



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 3

bowdoinham.com

May - June 2022

New Faces



Austin Musgrove, Lisa-Marie Curtis and Tina Mango.

If you have been into our Town Office recently you will notice that 2021 brought some new faces. We are excited to introduce you to the three newest members at our Town Office.

Tina Magno joined us in August as the new Town Clerk. Tina grew up in Bath, her and her husband are now residents of Bowdoinham. Tina previously worked for Bath Savings where she honed her courteous and friendly customer service skills before joining us at the Town Office. Her eager to learn and serve attitude makes her a wonderful addition to our team.

Lisa-Marie Curtis joined us November 1st right amid the busyness of elections and property taxes. She is our new Administrative Assistant and a long-time resident of Bowdoin, where she runs her family's farm. After 30 years of IT and operations management she felt it was time to give back and serve the community. She is always ready to help regardless if it is answering phone, helping customers or researching information.

You may have seen our newest member sporting his wool coat in the office, this would be Austin Musgrove, he joined us late in December as the Assistant Town Clerk. Austin comes to us from North Carolina and is still getting acclimated to our Maine weather. He is a graduate of the University of Mount Olive and formerly worked as an industrial laser cutter. He has a great can-do attitude and is eager to jump in and help wherever needed.

We feel we have a great team who are eager to help you no matter your questions or needs may be. Feel free to stop in, introduce yourselves and say "Hello" as they are looking forward to getting to know each of you.

Project Updates

Coombs (Town Office) Renovation Update:

- The Town did not receive any bids on the building renovation portion of the work during a recent RFP process but did receive several bids for the site work portion.
- As of mid-April the Select Board was still evaluating options for building renovations and site work (parking lot, utilities, etc.)

Town Road Project Updates:

Carding Machine Road

- Paving for the middle portion of Carding Machine Road, which was budgeted for last year, will be completed this year. It is anticipated to be paved in May. It will be nice to have that remaining portion of the paving project completed.

- Town staff will let people know once there are more details on timing

The Fire Station Parking Lot Resurfacing will be completed in late spring/early summer Dingley Road

- The stream crossing at Mallon Brook will be replaced this summer with a large box culvert. The project is funded in part by a grant from Maine DEP Stream Crossing program. The road will be completely closed at the crossing for about a week. We will update local residents on the details once the work is scheduled.

Public Hearing

- There will be a public hearing at the Town Office on May 10 at 6:30 PM on the proposed municipal budget and town meeting warrant.

For updated information visit the town website

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U.S. COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY MOBILE APP

By Wes Baden, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Boothbay Harbor Flotilla 25

It's free, it's loaded with many useful features, and most important of all it just might save your life when you're out on the water.

The Boating Safety Mobile App is not designed to replace a boater's VHF radio, which the Coast Guard recommends all boaters, including paddlers, have aboard their vessels. It does, however, provide additional boating safety resources for mobile device users.

Features include state boating requirements, for your specific location; safety equipment checklists, for different types and lengths of vessels; the ability to file a float plan and have it on record before departure; and navigation rules, that is, the "rules of the road" for boaters while underway.

The app allows users, paddle craft operators as well as motorized vessel and sail boat owners, to request their annual free Vessel Safety Check from local members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

When location services are enabled, users can receive the latest weather reports from the closest NOAA weather buoys, as well as report the location of any hazard on the water.

In an emergency, users may press the Emergency Assistance button, which, with location services enabled, will call the closest Coast Guard command center.

The app is self-contained. Any personal information stored on a phone is NOT sent to the Coast Guard unless the user chooses to do so. The Coast Guard does NOT track a user's location.

The app itself does NOT track a user's location unless the app is being used.

Full information about the app may be found at uscgboating.org/mobile.



WE'RE COMING BACK!!! Age Friendly (ACOA) Luncheon

June plans are underway, stay tuned for more information.

Join us for conversation, good food and stories on "Growing Up in Bowdoinham". If you need a ride, please call 207-837-9577. For further information, please contact Chris Whitney, Older Adults Services Coordinator: (phone) 666-5531; (email) recreation@bowdoinham.com. Donations accepted.

Join us for the Bowdoinham Community School's 5K Chicken Run & Kids' 1-mile Fun Run on May 7th

We are pleased to announce that the Chicken Run, which was postponed last August, has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 7th at 10:00 am! This fun community event is a chance to celebrate spring, and the children, staff, and teachers that have successfully navigated the 2021-2022 school year. Our school community has dealt with so much this past year and has managed all of it with grace, resilience, and kindness. Now is the time to gather, celebrate, exercise, and enjoy our community!

The Kids' 1-mile fun run will be an out-and-back from the Bowdoinham Community School to the fire station. It will be chip-timed and the kids will cross the finish line to music and their names

being announced over a microphone. It is a good time and your kids will LOVE IT! The 5K course starts at the school, weaves through the downtown and finishes up with an out and back on Millay Rd. before turning left onto Cemetery Rd and finishing up back at the school. This is a stroller-friendly course and runners, joggers, and walkers of all abilities are welcomed and will be celebrated.

Registration through our website is open until Friday, May 6th at 10 am at <https://runinarace.com/BowdoinhamCommunitySchool/>. All proceeds benefit the Bowdoinham Community School. We hope to see you there!

Nazarene News

By Marilyn Davis

Mother's Day is coming up where we celebrate the women in our lives. They may or may not have given birth, but along the way they have nurtured a little one or a young adult and made that individual live so much better. On the day of May 8th, feel free to enter the church between 9 am and 10:45 to leave a plant or flower in memory or in celebration of your special mother.

Today I am remembering my mother, Doris Joyce; mother of five, a minister's wife, and the teacher some of you may have had. After running her own private Kindergarten for five years, she was asked by the School Dept. to start the very first Kindergarten in Bowdoinham. We celebrate our pastor, Christina Couch, mother of three, as she guides the church forward in this community. Church of the Nazarene, 7 School St.

BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL

5K



CHICKEN
RUN

BMV Alerts:

- Please make sure your vehicle registration is current. You may conveniently re-register your vehicle by clicking on the link at <https://www.bowdoinham.com/online-service/vehicle-trailer-re-registration>, or you may visit our office.
- Check your Trailers >3,000 lb!! Your registration may have expired in February.
- Motorcycle Registration Renewal due in March.

Elder tip: NO LOOPS !

If you have a dog, do NOT put the loop at the end of the leash around your hand or wrist! Even the best behaved dogs will jerk on their leashes suddenly (e.g, squirrel sighting). Far better to lose the dog (temporarily) than get pulled off balance and fall down. Broken hips and wrists are common and serious for the elderly.

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GRASSLAND BIRD WALK WITH KELT

Learn about and observe the bubbly Bobolink at KELT's Red Rose Preserve in Bowdoinham

With warmer temperatures and spring in full swing, birds are beginning to nest, including fascinating grassland birds. Kennebec Estuary Land Trust's Red Rose Preserve in Bowdoinham boasts nesting eastern bobolinks in its two hayfields. KELT invites birders of all abilities for a leisurely walk and talk on Saturday, June 18 at 10:00am at Red Rose Preserve. Led by Maeve McGowan, Grassland Bird Conservation Specialist and contractor for KELT, participants will travel through the forested portion of the preserve to access the two hayfields, observing grassland bird behavior in action. This free event is light rain or shine. Group size is limited so registration is required. Register via www.kennebecestuary.org/upcoming-events or call 207-442-8400. Directions and details will be emailed to registrants leading up to the event.



On Saturday, June 18, join Maeve McGowan and KELT to observe the bubbly Bobolink at the Red Rose Preserve in Bowdoinham. (Photo courtesy of Kennebec Estuary Land Trust)

The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust is a membership supported organization dedicated to protecting the land, water and wildlife of the Kennebec Estuary. It maintains twelve preserves for public

enjoyment and has protected 4,100+ acres of land since founding in 1989. FMI visit www.kennebecestuary.org or call (207) 442-8400.

Bowdoinhammers Are Active Community Members

By: Jenn Curtis, Town Planner

Craig Freshley, the professional facilitator who assisted the Comprehensive Planning Committee with recent public forums, said; "There's something special going on in Bowdoinham."

I agree.

I asked Tina Magno, our Town Clerk, if any of the Committees need members. She showed me her (exceptionally well organized) book and told me a lot of committee members would be getting renewal letters, but there are "...at least two pages worth of members for every committee."

I think what's going on in Bowdoinham is that there are a lot of very active community members. Bowdoinhammers have pride in their community because they value civil discourse, and working together to achieve common goals. It makes for a nice town to work in.

I'm grateful for the countless hours and acts of public service provided by the reliable and dedicated volunteer community of doers in Bowdoinham.. The dirigo spirit is alive and well here.

When you volunteer, you vote by your actions for the kind of community you want to live in. If by chance you're looking for a way to get in on what's going on, here are some great opportunities:

Trail improvement work will be going on at the waterfront this spring/summer to improve the Cathance Meadow Trails. Contact Wendy Rose wendelynrose@gmail.com)

Comprehensive Planning Committee always has room for more (fun fact – it can have up to nineteen members!) Contact Joanne Joy joanne_joy@comcast.net

Bowdoinham Fire and Rescue. Call 207-666-3505

The logo for 2-1-1 Maine features the number "2-1-1" in a large, bold font with a star above the "1". Below it, the text "Get Connected. Get Answers." is written in a smaller font. The logo is set against a dark background with a white border.

free.
confidential.
always ready
to help.

211

DIAL 211
VISIT 211MAINE.ORG
TEXT YOUR ZIP
CODE TO 898-211

Town's Tiny Jail was a "Hobo Hostel" by Frank Connors

Perhaps you didn't know that Bowdoinham was once the proud owner of its own municipal Jail.

The trim little brick structure measured some 12 feet square, and was maintained by the town for nearly 75 years.

In 1874, (less than ten years after the notorious robbery of the Bowdoinham National Village Bank) Bowdoinham appropriated and spent \$48.21 to "buy a lot and furnish a lock-up," and \$318.53 to build that structure. We can only assume it was finished and put into service that same year.

Built of local brick on the very edge of what was then Bridge Street, the structure stood directly opposite where the Bowdoinham Country Store is today. The building's interior was divided into two equal-sized holding cells across the back, each with two bunks, and the "office," across the front might have been four feet deep, holding two chairs and a woodstove. A Lewiston Journal newspaper tour of what it called, "Bowdoinham's infamous cooler" offered more detail. "The cells are separated from the front room by heavy planked doors, both are double barred locked. In the tiny front room is space for a stove and a man to sit and tend it, but, when the fire blazes up briskly, the jailor usually breaks for open air. There is just about room enough for the stove and the man, but squeezing a fire in besides certainly overcrowds these narrow quarters." The reporter offered no opinion of how much heat may have leaked into the two holding cells, and made no note of the fact that the only window in the building, barred and shuttered, was off this office.

The same article cast a little doubt on what may have been the actual size of the building. "I didn't have a tape measure with me," the reporter confessed, but he added, "size considered, there is no bit of punitive architecture in Maine which has done the business of this little, seven by nine lock-up!"

The Journal reporter continued. "This is the same jail that held the murderer Bessey and the abductor Bickford, but last year (the jail) made a tramp's record which could only be beaten by a very few towns. Like it or not, Bowdoinham is on the Maine Central Railroad main



Bowdoinham's Village Lockup.

line from Boston and Portland, through to Augusta and East, (the lock-up was maybe 50 yards from the tracks) so it is included in the itinerary of most every hobo riding the iron road. These tramps have found that old Bowdoinham does not work them, but offers them a feed, with lodging, and sends them along, unbothered. This has given the place a famous reputation among those knights of the road, and many of them had rather sight the little brick lock-up, with its plate of beans and bread, than many of the grand, Fifth Avenue hotels."

"In the past year," this undated news-clipping reports, "between 400 and 500 tramps have been lodged overnight in this tiny Jail! One night, no less than 31 hobos were cared for, but how they were stored away in that tiny little box is a problem only a sardine packer might solve."

The reporter explained, "the town has perhaps adopted this plan for economic and practical reasons. Sagadahoc County (founded in 1854) has no county jail, so all prisoners "sent up" have to be transported and boarded in Androscoggin County (Auburn) at a rate of \$1.75 a week, plus transportation costs.

We don't know of any records that itemize Jail costs and usage, but old town reports offer fleeting glimpses. In 1877, Selectman and store owner Samuel Donnell was paid \$6.75 for supplies and labor to "work on the lock-up." In 1878, Bibber and Denham's store was

paid \$28.75 for "putting up provisions" for tramps. A 1900 report says the town paid \$1.63 for "wood for the lock-up." by 1902, G.H. McKay ("Green") had, "care of the lock-up" in his list of paid services to the Town. He was never a constable, but received \$5 a year to watch the door, sweep the floor, do whatever was needed to keep the lock-up habitable. McKay was also the Town's lamplighter, mill night-watchman, and repaired boots from the "cottage" where he tended the Main and Center street crossings for the Maine Central.

A 1934 town report offered a public "thank you" to Clara N. Fogg of the local Christian Women's Association. "The village jail has undergone a thorough purification, and has been newly furnished with mattress and pillow coverings, made wholly from material donated by townspeople."

We also found this in the Lewiston Journal of Aug 15, 1903. "Ulysses Shepherd, a well-known character about Bowdoinham, was taken seriously ill last Saturday night, and for a time, his illness affected his brain. It was decided best to put him where he could do no one any injury, and he was placed in the village lock-up until his condition could improve.

"On another occasion," the Lewiston Journal report continued, "a particularly savage sort of fellow was locked up and,

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Notes from Merrymeeting Hall

To help out or inquire about using Merrymeeting Hall, please contact: Betsy Steen - baviewess@comcast.net, 737-9460
Lara Ashouwak, - lashouwak1@gmail.com, 666-8161 • Tom DeForest - 666-3061 tdeforest@comcast.net

For nearly 100 years, Merrymeeting Grange #258 was a central social and educational organization in Bowdoinham. The Bowdoinham chapter was formed in 1883 and met in the GAR Hall where the Masonic Hall now stands. Merrymeeting Grange lost all its property in the great fire of December 1902. Luckily work had already begun on a separate Grange Hall on land purchased from John F Gray. It was dedicated on January 21, 1904. The Grange welcomed women and allowed them to hold offices in the organization. The building also functioned as a community center, hosting lectures— especially on modern methods of farming—, theatricals, musical entertainments, graduations, private parties and events, community suppers, etc.

Slowly as farming became less central in Bowdoinham and radio and television provided a different form of entertainment, membership dwindled until in 2017 this chapter decided to join the Enterprise Chapter in Richmond. Seeing an opportunity to save an iconic building on Main Street and provide a place to host community activities, Bowdoinham Historical Society purchased it in May 1918. Now that it is restored to its former usefulness and beauty, it again hosts events just as it did as a Grange Hall. Because the Town helps with utilities, Town related organization, or non-profit may use the building with no fee. We can once again welcome private parties and celebrations. The basic charge is \$100 per event.

We currently have Singing Bowl Meditation, Line Dancing, 2 Yoga groups, Toddler Music, and Artists Rapid Response Team work days. The Historical Society's Rideout Reading and

Research Room on the lower level is open by appointment. As the Covid climate continues to improve, perhaps the game night and knitting groups can return. Let's keep our fingers crossed

...Town's Tiny Jail

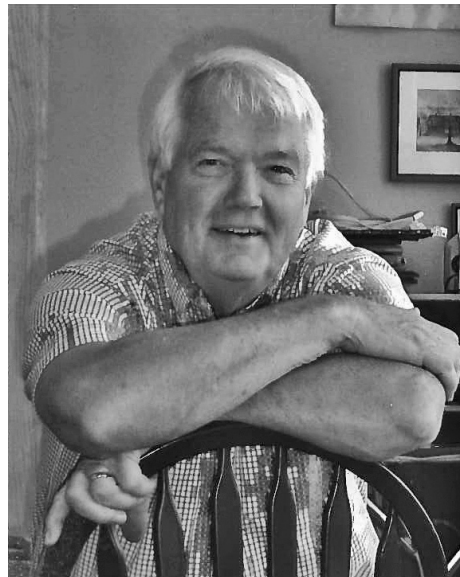
late in the evening, a couple of constables were walking by and one suggested to the other that they look in and see how the chap was behaving. As they neared the door, they heard a racket in the upper part of the building. Slipping around the rear, one of them was just in time to see the prisoner leap down from the roof. The deputies were on the spot to recapture him when he struck the ground. More

Continued from page 5

investigations showed that the prisoner, who was very strong, had torn open the plaster in the ceiling of his cell, squeezed through the narrow opening and then lifted the roof bodily from the brick walls, and jumped to the ground, anticipating freedom. But for the accidental arrival of the guards, he would have made good his escape. As it was, the adventure cost him sixty extra days in Auburn."

In 1946, the land and lock-up was sold to a neighbor, Leroy Temple, for \$20. He took the building down and used the brick as fill in a ditch that often filled with "high water." Bowdoinham was out of jail business. When I was a kid, I remember a small portable sawmill operating on that site.

Frank Connors grew up in Bowdoinham, served as town manager, a Selectman, and other committees. In 1970, he helped organize the Bowdoinham Historical Society, An amateur historian with a "knack" for writing and storytelling, he's promised an "occasional" article about Bowdoinham history for our Bowdoinham News. He and his wife Jane now live in Brunswick.



Frank Connors.

Bilodeau
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92 Pleasant Street • Brunswick, ME 04011
Tel. (207) 725-2797



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Merrymeeting Arts Center – Lee Parker

Merrymeeting Arts Center (MAC) continues to meet its mission offering Exhibits and Events and Education. Please check our website (merrymeetingartscenter.org) and follow us on Facebook for upcoming events, exhibits and classes.

The Heron Fund is made possible by the generosity of the Muir Family and donations from MAC friends and supporters. The Fund allows MAC to compensate artists for the classes they teach while ensuring that everyone can participate. Art for Everyone!

The pause created by Covid-19 afforded the MAC Board a unique opportunity to pause, consider, commit to new priorities and move forward with new energy and purpose. After several months of reflection, planning and conversation we are delighted to share our new board members with you and have asked them to introduce themselves to you in their own words. They join Mark Dube and Lee Parker who will remain on the board while we continue to work on recruiting and adding several additional members.

Tessa Kingsley is pleased to serve as the President of the Merrymeeting Arts Center board. She has been a volunteer in Bowdoinham since 2006 beginning with our Community School's parent group, local student and professional theater, community events through the years including the original Smelt Festival, as the Town Hall Fairy and Volunteer Coordinator for the library and is

looking forward to a new era of MAC to fill our community's need for artistic opportunities.

Laura Brennan joined the Bowdoinham community when she and her family moved here last summer. She is a Clinical Psychologist specializing in trauma treatment. Laura is excited to support MAC's mission of "Art for Everyone" as secretary of the board.

Fran Jensen moved to Main St in Bowdoinham with her pig Izzy Kosher and 4 pets last June. She is the Medical Director of MaineCare. Fran is an active member of the Bowdoinham Rowing Club and is an enthusiastic supporter of the artistic community here. She is very excited to serve as the treasurer of the MAC board.

E X H I B I T
"DAVID MANN: The Turning Point," opening at the Merrymeeting Arts Center on April 29, will feature the artwork of David Mann, a Bowdoinham artist who has never publicly displayed his work until now.

David was a close friend and colleague of beloved Bowdoinham artists Bryce Muir and Carlo Pittore but is largely self-taught. He has been making art for over three decades.

David's abstract paintings are meticulously worked, with layered shapes and bold colorful contours. A unique feature of David's process is that he rotates a painting as he's working on it to make sure it "works" from all sides. Visitors to the show will be able to appreciate

this for themselves, as David has mounted each painting so that it can be turned 365°.

Complementing the powerful paintings, David has built a massive acrylic and metal sculpture, with kinetic lighting and movement, to be the centerpiece of the gallery. Each visitor will be able to interact, and animate, this unique creation.

"DAVID MANN: The Turning Point" is a show not to be missed. All are welcome to the opening reception of "DAVID MANN: The Turning Point" April 29th, 7:00pm at the

Merrymeeting Arts Center, 9 Main Street, Bowdoinham. The show will be up every Saturday through May. Hours are Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or by appointment.

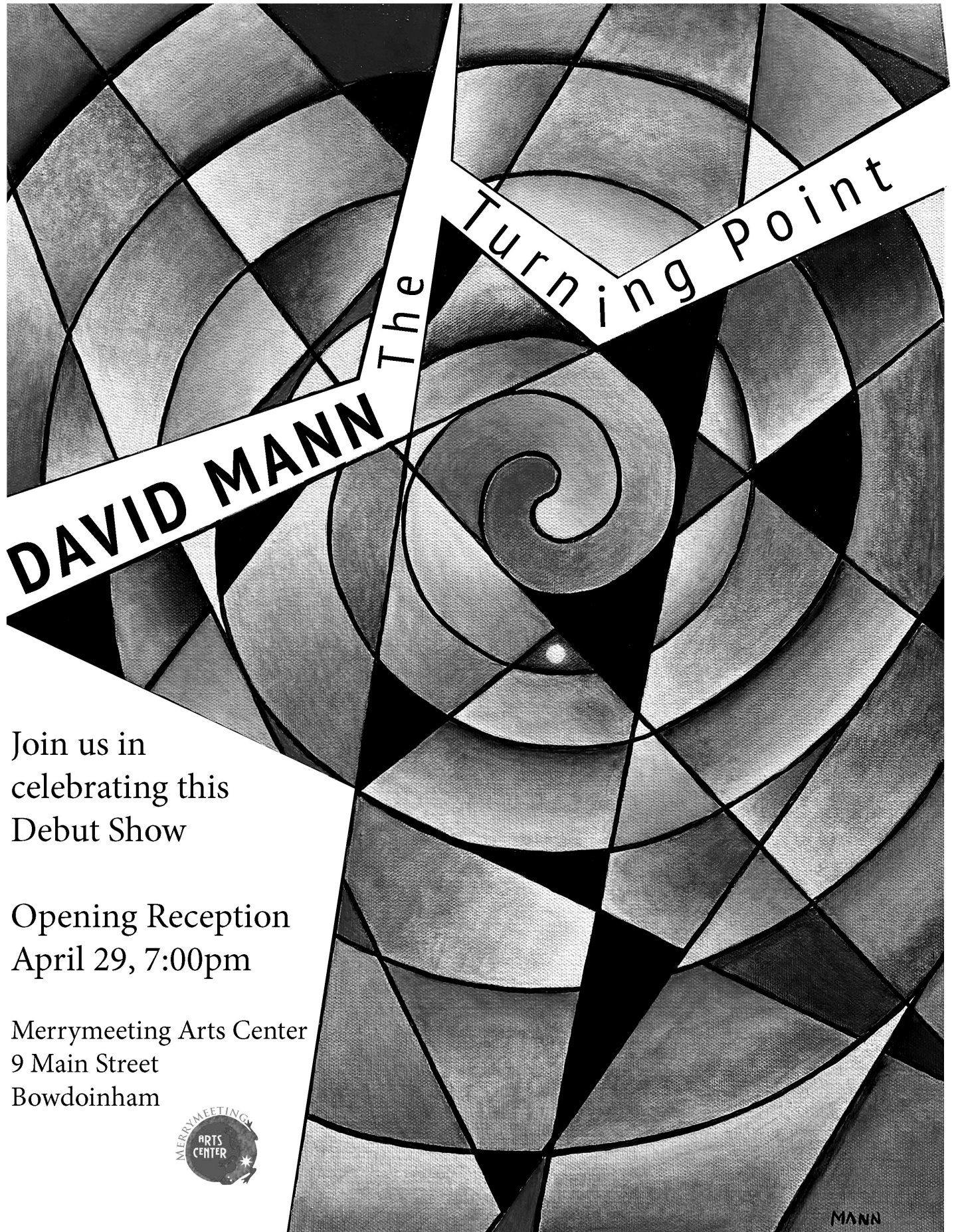
OPEN STUDIO

May hours will be 9-11 on Saturdays, taking a break from Mondays and Wednesdays until June. In June we will resume with Mondays and Wednesdays 6-8 and Saturdays 9-11 a.m. Come bring your creativity and curiosity and play with some fancy dirt. Please note: we will limit the number of participants to 10 (at a time) and everyone must wear a mask (available at the door)

Melissa Bardsley, who has been with the Merrymeeting Arts Center since 2018, has stepped into the role of studio manager, ensuring that the studio is able to continue to bring art to the community of Bowdoinham for all to enjoy. Stop in this spring and summer to the open studio to see her or drop an email with any questions or class proposals.

Merrymeeting Arts Center encourages art, education and community celebrating the cultural heritage and natural environment of Merrymeeting Bay. Inspired and guided by the eclectic values of the life and spirit of Bryce Muir, the Center joyfully promotes egalitarianism, whimsy, environmental consciousness, and diversity through its artists, programs and projects. The center is located in Bowdoinham, Maine at 9 Main Street adjacent to Maily Park and the Cathance River boat launch. For more information on the Merrymeeting Arts Center, its history and current doings, please visit www.merrymeetingartscenter.org, email us at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com.





Join us in
celebrating this
Debut Show

Opening Reception
April 29, 7:00pm

Merrymeeting Arts Center
9 Main Street
Bowdoinham



MANN

Bowdoinham Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

PO Box 101 • www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org/ • Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety

John C. Coombs School to Coombs Municipal Building:

An Historic and Hard Working Treasure
I think about the Coombs School when it opened in January of 1912. How exciting for teachers and scholars to move into this modern new building from the old Bowdoinham High School— The smell of new wood and freshly polished floors, big slate black boards that walled the classrooms. The excited murmurings as students explored their new rooms for the first time. The teachers' smiles. Perhaps some parents came to celebrate this special day, too. And in 1912, it was not surprising that the new school had no electricity. No one else in town did either. But when it came to Bowdoinham in 1917, Coombs High School was the first building to be wired.

It also had no running water in 1912, or in any of the other school buildings. In 1921, a state law was passed requiring all schools have "either a water toilet, a chemical toilet, or a dry closet." The Town complied, but it was not until 1935 that Coombs and other schools actually had running water.

In June 1912 the first class to graduate from this new building had its ceremony in the Town Hall.

At that time the school held high school students (grades 10-12) and grammar school students (grades 7-9). Most younger children still went to one room schools near their homes: Jellerson District- 3; Lancaster D-4, White D-6, Ridge D- 14, and Post D-11.

By 1946 there were fewer children in

town, and the Town voted to close Coombs as a High School and send older students to Richmond and Brunswick.

But the 34 year old building wasn't ready to rest. Many of the students in one room schools now came into town to learn. Only Ridge and Bishop still operated. And even those closed by 1955.

In 1953 the town realized that they needed more space. So they (literally the towns people): built a new school across from the Village Cemetery. They paid for it by holding Bowdoinham Barbecues 1954 to 1961. After that, with the school paid off, the BBQs continued funding other town needs from fire trucks to work on the Coombs School.

K-3 student stayed at Coombs 4-8 attended the appropriately named Bowdoinham Community School

In about 1975 it was decided by some that Coombs School was 'functionally inadequate.' A new section was added to the Community School, and Coombs was left alone on School House Hill. The School District sold the building to the town for \$1.



Jim Talbot, Lance Libby, and many more. I don't remember what the money raised went to or how much it made, but it was a lot of fun!

Meanwhile there was ongoing discussion about what exactly to do with this old building. There were those who wanted to burn it as a practice opportunity for the firemen, saying that the floors were too oil impregnated for it to be safe. A group of towns people disagreed. Two retired engineers, Mr Dennis and John Stapler surveyed the building and reported that it was absolutely sound in structure. It was, in fact, overbuilt compared to modern building standards of the 1970s.

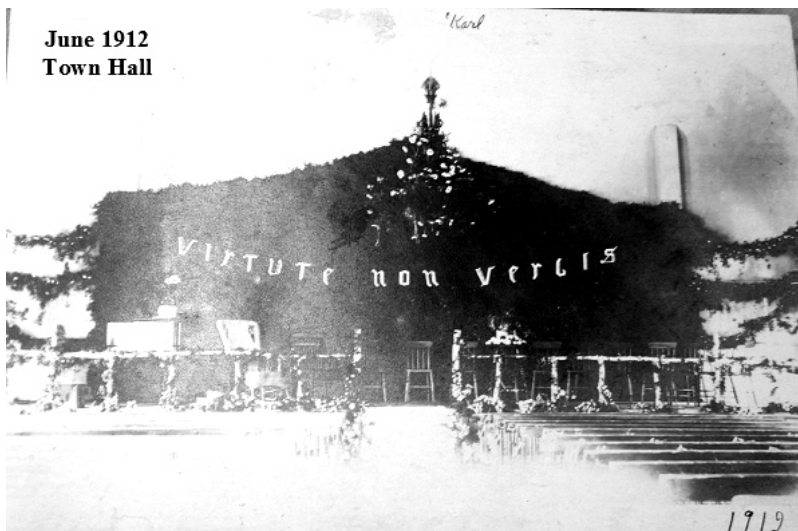
Finally the town move its offices from half the ground floor of the Knights of Pythias building on Main Street into this much larger space.

The library also decided with the Town's approval that they would move up the hill to the large 'kindergarten room' and later expanded into the first grade room.

But what to do for \$\$\$? The Barbecue came to the rescue; and the money earned by Thrift Shop that a number of Bowdoinham ladies including Dorothy Stapler and Leslie Anderson ran in the building, funded much of the material needed.

Enter Fred Pauling, Merle MacDonald, and assorted helpers. First the tore off with volunteer help all the old brown asphalt shingles.

They repaired and renewed and built what was needed, adding vinyl siding which matched the original color. They built the



In the late 70s or early 80s, a haunted house was created in Coombs by a large assortment of towns people. Henry Lamoreau, the Steen family, the Cluff family,

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...Coombs School

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shelving for the library, they built offices for the town on the first level. Mrs Banton's second grade room became the Town Office The third grade room , and the middle room (staff room) still serve now as meeting rooms.

The library moved up in fall of 1984. Many of you will remember as following Leslie Anderson's wonderful idea, older Community School students formed a book brigade, and passed books up the hill from their Main Street Library home to their new quarters in the Library atop the hill.

That was almost 40 years ago! Wow! No wonder Coombs is in need of an update. Her roof has aged as roofs do; The good oak windows need reglazing; the needs of the Town offices have changed; the codes have change greatly since the 1970s; ADA accessibility requirements have blossomed; fire codes have evolved; Even the library could use some changes.

So Three Cheers for Town Manager Nicole and the Select Board members who are behind this 'rehab' of a treasured and still useful Bowdoinham landmark.

Now let's all step up again and be sure to vote FOR this important project at Bowdoinham's June 2022 Town Meeting.

Tales of the Coombs School

I'll tell one and ask others to share theirs.

Tad & the Fire Escape

When in April of 1974 we moved into our house on the corner of Main and School Streets (where the pig is now– We never had a pig there, but we did have chickens and a tiny flock of sheep.), our son Rob went into Mrs. Volgenau's first grade class, which met in what is now the children's room of the Library. Younger son Tad was just four years old and didn't much like being alone while his brother was in school. One morning I answered the phone to find Principal Paul Burns on the line. "Betsy, he said, "Could you please come get Tad. He's distracting Mrs Volgenau's class."

"You're kidding," I said. Where is he?"

"He's on the fire escape outside of the classroom and making faces and jumping around and making all the kids laugh."

"I'll be right up." I sighed. Somehow I was not too surprised.

Morining Joe

By Jo Werther

What Can You Do When There's Nothing You Can Do?

I was a Philosophy major in college. One year, my friends and I had t-shirts made. On the front they said, "The back of this t-shirt is true." On the back they said, "The front of this t-shirt is false." We loved the paradox!

Paradoxes, contradictions... seemingly "catch-22" kinds of circumstances... we've all been there. At those times, we tend to push even harder for change. Because it's quite uncomfortable to be caught on the horns of a dilemma. But what if accepting things as they are is actually the quickest path to change?

Do you know the Serenity Prayer?

Most people are familiar with the Serenity Prayer: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." My grandmother had it framed on top of her refrigerator. As a child I understood that it was wisdom; but I did not understand why it was difficult.

The Serenity Prayer makes it sound like there are two options: accept things or change things. But what if the real wisdom is that it's both?

Acceptance and change: two sides of the same coin.

To the degree that we're not accepting reality as it is in the moment at hand, we are in resistance to it. "Resistance" is highly correlated with physical symptoms of stress (trouble sleeping, indigestion, headaches, and more), difficulty thinking clearly, and emotional distress. Acceptance, on the other hand, is highly correlated with improved emotional well-being, even in difficult times.

Acceptance is...

Acknowledging the bare-bones facts about a person, place, thing, or situation, just as it is right now, without judgment. "Just the facts, ma'am."

Acceptance is not...

Agreeing, condoning, being passive or complacent, or giving up. It is a simple willingness to see the "who, what, where, when, and how" of the present circumstance as it is.

Acceptance is the quickest path to change.

It's strange but true. The next time you find yourself on the horns of a dilemma, see if you can try to embody this kind of acceptance. Do it one breath and one moment at a time. And watch what happens.

Happy Summer!

Questions/Comments? Email me at jowertherlcs@gmail.com.



Waterfront Project Update:

Through the winter months, contractor Pine Tree Engineering has been working on a construction set of documents to use for a late spring bid process for the initial buildout of the waterfront redevelopment project. The 2022 initial buildout will include an ADA compliant non-motorized boat launch facility and associated access and shoreline stabilization work. The initial buildout work is being funded by a Maine Boating Facilities Fund Grant, and MDOT SHIP grant funding, with matching funds coming from the TIF district. Later buildouts will include other elements of the park such as additional shoreline stabilization, a pavilion, additional active recreation

facilities, interconnective walkways, landscaping, and a natural play area. The Community Development Advisory Committee aren't waiting around for future contract work to see the Cathance Meadow Trails improved at the site. In March, a few Committee members walked the site with local entomologist Ellie Groden to discuss Brown Tail Moth management. Since then, lots of pruning has been done along the existing pathways by Wendy Rose and Tom Walling. The Committee is working to produce information about the trails, and organizing further volunteer work to improve the trails later this spring. Contact Wendy Rose wendelynrose@gmail.com to learn more.

MAY IS BCDI'S MEMBERSHIP MONTH

We are pleased to ring in our third annual Membership Month this May. Last year we welcomed several new individual members and Business Members, and received many renewals. As a small nonprofit your support is critical to our work!

We are always eager to welcome new members (membership begins at just \$10!), so please share our information with your family, friends, and neighbors. If you have been a member in the past please continue your support by renewing online at www.bcdimaine.org/membership or pop a check in the post to:

BCDI
P.O. Box 343
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

If you have a business or customers in Bowdoinham please consider becoming a Business Member of BCDI (<https://www.bcdimaine.org/business-members>) and help support programs and initiatives designed to strengthen Bowdoinham's economy. Visit the "Business Members" page of our website to see the listing of local (and even some not-so-local!) businesses who support BCDI through their Business Membership. In return for your membership support, we support our Business Members by sharing news and information about your business, as well as new information as it comes, updates, promotional materials, sales, conferences, newsletters, or anything else you would like BCDI to help promote. We are happy to support your work, as you do ours!

Everyone benefits from a strong, vibrant, engaged community, so please become a member or renew your BCDI membership this month of May! Thank you for your support, Bowdoinham!

Loans for Bowdoinham Businesses

~ Are you a small business owner?

~ Do you have limited capital for growth?

~ BCDI's loan program can help!



We're a group of Bowdoinham neighbors who have come together to help fund local businesses. Since 2011 Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative has coordinated and administered over \$100,000 in loans from Bowdoinham residents to small businesses in town. The funds for these loans come from your Bowdoinham neighbors; it's Neighbors Investing in Neighbors!

Loan amounts range from \$500 up to \$20,000. To find out more about applying for a loan, or becoming an investor, contact BCDI online or by email.

www.bcdimaine.org

bcdi.maine@gmail.com

Comprehensive Planning Update

Committee Members: Joanne Joy, Chair; David Asmussen, Co-Chair; Allen Acker, Laura Arnold, Peggy Christian, Jan Marks, Robert Schott, William Stanton

Regular participant: PJ O'Hanlon

The Vision is ready! Following the March 15, 2022 Community Listening Session #2, the Comprehensive Planning Committee made a few more tweaks to the draft that Craig Freshley of Good Group Decisions in Brunswick had put together. Craig had used input from the November 16, 2021 meeting as well as from the Survey that was available from the beginning of January through February 15, 2022. The Vision should be on the www.Bowdoinham.com website by the time you receive this newsletter.

A brief recap of the questions

1. What do you love about the community and want to keep?

2. What about the community would you like to change?

3. Measures you would support to improve traffic safety on our roads, recognizing that each would result in costs to the Town; traffic calming ideas.

4. Strategies you would support to make housing more affordable to lower and moderate income families and individuals in Town; share your ideas.

5. Specific types of businesses and locations for each that you would like to see encouraged or discouraged in the community.

6. On a scale from 1 to 10 how much zoning/regulation should the Town have in order to deliberately preserve and develop the community that we envision.

7. Ways the community can engage more people to participate in volunteer and community efforts.

Other interesting discussions at recent meetings included:

- Ways to integrate solar installations, marijuana establishments, and PFAS issues into existing Comprehensive Plan Chapters, as well as ways to revisit issues in general related to climate change.

Next Steps:

1. Assure that each topic area reflect the vision for the future (2024-2034)

2. Review updated information on populations, housing, utilities, town infrastructure, other community changes in the past 10 years, and much more

3. We will hopefully be adding a map of the Town's cemeteries if that is available in time, and there is discussion of a town-level public health and safety committee following two years of the pandemic!

4. Remember – the Comprehensive Plan is primarily focused on providing a framework for land use in the next decade!

We respect that past, and are planning for the future.

We continue our shameless pitch for more members! This is a great time to join the Comprehensive Planning Committee. You can sit in on a couple of meetings without making a long-term commitment. We want to include more perspectives and voices.

Meetings are the second

Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:15. We may be meeting in person or on line, a quick check of the www.bowdoinham.com website will provide more information. Jennifer Curtis, Director of Planning and Development staffs this process; her email is planning@bowdoinham.com. We can have up to 17 members and more perspectives are always welcome.

Learn more, share more, and add your voice to the Comprehensive Plan.

Joanne Joy, Chair



**LIBRARY
PLANT
SALE**

APRIL 1-MAY 14 ONLINE
WWW.BOWDOINHAMPLANTSALE.COM



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www.tourtelotteexcavation.com

Excavation - Road Work - Land Management

Volunteer Day at Cathance Meadow Trails

The Cathance Meadow Trail area will be getting a new, fresh look this spring thanks to a Volunteer Work Day. The area, located on the 20+ acre town-owned parcel in the village, has gone through the steps of planning, design work, permitting, and preparation. Now, with the help of volunteers, we can take the next step of making it hiker and dog friendly.

You are invited to join other volunteers on Saturday, May 21 from 1-4 p.m. (rain date May 22nd, 1-4 p.m.). Teams will work on marking the 3 trails, cutting brush, setting up a pet waste station, installing a new trail map/brochure box, and laying cover for a low-lying wet area. Trail marking signs, paint, and stakes will be supplied along with water for the volunteers. Please bring gloves, brush cutting equipment like loppers or clippers, and wear solid shoes. We will meet up at the bulletin board that

marks the trail entrance just beyond the yellow house at the bridge.

Two major efforts this spring helped to prepare the area. Thanks to our wonderful Fire Department, the meadow had a controlled burn in April. This will help to keep the field clear of brush and to cut down on the tick population. Many thanks to them for their efforts. In March, brown tail moth nests, that were close to the trails, were clipped and destroyed. While there are still nests in the area, they are too high up to reach. We will continue to find ways to try to manage that population.

This summer, the new handicapped-accessible paddle put-in dock and ramp will be installed on the Cathance River. This, along with the new trails, will help to make the area an inviting place to visit and enjoy.

To get a sense of how many people may join us, please email Wendy Rose if you are interested in coming: wendelynrose@gmail.com.

Age-Friendly Bowdoinham News

Did you know that you can borrow medical equipment— such as hospital beds, commodes, walkers, and shower chairs—on a short or long term basis? This can be useful for trying out equipment before deciding to purchase it, or for extended home use. All of the equipment are currently housed at the Fire Department's facilities. To learn more about Bowdoinham's Medical Equipment and Adaptive Tool Loan Program, or to arrange a visit to the storage closet, call the Fire House at 207-666-3505 or Bowdoinham's Age Friendly Coordinator at 207-666-5531.

TAX CLUB PLAN – PROPERTY TAXES

The Town of Bowdoinham is pleased to continue to offer our popular "Tax Club Plan" which allows property owners to pay their annual property tax bill in monthly installments without incurring interest. This plan was first authorized by a vote at the Town Meeting in June 2014 and is expected to be offered again this July after Town Meeting approval. To be eligible to participate in this plan the property owner must be current with their property taxes, must enroll no later than July 31, 2022, and must abide by the requirements of the plan. Automatic electronic payments are not offered under this plan, however, property owners can schedule payments online through the Town's online payment system. For more information on the 2022/23 Tax Club Plan, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531, or email Austin Musgrove at assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com.



BCS Hands.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS



BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL
23 Cemetery Road, Bowdoinham, ME 04008
Tel: (207) 666-5546 Fax: (207) 666-3160
Website: bhm.link75.org

Chris Lajoie, Principal
Email: lajoiec@link75.org

March 2022

Dear Bowdoinham Community Members,

In the last year our school has remained focused on educating all of our children safely in person, and addressing unfinished learning from pandemic disruptions. In many ways it has been our most challenging school year yet. Student absences due to sickness and quarantines made it difficult at times to gain instructional momentum. Staff absences for the same reasons required most of us to take on additional responsibilities, and to rely on each other in new ways. And the absence of parents and valued volunteers in our school due to pandemic protocols has challenged us to stay connected to our community.

But we have turned a corner. Masks became optional in school as of March 9th. We are no longer spending countless hours on contact tracing and pandemic communications. Student and staff attendance has rebounded, and with it, optimism for a Spring with special enrichment opportunities for our students. As of this writing we are looking forward to the Chicken Run 5K on May 7th, various school field trips and special events, and the return of Field Day with volunteers in June. All of these activities will give us a chance to celebrate with each other and appreciate the special community we have here in Bowdoinham.

There is good news on the academic front too. We advocated for the use of federal Covid-relief funds to add additional teaching and instructional support positions at the school this past year. These extra teachers and helpers have proven instrumental in giving students more individualized attention to make academic gains. An expanded staff has also helped us provide critical support for students' social and emotional wellbeing, the foundation for learning. We were able to do all this without asking for additional positions in our operating budget, meaning taxpayers were not impacted. While we haven't accomplished all of our goals for the year, there is a promising statistic out of fourth and fifth grade: Nearly nine in ten of our fourth and fifth graders are reading within a year of grade level. This means our oldest elementary students are well prepared for success with next year's literacy standards - something we are quite proud of.

We have a lot of work left to do, but I am excited to be on this journey with a world-class staff, a one-of-a-kind community, and the most talented, creative and caring students anywhere. Thank you for your participation in the work of our local government, and your interest in our school. I am happy to answer questions from community members anytime: lajoiec@link75.org or (207) 666-5546, option 6.

With Unshakable Hope for the Future,

Chris Lajoie
Principal

Farmers' Markets

The Bowdoinham Farmers' Market returns Saturday, June 11th to the Maily Waterfront Park! Every Saturday from 8:30 to noon you'll find a cornucopia of delicious and beautiful provisions just a stroll down the hill from the blinking light. Fresh baked bread, crisp organic veggies, grass fed meat, milk and cheese, tasty snacks, beautiful flowers, seedlings and fresh fruit.

This year Blue Bell Farm, Counterpoint Bread, Maggie's Farm, The Story Dory, Tender Soles Farm, Pleasant Pond Orchard, Scratch Farm and the Liminal Oven will all be picking, baking, raising, canning and reading local favorites just for you! Gotta bring a sturdy canvas bag to haul all those goodies home.

Thanks to the generous support of BCDI and the Bowdoinham Food Pantry we are continuing

our SNAP program this year. Stop by the info booth for more details.

Email bhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com to get our weekly preview of the market and be sure to check our Facebook page for the latest news.



Mark your calendars:
June 11th - Opening Day
October 8th - Closing Day
November 19th - Thanksgiving Market
December 17th - Solstice Market

We are so thankful for the amazing community these past years and are looking

forward to a new summer at the park.



Bowdoinham Municipal Directory

Town Office

13 School St
Bowdoinham, ME 04008
Phone: 666-5531
Fax: 666-5532
Website: bowdoinham.com
Hours:

Monday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Tuesday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Wednesday: 9:00am-6:00pm
Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm

Recycling

121 Pond Rd
666-3228

Website: bowdoinham.com/SWR

Recycling Hours:

Tuesday: Noon-6:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am-4:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am-4:00pm

Trash Pick Up:

Thursday Mornings
(or the following Saturday morning when Thursday is a Holiday)

Bowdoinham Public Library

13a School St
Bowdoinham, ME 04008
Phone: 666-8405
Website: bowdoinhamlibrary.org
Hours:

Tuesday: 10:00am-2:00pm
Wednesday: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Friday: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am-2:00pm

Animal Control

522-8816

Fire & Rescue

666-3505 (non-emergencies)

Public Works

666-3505

Sagadahoc Sheriff Dept.

443-8201

Water District

(Payments Due Quarterly)
737-4721

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(207) 666-5985

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

April

29th

Merrymeeting Arts Center Show
Opening Reception at 7 PM

May

2nd

Property Taxes Due

7th

Bowdoinham Community School
Chicken Run 5K

10th

Public Hearing -Town Meeting Warrant.
Kendall Meeting Room 6:30pm

16th

Age Friendly (ACOA) Luncheon at
11:30 AM at the Fire Station

21st

Volunteer Day at Cathance Meadow
Trails by the waterfront, 1-4 PM

June

11th

Farmers' Market Opening Day

18th

Bobolink Walk at 10 AM with KELT
at Red Rose Preserve

Town Meeting, 7pm

Bowdoinham Community School

Town Board and Committee Meetings

*All meetings are open to the public.
For more information please visit:
www.bowdoinham.com/calendar*

Select Board

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of Month at 6:30pm

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2nd Monday of Month at 2:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Cemetery Advisory Committee

1st Monday of Month at 4:30pm

Solid Waste Committee

Every other Wednesday at 5:30pm

Town of Bowdoinham
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