005	212	$439,000	$352,900	78%	
2006	183	$460,000	$338,100	73%	
2007	217	$469,800	$357,000	76%	
2008	165	$476,400	$438,200	92%	Commercial & Residential

Highlights for the Year 2008:

In 2008, we completed a revaluation of all residential and commercial properties. The project began in 2006 when the average assessment-to-sale price ratio was 73%. Maine's property tax law requires an average assessment ratio to be greater than 70% but less than 110%. The updated valuation model was created from analyzing qualified property sales that occurred from January 2006 through October 2007. All Falmouth properties were compared to those sales. The three approaches to value were utilized – sales comparison, replacement cost and income for commercial properties.

In August, individual hearings were held with 470 property owners. After the tax bills were issued, an additional 100 property owners scheduled hearings to review their revised assessed values. In September, the assessments were finalized and committed to the Tax Collector with a tax rate of $12.35/$1000.

We are closely monitoring the real estate market. While the number of sales has decreased 24% since 2006, average selling price remains stable. The estimated foreclosure rate is less than 1%. Should the average selling price decrease more than 10%, an across the board reduction in assessed value could be implemented for 2010.

From Budget to Tax Bill

$26,846,330 (FY08/09)
Portion of Budget funded by Property Tax

÷

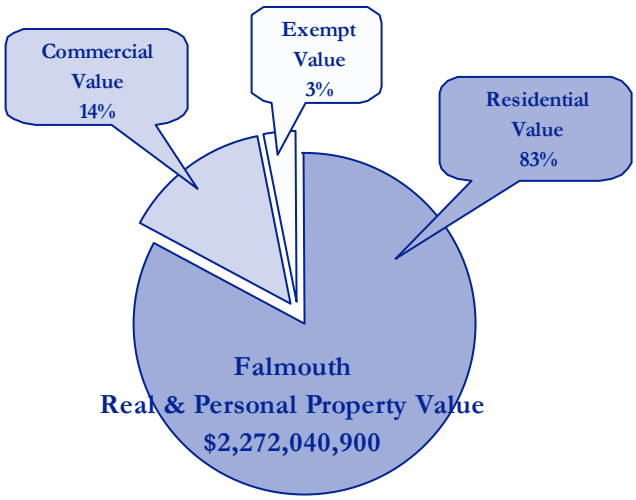
$2,173,791,900 (4/1/08)
Total Town Taxable Value

=

$.01235 Tax Rate

X

$475,000 Property Value = $5,866 Tax Bill



STATISTICS CORNER . . . .

The April 1, 2008, assessment year included the following activity from 4/07 to 3/08:

5,204	Real Estate Parcels @ 4,814 residential, 231 commercial and 159 exempt.
507	Personal Property business accounts.
3,131	Homestead Exemptions @ $13,000.
306	Veteran Exemptions @ 6,000 and for paraplegic veterans @ $50,000 .
9	Blind Exemptions.
56	Parcels classifying 1,453 acres in Tree Growth classification program.
13	Parcels classifying 411 acres in Farmland classification program.
3	Parcels classifying 65 acres in Open Space classification program.
391	Deeds received from Cumberland County Registry of Deeds.
94	Businesses applied for State reimbursement of personal property taxes through the BETR program.
20	Businesses were exempt from personal property taxes under the new 2008 BETE program.
694	Site inspections to collect data from building changes and qualifying sales for the revaluation.
19	Net new lots created (new lots less deleted/combined lots).
$2,254,887,800	Total Real Property Value.
-77,897,500	Less Exempt Real Property Value.
+41,163,900	Total Personal Property/Business Equipment Value.
-1,555,300	Less Exempt Personal Property.
-2,104,000	Less Personal Exemptions (Veterans, Blind, Parsonages) not reimbursed by State.
-20,351,500	Less 50% Homestead Exemptions not reimbursed by State.
-124,338,700	Total TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Districts' captured real & personal property value; taxes generated from TIF assessments applied to specific TIF projects.
$2,069,804,700	Total Non TIF Taxable Value

** IMPORTANT DATES **	
April 1, 2008 Assessment Year for Town Fiscal Year 7/1/08 to 6/30/09	
April 1, 2008	**Ownership & Assessment of Property Fixed** (State Taxation Law Title 36 §502)
July 1, 2008	**Beginning of Municipal Fiscal Year** (determined by Town Charter)
September 29, 2008	**Commitment Date - Tax Rolls committed to Tax Collector** (determined by Assessor)
November 7, 2008	**First Half of FY 08/09 Annual Tax Due Date** (determined by Town Council)
December 1, 2008	**Total Personal Property Tax Due** (determined by Town Council)
April 2, 2009	**Deadline for Filing Abatement Appeals** (185 days after Commitment, Date Title 36 §841)
May 1, 2009	**Second Half of FY 08/09 Annual Tax Due Date** (determined by Town Council)
June 30, 2009	**End of Municipal Fiscal Year** (determined by Town Charter)

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The **Maine Residents Property Tax & Rent Refund "Circuit Breaker" program** is administered by the State. The deadline is June 1, 2009, for the 2007 tax bill issued in September of 2007. File online at www.maine.gov/revenue. Application forms are also available at Town Hall.

Please visit our website or contact the Assessing Office for information about **Veteran, Homestead & Blind Exemptions, Tree Growth, Open Space & Farmland Classifications,** and **Charitable & Benevolent Institutions.** Our website also includes information regarding assessments, property sales, maps and property record cards. If you encounter difficulties navigating through the site, please call Town Hall at 781-5253 for assistance. We welcome all comments or suggestions.

Howard Rice,
Chief of Fire~EMS

Fire–EMS Annual Report

"Great People Serving a Great Town"

The Fire-EMS Department provides fire suppression and emergency medical services to the citizens of Falmouth. Operating from four fire stations, the volunteer department is active in the community with a variety of programming and public education initiatives.

Office Organization and Staffing

The Headquarters Division of Falmouth Fire-EMS, led by Fire-EMS Chief Howard Rice, Jr., operated at full staff for 2008 after the additions of Suzanne Cook, Office Administrator in February, and Doug Patey, Assistant Fire Chief in April. All three full-time employees are cross trained in firefighting and emergency medical services and respond with the per-diem firefighter/paramedic and the volunteer staff to answer emergency calls. Currently, the department is comprised of 94 volunteer members in addition to the 3 full-time and 12 part-time staff.

The Headquarters Division staff are active members on various town and local committees, including the Town of Falmouth Safety Committee, the Falmouth Schools Safety Committee, the Falmouth Energy Committee, Maine Medical Center EMS Chiefs, Metro Portland Fire Chiefs, Cumberland County Fire Chiefs, and the Maine Coastal Fire Chiefs.

Emergency Management

In 2008, Falmouth Fire-EMS Chief Howard Rice, Jr. was named the Falmouth EMA Director in addition to his duties as Fire-EMS Chief. Falmouth Fire-EMS continued to train all members at the ICS 100 and ICS 700 levels of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as required by the Federal Government. The department also provided ICS training for Town Department Heads and other Town staff members.

Valentine's Day Fuel Spill

On February 14, the Fire-EMS Department responded to a motor vehicle crash involving an overturned fuel oil delivery truck on the Allen Avenue Bridge. By the time the last unit cleared the scene 6 ½ hours later, there were 11 local, state, federal, and private agencies involved in the clean up and assessment of the river and river banks below the bridge after an estimated 1,100 gallons of kerosene spilled from the tank. The quick response of the department and the assisting agencies allowed nearly half of the fluid to be vacuumed up by a specialized cleanup truck, with much more trapped by sand brought in from the Public Works Department, and the remaining fuel captured by two sets of booms stretched across the Presumpscot River. The Coast Guard provided a fixed wing aircraft from Massachusetts to perform air surveillance to detect potential fuel downstream at the mouth of the Presumpscot River. Fortunately, no fuel was located in the river.

December Ice Storm

The Ice Storm that passed through the Town of Falmouth on December 11-14 brought power outages throughout the community. Historically, it is unusual for the entire Town to be without power. During this storm, the majority of Falmouth residents were without power from the early morning of December 12 through the late afternoon of December 13. Some neighborhoods remained without power throughout the weekend.

The emergency calls for downed power lines, trees blocking roads and alarms sounding, began in the early hours of December 12 and continued through the afternoon of the 14th. During the event, all emergency calls were handled by the staff of various Town Departments, many of whom had no power or heat in their own homes. Although crews were rotated, the increased call volume required simultaneous work by multiple crews.

No serious injuries were reported during the weekend. Many homes encountered water damage when sump pumps were unable to operate without power. Several fire and burglar alarms were caused by the fluctuations of the power. Other alarms were triggered by the duration of the power outage outlasting the life of the battery backup systems.

Shelter Opened

During the December Ice Storm, the high school was used as a shelter for the first time. In collaboration with the American Red Cross, the shelter used the new emergency generator and an emergency management services trailer that provided food, cots and blankets. The shelter opened on December 12 at 2:00 pm and remained open until December 14 at 10:00 am. Many residents used the shelter as a warming station, to do some reading, take a hot shower, and a few remained in the shelter overnight.

Award from GPCOG

In 2008, Falmouth Fire-EMS received an award from Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) in the category of Improved Municipal Service. The award recognized the department's 2007 initiative of looking within the organization to understand the sustainability of the community based resource by using an independent objective review and analyzing current practices while exploring the best methods to provide a high level of service to residents.

Public Education/Fire Prevention Activities

The Falmouth Fire-EMS Department continues to participate in many community public safety activities; including visits to schools and daycare providers to discuss fire safety, hosting various groups at the fire station for tours and discussions, and through active participation in the Falmouth School Safety Committee. Many of the daycare and school visits coincide with National Fire Prevention Week and offer fire prevention activities and displays for children and adults. During Fire Prevention Week in October 2008, Falmouth Fire-EMS visited 8 daycares and pre-schools and spoke with 260 children.

Falmouth Fire-EMS crews, along with fire apparatus and ambulances, attended special events like Easter Egg Hunts, Santa Claus visits, Halloween parties, and school events such as the 4th grade end of the year celebration. The department also hosted numerous high school students who wanted to job shadow and needed to complete community service requirements.

Automatic External Defibrillators

The Fire-EMS Department assisted Falmouth Schools with the acquisition and installation of four Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) in 2008. Another AED was purchased and installed at the Town Landing and two were purchased and installed by the Family Ice Hockey Rink. All AED's are the same brand, and the Fire-EMS Department purchased a training AED to be used by staff at all of the locations.

Car Seat Inspections

With support from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, Falmouth Fire-EMS conducts a monthly car seat inspection station to offer free car seat checks to the community. At Central Station, 322 children's car seats were inspected in 2008. Of that total, only nine car seats were correct (97% misuse). Five new car seats were provided to families to replace unsafe seats. The free car seat inspections are offered at Central Station on the first Thursday of each month, from 2 pm to 6 pm. The Falmouth Car Seat Inspection Station continues to be the busiest inspection station in the State of Maine.

Child Passenger Safety Grant

We received a $72,500 grant from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety to support child passenger safety outreach activities. The grant will fund inspection certification classes, car seat checkup events, and an awareness exhibit table for use at schools, the movie theater, and other venues.

Membership

Being a Firefighter or Emergency Medical Technician requires many hours of training. Falmouth Fire-EMS is proud to have a number of individuals who have worked hard to obtain and maintain certification in both fire and EMS. The current roster includes several members who have completed Firefighter Level 1 and Level 2 and many who have advanced EMS certification as Intermediate and Paramedics. This extra training is in addition to the two hours of training received every Monday night. The department receives constant training to remain certified with new technology, techniques, and information.

If you would like more information about Fire-EMS membership, please come to Central Station or visit our website at: http://www.town.falmouth.me.us/Pages/FalmouthME_Fire/index.

The past year has been extremely busy for the men and women of the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department. In 2008, the department responded to 1,458 calls for service, with the EMS Division remained the busiest division with 907 medical incidents during the year.

Police Department

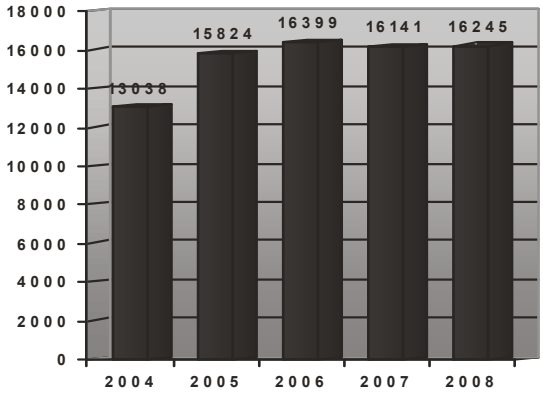
Edward J. Tolan,
Chief of Police

The Department had a busy 2008 with its move to a new facility and several promotions and additions. In February, the Department moved from the town office to a new facility at 2 Marshall Drive. The new station, with its larger space, provides the ability to conduct business in a more efficient manner. In addition, the building design allows better security for the officers and privacy for citizens when they need to meet with an officer. The move also allowed the town office staff to expand into the space vacated by the department.

With the new space, the Department has hosted several informational sessions for neighborhood groups and is always willing to provide personal and home safety presentations. If your neighborhood would like a presentation, please contact Lt. John Kilbride at 781-2300.

Two promotions and one retirement occurred during 2008. In January, Lt. David Kloth retired after 35 years with the Department. Because of this retirement, we had two Sergeant promotions. Officer Frank Soule, a 13-year veteran, was promoted to Sergeant; and Sergeant John Kilbride, our canine handler and 11-year veteran, was promoted to Lieutenant. In October, Alan Twombley was hired as the Marine Unit Director. Alan was a patrol sergeant when he retired from the Westbrook Police Department.

In December, Dean Mazziotti, a 27-year veteran of the Portland Police Department, was hired to replace the position created by the retirement and promotions. Dean was a patrol sergeant when he retired from the Portland Police Department.



As the accompanying chart demonstrates, the department's Calls for Service remained fairly consistent with 2007. When observing suspicious activity, we request that you make an immediate call to the Police Department.

In 2008, the Department obtained grant amounts totaling $8,000 to support the cost of overtime details for the enforcement of seatbelt usage and prevention of operating under the influence. This year, we have submitted grant applications for speed enforcement and radar replacement.

Highlights of the year

- New police station attained Silver Level LEED Certification. This is the first police station in Maine to achieve this honor.
- The Department transitioned to a new on-line training system, reducing the overtime for training and improving the quality of the training.
- Officers and dispatchers attended 1,766 hours of training during the year.
- Became a participating member of the new *Regional Crime Lab* at Portland Police Department.
- K-9 *Yardie* was retired with the promotion of his handler John Kilbride to Lieutenant.
- Purchased a traffic analyzer that will be deployed on streets throughout the community to determine areas requiring higher levels of enforcement.
- Signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the Liquor Licensing Division of the Department of Public Safety which provides us with the authority to enforce liquor laws in the town's establishments with liquor licenses.
- Officers issued 3,989 traffic summonses and written warnings for 2008.
- Officers responded to 16,245 *Calls for Service* in 2008.
- Officers responded to 450 motor vehicle accidents in 2008.
- Signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the U.S. Marshalls to support the Violent Crimes Task Force, which provides us with the resources of the Southern Maine Unit.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:
Please visit www.town.falmouth.me.us/police

IMPORTANT NUMBERS
Emergency Police, Fire or Rescue: Dial *911*
Additional emergency number and from a cell phone...*781-4242*
(Dialing 911 from a cellular telephone will connect you to the State Police)

Police Non-Emergency 781-2300 **Police Fax** 781-3448
Police TTY 781-4154

We Remind all Residents

- Be sure that your street address number is clearly visible for responding emergency personnel.
- No vehicles can be parked on a Town maintained road between the hours of midnight and 6:00 am from November 15 to April 15. *During an announced parking ban, vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense if parked on the street*
- The Department offers a *Reassurance Program* for residents living alone. Contact the communications center at 781-2300 for more information.
- **Do not** contact the Department concerning school closures for inclement weather. Please watch the local television stations or contact the school. Dispatchers are usually busy with storm related emergencies at this time.
- Obey all posted speeds, especially those in residential and school areas.

The men and women of the Falmouth Police Department wish to thank the citizens of Falmouth for their continued support and assistance.

Harbor

Harbormaster and Marine Unit Supervisor Kevin Cady resigned from his position in October to accept the position of Lieutenant with the Eliot Police Department. During his two years as Harbormaster, Kevin made the Falmouth Harbor a safer and more professional place to live and work.

On October 31, Alan Twombley was appointed the new Harbormaster and Marine Unit Director. Alan is a twenty-year veteran of the Westbrook Police Department, with twelve years as a patrol sergeant.

Assistant Harbormaster Rick Freese was promoted to a new position in his full-time job with the United States Coast Guard (USGS) and as a result was unable to continue as Assistant Harbormaster. Park Ranger Brigham McKenney was promoted to fill the vacated position and will remain with the department for the 2009 season.

In August, the Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee presented the long-range harbor plan prepared by Milone & MacBroom, Inc., of Freeport. The department would like to acknowledge and thank the Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee for their tireless efforts to guarantee that our valuable resource is used to its fullest potential: Chairperson: *Stephen Archambault*; Committee Members: *Richard Garrett, Peter Leavitt, Manny Kourinous, Jay Hallett* (representing Handy Boat), *Bill Oliver* (representing Portland Yacht Club), and *Paul Dobbins*.

The department would also like to thank the Falmouth Parks & Public Works Departments for their continued assistance with the maintenance of Town Landing.

Harbor Highlights

- The Town signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the USGS authorizing the Harbor Unit to work in conjunction with them in Port Security and Search and Rescue efforts. As a result of this MOU, the town saved approximately $4,500 in boat fuel costs and has received boat operation training at no cost.
- The Town signed a contract with the Town of Cumberland to provide marine enforcement services for their town. Cumberland pays Falmouth $2,000 per year for this service.
- On June 15, Harbormaster Cady and Ranger Sam Turner responded and were the first on the scene of a private plane crash in Casco Bay.
- On August 8, Harbormaster Cady, Assistant Harbormaster McKenney and Chief Tolan helped rescue 90 passengers from a Casco Bay Lines Ferry that ran aground near Basket Island.
- On August 31, Officer Savidge and Ranger James Tolan assisted with the rescue of sailboat occupants in a boat that ran aground near Basket Island.
- On September 19, Harbormaster Cady with help from the USCG, rescued three people from a sailboat that ran aground near Clapboard Island.
- The Town received a $30,000 Port Security Grant to purchase new motors for the Marine Unit boat. Two Honda 135 hp motors were installed in October.
- The 2008 year ending mooring count was 1,221; (654 resident and 567 non-resident).

Lucky D'Ascanio,
Community Programs Director

Community Programs Department

Falmouth Community Programs (FCP) comprises three divisions: adult education, recreation, and facilities scheduling which are responsible for:

- Providing supplementary educational, active and passive recreational as well as social and cultural opportunities for members of our community.
- Providing community education/enrichment programming, recreational and instructional athletic opportunities.
- Scheduling all school/town facilities for community use.

All Adult Education and Recreation offerings are in the FCP seasonal brochures that are published in April, August and December or online at www.town.falmouth.me.us

Office Organization and Staffing

The Department relies on four full-time staff and one part-time staff member including: Lucky D'Ascanio, Director; Matt Gilbert, Assistant Director whose duties include Athletics and Facilities Scheduling; Kate Harris, Recreation Program Coordinator; Heidi Hugo, Administrative Assistant/Programmer and Denise Macaronas, Senior Program Coordinator.

Department Accomplishments

During the past year, 450 Recreation and Adult Education programs were offered; attracting 4,417 Recreation and 2,901 Adult Education participants. In addition to regular programming, the department sold over 1,600 discount movie tickets to Regal Cinemas and the Cinemagic Stadium and Grand Theaters for a savings of over $3,000 for resident movie-goers. Also as a benefit to citizens, FCP manages discount ski promotions for Sunday River, Sugarloaf, Shawnee Peak and also offers discount Portland Pirates and Seacoast SnoPark tickets in the winter and in the summer offers discount tickets to Funtown/Splashtown, Aquaboggan, Water Country and Seacoast Fun Park. To date, nearly 88% of facility reservations and 31% of program registrations are being done online using the ActiveNet registration program. This program provides the staff with better reporting, more efficient and cost effective staff/program instructor record keeping, as well as the ability to give more attention to programs and community needs. In 2008, FCP provided $2000 in department scholarships and the Falmouth Education Foundation (FEF) matched those dollars in FEF grant funds which enabled many Falmouth children the opportunity to participate in summer programming. FCP is very grateful to the Falmouth Educational Foundation for their continued generosity and support of our participants and programming.

Adult Education Division

Adult Education and Senior Programming offer a variety of programs for the enrichment of Falmouth's adult residents. Courses and offerings provide lifelong opportunities for new skills, vocational training, health and fitness, as well as social network and relationship building prospects. Program development occurs at several levels which include staff creativity, current and past student requests, instructor inquiry, and occasionally, local resident expertise. By retaining and recruiting talented and accomplished instructors, FCP is able to offer these programs for the community several times each year. Many successful events and trips are also offered through co-sponsorship with neighboring communities. During the past year, the department offered over 198 successful classes, programs, trips and offerings with a total enrollment of over 2900 participants. A trip to Aroostook County to see the magnificent potato blossoms as well as a scenic fall foliage cruise aboard the MS Katahdin on picturesque

Moosehead Lake were among the many trips and tours enjoyed by residents. Popular staple programs included the Travelogue Series (now in its 22nd year), All Support Art Group, and the Village Park Summer Concert Series which offered five concerts last summer averaging close to 200 concert goers per performance.

The Holiday Tree Lighting attracted over 450 citizens and was a success with cookie decorating and crafts, and a special visit with Santa. The enrichment series continues to provide creative outlets for many residents. New programs introduced this year included Upholstery, Knitting, and Pastry classes. Coaching Clinics continue to certify many coaches each season with over 350 coaches NYSCA certified.

Recreation Division

Recreation programming through FCP targets the resident youth population by providing passive and active year-round recreational opportunities. This is accomplished by developing educational and instructional athletic, arts and crafts and science programming, and also by creating opportunities for social, behavioral, and physical development as well as environmental awareness. Offering safe, educational, and fun programs that allow for self-expression and help to build self-confidence are the cornerstones of the recreation foundation. All of these ideals are brought together with the common goal of contributing to the total health and well being of our youth population and enhancing the quality of life for them in our community. A variety of sports and recreational activities (for pre-school through middle school) are offered, as well as planned activities for early release days.

New programs for 2008 included Youth Chorus, Art classes for both elementary and middle school, SAT Prep courses, Apple Pie Making, as well as a White Water Rafting Trip. Many of these programs are being taught by current teachers in the Falmouth School system and we appreciate their willingness to work with us and offer programs for the community.

Facilities Scheduling

The Town of Falmouth and the Falmouth School Department recognize that all public facilities are supported by local tax dollars and through FCP have made the facilities available to responsible community groups and individuals when not in use by the school department or town. FCP has the year-round responsibility of scheduling all school facilities and municipal park facilities as well as maintaining accurate calendars for each of those facilities. The online calendar continues to serve as a valuable community tool by displaying immediate availability for facilities. The success of the scheduling system relies on communication between many town and school departments, as well as community groups and individuals. FCP continues to assist area non-profits including the American Cancer Society and American Red Cross with their scheduling needs. In 2008, FCP assisted more than 90 different groups including basketball, soccer, lacrosse, volleyball and baseball teams as well as Girl Scouts, musical groups, adult education programs, SAT programs, teacher mentoring programs and State of Maine Departments in securing facilities for their programs.

Jay Reynolds,
Acting Parks & PW Director

Parks & Public Works Department

The Department completed several capital improvement projects in 2008. Brook Road reconstruction project was completed in May and the Middle Road (phase I) reconstruction was completed in September. The long awaited reconstruction of Johnson Road began in September and will be completed in 2009. In addition, Falmouth partnered with the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the repaving of Depot and Lunt roads. Last year, the Department formed an internal safety committee. The committee is staffed by members of the highway, vehicle maintenance, parks, and solid waste divisions. The safety committee met once a month and discussed all areas of workplace safety. Some topics included building/facility updates to create and post building evacuation plans; safety training; workplace/construction safety; and personal protective equipment.

The Town's stormwater program management plan was approved in 2008. This plan, which covers 2008 to 2013, outlines the requirements and goals associated with Falmouth's stormwater systems and water resources. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection's approval of the plan confirms the Town's compliance with State and Federal clean water regulations. A copy of the plan is available at: http://www.town.falmouth.me.us/Pages/FalmouthME_DPW/stormwater.

The Transfer Station continues to make changes and improvements. The Town began participating in Maine's 'Mercury Thermostat Incentive Program', which promotes recycling by offering homeowners a rebate. The department also made some minor modifications to improve safety and environmental compliance.

The 2007-2008 winter became the 5th snowiest winter since 1882 with 90.7 inches of snow in the Greater Portland area. The Public Works division spent almost two months making repairs to damaged pavement from the inclement weather. Several roads including Foreside Road, Falmouth Road, and the Town-maintained section of Blackstrap Road, received special attention. For the full list of projects completed in 2008 by the Public Works division, please visit: http://www.town.falmouth.me.us/Pages/FalmouthME_DPW/index

The Parks Division continued their regular maintenance of the Town's parks and open space areas. Parks staff began the spring by servicing the fields for Little League, Lacrosse, and Soccer. In May, they prepared the cemeteries and monuments for Memorial Day. Along with making repairs to trails and facilities throughout the year, the Parks Division continued to play a key role assisting other Falmouth activities. Such activities include the summer concert series which is operated by the Community Programs department. Other events/activities include the striders running program, the cross country skiing program, basketball (summer and winter), summer soccer camps, and youth football.

The vehicle maintenance division completed its annual maintenance and inspections of the entire school bus fleet. They also continued to perform the routine maintenance support on all the municipal vehicles.

The Parks and Public Works Department successfully obtained alternative funding sources. In December, the department secured $51,000 toward a townwide Transportation Master Plan. The plan will be completed by the end of 2009. The Portland Area Comprehensive Transit System (PACTS) and MDOT provided funding sources for a potential sidewalk along Route 88 (from Johnson Road to Underwood Park). A safety grant, which provides a 2/3 match, was also awarded to the department by the Maine Municipal Association.

Water Pollution Control

Pete Clark,
Superintendent

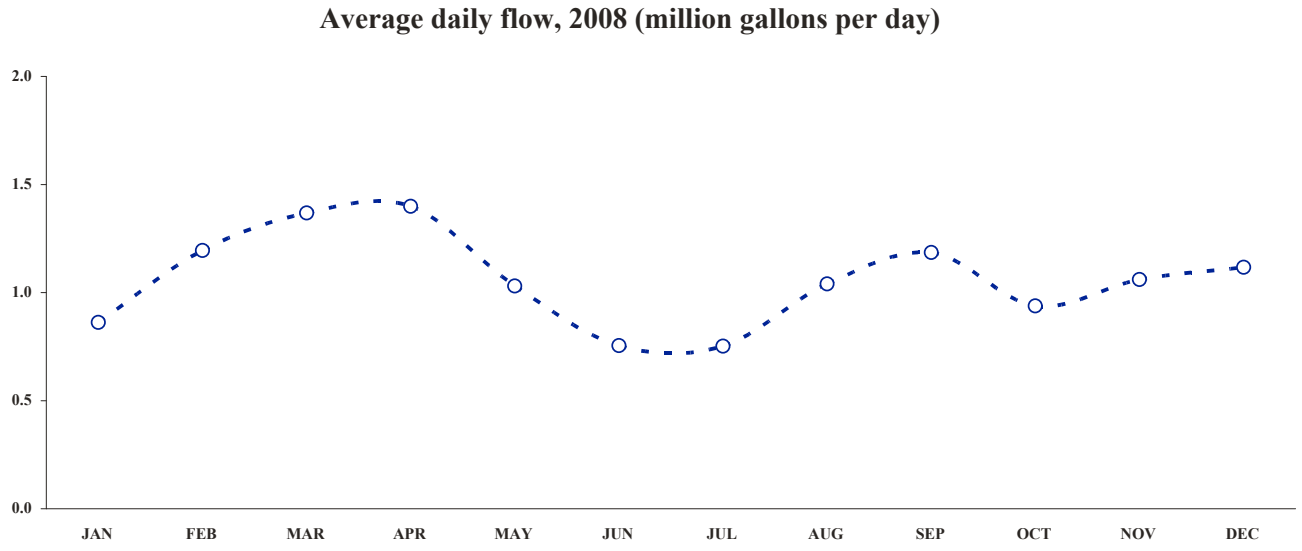
Treatment Plant Upgrade

Contractors completed construction of the major upgrades and improvements at the Town's wastewater treatment facility early in 2008. Principals on the project included the general contractor, APEX Construction from Rochester, New Hampshire, along with Wright–Pierce Engineers of Topsham, who served as the design engineers and construction managers. Project funding included department reserve funds combined with a reduced interest loan provided through the Maine Bond Bank and State and Federal regulatory agencies. This 22-month project began in late July 2006. The revamped facility has greatly improved efficiencies and substantially reduced power consumption while providing increased removal of both conventional pollutants and nutrients, particularly nitrogen compounds. In November, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Maine recognized Falmouth's plant design with their "Honor Award for Engineering Excellence".

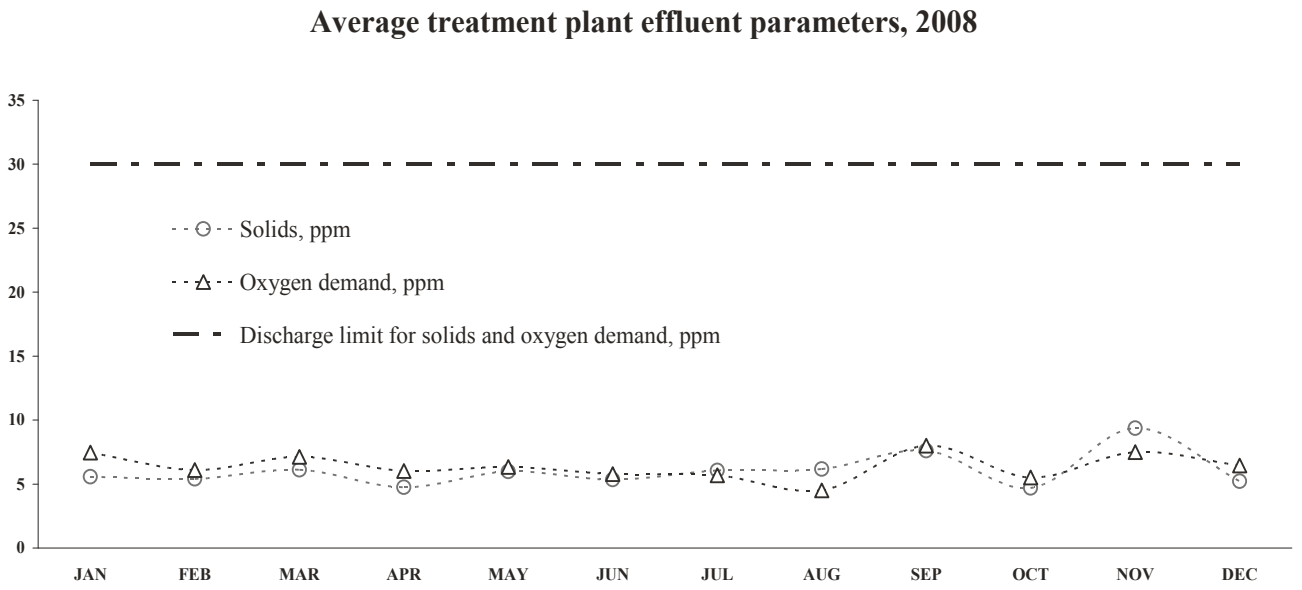
2008 Statistics

- Falmouth's plant treated approximately 380 million gallons of wastewater and 350,000 gallons of septic tank wastes in 2008.
- Plant performance was indicative of the new process improvements. On average, the plant removed approximately 97% of the bio-chemical oxygen demand and solids contained in the wastewater generated by the homes and businesses that connect to public sewers in Falmouth and Cumberland.

Plant flow graph



Plant performance



School Department

Dr. George H. Entwistle 3rd,
Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's Report

The 2008-2009 school year has been a challenging and yet a very productive year. In the fall of 2008, the Falmouth community said "yes" to a proposed **new elementary school (Pre-K to Grade 5)** to be built on the Woodville Road Campus. A short time later, the Falmouth community said "no" to a proposal for **school administration consolidation** with MSAD #51 (Cumberland, North Yarmouth). Both of these initiatives demanded incredible effort from school leaders, school board members and community members (volunteers).

Throughout this school year, the elementary school construction project has remained on-track and on-schedule (fall, 2011 opening). This remains true because of the continued investment of energy from many of these same individuals and in spite of the state's move to sideline many school construction projects in response to a worsening economy/ economic outlook.

The "no" vote on school administrative consolidation would have resulted in a penalty (a loss of close to one-half million dollars) had the Department of Education not approved a plan for Falmouth to stand alone. The plan (**Alternative Plan**) presented compelling evidence of the Falmouth Public School District's operational/administrative efficiency and its viability/sustainability as a stand-alone unit, longer-term. The third component of the Alternative Plan required evidence of high-performance on the part of Falmouth's student population. The Commissioner determined that Falmouth Public Schools are highly efficient and sustainable and that learning outcomes for students demonstrate that the schools are indeed high performing schools. The Alternative Plan was approved on January 13, 2009 and with this approval, the potential $.5 million penalty was eliminated.

Progress on our long-term goals (below) and on the 18-Month Improvement Plan (October, 2007 – April, 2009) has been steady and measurable. The district's five long-term goals are as follows:

1. Establishing a culture of wellness that supports the physical, social and emotional well-being of all members of our school community;
2. Meeting the learning needs of <u>every</u> student;
3. Promoting responsible citizenship behavior (locally, regionally, nationally, and globally);
4. Building professional learning communities (promoting continuous, professional development of our teaching staff) – within our schools, across our district, regionally and beyond; and
5. Continually improving our organizational systems and structures.

Accomplishing all of the action items in the improvement plan is not easy, but again for this third round of planning and improving, the October, 2007 through April, 2009 plan has been successfully implemented. We look forward to April 30, 2009 when stakeholder representatives will join together in our 4th Community Dialogue (Falmouth High School gym, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.). It is at this gathering that the Falmouth Improvement Plan will be refreshed and re-energized to keep us clearly focused on the work to be accomplished over the next 18 months (April, 2009 through October, 2010). The reports included here from the Falmouth Public Schools address just how productive this last year has been in our schools. I hope you enjoy reading these reports submitted by the school principals and district leaders. We are all ever so grateful for the support and positive encouragement we continue to receive from the Falmouth community!

District News

Assistant Superintendent, Barbara Powers

Work at the district level in the Falmouth Public Schools is one of continuous improvement. In addition to responding to various initiatives from the Department of Education, we direct our efforts according to the 18-month plan created in our third Community Dialogue 2007 (to be updated in April 2009) and subsequently adopted by the School Board. Inherent in that work is a focus on **student learning, global citizenship,** and the **professional development** of our staff.

Highlights this year in the area of **student learning** include a final curriculum review content area and on-line access to all district curriculum documents, Response to Intervention initiatives, and student data profiles accessed via Power School.

This year, Visual and Performing Arts teachers (art, music, theater) are revisiting and revising curriculum sequence based on the Revised Maine Learning Results and capturing it using the district's common curriculum summary templates. More descriptive scope and sequence documents are also being prepared to insure consistent, sequential learning experiences. Once this work is completed, and the writing curriculum summaries begun last year reach final draft status, the documentation of all seven content areas will be posted on line for maximum availability to staff, as well as interested parents and students.

Response to Intervention (also known as RTI) is a federal initiative with full implementation mandated in Maine for the fall of 2010. This initiative requires schools to find students who are at risk of failing before they actually do, and to provide them with additional and, if needed, individualized instruction or other interventions to meet their special learning needs prior to any referral to special education. Reading, math, and behavior are the areas of focus. Frequent monitoring of progress to be sure that intervention strategies are effective is a sensible and welcomed requirement of this new mandate. We continue to develop intervention strategies and protocols for assessments to be sure our efforts are directed to those students who would benefit from this instruction.

Finally, to help with the effective use of individual student performance data in reading, math, and writing; evidence of interventions; special program participation; attendance patterns; and, other useful program data, the leadership council worked with the technology staff to design an on-line student profile. The one page profile allows teachers immediate access through PowerSchool to a "snapshot" of each of their students instead of searching through a variety of reports. Each school identified key data helpful in understanding and analyzing student progress. It has been a very helpful addition in our ability to identify helpful supports and interventions for student.

Global citizenship was enhanced this year as we welcome three international visitors. First we have enjoyed getting to know our Chinese guest teacher. Cheng Wen of Tianjin, China arrived last August, living and teaching in Falmouth. All 8th graders have the opportunity to learn a little Chinese language and culture through their unified arts block as well as selected enrichment opportunities. High school students are enjoying an Introduction to Mandarin Chinese full year course. Wen has also visited classes at Lunt School, other Middle School grade levels, and will be a special guest in World History courses at the high school during the second semester study of Asia. Students studying Chinese have recently expressed great interest in continuing to learn more about the country's language and culture next year.

We also were pleased to again host student interns from the Dominican Republic. Sara Crespo and Olga Rodriguez arrived in January for a 10-week practicum with teachers at Lunt and Plummer-Motz Schools as well as a graduate course in Multi-Cultural Education. Sara and Olga have already made a very favorable impression on the children of those two schools. They are dedicated early childhood educators who are very excited to have the opportunity to learn more about American educational practices.

Professional development continues to be a high priority in Falmouth. Teachers have found two important new ways to improve their skill in literacy and math education. Teachers also continue to candidate successfully to be certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Falmouth was invited to be part of the Master Teachers of Maine Mathematics Project, a grant funded effort designed to help elementary teachers improve their knowledge of math and math instruction. Twenty teachers and ed. techs. from this district volunteered to be part of program, meeting for six days last summer, twice during the school year, and right as school gets out. Teacher coaches also stepped forward in each building for additional instruction regarding math leadership. Portland, Cape Elizabeth, and Brunswick are the other districts involved in this grant. Action research efforts will measure teacher improvement in the ability to correctly diagnose concept misunderstandings and ways to strategically intervene.

Falmouth also joined the Southern Maine Student Support Consortium sponsored by the Northern York/ Southern Cumberland County curriculum leaders. Monthly meetings have become a valuable asset for literacy and math RTI teachers as all districts are working through the program mandates. Member districts also include Scarborough, South Portland, Westbrook, Windham, Raymond, Saco, Gorham, SAD 6, and Brunswick.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that four more teachers received their certification by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards organization as achieving the highest standards of professionalism. They are: Jilda Izzo, FMS GT teacher; Jeremy Stein, FMS social studies teacher; Elizabeth Lupien, FHS math teacher; and, Ruth Broene, FHS science teacher. Congratulations! They join Falmouth's largest group of national board certified teachers in the state.

Falmouth High School

Principal, Allyn Hutton

"Falmouth High School shall foster the development of ethical, responsible, involved citizens of the Falmouth and global communities, and prepare students academically, emotionally and socially to meet their post-secondary aspirations."

The students and staff of FHS are committed to our mission and continually reflect on our current practices and strive for ongoing improvements to support teaching and learning in our school.

In March 2009, the FHS staff, students and parents welcomed a NEASC visiting accreditation team to our school. This team, made up of 15 educators from across New England, spent four days in Falmouth interviewing teachers, students and parents, shadowing students, visiting classrooms and looking at how our school meets the accreditation standards. These standards include the school mission and expectations, curriculum, instruction, assessment, leadership and organization, school and community resources. This comprehensive visit reflects the culminating experience of an 18-month self-study process for the FHS staff. We have invested much time and energy into reflecting on what we do well and areas needing improvement.

Our students remain committed to being active involved citizens in our local community as demonstrated by the time they have devoted to the Red Cross blood drives, the Essential Pantry in Portland, the local food pantry, local area hospitals, the Falmouth EMS, and the Oceanview community. In addition, students have engaged in the Safe Passage program (Guatemala), participated in an exchange program with the Dominican Republic (UNIBE), and assisted in building a Habitat for Humanity home in Mississippi.

Students at FHS continue to benefit from a wide array of course offerings, based on student needs. This year, new courses offered to students at FHS included AP French, AP Physics, EMT, Steel Drums and Mandarin Chinese. Students also have access to many other electives through Virtual High School, offering over 200 on-line courses for the motivated learner.

The *U.S. News and World Report* designated FHS as a silver medal school for the second consecutive year. This award is based on rigorous course offerings and student achievement. FHS was one of 500 high schools across the U.S. to achieve this distinction. Other measures of student success include the naming of five National Merit Finalists and two Presidential Scholars from the Class of 2009. In addition, FHS was the home of BOTH the Maine AP Student Scholar award and the Maine AP Teacher of math/science award for 2009.

The success of our school and our students is a result of the value the Falmouth community places on the education of all children. Thank you for your ongoing support and thank you to the FHS staff for their dedication to providing the best possible education for all of our students.

Falmouth Middle School

Principal, Sue Palfrey

Falmouth Middle School is home for 745 students in grades five through eight. We are a school that prides itself in our commitment to the educational, social, and emotional needs of each and every student. Our mission is simple: "We strive to provide a quality education within a supportive environment for every student who attends our school."

The foundation of any successful school is an outstanding faculty and Falmouth Middle School is no exception. We have a dedicated staff of 110, including teachers, support staff, educational technicians, secretaries, custodians, and administrators. Many of our teachers have postgraduate degrees and nine of our 70+ classroom teachers have now earned the distinction of being Nationally Board Certified.

We are committed to the tenets of sound middle level practices. Our school is organized by dynamic student-centered teams. In grades five and six, we have two-person teaching teams; in grades seven and eight, we have five person teams, sharing common students and organized by content subject (English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and either French or Spanish). There is a special education teacher assigned to

each grade level team, and we have additional literacy and math support for non-special education students who need extra time and instructional strategies in order to meet math and reading grade-level standards.

Students at Falmouth Middle School have the opportunity to participate in a rich variety of unified arts classes for 80 minutes daily including art, music, band and chorus, technology education, computer, health and physical education. This year, we were able to give all eighth grade students an introduction to Chinese and Chinese Culture through a guest teacher program sponsored by the Chinese government and the College Board. We have outstanding band and chorus programs that continue, year after year, to place at the very top of area and state music competitions.. Each year our students also win honors in art, writing, world languages, and mathematics. We have a comprehensive athletic program that focuses on both interscholastic and intramural participation.

In our ongoing effort to improve teaching and learning, our staff has continued to concentrate its professional development work on curriculum, assessment, and instructional strategies with a focus on research and data proven instructional best practices that have the most positive impact on student learning. Our staff has used Robert Marzano's book, *The Art and Science of Teaching*, as a basis for examining our own instructional practices. Our schedule allows teams of teachers to meet by whole grade level so that teachers can plan and reflect on instruction as well as respond to specific student learning needs.

We are also working towards a full implementation of the federally mandated program, Response to Intervention (RTI) which will be required by the 11-12 school year. In planning for RTI, we are examining as a school how we meet the learning needs of all students. In particular, we are planning how, using scientifically proven measurements, we can screen students who are struggling in reading, math, and behavior and then provide proven interventions to help students meet expected learning goals. Our Student Centered Teams, which meet by grade levels monthly, are becoming the vehicle to monitor this program.

Our standardized test scores reflect our accomplishments with students. What has led to this success is our community-based focus on goals, our high expectations for our students, our belief that physical, social, and emotional wellness is an essential ingredient to academic success, and that our decisions, actions and priorities reflect these beliefs. As a result of this success, Falmouth Middle School was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of three National Blue Ribbon Schools in Maine for 2008.

As always, Falmouth Middle School continues its efforts to be a school that is academically excellent and developmentally responsive to the educational, social, and emotional needs of our entire student body.

Plummer-Motz School

Principal, Karen Boffa

Plummer-Motz School shares a common mission with Lunt School in that we foster a nurturing environment where academic, social, and emotional growth takes place. Students are encouraged to develop intellectual curiosity and an appreciation for a variety of cultures. The staff strives to cultivate life long learners and responsible and respectable citizens. We invite the community to share in our belief and commitment!

This year, we are educating 310 students, 160 third graders and 150 fourth graders. Twenty of those students are new to Falmouth. There are eight third grade classrooms and seven fourth grade classrooms. Self-contained classrooms are offered at both grade levels where the classroom teacher is responsible for all of the content areas. There are also “teaming” opportunities at Plummer-Motz where two teachers work closely together. One teacher is responsible for the students’ literacy program and the other teacher is responsible for math, science and social studies for the two classrooms of students.

We meet the learning needs of our students by providing standards-based, enriched instruction in reading, writing, math, science, social studies, health, and French. Non-competitive, skill based experiences in physical education are a regular component of each child’s week, along with computer technology, and visual and performing arts. The library, which provides services to both Plummer-Motz and Lunt Schools, is a vital key to student learning. Regarding intervention, there is a strong support system of guidance, social work, Response to Intervention (RTI), English language learning (ELL), special education and gifted education, which can respond to special student and family needs in order that every student may find success.

Many students take part in extracurricular activities offered at Plummer-Motz. At the very begin-

ning of the year, many fourth graders choose to participate in the Theater Club, which holds a production in October. Activities Club offers a wide variety of options including jump roping, rollerblading, gymnastics, floor hockey, hiking, and ice skating, to name a few. Over eighty children participate in the fourth grade chorus, which rehearses one day a week before school and includes at least two concerts every year. Kids Who Care, a charitable organization, meets after school to support a variety of outreach projects and Math Club is an opportunity for children interested in extra experiences in math. A Robotics Club fosters essential engineering and math concepts for interested fourth grade students. The Debbie Wood Memorial Fund helps the school sponsor a Homework Club throughout the year.

Professional development for staff is on going at Plummer-Motz School. Teachers work collaboratively each month during grade level meetings, early release afternoons, and monthly staff meetings on school and district goals. Our work includes supporting school wellness initiatives, continuing curriculum development and its connection with assessment, instruction and student learning, developing service-learning projects, expanding instructional differentiation and intervention, integrating curriculum, and promoting environmental awareness.

Finally, **thank you** Falmouth voters for supporting the new elementary school project. We continue to work closely with the Oak Point architectural team and look forward to transitioning into a new building.

Lunt School

Principal, John G. Flaherty

At Lunt School, we are a community of educators and learners who work collaboratively in order to ensure quality educational experiences for all of Falmouth's Kindergarten through Grade Two students. As a staff, we believe that the primary grades form the foundation for a student's education. High standards of teaching and learning, combined with developmentally appropriate practices, are the expectation and the norm at Lunt School. Our staff has created an atmosphere that is safe and orderly – one that nurtures the academic, social and emotional growth of students.

Our curriculum benchmarks and assessments are aligned with the *Maine Learning Results.* Student assessment information has been collected for many years, providing ongoing data that validates our school-wide literacy and math instruction and progress in grades K-2. When assessment results and classroom performance indicate that a child needs additional support, we have an established response system in place to help. It begins with the classroom teacher making modifications to the child's program with support from a literacy education technician. Our *Response to Intervention Team*, Student-Centered Team, reading specialists, school guidance counselors, and a full cadre of special education staff also provide assistance to children in need. In addition to literacy, math is an important focus at Lunt School. We are in year four of the implementation process with *Everyday Math*, a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum that is used across the country. It has been extensively researched and proven to build students' mathematical knowledge from the basics to higher-level thinking and critical problem solving. It is a hands-on program that uses a spiral approach, which means skills are addressed several times throughout the school year and beyond. Last September we added capacity within our staff to provide additional math intervention and we plan to include a mathematics component to our regular benchmark assessments through AimsWeb.

Lunt School houses seven kindergartens, nine first and nine second grade classes. We have enjoyed very successful 2½-day kindergarten pilot classrooms for the past two years and plan to expand this concept in the fall for our entire kindergarten population. Four of our first and second grades are "looping" classes, meaning that the children remain with the same classmates and teacher for both

first and second grade. We have one Grade One job share, as well as a Grade Two teaching team. ***We pride ourselves on maintaining reasonable teacher-student ratios that are consistent with best teaching practices.*** Lunt School has an outstanding professional and support staff. In addition to excellent classroom experiences, our professional teaching staff offers art, music, physical education, and library each week, guidance and social work services, intensive reading and math support through our *Response to Intervention* initiative, and a wide range of special education services.

Falmouth Special Education

Director, Polly Crowell

Special Education and related services are provided to students with disabilities in accordance with Federal and State laws. The Federal law, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), was reauthorized in December 2004 through P.L. 108-446. Chapter 101. The Maine Unified Special Education Regulations, birth through age 20, guide our practices in providing Special Education and related services to Falmouth students.

Special Education Students: Our schools serve students with many disabilities including: Autism, Deafness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Speech or Language Impairment and Specific Learning Disability.

The number of students served through Special Education has remained fairly constant several years. Currently, Falmouth has 238 students who require Special Education and related services within our schools (K-12). This number is approximately 11 % of our total student population and is well below the State average. Students with disabilities who require levels of service not available within our schools are placed in various types of special programs outside of the district. Five students are placed in special purpose private schools.

Special Education Staffing: The Special Education staff includes teachers, educational technicians, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, social workers, and a school psychological services provider. Part-time contracted professionals provide physical therapy, child psychiatry, behavior management consultation, vocational training, services for the deaf and hard of hearing, and various types of psycho-educational evaluations.

The Falmouth School Department supports, in conjunction with parents, a Special Olympics and after-school recreation program for students who do not access the general sports and recreational activities offered by the system.

Youth Alternative Girls' Program: The Youth Alternatives' Program for girls is in its fourth year at Falmouth High School. The girls live in a residential home in Falmouth for a maximum of 45 days and receive their educational program, funded through a State grant, at FHS. Falmouth High School has provided a welcoming and positive educational experience for 154 girls since September 2005.

Multi-age Program at Falmouth Middle School: The Multi-age Program serves students both in Special Education and in general education. This unique learning environment makes it possible for students who struggle in the traditional classes to experience positive and productive Middle School years. The small class size and increased amount of direct instruction and adult attention provides students with the opportunity they need to navigate successfully through Middle School.

Questions about Special Education are welcomed at the Special Education Office at 781-2079.

TOWN OF FALMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the year ended June 30, 2008

		General	Capital Projects Reserve	Elementary School Construction	High School Mediation	Nonmajor Special Revenue	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:							
Taxes	$	17,939,121	-	-	-	-	17,939,121
Intergovernmental		6,291,041	-	-	-	669,336	6,960,377
MPERS on-behalf payments		2,532,973	-	-	-	-	2,532,973
Charges for services		-	-	-	-	616,682	616,682
Investment income		-	-	-	-	15,733	15,733
Other		23,218	-	-	-	-	23,218
Total revenues		26,786,353	-	-	-	1,301,751	28,088,104
Expenditures:							
Current:							
Regular instruction		11,061,922	-	-	-	617,233	11,679,155
Special education		2,795,636	-	-	-	-	2,795,636
Career and tech education		82,026	-	-	-	-	82,026
Other instruction		702,320	-	-	-	-	702,320
Student staff support		2,052,016	-	-	-	664,910	2,716,926
System administration		784,947	-	-	-	-	784,947
School administration		1,036,277	-	-	-	-	1,036,277
Transportation		1,170,225	-	-	-	-	1,170,225
Maintenance		2,353,406	-	-	-	-	2,353,406
MPERS on-behalf payments		2,532,973	-	-	-	-	2,532,973
Debt service		1,851,586	-	-	-	-	1,851,586
Capital improvements		-	8,009	86,524	177,855	-	272,388
Total expenditures		26,423,334	8,009	86,524	177,855	1,282,143	27,977,865
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures		363,019	(8,009)	(86,524)	(177,855)	19,608	110,239
Other financing sources (uses):							
Transfer (to) from Capital Projects Reserve		(130,219)	130,219			-	-
Other financing sources (uses)		(130,219)	130,219	-	-	-	-
Net change in fund balances		232,800	122,210	(86,524)	(177,855)	19,608	110,239
Fund balances, beginning of year		615,711	366,789	(2,234)	183,524	266,930	1,430,720
Fund balances (deficit), end of year	**$**	**848,511**	**488,999**	**(88,758)**	**5,669**	**286,538**	**1,540,959**

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

School Board 2008-09

Front Row: Kathy Hillman Reed, Chair-Beppie Cerf, Beth Franklin,
Back Row: Analiese Larson, Linda Cote, Mark Terison,
Absent at the time of photo, Karen Farber

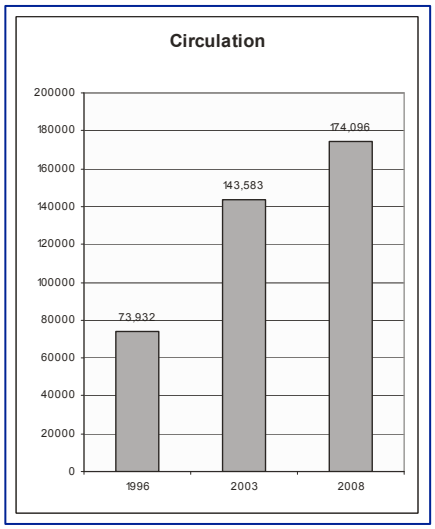
Lyn Sudlow,
Library Director

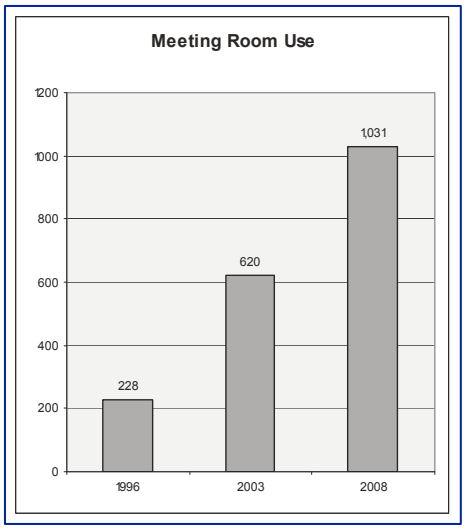
Falmouth Memorial Library

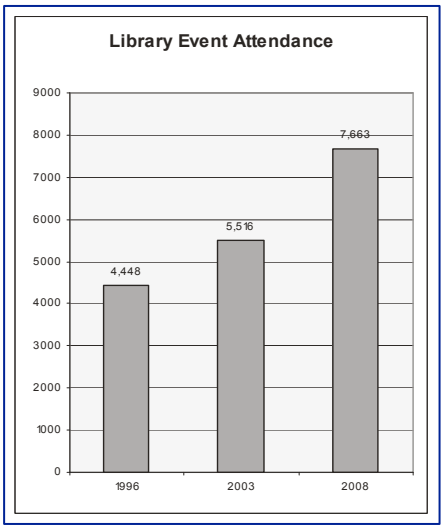
The Falmouth Memorial Library has been one of the busiest places in town and continues to break records in service and popularity. The lagging economy may be partially responsible for even more people making use of their local library, but numbers show that the library has seen a steady increase in usage throughout its 56-year history, including a sizable increase since 2003 when the Library began investigating an expansion project.

By the numbers:

- 174,096 items, including books, movies, magazines, and audio books were checked out at the Falmouth Memorial Library during Fiscal Year 2008, breaking an all time record. Our circulation increased 2% over the previous year and 20% since 2003.
- 17,247 items were checked out using our efficient interlibrary loan and delivery system (a 31% increase over the previous year and a 1,364% increase over 2003).
- 529 books went to home-bound residents and those living in residential facilities in town.
- 7,660 people attended library programs which included story times, craft programs, book sales, antique auto shows, author visits, art receptions and much more.
- 7,500 plus reference and readers' advisory questions were answered.
- 575 children participated in the Summer Reading Program and "Caught the Reading Bug."
- 1,200 plus meetings and events were held in the library's meeting spaces.
- 7,272 is the number of times people used the library's internet access computers. Add to that the uncounted number of times people used the library's wireless access.
- More than 123,390 people walked through the doors for many of the purposes already mentioned. 2,373 hours of time were donated by volunteers who helped out with shelving books, removing scratches from DVDs, raking leaves, preparing books for the book sale, and many other important tasks that keep the library an inviting community center.



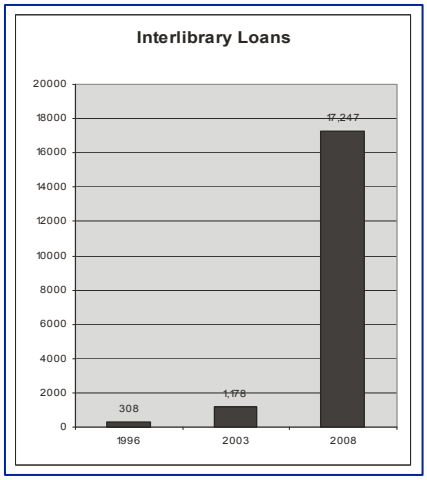


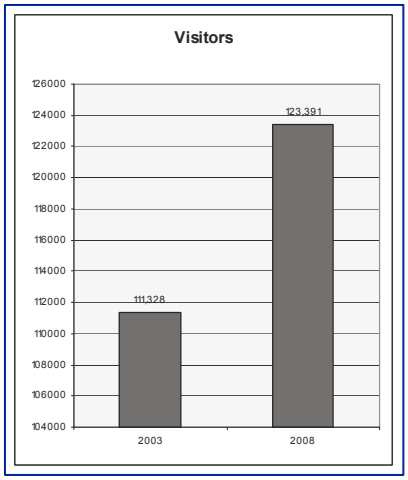


In addition to the services listed above, the library also provides regularly changing art exhibits, outdoor garden spaces, tax forms, and an informative website that received some 818,726 "hits" during the year. The children's librarian visited schools and pre-schools promoting literacy, reading, public-school library cooperation, and the enjoyment of good books. The Library continues to cooperate extensively with other Maine libraries to share resources through the Minerva and MaineInfo Net systems, a very popular service.

The Library continues to experiment with new programs and ideas. We received a grant from the Friends of Maine Libraries to enhance and expand our popular Textile Day Program held each fall for the last several years and we made nearly $6,000 with the '08 Beauty and the Books silent auction. Last summer's Library Sundae was nearly washed out, but this year should be bigger and better than ever with all the interest in Valve Cover Racing. With the increased interest in audio books, we have added downloadable audio books to our offerings. So far, the response has been very positive.

This is a lot of activity for a relatively small building. According to the most recent Maine State Library report on Public Library Statistics, Falmouth Memorial Library is the 10th busiest public library in the state. It is the 3rd busiest among public libraries serving populations between 10,000 and 25,000 and it is 1st in terms of per capita circulation. By contrast, the library is only 12th within this category in terms of size of the collection. We continue to explore ways to expand the size of our building in order to meet library standards and accommodate the expectations of a well-educated and well-informed community.





In Memoriam

The Library lost several good friends during the past year. Among them were Virginia Bullock and Pat Scharf. Virginia was once a part-time staff member of the library, a fountain of knowledge about Falmouth history, and a faithful volunteer at both the Falmouth Memorial Library and the Plummer-Motz School Library. Virginia passed away on March 26, 2009. Pat, who was also a part-time staff member, bookkeeper, and well-known volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, passed away on September 15, 2008. All Falmouth residents who pass away each year are remembered with a gift to the Library from the Falmouth Lions.

The mission of the Falmouth Memorial Library is to enrich the community by providing resources and services that foster a love of reading and inspire imagination, curiosity and an open exchange of ideas and information.